DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 14.11.2026

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

Vetri Veedu Scheme 2026–27

Context

- The **Tamil Nadu** government allocated **₹3,500 crore** to build **70,000 houses** in **rural areas** during **2026–27**, under **Phase 1** of the **Vetri Veedu Scheme**.
- **Aim:** Give **permanent concrete houses** to **poor families** living in **huts** and **poorly built homes**.
- A **Government Order** was issued by **Rural Development Secretary Dharmendra Pratap Yadav**.

Key Features

- **Assistance: ₹5 lakh per family**.
- **House Size: 360–500 sq ft**.
- **Facilities:** A **kitchen** and a **Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) roof**.
- **Self-Construction:** Beneficiaries **build the house themselves**.
- **Small Plots:** Families with limited land can build **ground + first floor**, as per the guidelines.
- **Toilet Support:** An extra **₹12,000** for families **without toilets**.

Eligibility

- **Identification:** Through existing **houseless lists**, **fresh surveys** and a new **hut census**.
- **Eligible families live in:**
  - **Huts**.
  - **Mud-walled houses**.
  - Houses with **weak or inadequate roofing**.
- **Land Ownership:** Must have a **patta** or other **valid land document**.

Not Eligible

- Families with **annual income above ₹2.5 lakh**.
- Families that already got benefits under **government housing schemes**.

Priority Groups

- **Widows**.
- **Destitute women**.
- **Transpersons**.
- **Ex-servicemen**.

Allocation Guidelines

Category	Share
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	40%
Other eligible communities	60%
Persons with disabilities	5%

District Collector's discretionary quota	**5%**

Bank Loan Support

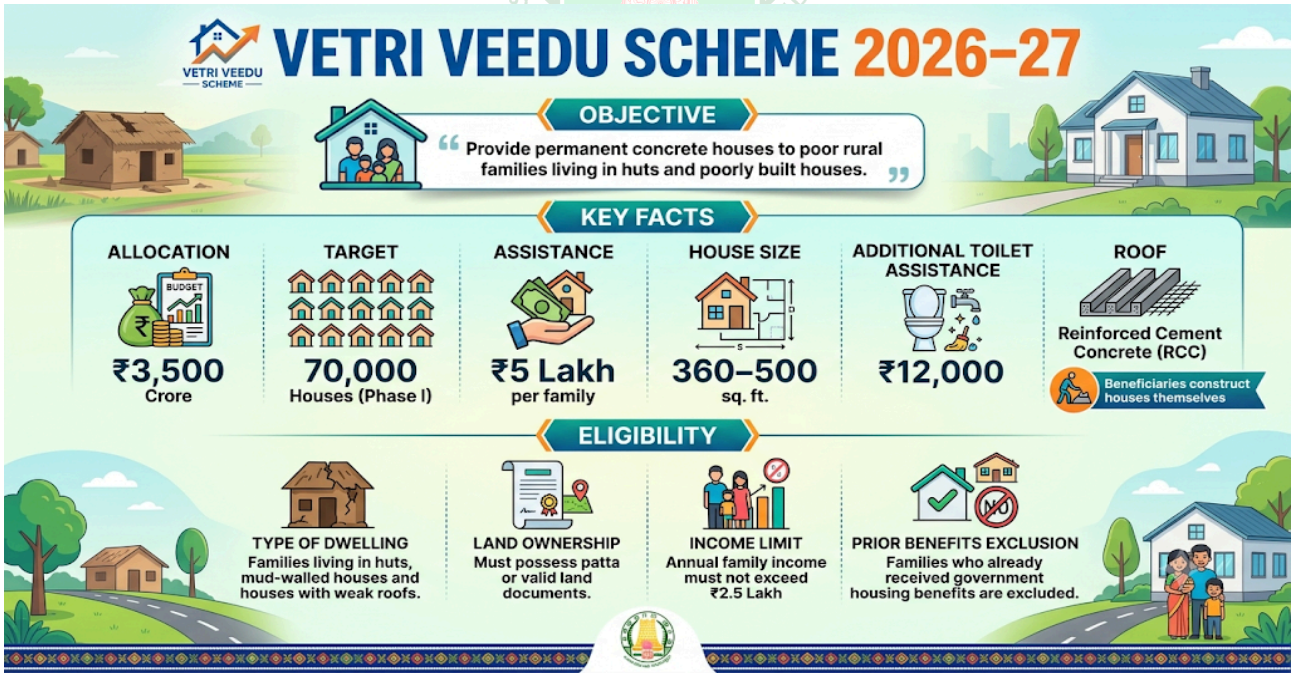
- **Bank loans** of up to **₹1 lakh** for extra construction costs.
- **3% interest subsidy** for **regular repayment**.
- **Maximum repayment period: 15 years**.

