Current Affairs – Notes

27 October 2026

Notes PDF

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

For TNPSC · UPSC · SSC · RRB · Bank exams

www.shanmugamiasacademy.in · இலவச quiz + தினசரி PDF

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

Contents

1. ₹57 crore sanctioned for the free milch cow scheme – 10,000 rural women; G.O. issued
2. WorldSkills 2026 (Shanghai) – CM Vijay gives ₹49 lakh incentives to Tamil Nadu medal winners and participants
3. 'Vetri Tamil Nadu e-Sevai 2.0' to be launched soon – mobile-first, AI-enabled platform
4. Greater flamingos sighted at Veeranam lake – a rare inland sighting of a coastal wetland bird
5. 11th India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' begins at Banyuwangi, Indonesia
6. Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 1–15 Nov 2026: nationwide celebration ending with Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15 Nov, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary
7. Indian Naval Academy develops a twin-drone maritime rescue system that spots people at sea and drops lifebuoys
8. Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan releases Anil K. Antony's book 'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World'
9. Defence Acquisition Council clears procurement proposals worth ₹2.12 lakh crore for the three Services
10. Central Motor Vehicles Rules amended: E100 (pure ethanol) added alongside E85 as fuel for flex-fuel vehicles
11. Up to 3 years' jail for abandoning or ill-treating elders: Kerala Assembly unanimously passes Senior Citizens Bill
12. England footballer Bukayo Saka wins the 2026 Sócrates Award for charity work – presented at the Ballon d'Or ceremony in London
13. US–Japan joint military exercise 'Keen Sword 27' (19–29 Oct 2026) – seven partner nations also take part
14. Fine magnetic threads above quiet regions of the Sun – NAOJ-led study using balloon telescope 'Sunrise III'
15. Tata Steel introduces hydroseeding at its West Bokaro Division, Jharkhand – over 50 acres of mined land greened

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in

1 ₹57 crore sanctioned for the free milch cow scheme – 10,000 rural women; G.O. issued

Tamil Nadu

News

The Tamil Nadu Government issued a G.O. giving administrative and financial sanction of ₹57 crore for 2026–27 to give free milch cows to 10,000 eligible women in rural areas (reported 27 Oct 2026). Each beneficiary gets one healthy crossbred cow able to yield at least 8 litres of milk a day; each cow is expected to give 3–4 calves in five years. The scheme was announced in the 2026–27 State Budget presented on 5 Aug 2026 – '10,000 women every year'.

Key facts

Outlay	₹57 crore – administrative & financial sanction (2026–27)
Beneficiaries	10,000 eligible rural women (every year)
Cow	One crossbred cow each; at least 8 litres/day
Announced	2026–27 State Budget (5 Aug 2026)
Aim	Women's income, milk output, stronger milk co-operatives, family nutrition
Same Budget	'Vetri Magalir' goat-rearing scheme – 5 goats/sheep, ₹110 crore

Background

- History: the free milch cow and goat/sheep schemes were first launched in 2011 under CM J. Jayalalithaa. The target was 60,000 crossbred cows over five years, 2011–12 to 2015–16 (12,000 a year). Aavin collected milk daily from the beneficiary villages through its milk routes.
- Economy: India is the world's largest milk producer. 'Operation Flood' (1970), the 'White Revolution', was implemented by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB, Anand, Gujarat) under Dr Verghese Kurien; his birthday, 26 Nov, is National Milk Day.
- Structure: Tamil Nadu's apex dairy co-operative is the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation (TCMPF), brand 'Aavin' – a three-tier 'Anand pattern' of village primary milk producers' societies, district unions and the State federation.
- Polity: 'Preservation, protection and improvement of stock' is in the State List (Entry 15). Article 48 (DPSP) – organise agriculture and animal husbandry on scientific lines and prohibit slaughter of cows and calves.

Tamil Nadu link: native cattle breeds of Tamil Nadu – Kangayam (Tiruppur, Erode, Coimbatore, Karur), Umblachery (Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam – Cauvery delta), Bargur (Erode), Pulikulam (Madurai, Sivaganga), Alambadi (Dharmapuri, Salem). Aavin's average daily procurement had slipped to about 31.5 lakh litres (Aug 2026); the scheme is meant to raise milk output.

2 WorldSkills 2026 (Shanghai) – CM Vijay gives ₹49 lakh incentives to Tamil Nadu medal winners and participants

Tamil Nadu

News

CM C. Joseph Vijay on 27 Oct 2026, at the Secretariat, Chennai, gave ₹49 lakh in all to the 12 Tamil Nadu competitors at the 48th WorldSkills Competition, Shanghai, China (22–27 Sept 2026). J. Mohammed Salam, silver medallist in Dental Prosthetics, got ₹15 lakh; four Medal for Excellence winners got ₹5 lakh each; seven other participants got ₹2 lakh each. India's 70-member team in 63 skills won 6 silver and 20 Medals for Excellence and finished 10th.

