Current Affairs – Notes

3 November 2026

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1 Tamil Nadu's 3 Biosphere Reserves: Nilgiri (1986), Gulf of Mannar (1989), Agasthyamala (2001)

Environment

News

3 November is the International Day for Biosphere Reserves. It turns the spotlight on Tamil Nadu's three biosphere reserves: (1) the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1 Sept 1986) – about 5,520 sq km at the trijunction of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka; (2) the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (notified 4 April 1989) – about 10,500 sq km from Rameswaram to Kanyakumari, with the 21-island Marine National Park (1986) as its core; (3) the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve (2001) – 3,500.36 sq km shared by Tamil Nadu and Kerala, added to UNESCO's World Network in 2016.

Key facts

Nilgiri	1986; ~5,520 sq km; TN–Kerala–Karnataka; where the Western and Eastern Ghats meet
Nilgiri – protected areas	Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Silent Valley, Wayanad, Bandipur, Nagarhole, Siruvani hills, Nilambur slopes
Gulf of Mannar	Biosphere Reserve 1989 (~10,500 sq km); Marine National Park 1986 (G.O. 962; 560 sq km)
21 islands – 4 groups	Mandapam (7), Keelakarai (7), Vembar (3), Tuticorin (4); a chain about 160 km long
Agasthyamala	2001; UNESCO network 2016; Kerala 1,828 + TN 1,672.36 sq km
Agasthyamala – areas	Neyyar, Peppara, Shendurney sanctuaries (Kerala) + Kalakad–Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (TN)

Background

- What is a biosphere reserve: a large land or marine area that conserves biodiversity while supporting the livelihoods of people living there. It is divided into three zones – core, buffer and transition.
- Geography – Nilgiri: it lies where the Western Ghats meet the Eastern Ghats. Mudumalai and Mukurthi (Tamil Nadu), Silent Valley and Wayanad (Kerala), and Bandipur and Nagarhole (Karnataka) are part of it.
- Marine ecology – Gulf of Mannar: 21 uninhabited islands lie 2–10 km off the coast, from Mandapam to Tuticorin. It has over 4,000 species, including 117 coral and 14 seagrass species.
- Agasthyamala & the Kani tribe: the Kani (Kanikkar) are its ancient tribal people. From 'Arogyapacha' (Trichopus zeylanicus), a plant they used, TBGRI, Thiruvananthapuram, developed the drug 'Jeevani' (1995); 50% of the licence fee and royalty went to the Kanis – a model of benefit sharing for traditional knowledge.

Tamil Nadu link: all three biosphere reserves include Tamil Nadu territory – Nilgiri (hills), Gulf of Mannar (sea) and Agasthyamala (Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts). The Tamil Nadu government declared the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park by G.O. No. 962 on 10 Sept 1986.

2 Vultr to deploy a 20 MW AI supercluster in Chennai – powered by AMD Instinct MI355X GPUs

Science

News

US cloud company Vultr, with AMD, announced on 21 Oct 2026 a plan to deploy a 20 MW artificial intelligence (AI) 'supercluster' in Chennai. It will use AMD Instinct MI355X GPUs (288 GB of HBM3E memory each); the company says it will be India's largest AMD Instinct deployment. It is meant for AI labs, foundation-model builders, start-ups and research institutions to train and run large language models. The number of GPUs and the date of operation have not been disclosed.

Key facts

Announced	21 Oct 2026 – Vultr & AMD (Business Wire India release)
Capacity / site	20 MW AI supercluster, Chennai
Chip	AMD Instinct MI355X GPU – 288 GB HBM3E, 8 TB/s memory bandwidth; ROCm software
Use	LLM training, fine-tuning and inference
Vultr	Founded 2014 by David Aninowsky; HQ West Palm Beach, Florida (USA)
Next	Further expansion in 2027 – MI455X GPUs, AMD 'Helios' racks (site not stated)

Background

- Sci-tech: a GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) does thousands of small calculations in parallel, so it suits AI training better than a CPU. HBM (High Bandwidth Memory) is very fast memory stacked close to the chip.
- National policy: the IndiaAI Mission was approved in March 2024 with ₹10,371.92 crore; it has seven pillars including 'compute capacity', targeting AI infrastructure of 10,000+ GPUs through public–private partnership.
- History: India's first supercomputer 'PARAM 8000' (1991) was built by C-DAC, Pune, under Vijay Bhatkar.
- Economy: AMD (Advanced Micro Devices) is a chip-design company headquartered in Santa Clara, USA. The company says local data centres help with 'data sovereignty' and low latency for AI computing.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai is a major landing hub for submarine cables. The Chennai–Andaman & Nicobar Islands submarine optical-fibre cable (CANI, about 2,300 km), built by BSNL, was inaugurated by the PM on 10 Aug 2020.

3 Air-pollution awareness short film starring Dindigul schoolgirl Mukizhanbu wins 3 international awards

Tamil Nadu

News

The short film 'Awake Before Another Pandemic', starring Mukizhanbu, a 7-year-old schoolgirl from near Dindigul, has won 3 international awards (Daily Thanthi, 3 Nov 2026). It explains air pollution and the steps needed to stop it from leading to a pandemic; it is directed by Mani Arputharaj. It won 2 awards at Kolkata's 'Tagore International Cinema Award' (250+ entries from around the world) and 1 at the 'Kalinga Cinema Festival', and was shortlisted for 3 more. Earlier it won first prize in the short-film contest of the Dindigul Book Festival.

Key facts

Film	'Awake Before Another Pandemic' – air-pollution awareness short film
Actor	Mukizhanbu (7-year-old schoolgirl), near Dindigul
Director	Mani Arputharaj
Awards	Tagore International Cinema Award, Kolkata – 2; Kalinga Cinema Festival – 1; shortlisted for 3 more
Local	First prize, Dindigul Book Festival short-film contest

Background

- Environment–health: the main components of air pollution are PM2.5 and PM10 particles, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone and carbon monoxide; they worsen respiratory diseases.
- Pandemic history: WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. India's first COVID-19 case was found on 30 Jan 2020 at Thrissur, Kerala (a student back from Wuhan).
- Literature–history: Rabindranath Tagore, after whom the award is named, wrote two national anthems – India's 'Jana Gana Mana' and Bangladesh's 'Amar Shonar Bangla'. 'Kalinga' is the old name of present-day Odisha; Ashoka's change of heart after the Kalinga war (c. 261 BCE) is recorded in his Major Rock Edict XIII.