Significance

- Moves **poor rural families** from **huts** to **permanent pucca houses**.
- Focus on **women**, **transpersons** and **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** promotes **social justice**.
- **Stage-wise payments** ensure proper use of funds.

Do You Know?

- **Earlier Tamil Nadu Scheme: Kalaignar Kanavu Illam (2024) – ₹3.5 lakh per house**, with a target of **8 lakh houses** to make **Tamil Nadu "hut-free" by 2030**.
- **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin:**
  - Launched in **2016**.
  - Assistance of **₹1.20 lakh (plains)** and **₹1.30 lakh (hilly/difficult areas)**.
  - Extended for **2024–29** to build **2 crore more houses**.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin:** Gives **₹12,000** for **individual household toilets**.



Topic: Science and Technology

World Health Organization Global Tuberculosis Report 2026

Context

- The **World Health Organization's 2026 Global Tuberculosis Report** left out **India's estimated incidence figures**.
- They are under review until data from a **50-district sentinel surveillance survey (2025)** is finalised.

About the Report

- The **World Health Organization's annual flagship publication** on the **global tuberculosis epidemic** and progress in **prevention**, **diagnosis** and **treatment**.
- Progress is measured against the **End TB Strategy**.

Why Estimated Incidence Matters

- The gap between **estimated cases (modelled)** and **notified cases (diagnosed)** shows the number of **undiagnosed, untreated patients** still **spreading infection**.

Change in Survey Method

- **National prevalence surveys (1955–58 and 2020–21)** are costly.
- So India ran a **repeatable sentinel survey** across **50 representative districts** in **2025**.
- **World Health Organization statisticians** are calibrating it against the **2020–21 baseline**.

Key Data

- **Global (2025):**
  - **10.6 million** people got **tuberculosis**.
  - **1.13 million** died.
- **India:**
  - Nearly **one-fourth of the global burden**.
  - **25.3 lakh diagnosed cases** in **2025** (down from **26.18 lakh** in **2024**).
- **Deaths in India:**
  - **2.63 lakh** in **2025** (over **3 lakh** in **2024**).
  - A **38% fall since 2015**, better than the **global 35%**.
- **End TB Milestones:**
  - India met the **2020 interim target (35% cut in deaths)**, but **five years late**.
  - It is short of the **2025 target (75% cut)**.
- **Funding:** About **96%** of India's **tuberculosis programme** is funded from **domestic resources**.

