India hosts 62nd International Coconut Community session in Kochi

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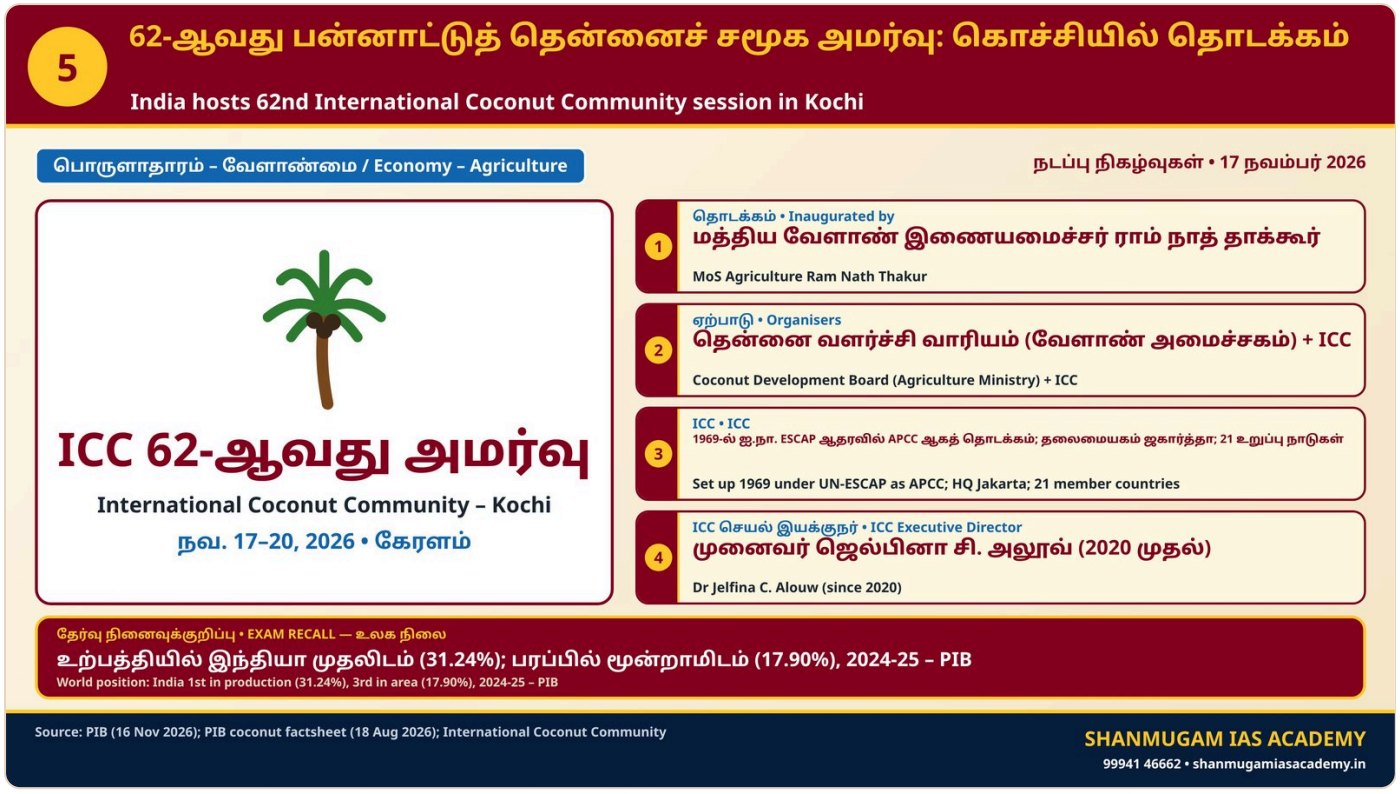

News

The 62nd Session and Ministerial Meeting of the International Coconut Community (ICC) is being held at Kochi, Keralam, from 17 to 20 November 2026. It is organised by the Coconut Development Board, under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, jointly with the Jakarta-headquartered ICC. Union Minister of State for Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur inaugurated it on 17 November; Agriculture Secretary Atish Chandra gave the presidential address. The minister called for stronger cooperation among coconut-producing countries in research, climate-resilient farming, market access and value addition. Ministers and representatives of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Samoa took part. ICC plaques of appreciation are being presented in three categories – best national coconut farmer, scientist and entrepreneur. India's coconut sector supports about 3 crore people, including nearly 1 crore farmers (PIB factsheet, Aug 2026).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	62nd ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting
Date, venue	17–20 Nov 2026; Kochi, Keralam
Inaugurated by	MoS Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur

