

VIJAY'S TNPSC ACADEMY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NOVEMBER -1 to 10

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS – 01.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
Trek Tamil Nadu Initiative.....	1
Tamil Nadu Launches Climate Action Tracker.....	2
Topic: Book and Author.....	2
Sahitya Akademi Unveils Hindi Version of Lithuanian Novel ‘The Last Day’	2
Topic: Polity.....	3
Justice Surya Kant to Take Over as 53rd Chief Justice of India.....	3
Topic: Science and Technology.....	4
Discovery by James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).....	4
Topic: Schemes and Initiatives.....	4
AI Curriculum to be Introduced from Class 3 Onwards.....	4
Topic: Environment.....	5
Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary – Third Home for Cheetahs.....	5
Topic: Defence.....	5
Exercise Trishul 2025.....	5
Topic: Economy.....	6
India to Add 6 GW of New Wind Energy Capacity by FY 2025–26.....	6
International Highlights.....	7
Cyprus Ready to Join India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC).....	7

TamilNadu Highlights

Trek Tamil Nadu Initiative

Launched: 2024 by Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

Objective: Promote eco-sensitive adventure tourism **adventure, conservation, and community participation.**

Popular Trails:

- Yelagiri–Swamimalai
- Gudiyam Caves (Tiruvallur)
- Baraliyar (Coimbatore)
- Parsons Valley–Mukurthi Hut (Nilgiris)
- Avalanche–Kolaribetta (Nilgiris)

Regulation: Tamil Nadu Forest and Wildlife (Regulation of Trekking) Rules, 2018.

Tamil Nadu Launches Climate Action Tracker

- **Climate Action Tracker**, a digital platform to monitor and track climate initiatives across the State.
- Developed by the **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests** in collaboration with the **Vasudha Foundation**.
- District-level **decarbonisation plans** were released for **The Nilgiris, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, and Coimbatore**.

Topic: Book and Author

- The **Sahitya Akademi** released the **Hindi version** of the Lithuanian novel, celebrating **India–Lithuania literary collaboration**.
- The translated edition titled “**Antim Din**” was authored by **Lithuanian-Ukrainian writer Jaroslavas Melnikas**.

Topic: Polity

Justice Surya Kant to Take Over as 53rd Chief Justice of India

- **Justice Surya Kant** will assume office as the **53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI)** on **November 24, 2025**, succeeding **Chief Justice B.R. Gavai**.

- The **Chief Justice of India** and **Supreme Court judges** are appointed by the **President** under **Article 124(2)** of the **Constitution of India**.
- Using **JWST**, researchers identified **five carbon-rich compounds** surrounding a **nascent star** named **ST6** in the **Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)**.
- The finding helps understand **how complex carbon molecules form** in **low-metallicity environments**, similar to the **early universe**.

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

AI Curriculum to be Introduced from Class 3 Onwards

- The **Ministry of Education** announced that an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum** will be introduced from **Class 3 onwards** starting in the **academic year 2026–27**.
- **Implementation & Support:** The initiative is being developed with the support of **CBSE, NCERT, KVS, NVS, and all States and Union Territories**.
- **Objective:** To design a **meaningful and inclusive AI curriculum** under the **National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE)** that encourages creativity, logical thinking, and responsible AI use.

Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary – Third Home for Cheetahs

- **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh** is set to become the **third cheetah habitat** in India after:
 - **Kuno National Park**, and
 - **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary**.

About Project Cheetah

- **Objective:** Reintroduce the **cheetah** — India's **only extinct large mammal** — to its natural habitat.
- **Extinction:** Officially declared extinct in **1952**.

Implementation:

- **2022:** 8 cheetahs from **Namibia** released in **Kuno National Park**.
- **2023:** 12 more cheetahs from **South Africa** added.
- **2025:** 2 male cheetahs moved to **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary**, the **second cheetah site**.
- **Now:** **Nauradehi** identified as the **third reintroduction site** under Project Cheetah.

Topic: Defence

Exercise Trishul 2025

- India has launched **Exercise Trishul 2025**, a **major tri-service military exercise** involving the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**.

- The exercise is being held **across Gujarat and Rajasthan**, focusing on **joint operations along the western front**.

India to Add 6 GW of New Wind Energy Capacity by FY 2025–26

- The **Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** announced that **6 gigawatts (GW)** of new **wind energy capacity** will be added in India by the **end of FY 2025–26**.
- Current Status:
 - India ranks **4th globally** in **wind power installed capacity**, with **51.67 GW** as of **August 12, 2025**.

Major Targets:

- **Reduce emissions intensity** of GDP by **45% by 2030**, compared to 2005 levels.
- Achieve **50% of cumulative electric power capacity** from **non-fossil fuel sources** by **2030**.
- Promote sustainable lifestyles through the **‘LIFE’ (Lifestyle for Environment)** movement.
- Contribute to India’s **long-term Net Zero emissions goal by 2070**.

Cyprus Ready to Join India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- **Location:** Island nation in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, about 40 miles south of Turkey and 60 miles west of Syria.

India–Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- **Announced:** During the **G20 Summit (New Delhi, 2023)**.
- **Objective:** To **stimulate economic development** through **enhanced connectivity** and **economic integration** among **Asia, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe**.
- **Structure:** A multi-modal corridor combining **ship, rail, and road** links connecting:
 - **India → Gulf Region → Europe**.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS – 02.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
Tribute to Raja Raja Chola on 1,040th Sathaya Vizha.....	1
Over 70,000 Students Admitted Under RTE Act in Tamil Nadu (2025–26).....	1
VIT Chancellor Receives Lifetime Achievement Award.....	2
Topic: Schemes and Initiatives.....	2
Indian Railways Launches ‘Aabhar’ Online Store to Promote Local Craftsmanship.....	2
Topic: Schemes and Initiatives.....	3
Union Health Ministry Sets 3 Guinness World Records.....	3
Topic: Sports.....	4
FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy Renamed After Viswanathan Anand.....	4
Topic: Important Days.....	4
Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada 2025.....	4
Topic: Economy.....	5
India to Become a \$30 Trillion Economy in 25 Years.....	5
Topic: Environment.....	6
Sinking Indian Megacities: Study Warns of Rising Land Subsidence Risks.....	6
International Highlights.....	7
US–China Sign Rare Earths Deal.....	7

TamilNadu Highlights

Tribute to Raja Raja Chola on 1,040th Sathaya Vizha

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** paid homage to **Raja Raja Chola** on his **1,040th Sathaya Vizha**.

Statement: He hailed the Chola emperor's reign as a **symbol of excellence in art, warfare, naval architecture, and irrigation**.

Celebration: The event is being celebrated in **Thanjavur** with **illuminations and cultural programs**.

Over 70,000 Students Admitted Under RTE Act in Tamil Nadu (2025–26)

Total Admissions: 70,449 students admitted under the **Right to Education (RTE) Act** in Tamil Nadu for the current academic year.

Comparison: Slight decrease from last year's 71,398 admissions.

Quick Facts – Right to Education (RTE) Act

- Enacted: August 4, 2009
- Came into force: April 1, 2010
- Constitutional Provision: Ensures free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years under Article 21A of the Constitution.
- Objective: To provide equitable quality education to all children, especially from disadvantaged sections.
- Reservation: Mandates 25% seats in private schools for children from weaker and marginalized groups.

VIT Chancellor Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of **Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)**, has been conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

Indian Railways Launches 'Aabhar' Online Store to Promote Local Craftsmanship

- Indian Railways has launched the '**Aabhar**' **online store** to showcase and sell **gift items** made by **indigenous tribes, handloom weavers, and ODOP and GI product makers**, supporting local artisans.