Key Initiatives

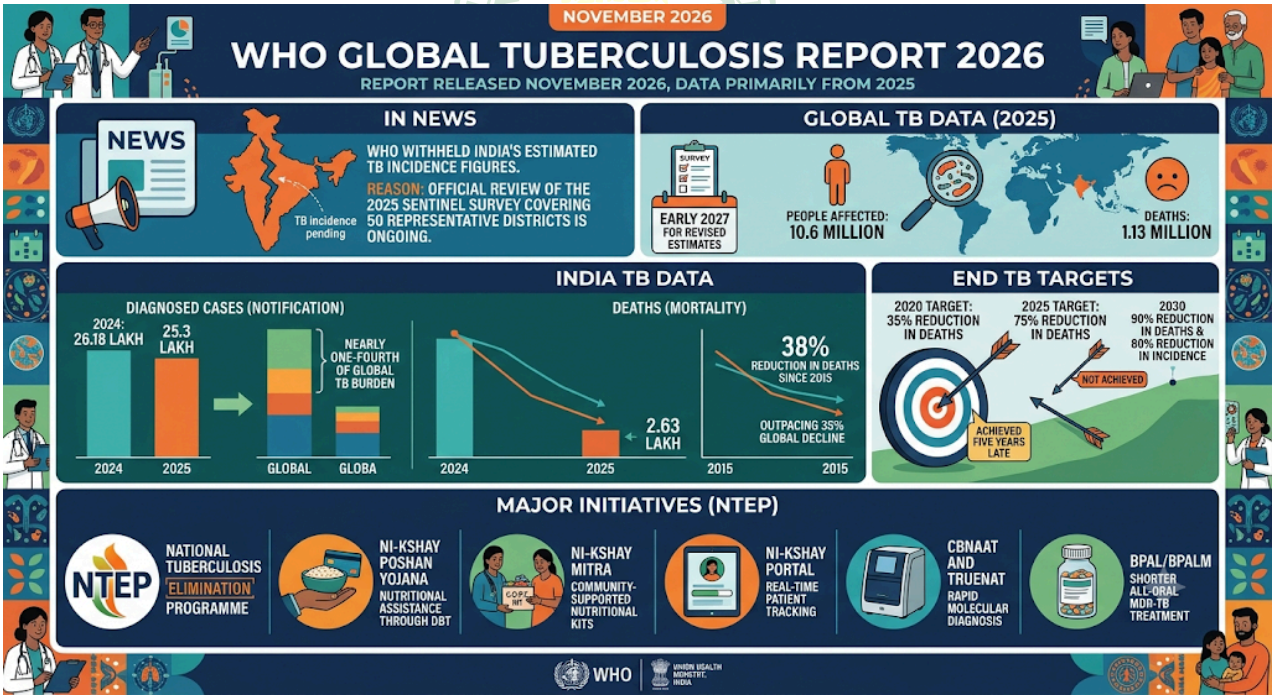
- **National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme:**
  - Shifted the focus from **control** to **elimination**.
  - **Mandatory private-sector notification**.

- **Real-time tracking** on the **Ni-kshay portal**.

- **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana: Direct Benefit Transfer** for **patient nutrition**.
- **Ni-kshay Mitra: Community donors** provide **nutrition kits** under **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**.
- **Rapid Diagnostics:**
  - **CBNAAT/Truenat** molecular tests.
  - **Artificial intelligence-enabled portable X-rays**.
- **Shorter All-Oral Regimens: BPaL/BPaLM** for **Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis**, with **no injections**.

Challenges

- **Data Delays:** The annual **India TB Report** (usually released in **March**) has not come out, so **State-wise trends** are unclear.
- **"Missing" Cases: Undiagnosed patients** in **rural areas** and **slums**; delays caused by first visits to **informal practitioners**.
- **Private Sector:** Many patients first go to the **unregulated private sector**, which risks **incomplete treatment** and **high costs**.
- **Drug Resistance and Stigma: Women** and **daily-wage workers** hide symptoms out of fear of **job loss** or **ostracism**.



Do You Know?

- **India's Target: End tuberculosis by 2025**, five years ahead of the **Sustainable Development Goal target of 2030**. That deadline has now passed.
- **World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March**, marking **Robert Koch's** discovery of the **TB bacterium (1882)**.

- **BCG Vaccine** – used against **tuberculosis**; part of India's **Universal Immunisation Programme**.
- **Kochon Prize 2026** went to the **REACH** organisation (**Chennai**) for **tuberculosis** work (covered on **7 November**).

Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Launches Three Digital Initiatives

Context

- The **Ministry of Education** launched **three digital initiatives** of the **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan**.
- They were built **in-house** by the **IT Services Cell** at its headquarters.