Tamil Nadu link: Dindigul is famous for its lock industry – the 'Dindigul Lock' received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in Aug 2019 (along with Karaikudi's 'Kandangi' saree).

4 Renewable Energy Application Portal launched for quick approvals of solar & wind projects; TN BESS Policy 2026 released

Energy

News

Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister Nirmal Kumar on 3 Nov 2026 in Chennai launched the 'Renewable Energy Application Portal' and released the 'Tamil Nadu Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Policy 2026'. Grid-connectivity approvals for solar, wind and hybrid projects now go through one portal – registration, documents, fee payment and status tracking, with a timeline for each application. The BESS policy targets at least 2,500 MW / 10,000 MWh (10 GWh) of storage by 2029; new solar and solar-hybrid projects of 1 MW and above must add storage of at least 10% of capacity with 4 hours' discharge.

Key facts

Launch	3 Nov 2026 – Electricity Minister Nirmal Kumar, Chennai
Portal	Renewable Energy Application Portal – single window for grid-connectivity approvals; agency TNGECL
BESS target	≥2,500 MW / 10 GWh by 2029
Mandate	New projects (≥1 MW): 10% of capacity, 4 hours; existing: 5% by 2027-28 + 5% by 2028-29
Incentive	10-year waiver of wheeling and transmission charges; TNPDCL buys the stored power
Status	Solar about 14,000 MW; wind 9,000–10,000 MW; 3,000–4,000 MW of daytime solar cannot be used

Background

- Administration: under the 'Tamil Nadu Electricity Restructuring and Transfer Scheme, 2024', TANGEDCO was split into three – TNPGCL (thermal generation), TNGECL (hydro, pumped storage and renewables) and TNPDCL (distribution), under TNEB Ltd. Transmission is with TANTRANSCO.
- Law: the Electricity Act 2003 is the core law of the power sector; State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (TNERC in Tamil Nadu) fix tariffs and connectivity procedures under it.
- Science: solar power comes only by day and wind varies with the season (intermittency). Batteries or pumped-storage hydro (pumping water uphill when power is cheap and releasing it to generate when needed) balance this.
- Economy: 'wheeling charges' are paid by a generator for using the utility's network to carry its power to a consumer elsewhere.

Tamil Nadu link: the Kadamparai pumped-storage hydro station near Valparai, Coimbatore district (400 MW – 4 × 100 MW; 1987) works like a 'natural battery' for Tamil Nadu; in the 2024 restructuring, hydro and pumped-storage stations went to TNGECL.

5 Chhattisgarh's Khaira village: rooftop solar on all 141 homes – a 100% solar village under PM Surya Ghar; power bills fall to zero

Energy

News

In Khaira village of Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh, all 141 homes now have 2-kW rooftop solar systems (≈ 282 kW in all). Media (The New Indian Express, 1 Nov; Daily Thanthi, 3 Nov 2026) reported it as 'India's first 100% solar village' under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, with every house solar-powered. Central and State subsidies covered most of the cost and the district administration met the rest from corporate CSR funds – villagers paid nothing. With net metering, surplus power flows into the grid, so bills have dropped to zero. Population ≈ 889; 93 of the houses were built under PMAY-G.

Key facts

Place	Khaira village, Rajnandgaon district, Chhattisgarh
Scale	141 homes × 2 kW ≈ 282 kW; population ≈ 889
Funding	Central + State subsidy; balance via CSR (district administration) – no cost to residents
Drive	Collector Jitendra Yadav; 'Surya Sakhi' women; Padma Shri Phoolbasan Bai Yadav
Scheme	PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (Feb 2024; ₹75,021 crore; 1 crore homes; up to 300 units/month) – MNRE
'First' note	Modhera (Gujarat) was declared 'India's first 24×7 solar-powered village' on 9 Oct 2022; Khaira's claim is narrower – 100% rooftop-solar village under PM Surya Ghar

Background

- Scheme: the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana was announced on 13 Feb 2024 (₹75,021 crore). Central subsidy – ₹30,000 per kW for the first 2 kW and ₹18,000 for the 3rd kW, capped at ₹78,000. Chhattisgarh adds a State subsidy on top.
- Model Solar Village: a component of PM Surya Ghar – ₹800 crore; one village per district; a revenue village with population above 5,000 (2,000 in special-category States); the village installing the most renewable capacity in a 6-month contest gets ₹1 crore (guidelines Aug 2024).
- Modhera: Mehsana district, Gujarat, on the Pushpavati river. A 6-MW ground-mounted solar plant at Sujjanpura, battery storage and rooftop solar on over 1,000 homes. Its Sun Temple was built in the reign of Bhima I of the Chaulukya (Solanki) dynasty (c. 1026–27 CE).
- Science / economy: net metering – a bi-directional meter records power exported to and imported from the grid, and only the net difference is billed. Photovoltaic cells turn sunlight directly into DC power; an inverter converts it to AC.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's best-known shrine of Sun worship is Suryanar Kovil near Aduthurai, Thanjavur district – one of the Navagraha temples, built in the reign of Kulottunga Chola I (11th century); it compares with Gujarat's Modhera Sun Temple.

6 VB-G RAM G Grievance Redressal Rules 2026 notified by Rural Development Ministry – grievances to be resolved in 15 days; three-tier GP–Block–District system

Schemes

News

The Union Ministry of Rural Development has notified the 'Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026' under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 (reported 2 Nov 2026). States must set up grievance redressal at three levels – Gram Panchayat, Block and District – with the District Programme Coordinator (DPC) overseeing the district level. A grievance received physically must be entered on the Centre's digital platform the same day (or the next working day); enquiry within 7 working days and resolution within 15 days; unresolved cases escalate automatically to the next level. An acknowledgement with a registration number is issued.