About 'Aabhar' Store

- Hosted on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**.
- Sources products from:
 - **Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE)**

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**
- **Central and State Handicraft and Handloom Emporiums**

The **‘One Station One Product (OSOP)’** scheme by Indian Railways Promotes **local and indigenous products**, providing **additional income opportunities** for **marginalized communities**.

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

Union Health Ministry Sets 3 Guinness World Records

- The **Union Health Ministry** achieved **three Guinness World Records** under the **Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA)** campaign, highlighting India’s progress in digital health and preventive screening initiatives.
- **About the Records:**
 - **Most people to register for a healthcare platform in one month** – over **3.21 crore** registrations.
 - **Most people to sign up for a breast cancer screening online in one week** – over **9.94 lakh** participants.
 - **Most people to sign up for vital signs screening online in one week (State level)** – over **1.25 lakh** participants.
- **About the Campaign:**
 - The **Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan** was launched on **September 17** in conjunction with **Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month)**.
 - The initiative focuses on **women’s health awareness, preventive screenings, and empowering families through health literacy**.

Topic: Sports

FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy Renamed After Viswanathan Anand

- The **FIDE Chess World Cup 2025** trophy has been renamed as the **Viswanathan Anand Cup**, honouring India’s chess legend and five-time World Champion.
- The announcement was made at a ceremony in **Panjim, Goa**, attended by **Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Goa CM Pramod Sawant, and FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich**.
- The renaming recognises **Anand’s lifelong contribution** to promoting and elevating Indian chess globally.

- The 2025 World Cup will feature **206 players from 80 countries** competing across **eight knockout rounds**.
- Indian players **D. Gukesh** and **R. Praggnanandhaa** will participate, while **Magnus Carlsen** and **Hikaru Nakamura** have opted out.

Topic: Important Days

Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada 2025

- **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada** began on November 1, 2025, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** is observing the event nationwide with participation from **Tribal Research Institutes, Eklavya Model Residential Schools, TRIFED, and NSTFDC**.
- The celebrations highlight achievements under **PM JANMAN, Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, and the National Sickle Cell Elimination Mission**.
- Various **livelihood and entrepreneurship schemes** will also be showcased during the two-week event.
- The Pakhwada will conclude on November 15, observed as **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, honouring Birsa Munda's birth anniversary**.
- The year 2025 has been declared "**Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**" to mark 150 years of Birsa Munda, the legendary tribal freedom fighter who led the **Ulgulan (Great Tumult)** revolt against British rule.

Topic: Economy

India to Become a \$30 Trillion Economy in 25 Years

- The **Minister of Commerce and Industry** announced that **India is projected to become a \$30 trillion economy within the next 20–25 years**.
- **Current Status:** In FY 2024, **India's GDP stood at \$3.9 trillion**.

Government Initiatives

Initiative	Year	Objective / Description
Make in India	2014	Promotes domestic manufacturing and aims to raise the manufacturing share in GDP to 25%.
Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes	—	Encourages large-scale manufacturing across 14 sectors to boost exports and job creation.
National Industrial Corridor Programme	—	Develops modern industrial infrastructure and connectivity.
PM Gati Shakti	2021	A National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity integrating roads, railways, ports, and logistics.
Bharatmala and Sagarmala	—	Enhance road and port connectivity to reduce logistics costs.
Skill India Mission	—	Enhances workforce capabilities through vocational training.
Start-Up India & Stand-Up India	—	Fosters entrepreneurship and innovation.
Free Trade Agreements (FTA)	—	Negotiations with UK, EU, UAE, etc., to expand export markets.
‘Act East’ and ‘Indo-Pacific’ Strategies	—	Strengthen economic and strategic integration with Asia-Pacific.

Topic: Environment

Sinking Indian Megacities: Study Warns of Rising Land Subsidence Risks

- A recent study titled “**Building Damage Risk in Sinking Indian Megacities**” reveals that **878 km²** of land in **Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru** is subsiding.

International Highlights

US–China Sign Rare Earths Deal

- US President **Donald Trump** and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** signed an agreement in **South Korea** to ensure the **continued flow of China's rare earth exports to the US**, crucial for global technology and defence supply chains.
- **About Rare Earth Elements (REEs):**
 - A group of **17 metallic elements**, including **scandium and yttrium**, known for **high density, melting points, and conductivity**.
 - Though not truly rare, they are **found in low concentrations**, making their **extraction costly and environmentally challenging**.
- **Global Distribution & Applications:**

China dominates global REE production — **60% of mine output** and **over 90% of refined products**.

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS – 04.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
Committees Formed to Manage Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund.....	1
Discovery of 5,000-Year-Old Neolithic Stone Tools in Jawadhu Hills, Tirupathur District.....	1
Topic: Science and Technology.....	2
Bharat Biotech Launches “Nucelion Therapeutics” for Advanced Cell & Gene Therapies.....	2
India Launches Its Heaviest Communication Satellite – CMS-03.....	2
Topic: Economy.....	3
GST Revenue Rises by 4.6% in October 2025.....	3
National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) – Strengthening India’s Honey Sector.....	3
Topic: Appointment.....	3
Ankathi Raju Appointed as Director of DRDO’s Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL).....	4
Topic: Schemes and Initiatives.....	5
Universal Health Coverage (UHC) – Towards Affordable Healthcare and Viksit Bharat 2047.....	5
₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Scheme Fund launched at ESTIC 2025.....	6
Topic: Environment.....	7
India adds Bihar’s Gogabeel Lake as 94th Ramsar Site.....	7
Topic: Sports.....	8
India Creates History – ICC Women’s World Cup 2025 Champion.....	8

TamilNadu Highlights

Committees Formed to Manage Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation

Fund

- The Governing Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary, will provide policy direction; members include senior officials, environmental experts, and philanthropists like Rohini Nilekani and Mallika Srinivasan.
- The Executive Committee, chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (Environment), will handle day-to-day operations, project monitoring, and fund management.
- The fund will support conservation of endangered and near-threatened species such as the Indian striped hyena, promoting community-based and science-driven wildlife protection in Tamil Nadu.

Discovery of 5,000-Year-Old Neolithic Stone Tools in Jawadhu Hills, Tirupathur District

- **Ranganathan**, a PhD researcher from the Department of History, Islamiah College, Vaniyambadi, under the supervision of Dr. C. Mohamed Faheem, has discovered ancient stone tools in the Jawadhu Hills region of Tirupathur district.
- The discovery was made in Nellipattu village, located in the Jawadhu Hills, where Neolithic (New Stone Age) tools dating back around 5,000 years were unearthed.

Topic: Science and Technology

Bharat Biotech Launches “Nucelion Therapeutics” for Advanced Cell & Gene Therapies

- **Bharat Biotech International Ltd** has established “Nucelion Therapeutics”, a wholly owned subsidiary.
- It will function as a **Contract Research, Development and Manufacturing Organisation (CRDMO)** specialising in **advanced cell** and gene therapies.

India Launches Its Heaviest Communication Satellite – CMS-03

- **Date & Launch Site:** On **2 November 2025**, ISRO successfully launched **India’s heaviest communication satellite – CMS-03** from **Sriharikota**.
- **Launch Vehicle:** The **LVM3-M5 rocket (Bahubali)** carried the **4,410 kg** satellite into **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**.
- **Earlier Context:** Previously, ISRO launched heavy satellites like **GSAT-11 (5,854 kg)** using **Ariane-5 rockets** from **French Guiana**; LVM3-M5 now provides **complete self-reliance** in this domain.