The Three Initiatives

- **1. Artificial Intelligence-Integrated Vidya Samiksha Kendra**
  - **Real-time dashboards** tracking: **student and staff attendance**, **academic performance**, **admissions**, **infrastructure**.
  - **Samiksha AI Bot:** Finds **learning and administrative gaps** and suggests **targeted fixes**.
- **2. KVS-Samvaad Parent Connect (App and Web Portal)**
  - Parents get **real-time access** to: **attendance**, **syllabus progress**, **results**, **digital ID**, **student–teacher diary**.
  - **Online services: Bonafide certificates**, **Children Education Allowance certificates** and **leave applications**.
- **3. KVS Alumni Connect Portal**
  - Links **former students** with **schools** and **batchmates**.
  - Encourages **mentoring**, **career guidance** and **school support**.

Do You Know?

- **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan** – set up in **1963**; schools mainly serve children of **transferable Central government employees**.
- **Vidya Samiksha Kendras** are a feature of **Samagra Shiksha**.
- **Navodaya Vidyalayas** – **residential schools** for **rural talent** (from **1986**).

Topic: Environment

Rattlepod (Crotalaria retusa) – Mass Flowering in Munnar

Context

- The **grasslands of Yellapatty** near **Munnar (Idukki, Kerala)** turned **golden** after a rare **mass flowering of rattlepod**.
- In **Malayalam** it is called **"kilukilukki"**.

About the Plant

- An **erect annual flowering plant** of the **legume/pea family (Fabaceae)**.
- Has **golden-yellow flowers** and **rattling seed pods**.
- The genus **Crotalaria** comes from the **Greek "krotalos" (rattle)**.

- Over **700 species** worldwide; **Africa** is the main **centre of diversity**.
- **Western Ghats: 87 species**, of which **31** are **endemic to peninsular India**.

Habitat

- **Tropical grasslands**, **forest edges**, **riverbanks**, **coasts** and **disturbed soils**, up to about **1,200 m**.
- A **pioneer species** that grows in **poor soils**.

Key Features

- **Rattling Pods: 3–4 cm pods** with **15–20 seeds** that rattle when dry.
- **Appearance: 30–150 cm** tall; **wedge-shaped leaves**; **yellow flowers** with **reddish veins**.
- **Nitrogen Fixation: Root nodules** improve soil, so it is useful as **green manure**.
- **Toxic Alkaloids: Pyrrolizidine alkaloids** (especially in seeds) protect it from **herbivores** but can **poison livestock**.

Significance

- **Butterflies** such as the **Blue Tiger**, **Striped Tiger** and **Common Crow** take its **alkaloids** for **defence** and **pheromones**.
- Boosts **eco-tourism** in **Munnar** beyond the **Neelakurinji bloom**, which flowers **once in 12 years**.

Do You Know?

- **Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthiana)** – blooms **once every 12 years**; last mass bloom in **2018**.
- **Eravikulam National Park (Munnar)** – home of the **Nilgiri tahr**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:** The **Nilgiris** and **Kodaikanal** also have **kurinji blooms**. The **Nilgiri tahr** is **Tamil Nadu's State animal**.

Topic: Geography

Kurumba Community – Language Survival Concerns

Context

- With the **Census** under way, concerns have grown over the **survival and recognition** of the **Kurumba language**, spoken by **Kerala's** small **Kurumba Adivasi community**.

Who Are They?

- One of **Kerala's five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**.
- Locally called **"Palu Kurumbas"**, distinct from the **"Alu Kurumbas"** of the **Nilgiris**.
- The **smallest and most aboriginal** of the **three main tribes of Attappady**, alongside the **Irulas** and **Mudugas**.
- **19 forest settlements (Oors)** in **Attappady Valley, Palakkad, Kerala**.
- Located in the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, in the **Bhavani–Siruvani catchment**.

Origin and Livelihood

- Among the **earliest inhabitants** of **Attappady** and the **Nilgiri foothills**.
- Traditionally practised **shifting cultivation (punam)**, **foraging** and **hunting-gathering**.