Point	Details
Organisers	Coconut Development Board (Agriculture Ministry) + ICC
ICC	Set up 1969 under UN-ESCAP as APCC; HQ Jakarta; 21 member countries
ICC Executive Director	Dr Jelfina C. Alouw (since 2020)
World position	India 1st in production (31.24%), 3rd in area (17.90%), 2024-25 – PIB
World Coconut Day	2 September (APCC/ICC foundation day)
Indian output	Tamil Nadu leads output; Keralam has the largest area (PIB factsheet, Aug 2026)

Background

- Institution: the International Coconut Community began in 1969 as the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) under the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP); India is a founding member. Its headquarters is Jakarta, Indonesia. It has 21 coconut-producing member countries from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa and South America. The annual Session is its highest decision-making body. Its foundation day, 2 September, is observed as World Coconut Day.
- Indian bodies: the Coconut Development Board (CDB) is a statutory body set up in 1981 under a 1979 Act, headquartered at Kochi under the Agriculture Ministry. Coconut research is led by ICAR–Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod, Keralam, which began in 1916 as a Coconut Research Station.
- Economy and science: India, Indonesia and the Philippines are the world's leading coconut producers. The coconut palm (Cocos nucifera) is called the 'Kalpavriksha'. Value-added products include copra, coconut oil, desiccated coconut, coconut milk, 'Neera' (unfermented sap tapped from the spadix) and activated carbon. The Centre announces a minimum support price for copra (milling and ball copra). According to the PIB factsheet (18 Aug 2026), India is first in world coconut production (31.24%) and third in area (17.90%, 2024-25); within India, Tamil Nadu leads in production and Keralam in area.

Tamil Nadu link: According to the PIB factsheet (18 Aug 2026), Tamil Nadu leads India in coconut production. The Coconut Development Board and the ICC held the first International CocoHealth Conference at Coimbatore on 19–22 August 2025. Coimbatore (Pollachi), Tiruppur (Udumalaipettai), Thanjavur, Kanniyakumari and Dindigul are the main coconut districts; Pollachi is a big trading hub for tender coconut, copra and coconut oil.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: 62nd ICC Session & Ministerial Meeting; Date, venue: 17–20 Nov 2026; Kochi, Keralam; Inaugurated by: MoS Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur; Organisers: Coconut Development Board (Agriculture Ministry) + ICC.

What is the background to this news?

Institution: the International Coconut Community began in 1969 as the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) under the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP); India is a founding member.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Where is the headquarters of the International Coconut Community (ICC)?

A) Manila

B) Colombo

C) Kuala Lumpur

D) Jakarta

Answer: D – Explanation: Jakarta, Indonesia. The ICC has 21 member countries; India is a founding member.

2. Under which UN body was the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) set up in 1969?

A) FAO

B) UNDP

C) UN-ESCAP

D) UNCTAD

Answer: C – Explanation: UN-ESCAP (HQ Bangkok). APCC was later renamed ICC; its foundation day, 2 Sept, is World Coconut Day.

3. Where is ICAR–Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), India's lead coconut research body?

A) Kasaragod

B) Kozhikode

C) Thrissur

D) Coimbatore

Answer: A – Explanation: Kasaragod (Keralam) – began in 1916 as a Coconut Research Station. Kozhikode hosts the Indian Institute of Spices Research.

4. Which Pacific island nation, an ICC member, is the only country lying in all four hemispheres?

A) Samoa

B) Fiji

C) Marshall Islands

D) Kiribati

Answer: D – Explanation: Kiribati – it straddles both the Equator and the 180° meridian; its capital is South Tarawa.

5. The Centre's MSP for copra, a key produce of Tamil Nadu's Pollachi belt, is fixed on whose recommendation?

A) NITI Aayog

B) CACP

C) NAFED

D) Food Corp. of India

Answer: B – Explanation: Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) – recommends MSP for 22 crops. NAFED is a procurement agency for copra.

Sources: PIB – Release IDs 2336892 (16 Nov 2026) and 2336802 (PIB Thiruvananthapuram); PIB factsheet on the coconut sector (18 Aug 2026) – static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2026/aug/doc2026818961601.pdf; The Hans India (17 Nov 2026, inauguration) – thehansindia.com/news/national/india-calls-for-global-cooperation-to-boost-coconut-sector-1143000; ICC – coconutcommunity.org (Brief Overview; 62nd Session page); PIB – CCEA release on copra MSP (2026 season). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.