Topic: Economy

GST Revenue Rises by 4.6% in October 2025

- **GST collection for October 2025** crossed **₹1.95 lakh crore**, showing a **4.6% year-on-year growth** despite rate reductions on **22 September 2025**.

National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) – Strengthening India’s

Honey Sector

- The **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)** is a **Central Sector Scheme** launched to promote **scientific beekeeping** and enhance **quality honey production**.
- Implemented through the **National Bee Board (NBB)**.

Launch & Budget:

- Announced under Atmanirbhar Bharat in 2020 as part of the “Sweet Revolution.”

Topic: Appointment

Ankathi Raju Appointed as Director of DRDO’s Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)

- Ankathi Raju has been appointed as the Director of DRDL, Hyderabad, under DRDO.
- He played a key role in developing solid fuel ducted ramjet propulsion technology and liquid propulsion systems for missiles such as Prithvi, Agni, PAD, PDV, and Mission Shakti.

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) – Towards Affordable Healthcare and Viksit Bharat 2047

- **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** ensures that everyone has access to quality healthcare services—from prevention to treatment and rehabilitation—without financial hardship.
- It covers the *entire continuum of care*: **promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care**.
- **UHC** is a *key component of the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* and was *reaffirmed by global leaders in 2019*.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** aims to extend UHC to **1 billion more people by 2025**.

₹1 Lakh Crore RDI Scheme Fund launched at ESTIC 2025

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ₹1 lakh crore **Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme Fund** during the inauguration of the **Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025** held in New Delhi.
- **About the Scheme**
- **Total Outlay:** ₹1 lakh crore over **6 years**.
- **FY 2025–26 Allocation:** ₹20,000 crore from the **Consolidated Fund of India**.

Government Initiatives to Strengthen R&D

- **National Research Foundation (NRF):** Enhances collaboration between **academia and industry** for research funding.
- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):** Promotes **startups and innovation** among students and professionals.
- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:** Incentivizes **R&D-led manufacturing**.

National Missions Supporting R&D

- **National Quantum Mission:** ₹6,003.65 crore to advance **quantum technologies**.
- **Electric Vehicle Mission:** Implemented under ANRF's **MAHA Programme**.
- **India Semiconductor Mission:** ₹76,000 crore for **semiconductor ecosystem** development.
- **Deep Ocean Mission:** ₹4,077 crore for sustainable **deep-sea exploration**.
- **India AI Mission:** ₹10,372 crore to strengthen **AI capabilities**.

Policy Frameworks Enabling Innovation

- **Geospatial Policy 2022**
- **Space Policy 2023**
- **BioE3 Policy 2024** (*Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment*)

Topic: Environment

India adds Bihar's Gogabeel Lake as 94th Ramsar Site

India has expanded its network of **internationally recognised wetlands** with the inclusion of **Gogabeel Lake in Bihar** as the **country's 94th Ramsar site**, reinforcing its commitment to **wetland conservation** under the **Ramsar Convention**.

Gogabeel Lake: Bihar's First Community-Managed Ramsar Site

- **Location:** Katihar district, between the **Ganga and Mahananda rivers**.

- **Type: Oxbow lake and floodplain wetland.**

India's Global Standing in Wetland Conservation

- **Total Ramsar Sites: 94**
- **India's Rank: 3rd globally, after the UK (176) and Mexico (144).**
- **Sites Added in Last 11 Years: 67 wetlands covering 13.6 lakh hectares.**

About the Ramsar Convention

- **Adopted: 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.**
- **Members: 172 countries.**
- **Global Protected Sites: 2,546.**
- **Objective: To conserve wetlands of international importance and promote their wise use.**

Functions of Ramsar Sites:

- **Maintain hydrological balance.**
- **Aid flood control and groundwater replenishment.**
- **Support biodiversity and livelihoods through sustainable resource use.**

Topic: Sports

India Creates History – ICC Women's World Cup 2025 Champion

- **India won the ICC Women's World Cup 2025, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final held at DY Patil Stadium, Mumbai.**
- **This is India's first-ever Women's World Cup title.**

Awards

- **Player of the Match: Deepti Sharma (58 runs & 4/46)**
- **Winning Margin: India won by 52 runs**

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS -05.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

Tamil Nadu Highlights.....	1
Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls Begins in Tamil Nadu.....	1
Vijayanagara-Era Gold Coins Unearthed in Tiruvannamalai Temple.....	1
GI Tag Sought for Sirumugai Menpattu Pudavaigal.....	2
National Highlights.....	2
Great Nicobar Island Project: map ready for denotification of tribal reserve.....	2
Topic: Polity.....	3
Madras High Court Recognises Cryptocurrency as ‘Property’ – A Landmark Ruling.....	3
Topic: Appointment.....	4
Sanjay Garg Takes Charge as New Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).....	4
Topic: Sports.....	4
Avani Lekhara Shines at 2025 Para Shooting World Cup – India Bags Multiple Medals.....	4
Topic: Environment.....	5
Eight Cheetahs from Botswana to Arrive in India Under Project Cheetah.....	5
Topic: Reports and Indices.....	5
NITI Aayog’s Frontier Tech Hub Unveils Agriculture Transformation Roadmap.....	5
Topic: Economy.....	6
From Food Security to Nutrition Security: India’s New Focus.....	6
International Highlights.....	8
Samia Suluhu Hassan Sworn in for Second Term as Tanzania’s President.....	8
China Launches 42nd Antarctic Expedition.....	9

TamilNadu Highlights

Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls Begins in Tamil Nadu

- The **house-to-house enumeration** under the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls began across **Tamil Nadu** on **November 4, 2025**.
- **Officials' Review:** **Deputy Election Commissioner Bhanu Prakash Yeturu** and **Director Krishna Kumar Tiwari** from the **Election Commission of India** visited Tamil Nadu to review the progress.

Vijayanagara-Era Gold Coins Unearthed in Tiruvannamalai Temple

- A total of **103 punch-marked gold coins** were discovered at a Shiva temple in **Kovilur, near Jamunamarathur, Tiruvannamalai district**.
- The temple dates back to the **Later Chola period**, indicating a blend of Chola and Vijayanagara influences.

GI Tag Sought for Sirumugai Menpattu Pudavaigal

- **Application Filed:** The Sirumugai Anaithu Kaithari Pattu Selai Urpathi Mattrum Virpanaiyalargal Sangam and TNSCST, Chennai have jointly applied for a **GI tag** for Sirumugai Menpattu Pudavaigal.
- **Unique Sarees:** Made from **pure Indian mulberry silk**, each saree carries a **Silk Mark certificate** as proof of authenticity.

National Highlights

Great Nicobar Island Project: map ready for denotification of tribal reserve

- The **Andaman & Nicobar Administration** has prepared a **GIS map** for *de-notification and re-notification* of **tribal reserve land** for the **₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) project**.
- The project includes a **transshipment port, airport, power plant, and township**.
- Implementing agency: **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO)**.

Tribal Welfare Initiatives

- A **Comprehensive Tribal Welfare Plan (CTWP)** will be finalised **next month** to ensure the welfare of **Nicobarese** and **Shompen** tribes.

- The plan will also address **return of Nicobarese to their ancestral villages** displaced after the **2004 tsunami**.