Key Features

- **Language: Kurumba**, a **Southern Dravidian language** with **no script**; its **oral traditions** are being lost.
- **Village Governance (Ooru System):**
  - **Mooppan – headman**.
  - **Kuruthala – deputy**.
  - **Vandari – treasurer**.
  - **Mannukkaaran – ritual agriculturist**.
- **Religion:**
  - Worship of **forests**, **hills**, **rivers**, **ancestors**.
  - **Deities** include **Malleeshwaran**, **Karadaivam**, **Eriyudayavan**.
- **Festivals: Bethe**, **Vithuda**, **Kambalam**.
- **Rituals: Saavu burial rites**, with **personal belongings** buried with the dead.
- **Crops: Traditional millets**.
- **Livelihood: Non-timber forest produce – wild honey**, **medicinal herbs**, **resins**, **bamboo**.

Significance

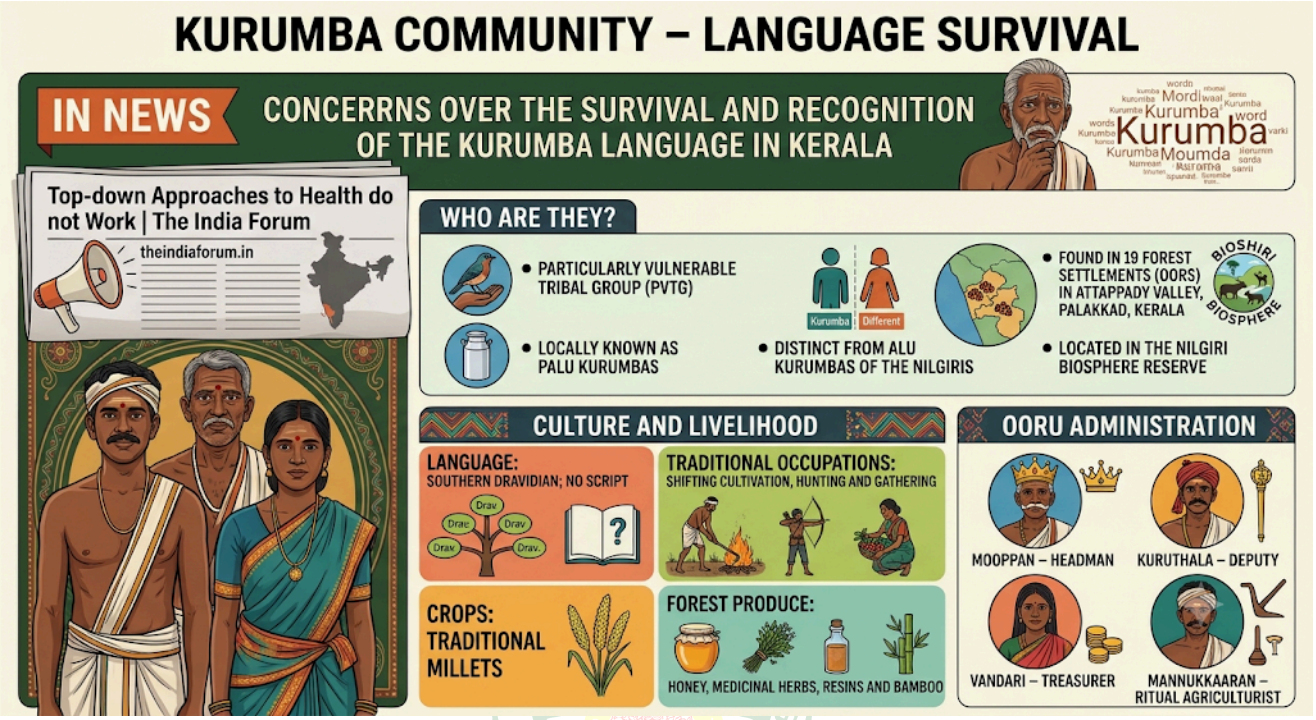
- Keepers of **Western Ghats biodiversity**, **millet varieties** and **medicinal knowledge**.
- Shows the need for **community-led language documentation** under the **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages**.

Do You Know?

- **Kerala's Five Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:**
  - **Cholanaickan**.
  - **Kadar**.
  - **Kattunayakan**.
  - **Koraga**.
  - **Kurumbar**.
- **Tamil Nadu's Six Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups:**
  - **Toda**.
  - **Kota**.
  - **Kurumba**.
  - **Irular**.
  - **Paniyan**.
  - **Kattunayakan**.
- **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve:**
  - **India's first biosphere reserve (1986)**.
  - Spans **Tamil Nadu**, **Kerala** and **Karnataka**.