Key facts

Event	48th WorldSkills Competition, Shanghai (China), 22–27 Sept 2026
India	70 competitors (largest ever), 63 skills; 6 silver + 20 Medals for Excellence; 10th (13th at Lyon 2024)
Tamil Nadu	12 competitors; 1 silver (Mohammed Salam – Dental Prosthetics), 4 Medals for Excellence
Incentives	Silver ₹15 lakh; Excellence ₹5 lakh; participation ₹2 lakh – total ₹49 lakh
Coordination	State: Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC); national: NSDC under MSDE
Eligibility	Age 16–23; selected via State → South zone → national rounds
Next	49th – 2028, Aichi (Japan)

Background

- WorldSkills International grew out of post-WWII efforts to create youth jobs; the first competition was held in Madrid, Spain, in 1950. Formerly the International Vocational Training Organisation (IVTO). Held every two years – the 'Olympics of skills'.
- India became the 48th member of WorldSkills International in 2007. In 2026 India debuted in 11 new skills (incl. Dental Prosthetics, Retail Sales, Aircraft Maintenance). Smriti Nambiar (Bakery, silver) was 'Best of Nation'.
- National: the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) was set up in 2014; Jayant Chaudhary is MoS (Independent Charge). The Skill India Mission began on 15 July 2015. The UN General Assembly declared 15 July 'World Youth Skills Day'.

Tamil Nadu link: State skill competitions are run by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), open to school, arts & science, engineering, polytechnic, ITI and hotel-management students and working youth. TNSDC also runs the 'Naan Mudhalvan' skilling scheme, launched on 1 March 2022. The CM asked heads of schools and colleges to raise participation.

3 'Vetri Tamil Nadu e-Sevai 2.0' to be launched soon – mobile-first, AI-enabled platform

Tamil Nadu

News

Tamil Nadu's e-Sevai platform will be fully upgraded as the 'Vetri Tamil Nadu Integrated e-Sevai 2.0' platform. The Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) has issued an Expression of Interest/tender; eligible technology firms must apply by 3 Nov 2026 (reported 24–27 Oct 2026). Features: mobile-first design, applying from home, status alerts by SMS/WhatsApp, protection of Aadhaar and personal data, and capacity to handle heavy simultaneous log-ins. Today 275 services of 38 departments are delivered through 25,277 centres; the new platform is to scale up to 1,000 services.

Key facts

Name	Vetri Tamil Nadu Integrated e-Sevai 2.0
Implementing body	TNeGA – AI & IT Department
Tender	EOI issued; last date 3 Nov 2026
Present scale	38 departments, 275 services, 25,277 centres; 50,000–60,000 requests/day
Target	Up to 1,000 services; peaks up to 1.5 lakh requests/day
AI features	Tamil–English conversational help, document processing, grievance routing; 'no-application' delivery using government databases
Budget	5 Aug 2026: all centres to e-Sevai 2.0; 'Namma Arasu' WhatsApp chatbot services 76 → 275

Background

- National e-governance: the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) began in 2006, under which Common Service Centres (CSCs) were set up in villages. 'Digital India' was launched on 1 July 2015; nodal ministry – Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).
- Tamil Nadu history: the Directorate of e-Governance was formed in 2006 and TNeGA registered in 2007 as a society under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975. e-Sevai centres are run by agencies such as TACTV, Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies (PACCS) and Village Poverty Reduction Committees (VPRC). 'e-Sevai for All' began on 15 March 2023.
- Law / tech: the Information Technology Act, 2000 gives legal recognition to electronic records and digital signatures. Aadhaar numbers are issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), a statutory body under the Aadhaar Act, 2016.

Tamil Nadu link: the 2026–27 Budget (5 Aug 2026) announced upgrading all e-Sevai centres to 'e-Sevai 2.0', an AI-enabled project-approval portal 'SPEED' (₹40 crore), a stronger 'Tamil Nadu AI Mission', and a feasibility study (₹5 crore) for 'Arivagam', an AI technology city. Patta transfer and caste, income and residence certificates are key e-Sevai services.

4 Greater flamingos sighted at Veeranam lake – a rare inland sighting of a coastal wetland bird

Tamil Nadu

News

Eighteen greater flamingos (Phoenicopterus roseus) were sighted at Veeranam lake, Cuddalore district, on 25 Oct 2026, recorded by bird researcher Prof. J. Pandiyan of A.V.C. College, Mayiladuthurai, with research scholars Saravanakumar and Veerasamy. The species usually lives in coastal wetlands; Veeranam is a freshwater lake about 50 km inland. Researchers linked the visit to a weak southwest monsoon, low Cauvery flows, dried coastal mudflats with less food, and a 'Super El Niño'. The receding lake has left shallow feeding grounds.