Topic: Polity

Madras High Court Recognises Cryptocurrency as ‘Property’ – A Landmark Ruling

- **First Judicial Recognition in India:** Madras High Court became the first Indian court to officially recognise cryptocurrency as “property” under Indian law.
- **Case Background:** The ruling came in a case where an investor’s crypto assets were frozen by WazirX after a major cyberattack in 2024.
- **Court’s Observation:** Cryptocurrencies, though **intangible**, possess the **essential attributes of property**, making them **legally ownable assets**.

Topic: Appointment

Sanjay Garg Takes Charge as New Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

- **Sanjay Garg (IAS, 1994 batch)** has assumed charge as the **Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, effective **November 1, 2025**.
- **About BIS:** The **BIS** functions as the **National Standards Body of India**, ensuring quality and safety standards across industries.

Topic: Sports

Avani Lekhara Shines at 2025 Para Shooting World Cup – India Bags Multiple Medals

- **Avani Lekhara** won the **gold medal** in the **Women’s 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1** event at the **2025 Para Shooting World Cup** held in **Al Ain, Dubai**.
- **India’s Double Win:** In the **Mixed 50m Pistol SH1 (Individual)** event, **Indian shooters Akash and Sandeep Kumar** won **gold** and **silver** respectively.

Topic: Environment

Eight Cheetahs from Botswana to Arrive in India Under Project Cheetah

- **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav** announced that **8 cheetahs from Botswana** will arrive in **India next month** under **Project Cheetah**.
- **Quarantine Site:** The cheetahs will be kept in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, for **quarantine and adaptation**.
- **Project Launch:** **Project Cheetah**, launched in **September 2022**, aims to **reintroduce cheetahs** in India after their extinction in 1952.

Topic: Reports and Indices

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub Unveils Agriculture Transformation Roadmap

- NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released "Reimagining Agriculture: A Roadmap for Frontier Technology Led Transformation" to accelerate tech-driven agricultural growth.
- **Frontier Technologies Focus:** The plan emphasizes use of **climate-resilient seeds, digital twins, precision farming, AI (including Agentic AI), and advanced mechanization** to modernize agriculture.

Topic: Economy

From Food Security to Nutrition Security: India's New Focus

- At the inaugural session of the **Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the scientific community to shift focus **from food security to nutrition security**, emphasizing holistic human development.

Status of Food Security in India (2024–25)

Parameter	Details
Record Foodgrain Production	353.96 million tonnes (Wheat: 117.51 MT, Rice: 149.07 MT)
Legal Framework	National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 – ensures subsidised foodgrains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries (75% rural, 50% urban)
Storage Capacity	917.83 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) under FCI and state agencies (covered + CAP storage)
Challenge	Achieving food availability ≠ ensuring adequate nutrition

Food Security vs. Nutrition Security Parameter	Food Security	Nutrition Security
Focus	Calorie sufficiency	Adequate macro & micronutrient intake
Goal	Prevent hunger	Ensure physical & cognitive well-being
Indicators	Grain availability, PDS coverage	Anaemia, stunting, obesity, diet diversity

Need to Shift Towards Nutrition Security

Persistent Child Malnutrition (NFHS-5, 2019–21)

- **35.5%** of children under 5 are stunted (low height-for-age)

- **19.3%** are wasted (low weight-for-height)
- **32.1%** are underweight.

Maternal and Women's Nutrition

- Underweight women (BMI < 18.5): declined from **22.9%** → **18.7%**
- Anaemia among women (15–49 yrs): **57%** (alarmingly high)

Micronutrient Deficiencies (CNNS Findings)

- Over **50% of preschool children** suffer from **vitamin A or iron deficiency**
- Widespread deficiencies: **Iron, Vitamin A, Zinc, Iodine**
- **“Hidden hunger”** persists even in food-secure households reliant on cereal diets

Quick Facts: Policy Initiatives Toward Nutrition Security

- **POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018):** Focuses on reducing stunting, undernutrition, and anaemia.
- **Mission POSHAN 2.0:** Integrates Supplementary Nutrition Programme & uses *Poshan Tracker* for real-time monitoring.
- **Food Fortification:** Fortified rice in PDS, ICDS, and Mid-Day Meals by **2028**; oil, milk, and salt fortified under **FSSAI**.
- **ICDS Scheme:** Provides supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, and health education through **Anganwadi centres**.
- **Anaemia Mukht Bharat (2018):** Aims to cut anaemia among children, adolescents, and women.
- **Agricultural Diversification:** Promotes **millets and pulses** for diet diversity; aligns with *International Year of Millets 2023*.
- **Biofortified Crops (ICAR):** Developed **iron-rich bajra, zinc-rich wheat, and protein-rich maize** to tackle hidden hunger.

Samia Suluhu Hassan Sworn in for Second Term as Tanzania's President

- Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in for her second term as President of Tanzania in Dodoma.

China Launches 42nd Antarctic Expedition

- China has begun its **42nd Antarctic expedition**, marking the **first-ever scientific drilling in subglacial lakes**.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS -06.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
Mini TIDEL Park Inaugurated in Vellore.....	1
Tamil Nadu's Forest Cover Stable for Two Decades: PCCF Affidavit to NGT.....	2
Topic: Schemes and Initiatives.....	3
Union Agriculture Minister Orders Probe into Re 1 Insurance Payouts under PMFBY.....	3
International Election Visitors' Program 2025.....	3
Topic: Important Days.....	4
International Day for Biosphere Reserves – 3rd November.....	4
Topic: Economy.....	5
Coal India Limited (CIL) – 50 Years of Service.....	5
India Targets 500 Million Tonnes Steel Capacity by 2047.....	5
Topic: Science and Technology.....	6
North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster.....	6
Topic: Awards and Honor.....	6
IFFCO and Amul Among World's Leading Cooperatives.....	6
Topic: Polity.....	7
SC to Examine if Bar on Surrogacy for Second Child Violates Reproductive Rights.....	7
Topic: Reports and Indices.....	8
IIT-M Leads 13 Tamil Nadu Institutions in QS Asia Rankings 2026; VIT Tops Among Private Universities.....	8
International Highlights.....	8
Maldives Implements Historic Generational Ban on Tobacco and Vaping.....	8

TamilNadu Highlights

Mini TIDEL Park Inaugurated in Vellore

- Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin virtually inaugurated the ₹32 crore Mini TIDEL Park at Abdullapuram, Vellore.
- Managed by **TIDCO**, the park is part of the State's initiative to establish **Mini TIDEL Parks in Tier II & III cities** like **Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi, Karur, and Salem**.

Tamil Nadu's Forest Cover Stable for Two Decades: PCCF Affidavit to NGT

- Tamil Nadu's Head of Forest Force and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) *Srinivas R. Reddy* filed an affidavit before the National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi.

Stable Forest Cover:

- Tamil Nadu's forest cover has remained **largely stable at around 20%** of its geographical area since 2000.

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

Union Agriculture Minister Orders Probe into Re 1 Insurance Payouts under PMFBY

- The Union Agriculture Minister has ordered **on-field investigations** after reports of **extremely low insurance payouts**, some as little as **Re 1**, under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** — terming it a **“mockery” and “injustice”** to farmers.
- About PMFBY:
 - **Launched in 2016**, replacing the **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)** and the **Modified NAIS (MNAIS)**.
 - Based on the principle of **“One Nation, One Crop, One Premium.”**

International Election Visitors' Program 2025

- **Launch:** The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has launched the **International Election Visitors' Program 2025** in New Delhi.

Topic: Important Days

International Day for Biosphere Reserves – 3rd November

- The International Day for Biosphere Reserves was celebrated on **3rd November 2025** to highlight the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.