- Part of the **UNESCO network** since **2012**.

- **Scheme for Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages** – run by the **Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru**. It covers languages spoken by **fewer than 10,000 people**.
- **Attappady** – known for high **tribal infant mortality**; the **Siruvani river** supplies **Coimbatore's**



drinking water.

Topic: Economy

Retail Inflation Crosses 6% in October 2026

Context

- India's **retail inflation** rose to **6.09% (6.1%)** in **October 2026**.
- This breaches the **Reserve Bank of India's upper limit of 6%** for the **first time in two years**.

About Retail Inflation

- The rate at which **prices of goods and services** bought by **households** rise, usually measured **year-on-year**.
- It reflects the **loss of purchasing power**.

New Consumer Price Index Series (Base Year 2024 = 100)

- **12 divisions** under the **United Nations COICOP-2018 classification**.
- **358 items: 308 goods** and **50 services**.
- **Major Weights:**

Component	Weight

Food and Beverages	**~36.75%**
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Fuels	**~17.66%** (now includes **rural house rent** for the first time)
Transport	~8.80%
Clothing and Footwear	~6.38%
Health	~6.10%
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous	~5.04%
Furnishings and Household Maintenance	~4.47%
Information and Communication	~3.61%
Restaurants and Accommodation	~3.35%
Education	~3.33%
Paan, Tobacco, Intoxicants	~2.99%
Recreation and Culture	~1.52%

How It Is Measured

- Released **monthly** by the **National Statistics Office**, **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- **Base Year: 2024 = 100**, updated from **2012** using the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023–24**.
- **Price collection: Weekly** from **1,465 villages** and **1,407 urban markets**, including **e-commerce**.
- Data collected on tablets using **Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing**.
- Produces **Rural**, **Urban** and **Combined** indices.

Inflation Targeting Framework

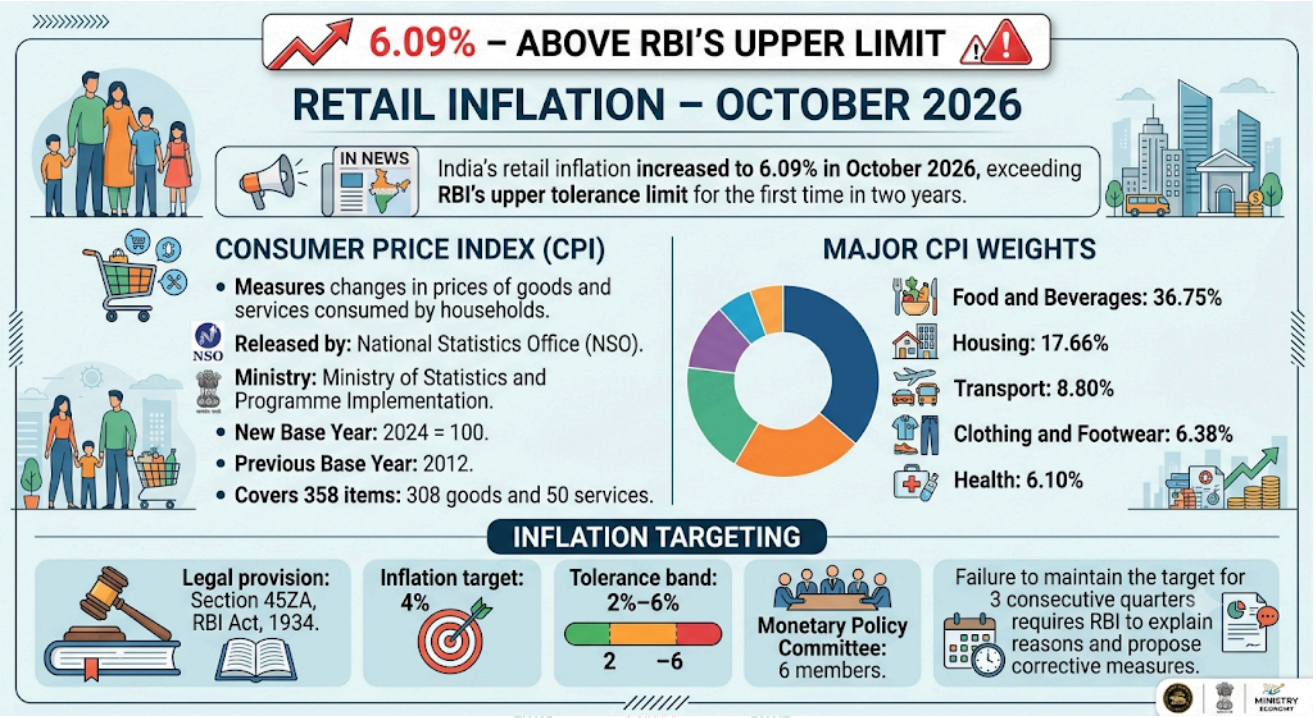
- **Flexible Inflation Targeting (Section 45ZA, Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934):** Target of **4%** with a band of **2–6%**.
- **Monetary Policy Committee: Six members**; uses **Combined Consumer Price Index inflation** to set the **repo rate**.
- **Accountability:** If inflation stays outside **2–6%** for **three consecutive quarters**, the **Reserve Bank** must **explain the failure** and propose **corrective steps** with a timeline.