Key facts

Event	25 Oct 2026 – 18 greater flamingos, Veeranam lake, Cuddalore district
Recorded by	Prof. J. Pandiyan, A.V.C. College, Mayiladuthurai
Species	Phoenicopterus roseus – IUCN: Least Concern
Veeranam lake	10th century; Rajaditya Chola (son of Parantaka I); near Kattumannarkoil
Water source	Vadavar from the Kollidam; Sengal stream; capacity about 1,465 mcft
Chennai water	New Veeranam Project – conceived 1967; completed 2004
Biodiversity	Key Biodiversity Area (KBA); 20,000+ waterbirds

Background

- History: Veeranam (Veeranarayanan) lake was dug in the 10th century by Rajaditya, son of Parantaka I Chola. Rajaditya was killed on his elephant at the Battle of Takkolam (949 CE) against the Rashtrakuta king Krishna III. Kalki's novel 'Ponniyin Selvan' opens with Vandiyathevan on the banks of the Veeranarayana lake.
- Geography: the lake lies in the lower Cauvery basin and is fed from the Kollidam (Lower Anicut at Anaikarai) through the Vadavar channel. It irrigates the delta and is a key drinking-water source for Chennai.
- Science: flamingos feed head-down, filtering algae, small crustaceans and invertebrates with their bills; carotenoid pigments in the diet give the pink colour. The greater flamingo is the largest and most widespread flamingo; in India it breeds in large numbers in the Great Rann of Kutch ('Flamingo City'). It is Gujarat's State bird.
- Climate: El Niño is the abnormal warming of the eastern Pacific Ocean; it tends to weaken India's southwest monsoon.

Tamil Nadu link: flamingos normally gather at coastal wetlands – Kodiakkarai/Point Calimere (Nagapattinam), Pulicat (Tiruvallur) and Dhanushkodi (Ramanathapuram). Cuddalore district also has the Pichavaram mangroves. The sighting at Veeranam, about 235 km south of Chennai, shows birds shifting habitat as monsoon patterns change.

5 11th India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti' begins at Banyuwangi, Indonesia

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

The 11th edition of 'Garuda Shakti', the India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise, began on Tuesday, 27 Oct 2026, at Banyuwangi in Indonesia's East Java province and runs till 6 Nov. Troops of the Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) represent India and Indonesia's Special Forces represent the host. Training covers special operations in jungle terrain, obstacle crossing, combat marksmanship, mountaineering and air assault, plus sharing of weapons, equipment and operational practices. It ends with a validation exercise simulating realistic scenarios.

Key facts

Edition / venue	11th; Banyuwangi, East Java, Indonesia
Dates	27 Oct – 6 Nov 2026
Indian contingent	Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)
Focus	Jungle warfare, special operations, sharing of weapons & practices
10th edition	3–12 Dec 2025 – Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
9th edition	1–12 Nov 2024 – Cijantung, Indonesia; 25 Indian and 40 Kopassus personnel
Other exercise	Samudra Shakti – India–Indonesia naval exercise

Background

- Geography: Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic country; capital Jakarta (Java); a new capital, 'Nusantara', is being built in East Kalimantan on Borneo. The ASEAN Secretariat is in Jakarta. The Six Degree Channel separates India's Great Nicobar (Indira Point) from Sumatra – Indonesia is India's maritime neighbour.
- History: Hindu–Buddhist kingdoms such as Srivijaya (Sumatra) and Majapahit (Java); Borobudur (Buddhist) and Prambanan (Hindu) temples are in Java. Indonesia's President Sukarno was chief guest at India's first Republic Day (1950); President Prabowo Subianto was chief guest in 2025.
- Defence ties: relations were raised to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' in 2018; Indonesia is a key partner in India's Act East Policy. Army – Garuda Shakti; Navy – Samudra Shakti; the two navies also run coordinated patrols (CORPAT).
- Special forces: the Parachute Regiment's Special Forces battalions (Para SF) are trained in airborne insertion, counter-terrorism and jungle warfare; the 10th edition was held at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (HP). The Indonesian Army's special forces are 'Kopassus'.

Tamil Nadu link: around 1025 CE Rajendra Chola I led a naval expedition against the Srivijaya empire of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula and took the title 'Kadaram Kondan'. Earlier, Srivijaya king Mara Vijayottungavarman built the 'Chudamani Vihara', a Buddhist monastery at Nagapattinam, with Rajaraja I's permission (Anaimangalam / Leiden copper plates).

6 Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada 1–15 Nov 2026: nationwide celebration ending with Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15 Nov, Birsa Munda's birth anniversary

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

On 27 Oct 2026 the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs announced that 1–15 Nov 2026 will be observed as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Pakhwada' (Tribal Pride Fortnight) – a time-bound drive to speed up flagship programmes and spread awareness, culminating in 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' on 15 Nov, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Over 300 projects (228 inaugurations, 74 foundation stones) are planned. On 12 Nov about 200 Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) students will meet President Droupadi Murmu; 12–13 Nov – National Tribal Literary Festival (New Delhi); 14 Nov – Rani Durgavati Adivasi Mahila Sammelan (500 tribal women entrepreneurs from 30 States/UTs); 1–2 Nov – a conclave of about 1,500 traditional healers in Hyderabad. The 'Jan-HIT' health portal, built with ICMR, and a National FRA Digital Platform will be launched.