- **India's Biosphere Reserves:** India has **18 Biosphere Reserves** covering **91,425 sq. km**, out of which **13** are recognized by UNESCO.
 - In **2025**, the **Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (Himachal Pradesh)** was added to the **UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves**.

Quick Facts: World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)

- **Established:** 1971 by UNESCO.
- **Objective:** To promote a **balanced relationship between people and nature**.
- **Coverage:** Includes **internationally designated protected areas** called **Biosphere Reserves**.
- **Framework:** Created under UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**.
- **Focus:** Combines **biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and scientific research**.
- **Global Reach:** Over **700 biosphere reserves** in **130+ countries** (as of recent data).

Topic: Economy

Coal India Limited (CIL) – 50 Years of Service

- **Established:** November 1975
- **Status:** **Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)** under the **Ministry of Coal**
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal

India Targets 500 Million Tonnes Steel Capacity by 2047

- **Government aims to achieve 500 million tonnes of steel capacity by 2047 and 300 million tonnes by 2030.**
- Announcement made by **Sandeep Poudrik, Secretary, Ministry of Steel**, at the **CII Steel Summit 2025** in New Delhi.

Topic: Science and Technology

North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster

- The Union Minister for Communications & Development of North Eastern Region inaugurated the **NEST Cluster at IIT Guwahati**.
- **Objective:** It aims to be the **nerve centre of the Northeast's innovation ecosystem**, converting local wisdom into global solutions.
- **Focus Areas:** Four verticals – **Grassroots Innovation, Semiconductors & AI, Bamboo-Based Technologies, and Biodegradable Plastics**.



Topic: Awards and Honor

IFFCO and Amul Among World's Leading Cooperatives

- **IFFCO and Amul** have been recognised among the **world's top cooperatives** in the **ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 rankings**.
- **Amul's Contribution:** **Amul (Anand Milk Union Limited)**, founded in **1946** by **Tribhuvandas Patel**, represents India's strong **dairy cooperative model**.
- **IFFCO's Role:** **IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited)**, established in **1967** and headquartered in **New Delhi**, promotes **sustainable fertiliser production** and **farmer-centric growth**.

Topic: Reports and Indices

IIT-M Leads 13 Tamil Nadu Institutions in QS Asia Rankings 2026; VIT Tops Among Private Universities

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** secured the **70th rank**, leading Tamil Nadu's strong presence in the **QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026**.
- **VIT, Vellore** ranked **156th**, becoming the **second-highest ranked private university in India** after **BITS Pilani (154th)**.
- **13 institutions from Tamil Nadu** featured in the top 500 list, highlighting the state's excellence in higher education.

International Highlights

Maldives Implements Historic Generational Ban on Tobacco and Vaping

- The Maldives has become the **first country globally** to enforce a **generational ban** on tobacco and vaping.
- **Generational Ban Explained:** This policy **prohibits tobacco sales, possession, and use** for individuals **born after a specified year**, ensuring a **tobacco-free generation**.



VIJAY'S TNPSC ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS -07.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
Winners Trophy for Hockey Men’s Junior World Cup 2025.....	1
TN Govt Proposes Security Deposit System for Political Rallies and Public Meetings.....	1
National Highlights.....	1
150 Years of “Vande Mataram” – Year-long Celebration Inaugurated by PM Modi.....	1
Topic: Polity.....	2
UPSC Maintains Status Quo on Appointment of Tamil Nadu DGP Topic: Science and Technology.....	3
Maharashtra Partners with Starlink for Satellite-Based Internet Services.....	3
Topic:Sports.....	3
Jannik Sinner Wins Paris Masters 2025, Regains World No. 1 Ranking.....	3
Topic: Geography.....	3
Typhoon Kalmaegi Causes Heavy Casualties in the Philippines.....	3
Topic: Scheme and Initiatives.....	4
MSDE Blacklists 178 Training Partners under PMKVY for Irregularities.....	4
Topic: Economy.....	4
EESL to Set Up India’s Largest Geothermal Energy Pilot Project in Andhra Pradesh.....	4
Topic: Environment.....	5
CITES asks India to pause some wildlife imports.....	5
International Highlights.....	6
Zohran Mamdani Becomes First Muslim and Youngest Mayor of New York City.....	6

TamilNadu Highlights

Winners Trophy for Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin unveiled the **Winners Trophy for the Hockey Men's Junior World Cup 2025** at the Secretariat in Chennai.
- The event is jointly hosted by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) and Hockey India.
- Venues: The World Cup matches will be held in **Chennai and Madurai**.
- Dates: The tournament will take place from November 28 to December 10, 2025.

TN Govt Proposes Security Deposit System for Political Rallies and Public Meetings

- **Deposit Rule:** Tamil Nadu proposes a returnable **deposit of ₹1–₹20 lakh** from parties holding big rallies or meetings, based on crowd size.
- Purpose: The deposit will cover any damage or injury costs and ensure organisers take responsibility for public safety.

National Highlights

150 Years of "Vande Mataram" – Year-long Celebration Inaugurated by PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the year-long commemoration of 150 years of **"Vande Mataram"** on November 7, 2025, in New Delhi.
- The Ministry of Culture is organizing the inaugural event at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.
- The celebration will be held from November 7, 2025, to November 7, 2026.
- **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee** composed *"Vande Mataram"* on Akshaya Navami, November 7, 1875; it was later included in his novel Anandamath (1882).
- The song was first sung at the **1896 Indian National Congress session** and became a symbol of India's unity, strength, and self-respect during the freedom struggle.
- On January 24, 1950, **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, President of the Constituent Assembly, declared **"Vande Mataram"** would have equal status and respect as the National Anthem **"Jana Gana Mana."**

Topic: Polity

UPSC Maintains Status Quo on Appointment of Tamil Nadu DGP

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has maintained status quo on the appointment of a new Director General of Police (DGP)/Head of Police Force (HoPF) for Tamil Nadu, rejecting the State's objections to the three shortlisted IPS officers and reiterating its original panel despite the State's representation.

- **Constitutional / Legal Basis:**

- Derived from the Supreme Court judgment in *Prakash Singh vs Union of India (2006)*, a landmark case on police reforms.
- The judgment ensures:
- Merit-based and transparent selection.
- Minimum 2-year fixed tenure for DGPs to prevent political interference.

Topic: Science and Technology

Maharashtra Partners with Starlink for Satellite-Based Internet Services

- Maharashtra became the **first Indian state** to partner with **Elon Musk's Starlink** for satellite-based internet services.

Topic: Sports

Jannik Sinner Wins Paris Masters 2025, Regains World No. 1 Ranking

- Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner won his first **Paris Masters title**.
- With this victory, Sinner regained the World No. 1 ranking from Carlos Alcaraz.

Topic: Geography

Typhoon Kalmaegi Causes Heavy Casualties in the Philippines

- **Typhoon Kalmaegi**, one of the most powerful storms of 2025, has caused at least 66 deaths across the Philippines.
- **The storm, locally known as "Tino,"** brought destructive winds and heavy rainfall, forcing mass evacuations.

Topic: Scheme and Initiatives

MSDE Blacklists 178 Training Partners under PMKVY for Irregularities

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has blacklisted 178 Training Partners (TPs) and Training Centres (TCs) under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) for large-scale irregularities.
- The violations included fake documentation, absentee students, inflated billing, and non-existent training centres.
- **PMKVY was launched in 2015** under the MSDE, and is implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- The objective of the scheme is to **provide skill training and certification to Indian youth** to enhance their employability and productivity.