Key facts

Notified	Ministry of Rural Development; reported 2 Nov 2026; under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025
Tiers	Gram Panchayat – Block – District (set up by States)
Timelines	Registration: same/next working day; enquiry: 7 working days; resolution: 15 days
Channels	In person, speed post with proof, Centre's digital platform, phone/helpline
Appeal	Appeal provided under Schedule I of the Act
Act	Lok Sabha 18 Dec 2025; Rajya Sabha 19 Dec; President's assent 21 Dec 2025; repealed MGNREGA 2005

Background

- Legal background: the VB-G RAM G Act repealed MGNREGA (2005) and absorbed its programmes, assets and institutions. Each State gets an annual 'normative allocation'; spending beyond it is borne by the State. States may notify a pause of up to 60 days a year in peak sowing/harvest seasons.
- Planning: each panchayat prepares a 'Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan', integrated with a national rural-infrastructure planning system. Social audit at panchayat level, technology-based monitoring and public disclosure are mandatory.
- Governance (general): the Centre's public grievance portal CPGRAMS (pgportal.gov.in) is run by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- Constitution: the 73rd Amendment (1992) gave panchayats constitutional status (Part IX). The Gram Panchayat is the main body that plans and executes rural job-scheme works.

Tamil Nadu link: modelled on the rural job guarantee, Tamil Nadu runs its own 'Tamil Nadu Urban Employment Scheme' (TNUES) for the urban poor (announced in 2021 with ₹100 crore). The State Planning Commission's rapid assessment (Feb 2023) found most of its workers are women.

7 For the first time in 47 years, CRPF completes 12 straight months without an operational fatality – PM hails 'a ZERO that speaks volumes'

Defence

News

CRPF Director General G.P. Singh announced on X on 2 Nov 2026 that the Central Reserve Police Force has gone 12 consecutive months (one year) without any operational fatality. The last operational fatality was on 30 Oct 2025; the previous such stretch ended in January 1979 – making this the first in 47 years. He called it 'specially significant' as the force remains intensely engaged in all theatres – anti-Naxal (Left Wing Extremism) operations, counter-terrorism in J&K and counter-insurgency in the North-East. PM Modi on 3 Nov hailed it as 'A ZERO that speaks volumes'.

Key facts

Announced	CRPF DG G.P. Singh, 2 Nov 2026 (post on X)
Period	Last operational fatality 30 Oct 2025 → 12 straight months; previous such stretch ended Jan 1979
Theatres	Naxal (LWE) areas, Jammu & Kashmir, North-Eastern States
Force	≈ 3.25 lakh personnel; India's largest CAPF
2025	9 CRPF personnel killed in operations (till 30 Oct)
Praise	PM Modi, 3 Nov 2026 – 'A ZERO that speaks volumes'

Background

- Special wings: CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) – a jungle-warfare commando unit raised in 2008 for anti-Naxal operations. Rapid Action Force (RAF) – raised in 1992 to handle riots and communal violence. The force also has Mahila (women) battalions.
- History: 'Valour Day' is observed every year in memory of 9 April 1965, when a small CRPF detachment at Sardar Post in Kutch, Gujarat, beat back an attack by a Pakistani brigade. In April 2010 a Maoist ambush in Dantewada district, Chhattisgarh, killed more than 70 CRPF personnel.
- Constitution: Article 355 makes it the Union's duty to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure its government runs as per the Constitution; central forces such as the CRPF are sent to States on this basis. The Centre had set 31 March 2026 as the target to end Left Wing Extremism.

Tamil Nadu link: K. Vijay Kumar (1975-batch IPS, Tamil Nadu cadre), the Special Task Force chief who led 'Operation Cocoon' (Oct 2004, near Papparapatti, Dharmapuri district) that ended sandalwood smuggler Veerappan, later became Director General of the CRPF in 2010.

8 TRAI's Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulations 2026: complaint centres to run 24×7, with human help at least 16 hours a day

Governance

News

On 2 Nov 2026 the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued the 'Telecom Consumers Complaint Redressal (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2026'. Operators' complaint centres must now work 24 hours on all days, using human agents, automated systems, AI agents or a mix – but human assistance must be available for at least 16 hours a day. Complaints and appeals can also be filed through the operator's mobile app. The time to file an appeal is cut from 30 to 15 days; the Advisory Committee stage is removed; dedicated help desks for persons with disabilities are required.

Key facts

Issued	TRAI, 2 Nov 2026; 4th amendment to the 2012 Complaint Redressal Regulations
24×7	Complaint centre round the clock; human help ≥ 16 hrs/day; human oversight of AI
Appeal	Window 30 → 15 days; Appellate Authority decides in 15 days; Advisory Committee stage dropped
New channel	Complaints, appeals, service requests via operator's mobile app
Oversight	Feedback surveys (published quarterly); grievance oversight committee with consumer-group members; financial disincentives
ISPs	Applies to ISPs with over 10,000 subscribers; turnover test dropped

Background

- Consultation: TRAI released the draft of this amendment for public comment on 7 May 2026; operators and consumer groups sent comments.
- Bodies: TRAI is the regulator set up under the TRAI Act, 1997. A 2000 amendment created the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), which hears disputes between licensor and licensee, between service providers, and between a provider and a group of consumers, plus appeals against TRAI's decisions.
- Citizen tools: the Department of Telecommunications' (DoT) 'Sanchar Saathi' portal – launched on 16 May 2023; block lost/stolen phones (CEIR), check connections in one's name, report fraud calls.

Tamil Nadu link: India's first telephone exchanges opened on 28 January 1882 in Madras (Chennai), along with Calcutta and Bombay – run by England's Oriental Telephone Company under an 1881 licence (BSNL history).

9 PM Modi launches Pune Metro projects worth ₹21,800 crore: opens Line 3 (Pink Line), lays foundation for Phase II (Lines 2A, 2B, 4, 4A)

Infrastructure

News

On 3 Nov 2026 PM Narendra Modi, via video conferencing, launched Pune Metro projects worth ₹21,800 crore. (1) Inaugurated: Pune Metro Line 3 (Pink Line) – Maan to District Court station, ≈ 23 km, over ₹8,300 crore; it links the Hinjewadi IT hub with Shivajinagar; it will be run entirely by women train operators; ≈ 30% of its power will come from solar. (2) Foundation stone: Phase II (≈ ₹13,500 crore) – Lines 2A (Vanaz–Chandani Chowk) and 2B (Ramwadi–Vitthalwadi) together ≈ 12.75 km; Line 4 (Kharadi–Khadakwasla, ≈ 25.52 km); Line 4A (Nal Stop–Manik Baug, ≈ 6.12 km). Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis took part.