Key facts

Period	1–15 Nov 2026; 15 Nov – Janjatiya Gaurav Divas
Ministry	Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Projects	300+ – 228 inaugurations, 74 foundation stones
Events	12 Nov – EMRS students meet the President; 12–13 Nov – National Tribal Literary Festival; 14 Nov – Rani Durgavati Adivasi Mahila Sammelan
Digital	Jan-HIT health portal (with ICMR, 20 States); National FRA Digital Platform
Volunteers	About 1.54 lakh 'Adi Karmayogi' volunteers – 76,963 villages
Past JGD venues	Ranchi (2021), Khunti (2022, 2023), Jamui (2024), Dediapada (2025)

Background

- History: Birsa Munda was born on 15 Nov 1875 at Ulihatu (now in Khunti district, Jharkhand) in the Munda tribe. He led the 'Ulgulan' (Great Tumult, 1899–1900) in Chotanagpur against the British, zamindars and moneylenders (dikus) and is revered as 'Dharti Aaba' (Father of the Earth). He died in Ranchi jail on 9 June 1900. The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908 followed.
- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: observed on 15 Nov since 2021 to honour tribal freedom fighters. Jharkhand State was created on 15 Nov 2000, Birsa's birth anniversary. His 150th birth anniversary year (2024–25) was celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh' – 28+ national events and 3.8 crore participants.
- Constitution: Article 342 – the President specifies the Scheduled Tribes; only a law of Parliament can change the list. Article 338A – National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (89th Amendment, 2003). Fifth Schedule – Art 244(1); Sixth Schedule – Art 244(2). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs became a separate ministry in October 1999.
- Schemes: PM-JANMAN – for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), launched at Khunti on 15 Nov 2023; 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (2024); EMRS schools; the 'Adi Karmayogi' mission. Rani Durgavati – Gond queen of Garha (Gondwana); she died fighting the Mughal army in 1564.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's Scheduled Tribe list has 37 entries (Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran were added in 2022); Census 2011 counted 7,94,697 tribal people (1.1% of the State's population). Six PVTGs – Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Irular, Paniyan, Kattunayakan. The State's Tribal Research Centre (TRC) was set

up at Udhagamandalam in 1983–84 and has run a tribal museum since 1996. The Nilgiris, Jawadhu, Kalrayan, Kolli and Shevaroy hills are major tribal areas.

7 Indian Naval Academy develops a twin-drone maritime rescue system that spots people at sea and drops lifebuoys

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

On 27 Oct 2026 a team of the Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala (Kerala), unveiled an indigenous twin-drone maritime search-and-rescue system (Midshipman Sudhanshu Tanwar, one of the developers, spoke to ANI). The search drone – a quadcopter – scans the sea with 2K optical and thermal cameras; a 'YOLO' AI model analyses its live feed and flags a person in the water. Linked by long-range RF, a hexacopter then flies to the spot using GPS, drops a lifebuoy only on the operator's command and returns on its own. Developer figures: quadcopter – 45 min, 0.5 kg payload, 50 km/h; hexacopter – 25 min, 2.5 kg, 40 km/h; both have a 10 km operating radius. Uses: man-overboard cases and fishing-boat accidents. Full open-sea trials and formal induction are not yet publicly confirmed.

Key facts

Developer	Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala (Kannur, Kerala)
Search drone	Quadcopter (4 rotors) – 2K optical + thermal cameras; YOLO AI; 45 min
Delivery drone	Hexacopter (6 rotors) – 2.5 kg payload; GPS; 25 min
Operating radius	10 km for both; long-range RF link
Human control	Lifebuoy drop only on the operator's command
Status	Open-sea trials and induction not yet confirmed

Background

- Indian Naval Academy: at Ezhimala, Kannur district, Kerala; inaugurated by PM Manmohan Singh on 8 Jan 2009 (foundation stone by Rajiv Gandhi, 1987). The naval academy was first set up at Kochi in 1969. It received the President's Colour on 20 Nov 2019. Indian Military Academy – Dehradun; Air Force Academy – Dundigal (Hyderabad); National Defence Academy – Khadakwasla (Pune).
- Science: a thermal camera senses the infrared radiation given off by warm bodies, so people can be found at night and in poor visibility; William Herschel discovered infrared in 1800. YOLO – 'You Only Look Once' – is an AI model that detects objects in real time in a single pass over an image. A quadcopter has 4 rotors; a hexacopter has 6 and can lift more.
- International: the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979 was adopted at Hamburg under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and came into force in 1985. IMO is a UN specialised agency headquartered in London. In India's region, the Indian Coast Guard coordinates maritime search and rescue.
- Related: in 2021 the Navy signed a ₹13 crore iDEX contract with Visakhapatnam-based Saif Seas for robotic lifebuoys – these move on the water surface, whereas the INA concept is aerial.

Tamil Nadu link: such drones could help in fishing-boat accidents along Tamil Nadu's long coast. INS Rajali, the naval air station near Arakkonam in Ranipet district (commissioned 11 March 1992), is the base of the Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft and has one of Asia's longest military runways. INS Parundu, another naval air station, is at Uchipuli, Ramanathapuram district.