Topic: Economy

EESL to Set Up India's Largest Geothermal Energy Pilot Project in Andhra Pradesh

- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** announced plans to establish India's largest geothermal energy technology pilot project in Araku Valley and Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

Geothermal Energy – Quick Facts

Meaning: Geothermal energy is the heat from inside the Earth, mainly due to the decay of radioactive elements like uranium, thorium, and potassium.

Temperature Rise: Earth's temperature increases by about 25–30°C for every km below the surface (geothermal gradient).

India's Hot Springs: The Geological Survey of India has found 381 hot springs (35°C–89°C) across the country.

Energy Potential: India's geothermal power potential is estimated at 10,600 MW (Geothermal Atlas of India, 2022).

Topic: Environment

CITES asks India to pause some wildlife imports

- **What happened:** CITES has urged India to **temporarily stop imports of critically endangered animals (gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, snow leopards)** after a verification mission found worrying problems.
- **Why:** Some animals labelled as “**captive-bred**” may actually be wild-caught or trafficked — and India's checks weren't strong enough to prove the animals' true origin.

International Highlights

Zohran Mamdani Becomes First Muslim and Youngest Mayor of New York City

- **Democrat Zohran Mamdani**, aged 34, won the New York City mayoral election, becoming **the first Muslim and youngest mayor** since 1917.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS -08.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
17th India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) – 2025.....	1
Tamil Nadu Forms Two Committees to Revamp School Curriculum.....	2
National Highlights.....	2
Karnataka: First State to Approve Paid Menstrual Leave.....	2
Topic: Polity.....	3
Right to Vote vs Freedom of Voting — Centre’s Argument before Supreme Court.....	3
CAG Approves New Specialised Cadres.....	5
Topic: Defence.....	5
Survey Vessel ‘Ikshak’ Commissioned.....	5
Topic: Science and Technology.....	6
GPS Spoofing Incident – IGI Airport, New Delhi.....	6
Topic: Important Days.....	6
National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 – 7th November.....	6
Topic: Sports.....	7
Centenary Celebrations of Indian Hockey – 7 November 2025.....	7
International Highlights.....	7
Kazakhstan Joins the Abraham Accords, Expanding Middle East Peace Framework.....	7

TamilNadu Highlights

17th India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) – 2025

- The 17th edition of the India Game Developer Conference (IGDC) was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, from 5th to 7th November 2025.
- Tamil Nadu government signed several MoUs with gaming-related organisations.
- A Centre of Excellence for Gaming will be established in Chennai within six months.
- Regional centres for gaming will also be set up in Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Salem, and Tirunelveli.

Tamil Nadu Forms Two Committees to Revamp School Curriculum

- **Purpose:** To redesign the State school curriculum in line with the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy 2025 (TNSP 2025).

High-Level Expert Committee

- **Headed by:** Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, School Education Minister

Role:

- To discuss and finalise reforms in school education based on TNSP 2025.
- **Members Include:**
 - V. Narayanan – ISRO Chairman
 - R. Ashwin – Cricketer
 - S. Madasamy – Educationist
 - C. Soumya – Carnatic Vocalist
 - A. Devaneyan – Child Rights Activist
 - Officials from School Education Department

Curriculum Design Committee

- **Headed by:** Dr. Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Member, State Planning Commission & Former HOD of Zoology, The New College

Mandate:

- To develop a new curriculum framework based on TNSP 2025.
- To ensure the overall development of children reflecting Tamil Nadu's sociocultural and linguistic diversity.
- To seek views from all stakeholders and recommend curriculum, syllabus, teaching approach, and assessment reforms.

Tenure of Both Committees:

- Three years

National Highlights

Karnataka: First State to Approve Paid Menstrual Leave

- **Karnataka** has become the **first state in India** to approve **12 days of paid menstrual leave per year** (1 day per month) for **all women employees** — covering both **government and private sectors**.

Topic: Polity

Right to Vote vs Freedom of Voting — Centre's Argument before Supreme Court

Centre's Key Argument

- The **right to vote** is a **statutory right**, created by law.
- The **freedom of voting** (how one votes) is a **part of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression (Article 19(1)(a))**.

About the Case

- Petition challenges **Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951** and **Rule 11 with Forms 21 & 21B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961**.
- Seeks to declare them **unconstitutional**.

Legal Provisions Involved

- **Section 53(2), RPA 1951** – If the number of valid candidates = number of seats, they are declared elected **without polling**.
- **Forms 21 & 21B** – Used by the Returning Officer (RO) to declare such candidates elected.
- **Article 19(1)(a)** – Guarantees the **freedom of speech and expression**.

Status of Right to Vote in India

- Article 326 – Provides for universal adult suffrage.
- RPA 1950 & 1951 – Govern the conduct of elections.
- N.P. Ponnuswami (1952) – Right to vote is statutory.
- PUCL (2003) – Recognized freedom of voting as expression.
- Anoop Baranwal (2023) – Reaffirmed voting as statutory right.
- Current Status: Right to vote = Statutory right; Freedom of voting = Fundamental right.

CAG Approves New Specialised Cadres

- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India** has given *in-principle approval* to create two new specialised cadres within the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA&AD)**.

- Currently, audits of Central receipts and expenditure are managed by various state-based offices, leading to duplication and inconsistency in audit quality.

Topic: Defence

Survey Vessel 'Ikshak' Commissioned

- Indian Navy commissioned the **indigenously built survey vessel 'Ikshak'** on **6 November 2025** at **Naval Base, Kochi**.
- **Class & Builder:** Third ship in the **Survey Vessel (Large)** class series, built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**.

Topic: Science and Technology

GPS Spoofing Incident – IGI Airport, New Delhi

- **First Occurrence:** The **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** has reported **its first case of GPS spoofing**, raising aviation security concerns.
- **Meaning:** **GPS spoofing** involves broadcasting **fake satellite signals** to trick GPS receivers into showing **false location or timing data**.

Topic: Important Days

National Cancer Awareness Day 2025 – 7th November

- **Started in:** 2014, celebrated annually across India.
- **Significance:** Coincides with the **birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Marie Curie**, who discovered **radium and polonium** and contributed to **radiotherapy** in cancer treatment.

World Cancer Day is observed globally on **4th February**.

Topic: Sports

Centenary Celebrations of Indian Hockey – 7 November 2025

- **Occasion:** 100 years of Indian hockey celebrated nationwide on **7th November 2025**.
- **Scale of celebration:** Over **1,400 matches** held across **550 districts** in India.
- **Main event:** Conducted at **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi**.

Special releases:

- Commemorative book **"100 Years of Indian Hockey"** launched.
- **Photo exhibition** displayed historic hockey moments.
- **Significance:** India — the **most successful hockey nation** with **8 Olympic golds and 13 total podium finishes** — celebrated its rich legacy and aimed to **inspire future players**.

International Highlights

Kazakhstan Joins the Abraham Accords, Expanding Middle East Peace Framework

- The **US President** confirmed that **Kazakhstan** has **formally joined the Abraham Accords**, becoming the **latest nation** to normalise diplomatic relations with **Israel**.
- This marks a **major expansion** of the accords that have reshaped West Asian and global diplomatic relations since 2020.