Key facts

Date	3 Nov 2026, 12:30 pm – via video conferencing
Opened	Line 3 (Pink Line): Maan–District Court, ≈ 23 km, > ₹8,300 crore; Hinjewadi–Shivajinagar
Highlights	All-women train operators; ≈ 30% power from solar
Foundation	Phase II ≈ ₹13,500 crore: 2A, 2B (≈ 12.75 km), 4 (≈ 25.52 km), 4A (≈ 6.12 km)
Interchanges	Swargate, Nal Stop, Kharadi Bypass

Background

- Execution: it is the first corridor approved as a public–private partnership (PPP) under the Centre's 2017 Metro Rail Policy; the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) built it with the Tata Group. It has 23 stations, 17 of which open in the first phase.
- Geography: Pune lies on the Deccan Plateau in Maharashtra at the confluence of the Mula and Mutha rivers; the combined Mula-Mutha flows into the Bhima (a Krishna tributary). The Khadakwasla dam is on the Mutha.
- History: Pune's Aga Khan Palace (built 1892 by Aga Khan III) – Gandhiji was interned here from 9 Aug 1942 to 6 May 1944 during the Quit India Movement; Kasturba Gandhi and Mahadev Desai died here. Pune was also the Peshwas' capital.

Tamil Nadu link: Venkoji (Ekoji I), the younger half-brother of Maratha king Shivaji (both sons of Shahaji), captured Thanjavur in the 1670s (c. 1675) and founded the Thanjavur Maratha kingdom, which lasted until British annexation in 1855 – a historic Maharashtra–Tamil Nadu bond.

10 Dr Padma Gurmet, Director, National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa, Leh, gets 'Wellness Visionary Award' for holistic healing from CSJM University, Kanpur

Awards

News

Dr Padma Gurmet, Director of the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh (Ladakh), received the 'Wellness Visionary Award' for his contribution to traditional medicine and holistic healthcare. It was given at the 3rd International Conference on Wellness held by Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, from 30 Oct to 1 Nov 2026; the Ministry of Ayush announced it on 3 Nov 2026 (PIB). The conference was inaugurated by UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, and 42 health professionals from across India were honoured. Dr Gurmet gave a technical lecture on 'Significance of Sowa-Rigpa for Health and Wellness in Himalayan Regions'.

Key facts

Award	Wellness Visionary Award (for holistic healing)
Given by	Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur – 3rd International Conference on Wellness (30 Oct – 1 Nov 2026)
Recipient	Dr Padma Gurmet – Director, NISR, Leh; Padma Shri 2026 (Medicine – Sowa-Rigpa, Ladakh)
Padma investiture	25 May 2026 – Rashtrapati Bhavan
Legal recognition	Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Act, 2010
Present regulator	National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) – from 11 June 2021

Background

- Sowa-Rigpa: the traditional medical system of the Himalayan region ('science of healing'), practised in India's sub-Himalayan areas and in Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan and other countries. In 2010 Parliament passed the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, giving it legal recognition – a regulatory framework for its education and practice and inclusion in the Pharmacopoeia Commission.
- Ayush history: Mar 1995 – Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy under the Health Ministry; Nov 2003 – renamed Department of AYUSH; 9 Nov 2014 – a separate ministry. AYUSH = Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.
- Regulation: the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 (CCIM) was repealed; since 11 June 2021 the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) regulates education in Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Sowa-Rigpa.
- Geography: Leh – the main town of the Union Territory of Ladakh, on the Indus. Kanpur – an industrial city on the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh.

Tamil Nadu link: the National Institute of Siddha is at Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai, beside GST Road; PM Manmohan Singh inaugurated it on 3 Sept 2005. The capital cost was shared 60:40 by the Centre and Tamil Nadu. Its hospital is named after Siddha physician and social reformer Ayothidasa Pandithar, and out-patients are treated free of cost.

11 NITI Aayog launches 'India S&T Scoreboard' to compare States' research & innovation – Tamil Nadu tops in research publications and patents

Indices

News

NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri released the 'India S&T Scoreboard', an interactive data platform built by NITI's Science & Technology Division, in New Delhi on 3 Nov 2026. It brings together data on States' and UTs' higher-education institutions, R&D institutions, deep-tech start-ups, incubators, research publications and patents, and measures research quality, impact, collaboration and open access across three sectors – academia, government R&D labs and industry. Any two States can be compared side by side. In 2024–25 Tamil Nadu ranked first in research publications with 44,611 (UP 29,298; Maharashtra 28,947), and first in patent applications too.

Key facts

Name	India S&T Scoreboard – interactive platform
Launch	3 Nov 2026, New Delhi – NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri
Others	Abhay Karandikar (NITI Member – S&T); Umesh V. Waghmare (DST Secretary)
Indicators	Institutions, start-ups, publications, patents, quality, impact, collaboration, open access
Tamil Nadu	First in both research publications (44,611, 2024–25) and patent applications
India	Global Innovation Index 2026 – 38th (81st in 2015); 3rd in the world in publications

Background

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India): set up on 1 Jan 2015 by a Union Cabinet resolution, replacing the Planning Commission (1950); chaired by the Prime Minister. It is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. In the April 2026 reconstitution, economist Ashok Lahiri became Vice Chairman.
- Economy: India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) is below 1% of GDP (about 0.64% in 2020–21 as per DST). To raise it, the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023 was passed – ₹50,000 crore for 2023–28 (about ₹36,000 crore of it from private sources).
- ANRF: the Prime Minister is President of its Governing Board; the Union Ministers of Science & Technology and of Education are ex officio Vice-Presidents. The ANRF Act repealed the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) Act, 2008.
- Sci-tech: India is 6th in the world in patent filings; the share of resident applicants has risen to over 55%.

Tamil Nadu link: on the new Scoreboard Tamil Nadu is first in both research publications (44,611) and patent applications. Earlier the State had reported topping the country in 2024–25 with 15,440 of India's 68,201 patents (about 23%), up from 9,565 in 2023–24.

12 Over 65 lakh households under PM Surya Ghar (target 1 crore): PM at Bharat Renewable Energy Summit; 'PM Surya Sarovar Yojana' for floating solar on water bodies

Energy

News

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026' at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 2 Nov 2026 (held alongside the 9th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance). He said over 65 lakh households have joined the 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' – launched in Feb 2024 with a target of 1 crore homes – in about two years, with about 1 lakh new homes added every six days. He added that the 'PM Surya Sarovar Yojana', which puts solar panels on reservoirs, ponds and lakes, saves land-acquisition costs. (Note: Surya Sarovar is not new – the Union Cabinet approved it on 31 July 2026.)