8 Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan releases Anil K. Antony's book 'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World'

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

On Friday, 23 Oct 2026, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan released 'Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World' by Anil K. Antony (Rupa Publications) at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Saying 'Advantage India is Advantage to Humanity', he said innovations and emerging technologies must benefit all of humanity rather than remain one country's property. He listed India's strengths – civilisational heritage, democracy, demography, economy, institutions and technology; recalled the African Union's entry into the G20 during India's Presidency and COVID-19 vaccine supplies to over 100 countries; and called for citizens' participation in building Viksit Bharat by 2047. Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Sood and EAC-PM member Dr Shamika Ravi attended.

Key facts

Event	23 Oct 2026 (Fri) – Uprashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
Book	Advantage India: Reshaping the Future for an Equitable World (publisher listing: '...World Order')
Author	Anil K. Antony – BJP National Secretary & National Spokesperson
Publisher	Rupa Publications
Contents	Part 1 – data, AI, silicon sovereignty, adaptive defence, space, Digital India, women, youth; Part 2 – India's view of world affairs, roadmap to 2047
VP's message	'Advantage India is Advantage to Humanity'

Background

- Constitution (1): Article 63 – there shall be a Vice-President of India; Article 64 (with Art 89) – ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; Article 65 – acts as President when that office falls vacant, until a new President is elected (within 6 months). Article 66 – elected by an electoral college of all members of both Houses of Parliament (nominated members included), by proportional representation through the single transferable vote, by secret ballot; eligibility – citizen, 35 years, qualified for election to the Rajya Sabha.
- Constitution (2): Article 67 – five-year term; resignation addressed to the President; removal by a Rajya Sabha resolution passed by a majority of all its then members and agreed to by the Lok Sabha (14 days' notice). Article 69 – oath before the President. Article 71 – election disputes are decided by the Supreme Court.
- 2025 election: after Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned on 21 July 2025, the election was held on 9 Sept 2025. NDA candidate C.P. Radhakrishnan won 452 first-preference votes, defeating the INDIA bloc's Justice B. Sudershan Reddy (300). He was sworn in as the 15th Vice-President by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 12 Sept 2025.
- Author: Anil K. Antony is the son of A.K. Antony, former Kerala Chief Minister and Union Defence Minister; he studied at the College of Engineering, Trivandrum and Stanford University, USA.

Tamil Nadu link: Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan was born in Tiruppur; he won the Coimbatore Lok Sabha seat twice (1998, 1999) and was Tamil Nadu BJP president in 2004–07. He was Governor of Jharkhand (Feb 2023 – July 2024; with additional charge of Telangana and Puducherry as LG for a period) and Governor of Maharashtra (from 31 July 2024). He is the third person from Tamil

Nadu to be Vice-President, after Dr S. Radhakrishnan (first VP, 1952–62) and R. Venkataraman (1984–87).

9 Defence Acquisition Council clears procurement proposals worth ₹2.12 lakh crore for the three Services

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, met in New Delhi on 26 Oct 2026 and accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to capital acquisition proposals of the three Services worth about ₹2,12,000 crore; about 82% will be sourced from Indian industry. For the Army: High Mobility Vehicles, a Self-Propelled Tracked Gun System, Gun Shot Response System (GSRS), Light Multi-Role Helicopters (LMRH), Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS), Counter-UAS, surveillance UAVs and long-range kamikaze drones. For the Navy: an Active Offboard Decoy System (AODS) to defeat anti-ship missiles and indigenously designed major naval platforms. For the IAF: Special Utility Helicopters, air-defence systems, weapons and a Mobile X-Band Doppler Weather Radar.

Key facts

Meeting	26 Oct 2026, New Delhi; chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
Total value	About ₹2,12,000 crore (AoN); about 82% from Indian industry
Army	High Mobility Vehicles, tracked SP gun, GSRS, VSHORADS, C-UAS, surveillance UAVs, kamikaze drones
Navy	AODS (creates false targets to divert missiles); indigenous major naval platforms
Air Force	Special Utility Helicopters, air defence, weapons, X-band Doppler weather radar
LMRH	Light Multi-Role Helicopters – for both the Army and the IAF
Earlier approval	About ₹1.10 lakh crore in Sept 2026

Background

- DAC: set up in 2001 on the recommendation of the Group of Ministers (GoM) that examined the post-Kargil (1999) Kargil Review Committee report (chaired by K. Subrahmanyam). Chaired by the Defence Minister; members include the three Service Chiefs, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the Defence Secretary. AoN is only the first step – Request for Proposal (RFP), trials and price negotiation follow; big contracts need Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approval.
- Procedure: Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 gives top priority to 'Buy (Indian-IDDM)' (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured); a draft 'DAP 2026' was released for comments in Feb 2026. The indigenous share is being raised under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Science: Doppler effect – the apparent change in frequency when a wave source and an observer move relative to each other; explained by Christian Doppler (Austria) in 1842. A Doppler weather radar measures the speed and direction of rain drops and clouds; X-band (short wavelength) suits high-resolution local monitoring – useful for air operations in forward areas.
- Drone warfare: 'kamikaze drones' are also called 'loitering munitions' – they hover over a target area and dive onto the target once found, exploding on impact. 'Kamikaze' is Japanese for 'divine wind'

and referred to Japan's WWII suicide pilots. Counter-UAS systems detect hostile drones by radar and defeat them by jamming or shooting them down.