VIJAY'S TNPSC ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS -09.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
Raj Bhavan Clarifies on Tamil Nadu Bills.....	1
Removal of Invasive Species and Climate Action Initiatives in Tamil Nadu.....	1
Topic: Polity.....	2
Contempt of Court.....	2
Topic: Science and Technology.....	4
India Unveils Its First Indigenous CAR-T Cell Therapy – NexCAR19.....	4
Topic: Environment.....	4
Khangchendzonga National Park Rated “Good” by IUCN.....	4
Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.....	5
Topic: Economy.....	6
India’s Forex Reserves Fall by \$5.6 Billion to \$690 Billion.....	6
Topic: Summits/ Conferences/ Meetings.....	6
First BIMSTEC–India Ocean Research Network Conference Held in Kochi.....	6
Topic: Personality in News.....	7
James Watson, Nobel Laureate and Co-Discoverer of DNA, Passes Away at 97.....	7
Topic: Sports.....	7
Raahul VS Becomes India’s 91st Chess Grandmaster.....	7
International Highlights.....	8
Denmark to Ban Social Media for Children Under 15 to Protect Mental Health.....	8

Tamil Nadu Highlights

- **Raj Bhavan Clarifies on Tamil Nadu Bills**
- **Governor R.N. Ravi** has so far **reserved 10 Bills** for the **President's consideration**, citing conflict with **UGC regulations** and being beyond the **State Legislature's remit**.
- From **September 2021 to October 2025**, **211 Bills** were received by the Governor. ◦ **170 Bills (81%)** granted assent
 - **27 Bills** reserved for the President (including **16** on State request)
 - **4 Bills** returned with a message
 - **2 Bills** withdrawn by the State Government

Quick Facts — Articles 200 & 201

- **Article 200:** Defines the **Governor's powers** over bills passed by the State Legislature. The Governor may —
 1. **Give assent** to the bill,
 2. **Withhold assent**, or
 3. **Reserve it for the President's consideration.**
- **Article 201:** Gives the **President veto power** over bills reserved by the Governor.

Removal of Invasive Species and Climate Action Initiatives in Tamil Nadu

About 80% of **Senna spectabilis**, an invasive plant, has been cleared from 1,963 hectares in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. The removed trees are being used for paper making through a partnership with **Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd (TNPL)**.

- **Removal of *Senna spectabilis* in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.**
- **Utilisation:** Cut trees sent to **Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Ltd (TNPL)** for paper production.

Topic: Polity

Contempt of Court

- A recent controversy has arisen due to alleged remarks made against the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and the Supreme Court.
- These remarks are seen as undermining the authority of the judiciary and interfering with the administration of justice.
- Acts of Contempt:
 - Wilful disobedience of a court order.
 - Interference with judicial proceedings.

- Any act that lowers the authority of the court.

Legal Basis – Contempt of Courts Act, 1971

Types of Contempt:

- **Civil Contempt (Section 2(b))** – Wilful disobedience of a court order or breach of an undertaking.
- **Criminal Contempt (Section 2(c))** – Any publication or act that:
 - Scandalises or lowers the authority of a court.
 - Prejudices or interferes with judicial proceedings.
 - Obstructs the administration of justice in any way.

Constitutional Provisions

- **Article 129:** Supreme Court is a “Court of Record” – can punish for its contempt.
- **Article 215:** High Courts have similar powers.

Important Judicial Interpretations

- **Ashwini Kumar Ghosh vs. Arabinda Bose (1952):** Fair criticism of judgments is allowed.
- **Anil Ratan Sarkar vs. Hirak Ghosh (2002):** Contempt powers must be used cautiously.
- **MV Jayarajan vs. High Court of Kerala (2015):** Abusive public comments against court orders amount to criminal contempt.

Topic: Science and Technology

India Unveils Its First Indigenous CAR-T Cell Therapy – NexCAR19

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched NexCAR19, India’s **first indigenous CAR-T cell therapy** for cancer treatment.

Developed by:

- **ImmunoACT**, incubated at **IIT Bombay** and **Tata Memorial Hospital**,
- Supported by **DBT (Department of Biotechnology)** and **BIRAC**.

Topic: Environment

Khangchendzonga National Park Rated “Good” by IUCN

1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has rated **Khangchendzonga National Park (Sikkim)** as “**Good**” in its latest global review of natural World Heritage Sites.

2. About the Park:

- Located in **northern Sikkim**, at the heart of the **Himalayan range**.
- Part of the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**.
- India’s **first “mixed” UNESCO World Heritage Site (2016)** — recognised for both **natural and cultural heritage**.

Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 Background:

- Formerly known as the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**, it was **renamed** as *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*.
- The law **regulates diversion of forest land** for non-forest purposes such as infrastructure, mining, or agriculture.

Topic: Economy

India's Forex Reserves Fall by \$5.6 Billion to \$690 Billion

- **India's total foreign exchange reserves** declined by **\$5.6 billion**, reaching **\$690 billion** for the week ending **October 31**.
- The fall was **mainly due to a sharp decline in gold reserves**, which **contracted by \$3.8 billion** to **\$101.7 billion**.

Topic: Summits/ Conferences/ Meetings

First BIMSTEC–India Ocean Research Network Conference Held in Kochi

- The **first BIMSTEC–India Marine Research Network (BIMReN)** conference was held in **Kochi** from **4–6 November 2025**.
- Organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, it aimed to boost **blue economy and marine research cooperation** among BIMSTEC nations.
- **BIMReN** was launched in **2024**, following its announcement by **PM Narendra Modi** at the **Colombo BIMSTEC Summit 2022**.

Topic: Personality in News

James Watson, Nobel Laureate and Co-Discoverer of DNA, Passes Away at 97

- **James Watson**, who with **Francis Crick** discovered the **double-helix structure of DNA** in **1953**, has passed away at **97**.
- The discovery earned **Watson, Crick, and Maurice Wilkins** the **1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine**, transforming modern molecular biology.

Topic: Sports

Raahul VS Becomes India's 91st Chess Grandmaster

- **Raahul VS** has achieved the title of **India's 91st Grandmaster (GM)** after winning the **6th ASEAN Individual Chess Championship**.
- He had earlier earned the **International Master (IM)** title in **November 2021**, when he secured his **fourth and fifth IM norms** and crossed a **live rating of 2400**, meeting the qualification criteria.
 - **Illamparathi AR** from **Chennai** became **India's 90th Grandmaster** just a week earlier after securing his final norm at the **Bijeljina Open 2025** in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.
 - **S Rohith Krishna** became **India's 89th Grandmaster** in **August 2025**.

International Highlights

Denmark to Ban Social Media for Children Under 15 to Protect Mental Health

- **Denmark** has announced plans to **ban social media access for children under 15 years**.
- Teenagers aged **13 and 14** will be allowed to use social platforms **only with parental consent**.
- The move aims to **protect children's mental health** and **reduce excessive screen time**.

VIJAY'S TNPSC ACADEMY

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS -10.11.2025

Highlights of the Day

TamilNadu Highlights.....	1
WRD to Use SCADA System for Flood Control in Chennai.....	1
Tamil Nadu launches TAEI Registry 2.0 to boost emergency care.....	1
National Highlights.....	1
Four New Vande Bharat Express Trains Launched Across India.....	1
Topic: Environment.....	2
WMO “State of the Climate Update for COP30”.....	2
Rhesus Macaque Gets Back Schedule II Protection.....	2
Topic: Science and Technology.....	2
First PSLV by Private Firms – Launch in February 2026.....	2
Google to Build AI Data Centre on Christmas Island.....	3
Topic: Schemes and Initiatives.....	4
National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).....	4
Topic: Important Days.....	5
National Legal Services Day – 9th November.....	5
Topic: Polity.....	6
Supreme Court Directions on Stray Dogs & Cattle (2025).....	6
Faith Beyond Caste: Madras High Court Upholds Equality in Worship.....	7
Topic: Defence.....	7
India Signs \$1 Billion Jet Engine Deal with U.S. Firm GE for Tejas Fighters.....	7

TamilNadu Highlights

WRD to Use SCADA System for Flood Control in Chennai

- The **Water Resources Department (WRD)** will soon start using a **SCADA-based system** to **automate floodgate operations** in Chennai's main reservoirs — **Poondi, Red Hills, and Chembarambakkam**.
- The system will help in **real-time monitoring** of rainfall, inflow, and storage levels to **predict and prevent floods** during monsoon.