Key facts

Surya Sarovar approval	Union Cabinet, 31 July 2026; outlay ₹5,070 crore; ministry – MNRE
Target	About 5,000 MW floating solar + at least 2-hour storage (about 10,000 MWh in all)
Central aid	₹1 crore per MW after commissioning; up to ₹50 lakh per project for feasibility studies; sanctions 2026–27 to 2030–31
India's potential	About 102 GWp (NISE assessment, June 2026); leading States include Maharashtra, MP
Surya Ghar	Feb 2024; target 1 crore homes; 65 lakh+ by Nov 2026
Non-fossil capacity	Over 50% of installed capacity; nearly 300 GW achieved towards the 500 GW target (PMO)

Background

- Science: water cools floating solar panels and raises their efficiency (solar cells lose efficiency as they heat up); shading the reservoir also cuts evaporation. But the upfront cost is higher than for land-based solar.
- Geography: the Omkareshwar floating solar park – on the Narmada reservoir, Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh; planned capacity 600 MW, of which the 278 MW first phase was launched by the PM on 25 Dec 2024. NTPC's 100 MW floating plant at Ramagundam (Telangana) has been in commercial operation since 1 July 2022.
- Economy: the COP-26 pledge is 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030. India met its Paris goal of half its installed capacity from non-fossil sources in 2025, five years early. The PM announced a new goal of adding another 500 GW over the next 10–11 years.
- Schemes: PM-KUSUM has given solar irrigation to over 30 lakh farmers; over 44,000 government buildings run on solar power (saving about ₹700 crore a year).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Ltd (TNGECL) has planned the State's first floating solar pilots at seven sites – including Mettur, Bhavanisagar and Vaigai dams, Red Hills (Puzhal) lake, Sathanur dam and a TNGECL site at Avalanche – about 100 MW in the first phase. The State's potential is estimated at about 3,000 MW across 57 reservoirs (Apr 2026).

13 Five Singareni (SCCL) mines receive Coal Ministry's national '5-Star Rating' awards for 2024–25 at Raipur ceremony

Awards

News

The Coal Ministry's Star Rating Awards for coal and lignite mines for assessment year 2024–25 were held at Raipur, capital of Chhattisgarh, on 2 Nov 2026. Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey presented 5-star awards for five mines of Telangana's Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) to SCCL Chairman & MD Dr Buddhaprakash Jyoti. The mines: RKNT and RK-6 Incline (Srirampur Area), JVR OC-2 (Sattupalli), Khairigura OC (Bellampalli) and RGOC-1 (Ramagundam-3). In the previous round (2023–24) four SCCL mines had got 5 stars. At the same event NCL's Krishnashila mine was ranked first among opencast mines in the country.

Key facts

Ceremony	2 Nov 2026 – Raipur, Chhattisgarh (Ministry of Coal); awards presented by MoS Satish Chandra Dubey
Assessment year	2024–25 (coal and lignite mines)
Criteria	Operational efficiency, technology, occupational health & safety, environment, sustainable development, R&R, community welfare
Assessed by	Reviewers appointed by the Coal Controller's Organisation (CCO)
SCCL mines	RKNT, RK-6 (Srirampur); JVR OC-2 (Sattupalli); Khairigura OC (Bellampalli); RGOC-1 (Ramagundam-3)
SCCL	HQ – Kothagudem; equity – Telangana 51%, Centre 49%; Godavari Valley coalfield

Background

- History: in 1871 Dr William King of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) found coal near Yellandu in Khammam district (a coal seam is named after him). In 1886 the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company, registered in England, got mining rights; Singareni Collieries Company was incorporated on 23 Dec 1920; Hyderabad State bought most of its shares in 1945; since 1960 it has been jointly owned by the State and the Centre.
- Geography: the Godavari Valley (Pranhita–Godavari) coalfield – 'the only repository of coal in South India'; Lower Gondwana formations (Talchir, Barakar, Kamthi). SCCL works in six districts: Kumuram Bheem, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Jayashankar-Bhupalpally, Bhadradri-Kothagudem and Khammam.
- Economy: SCCL has 40 mines (18 opencast, 22 underground) and about 9.2% of India's domestic coal output. Star rating is the Coal Ministry's annual assessment that rewards mines for scientific mining, safety, environment, mine closure and community welfare.

Tamil Nadu link: in the previous (2023–24) star rating, NLC India's Lignite Mine-IA at Neyveli, Cuddalore district, got five stars and won first prize among the country's opencast mines (ceremony – Mumbai, 4 Sept 2025). NLC's Talabira II & III and Barsingsar mines also got 5 stars that year.

14 Bihar – first State with a comprehensive Silt (Sediment) Management Policy; NHAI–Bihar MoU under 'Nadi Sanjeevani'

Environment

News

On 3 Nov 2026 in New Delhi, in the presence of Union Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary, the Bihar Government and the Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) signed an MoU under the 'Nadi Sanjeevani' initiative, to be implemented by NHAI. NHAI will desilt rivers and water bodies and use the silt in National Highway works (raising road levels, strengthening embankments) – about 243 lakh cubic metres free of cost for 16 ongoing projects and about 835 lakh cubic metres for 27 upcoming ones. The CM said that with the 'Bihar Water Resources Restoration and Silt Management Policy 2026', approved by the State Cabinet on 15 Sept 2026, Bihar is the first State to adopt a comprehensive silt management framework.