Tamil Nadu link: Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVNL), formed on 1 Oct 2021 when the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was split into 7 public-sector companies, is headquartered at Avadi, Chennai; the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, makes Arjun tanks. The 82% domestic sourcing is an opportunity for the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (nodes: Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem, Tiruchirappalli).

10 Central Motor Vehicles Rules amended: E100 (pure ethanol) added alongside E85 as fuel for flex-fuel vehicles

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), under Section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, issued notification G.S.R. 911(E) amending the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989, on 23 Oct 2026; it was published in the Gazette on 26 Oct and took effect at once. In Rule 115, 'E85' now reads 'E85 or E100'. A new explanatory note says E85 or E100 shall be used in vehicles designed as flex-fuel vehicles by the manufacturers (OEMs). In the fuel table, petrol references now read E10 and E20, biodiesel B10 becomes B100, and the weight threshold rises from 3,000 to 3,500 kg. The draft rules had been published on 27 Apr 2026.

Key facts

Notification	G.S.R. 911(E) – issued 23 Oct 2026; Gazette 26 Oct 2026; draft G.S.R. 313(E), 27 Apr 2026
Legal basis	Motor Vehicles Act 1988, Sec 110; Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 (Rules 115, 115E)
E100 / E85	E100 – 100% ethanol-based fuel; E85 – 85% ethanol + petrol
Use	Only in vehicles designed as flex-fuel vehicles by OEMs
E100 sale	IndianOil 'ETHANOL 100' – 15 Mar 2024; 183 outlets in 5 States (incl. Tamil Nadu); octane 100–105
Vehicles	Maruti Wagon R Flex Fuel (June 2026; for commercial use) – India's first flex-fuel hatchback

Background

- Policy: the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme began in 2003. National Policy on Biofuels 2018 (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas); its 2022 amendment advanced the E20 target to Ethanol Supply Year 2025–26. E20 is now the nationwide standard. Next step – higher blends and flex-fuel vehicles; aims – cutting crude imports and emissions, and raising farm incomes.
- Science: ethanol (C_2H_5OH) absorbs water and corrodes rubber and some metals; it has a higher octane rating than petrol but less energy per litre. Hence flex-fuel vehicles need compatible seals, fuel lines and injectors; sensors detect the blend and adjust engine settings.
- Constitution: in the Seventh Schedule, 'mechanically propelled vehicles including the principles of taxing them' is Concurrent List Entry 35, while 'taxes on vehicles' is State List Entry 57. So the Centre frames vehicle rules while States levy road tax.

- World: Brazil has run a flex-fuel vehicle programme since 2003 – a pioneer in sugarcane ethanol; the USA leads in corn ethanol. India, Brazil, the USA and others launched the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) at the G20 New Delhi Summit in 2023.

Tamil Nadu link: CM M.K. Stalin released the 'Tamil Nadu Ethanol Blending Policy 2023' in March 2023 – aiming to meet a blending requirement of about 130 crore litres within the State and attract about ₹5,000 crore in molasses-, sugar- and grain-based distilleries (valid for 5 years). Tamil Nadu was also one of the 5 States where IndianOil launched 'ETHANOL 100' in 2024.

11 Up to 3 years' jail for abandoning or ill-treating elders: Kerala Assembly unanimously passes Senior Citizens Bill

Defence, Tribal Affairs, Transport & Welfare

News

The 'Keralam Senior Citizens (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026' ('Vayojana Bill'), introduced in the Assembly by Kerala Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan on 13 Oct 2026, was passed unanimously on 26 Oct 2026. It provides up to 3 years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹50,000 for abandoning a senior citizen without consent, cruelty by family members or caregivers (including physical or mental abuse and forcing an elder out of home) and misappropriating their property. It also mandates caregiver training and certification, police verification and recognises the 'living will'. It becomes law after the Governor's assent.

Key facts

Introduced / passed	13 Oct 2026 (CM V.D. Satheesan) / 26 Oct 2026 – unanimously
Penalty	Abandonment, cruelty, property misappropriation – up to 3 years and ₹50,000 fine; unregistered care home – 1 year, ₹25,000
Guiding principles	Dignity, best interests, ageing in place, safety, independence, participation in decisions
Caregivers	Mandatory training and certification, police verification, public register; compulsory registration of care centres
Bodies	State / district Senior Citizen Protection Units; abuse to be reported within 48 hours; special cells in cyber police stations
Others	Living will (advance medical directive) recognised; home-based care preferred

Background

- Central law: Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) – Indian citizens aged 60+ are 'senior citizens'. A Maintenance Tribunal for each sub-division (presided by an officer not below Sub-Divisional Officer; Sec 7); Appellate Tribunal (District Magistrate rank; Sec 15). Maintenance up to ₹10,000 a month (Sec 9); lawyers barred before Tribunals (Sec 17); at least one old-age home per district (Sec 19).
- Penalty comparison: under Sec 24 of the 2007 Act, abandoning a senior citizen attracts up to 3 months' jail or ₹5,000 fine or both; the Kerala Bill raises it to 3 years / ₹50,000. Sec 23 – if a property transferred on condition of maintenance is not followed by maintenance, the transfer can be declared void as obtained by fraud.