Tamil Nadu launches TAEI Registry 2.0 to boost emergency care

- TamilNadu government launched **TAEI Registry 2.0**, a digital platform to improve real-time coordination between ambulances and hospitals.
- **Objective:** It aims to enhance the **quality and speed of emergency healthcare** through data-driven decision-making and patient tracking.

National Highlights

Four New Vande Bharat Express Trains Launched Across India

- Four new **Vande Bharat Express** trains were launched from **Varanasi**, expanding India's semi-high-speed rail network.
- The new routes are **Banaras–Khajuraho, Lucknow–Saharanpur, Firozpur–Delhi, and Bengaluru–Ernakulam**.

Topic: Environment

WMO “State of the Climate Update for COP30”

The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** report projects **2025** to be the **2nd or 3rd warmest year on record** globally.

Key Findings:

- **2015–2025** is the **warmest 11-year period** in recorded history.
- The **last three years** have been the **hottest ever observed**.

GHG Concentrations:

- **CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O** levels reached **record highs in 2024**, continuing to **rise in 2025**, intensifying global warming trends.

Rhesus Macaque Gets Back Schedule II Protection

- The **National Board of Wildlife (NBWL)** has **restored Schedule II protection** for the **Rhesus Macaque (Macaca mulatta)** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- This move **strengthens legal safeguards** against its **hunting, trade, and mistreatment**.

- The **Rhesus Macaque** is a **diurnal and omnivorous primate**, living both **on trees and the ground**.

Topic: Science and Technology

First PSLV by Private Firms – Launch in February 2026

- **Announced by:** ISRO Chairman **V. Narayanan**
- **Developed by:** Private consortium led by **HAL** and **L&T**
- Launch Date: February 2026
- Significance:
 - First **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** fully built by **Indian private industry**.
 - After two successful launches, **50% of PSLV production** will be given to **industry consortiums**.
 - Around **80–85% of ISRO systems** now developed by private industries.

Google to Build AI Data Centre on Christmas Island

- Google has signed a cloud deal with Australia's Department of Defence to build a large Artificial Intelligence (AI) data centre.
- The project aims to strengthen Australia's **digital security and defence capabilities**.
- **Christmas Island** is an Australian territory in the Indian Ocean, about **350 km south of Java (Indonesia)** and **1,550 km northwest of mainland Australia**.

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- **Launched:** 15 August 1995
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme (fully funded by the Central Government)
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- **Coverage:** Provides financial assistance to people **below the poverty line (BPL)** in **both rural and urban areas**.
- **Focus:** Ensures basic social security through pensions and financial aid.

Main Components:

- Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS):
 - ₹200/month (age 60–79), ₹500/month (age 80+).
- Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS):
 - ₹300/month (age 40–79), ₹500/month (age 80+).
- Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS):
 - ₹300/month (age 18–79), ₹500/month (age 80+).

- National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS): ○ ₹20,000 lump sum to families of deceased breadwinners (age 18–59).
- Annapurna Scheme: ○ 10 kg of free food grains per month to eligible senior citizens not receiving a pension.

Topic: Important Days

National Legal Services Day – 9th November

- **Purpose:** To commemorate the enactment of the *Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987*.
- **Objective:** To spread awareness about **free legal aid** and ensure **justice for all**, especially the poor and weaker sections of society.
- **Established under:** *Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987*, which came into force on **9th November 1995**.
- **Organising Body:** *National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)* — provides free legal services and promotes Lok Adalats across India.
- Constitutional Provisions Related to Legal Aid: ○ **Article 14:** Equality before law
 - **Article 21:** Protection of life and personal liberty
 - **Article 22:** Protection against arrest and detention
 - **Article 39A:** Equal justice and free legal aid (*added by 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976*)

Quick Facts – Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987

- Came into effect: November 9, 1995
- **Objective:** To provide **free and competent legal services** to the **marginalized and disadvantaged** sections of society.
- **Established:** **Lok Adalats** and **Permanent Lok Adalats** for amicable settlement of disputes, including **pre-litigation matters**.

Three-Tier Structure:

1. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):
 - Headed by the **Chief Justice of India**
 - Funded by the **Central Government** and **donations**
2. State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs):
 - Headed by the **Chief Justice of the High Court**
 - Supported by **Central and State funds**
3. District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs):
 - Headed by the **District Judge**
 - Funded by the **State Government** and **donations**

Topic: Polity

Supreme Court Directions on Stray Dogs & Cattle (2025)

- **Suo Motu Action:** The **Supreme Court** took *suo motu cognizance* and issued **nationwide directions** to remove stray dogs and cattle from public and institutional areas.
- **Article 21 – Right to Life:** The Court held that frequent dog-bite incidents are *not merely public health issues*, but violations of **human safety and dignity** under **Article 21** of the Constitution.
- **Key Directives:**
 - **Non-release Clause:** Removed dogs cannot be sent back to the same locality.
 - **Accountability:** **Chief Secretaries** of States/UTs and **NHAI Chairperson** made personally responsible for enforcement.
 - **Quarterly Inspections** mandated to monitor progress.
- **Municipal & Administrative Duties:**
 - **Municipal bodies** to submit **compliance reports within 8 weeks**.
 - **Hospitals** must maintain **adequate anti-rabies vaccine stocks**.

NHAI Directives:

- Remove **cattle and stray animals** from national highways.
- Establish **24×7 highway patrols** and **emergency helplines**.
- **Animal Welfare Board (AWBI) Role:** The **AWBI** was instructed to draft **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for scientific and humane **stray dog management** nationwide.

Faith Beyond Caste: Madras High Court Upholds Equality in Worship

- The **Madras High Court** ruled that **faith cannot be fenced by caste** and **divinity cannot be confined by human prejudice**.
- **Court's Order:** Justice **P.B. Balaji** directed that the **temple car must also pass through SC habitations**, stating that traditions cannot justify discrimination.

Observations:

- Society has evolved; customs cannot be used to block equality.
- **God does not reside in certain streets alone.** No street or person is unworthy of divine grace.
- Discrimination cannot be wrapped in the sanctity of tradition.

Constitutional Stand:

- Justice Balaji invoked **Article 17**, which **abolishes untouchability** “in letter and spirit.”
- Everyone has an **equal right to worship**, and authorities must ensure **no caste-based discrimination**.

Topic: Defence

- **India Signs \$1 Billion Jet Engine Deal with U.S. Firm GE for Tejas Fighters**
- India has signed a **\$1 billion agreement** with **General Electric (GE), USA**, for the purchase of **113 jet engines** for the **Tejas Mark 1-A Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** programme.
- The **GE-F404 engines** will be supplied to **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** between **2027 and 2032**.

Quick Facts – Tejas Mk-1A

- **Type:** 4.5 generation, all-weather, multi-role Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously in India.
- **Roles:** Capable of offensive air support, close combat, and ground attack missions.
- **Developer:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under India's LCA Programme.
- **Tejas Mk-1A:** The most advanced version of the Tejas series.