Key facts

Policy	Bihar Water Resources Restoration and Silt Management Policy 2026 – Cabinet approval 15 Sept 2026
Aim	Restore water-holding and carrying capacity of rivers, barrages, reservoirs; reuse silt for roads, railways, construction
Farmers	₹20,000 per two hectares to clear sand/silt from buried farmland
MoU	3 Nov 2026, New Delhi – 'Nadi Sanjeevani'; MoRTH + Bihar Govt (NHAI implements)
Silt volume	About 1,078 lakh cubic metres in all (43 highway projects)
National	National Framework for Sediment Management (NFSM) – Ministry of Jal Shakti (DoWR, RD & GR)

Background

- Geography: seven major rivers enter Bihar from Nepal. Himalayan rivers such as the Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla bring huge silt loads that raise river beds and worsen floods. The Kosi, which often shifts its course and floods, is called the 'Sorrow of Bihar'; where it leaves the hills for the plains it has built a huge alluvial fan (megafan).
- 2026 floods: despite a rainfall deficit of over 32%, three major rivers reached peak flood levels and the Ganga's 200-year High Flood Level (HFL) record was broken; the CM said silt has built up to 10 m in some rivers.
- National policy: the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (Ministry of Jal Shakti) issued the 'National Framework for Sediment Management' in Oct 2022 after consulting States. It prioritises curbing silt generation at the source over repeated desilting.
- Polity: 'Water' (irrigation, canals, drainage, embankments) is in the State List (Entry 17) of the Seventh Schedule, while regulation of inter-State rivers is in the Union List (Entry 56). Flood control is therefore mainly a State responsibility.

Tamil Nadu link: In 2024 Tamil Nadu simplified rules so that farmers and potters can take silt and clay free of cost from tanks, ponds and canals maintained by the Water Resources and Rural Development departments (G.O. of 25 June 2024; permission online from the Tahsildar). This enriches farmland and restores storage capacity of water bodies. The Cauvery's alluvium makes the Thanjavur delta the 'rice bowl of Tamil Nadu'.

15 J.P. Nadda inaugurates ₹39-crore Advanced Radiotherapy Facility at AIIMS Rajkot; India now has 22 AIIMS (18 functional)

Health

News

On 2 Nov 2026 Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda inaugurated and dedicated to the nation the Advanced Radiotherapy (Radiation Oncology) Facility at AIIMS Rajkot, Gujarat, built for about ₹39 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). It has a High Energy Linear Accelerator (LINAC), a Wide Bore CT Simulator and a High Dose Rate (HDR) Brachytherapy unit. It will serve about 1.54 crore people of the Saurashtra region, with 500–700 patients expected a year; eligible Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY beneficiaries are treated free. India has grown from one AIIMS to 22, of which 18 are functional.

Key facts

Inauguration	2 Nov 2026 – J.P. Nadda; AIIMS Rajkot (Gujarat)
Cost / scheme	About ₹39 crore – PMSSY
Equipment	LINAC (IMRT, VMAT, IGRT, SRS, SBRT); CT simulator; HDR brachytherapy
Reach	Saurashtra – about 1.54 crore people; 500–700 patients a year
Dept running	Radiation oncology department functional since 29 May 2026
AIIMS	1 → 22 (18 functional) – Union Health Ministry

Background

- PMSSY: a Union Health & Family Welfare Ministry scheme to correct regional imbalances in tertiary health care. Its two components are setting up new AIIMS and upgrading existing government medical colleges.
- AIIMS history: the first AIIMS was set up in New Delhi under the AIIMS Act, 1956; all AIIMS are 'Institutes of National Importance' under an Act of Parliament. AIIMS Rajkot – Gujarat's first AIIMS – was dedicated by the PM on 25 Feb 2024 along with AIIMS Bathinda, Raebareli, Kalyani and Mangalagiri.
- Science: a LINAC accelerates electrons to produce high-energy X-rays aimed at the tumour from outside (external beam). In brachytherapy the radioactive source is placed inside or next to the tumour (internal radiation) – useful for cervical and head-and-neck cancers.
- Geography: Rajkot lies in the Saurashtra (Kathiawar) peninsula of Gujarat; before this facility, patients there had to travel to Ahmedabad or Mumbai for such treatment.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's AIIMS is coming up at Thoppur, Madurai district; PM Modi laid the foundation stone on 27 Jan 2019 (750-bed hospital; Japanese loan). Five MBBS batches (2021–2025) first studied temporarily at Ramanathapuram and have now moved to the own campus; in Sept 2026 the Centre told the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court that the OPD will be fully functional from 1 Jan 2027 (work about 57% complete as of 31 Aug).

16 Prasar Bharati wins two ABU honours in Colombo – Special Commendation for Akashvani Bengaluru and Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award

Awards

News

At the 63rd General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 30 Oct to 3 Nov 2026, Prasar Bharati received two honours: (1) in the ABU Prizes 2026, a Special Commendation in the Audio Public Service Announcement category for Akashvani Bengaluru's 'Beyond the Call'; (2) the 'ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award 2026' to Prasar Bharati engineer Nongmaithem Nandakumar Singh, who developed 'DDPlayout', indigenous playout software for Doordarshan, and 'DDSlowMo', a low-cost slow-motion replay system. The Assembly's theme: 'Media for Peace and Humanity: Truth, Trust, and Transformation'.

Key facts

Event	63rd ABU General Assembly – Colombo, Sri Lanka; 30 Oct – 3 Nov 2026
Honour 1	ABU Prizes 2026 – Audio PSA Special Commendation; Akashvani Bengaluru, 'Beyond the Call'
Honour 2	ABU Broadcast Engineering Excellence Award 2026 – Nongmaithem Nandakumar Singh (DDPlayout, DDSlowMo)
ABU	Founded 1964; HQ Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); about 224 member bodies in 66 countries
WAVES OTT	Prasar Bharati's OTT platform (Nov 2024) – showcased at the Assembly

Background

- Prasar Bharati: a statutory autonomous body set up under the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, which came into force on 23 Nov 1997. Akashvani (AIR) and Doordarshan are its two wings; it works under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- History: the Indian State Broadcasting Service became 'All India Radio' (AIR) in 1936 and 'Akashvani' from 1957. Doordarshan began as an experimental telecast in Delhi on 15 Sept 1959.
- ABU: a non-profit professional association of broadcasters of the Asia-Pacific; founded 1964; HQ Kuala Lumpur. The ABU Prizes are annual awards for radio, TV and digital programmes. Prasar Bharati hosted the 59th ABU General Assembly in New Delhi in 2022.

Tamil Nadu link: Doordarshan Kendra Chennai began telecasting in 1975. Its 'DD Podhigai' channel was upgraded at ₹39.71 crore and relaunched as 'DD Tamil' by PM Modi in Chennai on 19 Jan 2024; at the same event foundation stones were laid for FM transmitters at Yercaud, Kumbakonam and Vellore.