- Constitution: public assistance in old age – Directive Principle, Article 41. Living will – in 'Common Cause v. Union of India' (2018) the Supreme Court held the right to die with dignity part of Article 21 and recognised passive euthanasia and living wills.
- Social context: as per the SRS Statistical Report 2023, Kerala has the highest share of population aged 60+. National elderly helpline 'Elderline' – 14567.

Tamil Nadu link: in Tamil Nadu, maintenance petitions under the 2007 Act are heard by Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs) as Maintenance Tribunals, with appeals to the District Collector. Madras High Court rulings on Section 23 differ: in 'Mohamed Dayan v. District Collector' (2023, Justice S.M. Subramaniam) 'love and affection' was treated as an implied condition of a settlement deed, while in 'Dr A. Panner v. District Collector' (2026) the court held a deed can be cancelled only if the maintenance condition is expressly stated.

12 England footballer Bukayo Saka wins the 2026 Sócrates Award for charity work – presented at the Ballon d'Or ceremony in London

Sports, International, Science & Environment

News

Arsenal and England forward Bukayo Saka received the 2026 Sócrates Award at the 70th Ballon d'Or ceremony held at the London Palladium on 26 Oct 2026. The award, for footballers' social and humanitarian work, was presented by Nigerian singer Burna Boy. With the German charity BigShoe, Saka funded surgeries for 120 children in Kano, Nigeria, in 2022; through it he also supports eye treatment for children in Africa.

Key facts

Ceremony	70th Ballon d'Or, London Palladium, 26 Oct 2026
Presented by	Burna Boy – Grammy-winning Nigerian singer
Reason	BigShoe charity – surgeries for 120 children in Kano, Nigeria (2022); eye care for children
Saka	England, Arsenal; born in Ealing, London; Nigerian parents
Award	Started 2022; France Football with 'Peace and Sport'
Earlier winners	2022 Sadio Mané (Senegal); 2023 Vinícius Júnior (Brazil); 2024 Jenni Hermoso (Spain); 2025 Xana Foundation (Luis Enrique)

Background

- Sócrates: celebrated Brazilian footballer and medical doctor ('Doctor Sócrates'); captained Brazil at the 1982 World Cup. In the 1980s he co-founded the 'Corinthians Democracy' movement against Brazil's military rule. The award honours his voice for social justice.
- Ballon d'Or: started in 1956 by the French magazine France Football; the top individual award for the year's best footballer. The 2025 ceremony was at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris; the 70th (2026) ceremony was at the London Palladium. The Kopa Trophy (best young player) and Yashin Trophy (best goalkeeper) are also presented there.
- Geography: Kano is a major city of northern Nigeria; Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, capital Abuja. First winner Sadio Mané built a hospital and a school in his home village of Bambali (Senegal).

Tamil Nadu link: this news has no direct Tamil Nadu link. A related Tamil Nadu football fact: Chennai-based 'Chennaiyin FC' has won the Indian Super League (ISL) title twice – 2015 and 2017–18; its home ground is the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai.

13 US–Japan joint military exercise 'Keen Sword 27' (19–29 Oct 2026) – seven partner nations also take part

Sports, International, Science & Environment

News

Japan's Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) and US forces began the bilateral exercise 'Keen Sword 27' on 19 Oct 2026; it runs to 29 Oct. Japan fields about 45,000 personnel, 6,100 vehicles, 40 vessels and 260 aircraft; the US about 11,000 troops. Seven partners – Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Philippines – take part; South Korea and the UK are observers. Main areas: the south-western island chain from Kyushu to near Taiwan (incl. Okinawa), the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea. US Marines have taken the NMESIS anti-ship missile system to Yonaguni, Japan's westernmost island, for the first time.

Key facts

Dates	19 – 29 Oct 2026
Exercise controllers	Adm. Tateki Tawara (JSDF Joint Operations Command); Adm. Stephen Koehler (US Pacific Fleet)
Japan's share	About 45,000 personnel, 6,100 vehicles, 40 vessels, 260 aircraft
US share	About 11,000 troops; carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt
Partners	Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines; observers: South Korea, UK
History	Since FY1985; field and command-post exercises alternate; this is the 18th field training exercise

Background

- Japan's Constitution (in force from 3 May 1947) – Article 9 renounces war and war potential. Hence Japan's forces are called the 'Self-Defense Forces' (1954). Japan's parliament is the 'National Diet'.
- Alliance: under the 1960 US–Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, US forces are stationed in Japan; Yokosuka is home of the US 7th Fleet.
- Geography: the Nansei (Ryukyu) island chain runs from Kyushu towards Taiwan; its westernmost island, Yonaguni, is about 110 km from Taiwan. The East China Sea and Taiwan Strait are among the world's tense sea zones.
- India–Japan: 'Dharma Guardian' – bilateral army exercise (7th edition from 24 Feb 2026, Chaubattia, Uttarakhand). JIMEX – naval exercise. 'Malabar' – began in 1992 between India and the US; Japan became a permanent member in 2015, Australia joined from 2020.