17 India–US tri-service HADR exercise 'Tiger Triumph 2026' (5th edition) opens at Visakhapatnam

Defence

News

The opening ceremony of 'Tiger Triumph 2026', the bilateral India–US tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) amphibious exercise, was held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 2 Nov 2026. It is the 5th edition of the series begun in 2019; this time it is a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at the Maritime Warfare Centre. It aims at joint planning, coordination and interoperability for large-scale disaster response. Along with the Indian Navy, Army, Air Force and tri-service special forces, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is taking part for the first time; the US side has Air Force, Army, Marine Corps and Navy personnel plus space, cyber, medical and explosive-ordnance-disposal specialists. Rear Adm. Vishal Bishnoi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and Rear Adm. Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos, Vice Commander, US Pacific Fleet, spoke at the opening.

Key facts

Exercise	Tiger Triumph 2026 – 5th edition; India–US tri-service HADR amphibious exercise
Opening	2 Nov 2026 – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (end date not announced)
Format	Tabletop Exercise (TTX) – Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam; NDRF takes part for the first time
Past editions	2019 (first), 2022 (tabletop), 2024, 2025 – sea phase at Kakinada (2019, 2024, 2025)
2025 edition	Apr 2025; INS Jalashwa, Gharial, Mumbai; US ships Comstock, Ralph Johnson

Background

- History: the first Tiger Triumph (13–21 Nov 2019) was India's first tri-service exercise with the US – harbour phase at Visakhapatnam, sea phase at Kakinada, with INS Jalashwa, Airavat, Sandhayak and USS Germantown.
- Other India–US exercises: Yudh Abhyas (armies), Vajra Prahar (special forces), Cope India (air forces), Malabar (navies; now with Japan and Australia).
- Defence: INS Jalashwa – the former USS Trenton – an amphibious Landing Platform Dock commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 June 2007; home port Visakhapatnam.
- Geography: Kakinada is a port city in the Godavari delta region on the Andhra coast; the Coringa mangroves lie close by.

Tamil Nadu link: disaster relief, the core of this exercise, is a direct lesson for Tamil Nadu – in the 26 Dec 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Nagapattinam was Tamil Nadu's worst-hit district (about 6,065 deaths). India then enacted the Disaster Management Act, 2005; the 4th Battalion of the NDRF formed under it is at Arakkonam (Ranipet district).

18 Aditya-L1's VELC finds a solar eruption (CME) expanding asymmetrically – IIA study

Space

News

Scientists of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, using data from Aditya-L1's Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), found that a coronal mass ejection (CME) launched on 5 Aug 2024 from an active region near the Sun's western limb did not expand evenly like a simple bubble but spread sideways asymmetrically. The spectra showed two branches at once – blueshifted (towards us) and redshifted (away); only a model with a tilted axis and uneven lateral expansion matched them. NASA's SDO images and 3-D models were also used. The study appeared in The Astrophysical Journal Letters; the findings were reported on 3 Nov 2026.

Key facts

Instrument	VELC – the primary of Aditya-L1's 7 payloads; an internally occulted coronagraph
Event	5 Aug 2024 – CME near the Sun's western limb; observed in the low corona (about 1.05–1.5 solar radii)
Method	Spectroscopy of the 530.3 nm green line (highly ionised iron; plasma about 1.8 million K)
Authors	Saurabh Tripathi (lead), Tanmoy Samanta, Jayant Joshi – IIA (autonomous body under DST)
Journal	The Astrophysical Journal Letters (2026); reported 3 Nov 2026
Significance	A CME's shape affects solar-wind drag and its arrival time at Earth – aids space-weather forecasting

Background

- What is a CME? A huge burst of magnetised plasma (billions of tonnes) hurled from the Sun's corona into space. If Earth-directed it can trigger geomagnetic storms that disturb satellites, GPS, radio links and power grids, and produce auroras near the poles.
- Aditya-L1: India's first space-based solar observatory; launched Sep 2023, it is in a halo orbit around the Sun–Earth L1 (Lagrange) point. From L1 the Sun is seen continuously, without eclipses or occultation. 7 payloads – 4 remote-sensing (VELC, SUIT, SoLEXS, HEL1OS) and 3 in-situ (ASPEX, PAPA, MAG). ASPEX – Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad; PAPA – Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Coronagraph principle: it blocks the Sun's bright disc with an occulter, creating an 'artificial eclipse', to study the faint corona. VELC is internally occulted; its spectra give plasma speed and temperature. Until now a CME's 3-D shape needed several spacecraft imaging from different angles; this method may do it from a single vantage point.

Tamil Nadu link: IIA, which built VELC, also runs the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory in Dindigul district. The liquid engines of the PSLV rocket that launched Aditya-L1 are tested at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district. ISRO's second spaceport is being built at Kulasekarapattinam, Thoothukudi district.

19 Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell retires from international cricket (2 Nov 2026)

Sports

News

Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell (38) announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday, 2 Nov 2026 (on 'The Final Word' podcast). Having already quit ODIs on 2 June 2025, he now also leaves T20Is, as well as domestic one-day and four-day cricket for Victoria. His last international was against Oman at the 2026 T20 World Cup (20 Feb 2026).

Key facts

Born	14 Oct 1988 – Kew, Victoria; nickname 'The Big Show'
Debuts	ODI – 25 Aug 2012, Sharjah (v Afghanistan); T20I – 5 Sep 2012, Dubai (v Pakistan); Test – 2 Mar 2013, Hyderabad (v India)
Matches	7 Tests, 149 ODIs, 130 T20Is (ICC); 10 international hundreds, 136 wickets
Runs	ODIs 3,990 (SR 126.7); T20Is 2,897 (SR 154.4); 5 T20I hundreds
Titles	ICC ODI World Cup 2015, 2023; T20 World Cup 2021
201*	7 Nov 2023 – Wankhede, Mumbai; chasing 292 v Afghanistan, won from 91/7; 128 balls, 21 fours, 10 sixes

Background

- 2023 World Cup feats: a 40-ball hundred v Netherlands (Delhi, Oct 2023) – the fastest in World Cup history. Against Afghanistan he made 201* despite cramps, adding 202 for the 8th wicket with captain Pat Cummins (12*). In the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on 19 Nov 2023, Australia beat India to win a 6th ODI World Cup.
- Test hundred: 104 at Ranchi on the 2016–17 India tour – he became the second Australian with hundreds in all three formats. In the IPL he played for Delhi, Mumbai, Punjab and Bengaluru; he withdrew from the IPL 2026 auction.
- Cricket governance: the International Cricket Council (ICC) began in 1909 as the 'Imperial Cricket Conference' of England, Australia and South Africa; headquartered in Dubai (UAE) since 2005. India's BCCI – founded 1928; HQ Mumbai. The 2026 T20 World Cup was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. Cricket is in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Tamil Nadu link: the India–Australia Test at Chennai's M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chepauk (Tamil Nadu Cricket Association – TNCA), on 18–22 Sep 1986 was only the second tied Test in history – Dean Jones made 210. At the 2023 World Cup, India beat Australia by 6 wickets at the same ground on 8 Oct 2023.

20 3 Nov – International Day for Biosphere Reserves: India has 18, 13 in UNESCO's network; 797 in 145 countries worldwide

Important Days

News

The International Day for Biosphere Reserves is observed every 3 November to highlight the role of biosphere reserves under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The UNESCO General Conference proclaimed it at its 41st session (2021); it was first observed in 2022. With 14 new reserves in 14 countries added on 5 June 2026 (World Environment Day), the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) now has 797 sites in 145 countries. India has 18 national biosphere reserves, 13 of them in the WNBR. The latest is Himachal Pradesh's 'Cold Desert' (27 Sep 2025).

Key facts

Day	3 Nov – UNESCO General Conference, 41st session (2021); first observed 2022
MAB	Intergovernmental scientific programme launched by UNESCO in 1971
World network	797 sites, 145 countries (June 2026); first-timers in 2026 – Montenegro, Timor-Leste, Aruba
India	18 national reserves (first – Nilgiri, 1986); 13 in WNBR
Cold Desert	Himachal (Lahaul–Spiti); 7,770 sq km; 3,300–6,600 m; Pin Valley NP, Kibber WLS, Chandratal, Sarchu; snow leopard
Largest	Great Rann of Kutch (Gujarat, 12,454 sq km) – India's largest reserve

Background

- Zoning of a biosphere reserve: (1) core – legally protected, no human interference; (2) buffer – compatible uses such as research and education; (3) transition – settlements, farming and sustainable economic activity. Its three functions are conservation, development and logistic support (research and education).
- History: the 2nd World Congress at Seville, Spain, in 1995 adopted the 'Seville Strategy' and the 'Statutory Framework of the WNBR'. Then came the Madrid Action Plan (2008–2013) and the Lima Action Plan (2016–2025). The 5th World Congress at Hangzhou, China, in Sep 2025 adopted the 'Hangzhou Strategic Action Plan 2026–2035'. Sites are designated by the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC) and stay under national sovereignty.
- India's 13 WNBR sites (UNESCO year): Nilgiri (2000), Gulf of Mannar, Sundarbans (2001), Nanda Devi (2004), Nokrek, Pachmarhi, Similipal (2009), Achanakmar–Amarkantak (2012), Great Nicobar (2013), Agasthyamala (2016), Khangchendzonga (2018), Panna (2020), Cold Desert (2025). Not on the UNESCO list: Manas, Dibru–Saikhowa (Assam), Dihang–Dibang (Arunachal), Kachchh (Gujarat), Seshachalam (Andhra). In India reserves are notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Tamil Nadu link: all three of Tamil Nadu's reserves – Nilgiri, Gulf of Mannar and Agasthyamala (shared with Kerala) – are in the UNESCO network (details in Part 1). Nilgiri was both India's first biosphere reserve (1986) and the first Indian one on the UNESCO list (2000).

21 4 Nov 1948 – Dr B.R. Ambedkar moved the Draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly (first reading begins)

Important Days

News

On 4 November 1948 Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Chairman of the Drafting Committee, moved the Draft Constitution – 315 Articles and 8 Schedules – for consideration in the Constituent Assembly with a long introductory speech. In it, quoting the historian Grote, he explained 'constitutional morality', and defended taking the individual, not the village, as the unit. General discussion (commonly taught as the 'first reading') continued till 9 Nov 1948. 4 Nov 2026 marks its 78th anniversary.

Key facts

Drafting Committee	29 Aug 1947 – 7 members; Chairman Ambedkar
Members	N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, K.M. Munshi, Syed Muhammad Saadulla, B.L. Mitter (later N. Madhava Rau), D.P. Khaitan (died 1948; later T.T. Krishnamachari)
Draft	Based on Constitutional Adviser B.N. Rau's first draft (Oct 1947); Draft Constitution submitted to the Assembly President on 21 Feb 1948
Stages	General discussion 4–9 Nov 1948; clause-by-clause 15 Nov 1948 – 17 Oct 1949; third reading 17–26 Nov 1949
Adoption	26 Nov 1949 – adopted (Constitution Day since 2015); 24 Jan 1950 – signed; 26 Jan 1950 – in force
Assembly	First met 9 Dec 1946 (interim chairman Sachchidananda Sinha); permanent President Rajendra Prasad (11 Dec 1946)

Background

- Constituent Assembly: indirectly elected by the provincial legislatures under the 1946 Cabinet Mission Plan. Nehru's 'Objectives Resolution' was moved on 13 Dec 1946 and adopted on 22 Jan 1947 – it later became the Preamble. Framing the Constitution took about 2 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- Polity: the Draft had 315 Articles and 8 Schedules; the adopted Constitution had 395 Articles, 22 Parts and 8 Schedules. In the 4 Nov speech Ambedkar called the Constitution federal and India a 'Union' from which States cannot secede. About 7,600 amendments were tabled and about 2,400 discussed during the debates.
- Ambedkar: born 14 Apr 1891, Mhow (MP); 'chief architect of the Indian Constitution'; independent India's first Law Minister; died 6 Dec 1956 ('Mahaparinirvan Diwas'); Bharat Ratna 1990. In his final speech of 25 Nov 1949 he stressed that political democracy must become social democracy.

Tamil Nadu link: of the Drafting Committee's 7 members, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar (Advocate-General of Madras, 1929–44) and N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (former Diwan of Jammu & Kashmir; key drafter of Article 370) were from the Madras Presidency. After D.P. Khaitan's death in 1948, T.T. Krishnamachari of Madras (later Union Finance Minister) joined it. Ambedkar praised Alladi as 'bigger, better and more competent than myself'.

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