Tamil Nadu link: the exercise has no direct Tamil Nadu link. But Japan–Tamil Nadu ties are strong – Phase I of Chennai Metro Rail was built with loan assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

14 Fine magnetic threads above quiet regions of the Sun – NAOJ-led study using balloon telescope 'Sunrise III'

Sports, International, Science & Environment

News

An international team led by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), using data from the balloon-borne solar telescope 'Sunrise III', has found fine thread-like magnetic structures woven into the 'magnetic canopy' that spreads through the chromosphere above the Sun's 'quiet' regions. The study says motions on the solar surface twist magnetic field lines to form them; computer simulations reproduce the pattern. At the solar limb the team also measured magnetic fields inside spicules – narrow jets of plasma. The study appeared in The Astrophysical Journal Letters (NAOJ release 30 Sep 2026; widely reported 23–25 Oct 2026).

Key facts

Telescope	Sunrise III – balloon-borne solar telescope with 1-m mirror; flew at about 35–36 km (stratosphere)
Flight	Launched 10 July 2024 from Esrange Space Center near Kiruna, Sweden; landed in north-western Canada on 16 July 2024
Instrument	SCIP – Sunrise Chromospheric Infrared spectroPolarimeter; led by NAOJ
Mission lead	Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS), Germany; balloon operations – NASA's CSBF
Journal	The Astrophysical Journal Letters, 2026; first author Masahito Kubo (NAOJ)
Significance	Helps explain how energy moves up and heats the solar atmosphere even in calm-looking regions

Background

- Layers of the Sun: core → radiative zone → convective zone → photosphere (visible surface, about 5,500–6,000°C) → chromosphere → transition region → corona (over 1 million °C). Why the corona is far hotter than the surface is the 'coronal heating problem'.
- Why a balloon? At about 35 km it sits above most of Earth's atmosphere, so UV and infrared light can be measured cleanly, at far lower cost than a space telescope. Sunrise flew earlier in 2009 and 2013. Sunrise III carried three instruments from Germany (SUSI), Japan (SCIP) and Spain (TuMag).
- India's Aditya-L1: launched on 2 Sep 2023 by PSLV-C57 from Sriharikota; placed on 6 Jan 2024 in a halo orbit around the Sun–Earth L1 point, about 1.5 million km from Earth. Seven payloads; the largest, the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), was built by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru. SUIT images both the photosphere and the chromosphere.

Tamil Nadu link: Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in Kodaikanal, Dindigul district, began in 1899 and is now run by IIA. In 1909 John Evershed discovered here the radial flow of gas in sunspot penumbrae (the 'Evershed effect'). It holds over a century of solar images. Nigar Shaji, Project Director of India's solar mission Aditya-L1, hails from Sengottai, Tenkasi district.

15 Tata Steel introduces hydroseeding at its West Bokaro Division, Jharkhand – over 50 acres of mined land greened

Sports, International, Science & Environment

News

Tata Steel has introduced 'hydroseeding' at its West Bokaro Division (coal mine) in Ramgarh district, Jharkhand (reports of 23–25 Oct 2026). It has been applied on over 50 acres of mine areas, nurseries and overburden dumps. The machine sprays the slurry up to 50 m and can cover slopes up to 80 m long. It is described as the first such initiative in the State; the company says greenery has already appeared at several spots.

Key facts

Place	West Bokaro Division (Ghatotand), Ramgarh district, Jharkhand
Area	Over 50 acres – mines, nurseries, overburden dumps
Slurry	Seeds, water, mulch, fertiliser, tackifier (binder), soil conditioners
Reach	Sprays up to 50 m; slopes up to 80 m
Benefits	Erosion control, slope stability, lower landslide risk, moisture retention, biodiversity
Coalfield	West Bokaro Coalfield – upper Damodar basin; mainly medium coking coal

Background

- What is hydroseeding? A mechanised planting method that sprays a slurry of seeds, mulch, fertiliser and tackifier under high pressure onto bare ground. The mulch crust holds moisture and shields seeds from sun and birds. It suits steep slopes hard to plant by hand and improves worker safety. (It differs from seed balls and hydroponics.)
- Mine reclamation: in open-cast mining the soil and rock above the mineral is called 'overburden'; the dumps it forms erode and slide in rain. Under mine-closure plans they are levelled, topsoiled and revegetated – 'reclamation'.
- Jharkhand geography: carved out of Bihar on 15 Nov 2000; capital Ranchi; Chota Nagpur Plateau. The Damodar valley (Gondwana coal) holds the Jharia, Bokaro and Karanpura coalfields. The Damodar is the 'Sorrow of Bengal'; the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) was set up in 1948.
- Economy: coking coal is heated into 'coke', which smelts iron ore in blast furnaces – hence vital for steel. Tata Steel (TISCO) was founded in 1907 at Jamshedpur (Sakchi); it sources part of its coal from its West Bokaro and Jharia mines.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu has no major coal mines (only lignite at Neyveli). But Salem district is famous for magnesite; the State-owned Tamil Nadu Magnesite Ltd (TANMAG) mines it at Salem. Magnesite is used in refractory bricks that line steel furnaces.

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