Implications

- **Higher Interest Rates:** May lead to **repo rate hikes**, raising **loan costs** and hurting **investment**.
- **Lower Purchasing Power:** Hurts **low-income households** most.
- **Fiscal Pressure:** Government steps like **buffer stock releases**, **export curbs** and **duty cuts** cost money.

Do You Know?

- **Monetary Policy Committee** – set up in **2016** under the amended **Reserve Bank of India Act**. It has **three Reserve Bank members** (including the **Governor**, who has a **casting vote**) and **three government nominees**.
- **Wholesale Price Index** – released by the **Office of the Economic Adviser**, **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade**; base year **2011–12**.



- **Urjit Patel Committee (2014)** recommended **inflation targeting**.

India's Green Jobs Revolution

Context

- India's **extreme poverty** fell from **27.1% to 2.6% (2011–2023)**.
- A report, **"India's Green Jobs Moment"**, presents **green employment** as a driver of **inclusive growth** and **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

About Green Jobs

- **Decent jobs** that help **protect the environment**, **cut emissions**, reduce **waste and pollution** and build **climate resilience**.

Key Sectors

- **Renewable energy** (**solar**, **wind**, **storage**).
- **Green hydrogen**.
- **Electric vehicles**.
- **Circular economy / recycling**.
- **Nature-based solutions** (**agroforestry**, **mangrove restoration**).

Decentralised Jobs

- Work such as **rooftop solar installation**, **electric vehicle servicing**, **waste recovery** and **agroforestry** creates jobs in **small towns and villages**, not just in **industrial clusters**.

Key Data

- **Poverty:** About **496 million Indians** left poverty between **2011 and 2023**.
- **Job Potential:**
  - Over **1.3 crore green jobs by 2035**, including **98.5 lakh by 2030**.
  - About **4.5 lakh new direct jobs a year**.
- **Skill Transfer:**
  - **71%** of **thermal power jobs** can shift to **renewables** and **green hydrogen**.
  - **90%** of **auto jobs** can shift to **electric vehicles** with short **bridge courses**.
- **Youth:**
  - Over **27%** of Indians are aged **15–29**.
  - **17.3%** of youth are **graduates** (**young women 17.9%**, **young men 16.7%**).
- **Skill Gap:**
  - Only **5.3%** of youth have **technical education**.
  - Only **5%** have **vocational training**.
  - **Green skilling programmes** have trained only about **81,000 people**.

Initiatives

- **PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs):**
  - **₹60,000 crore** scheme.
  - Upgrades **1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (200 hubs + 800 spokes)** through **industry-led Special Purpose Vehicles**.
  - Adds courses in **green technology**, **artificial intelligence** and **electric vehicles**.
- **Skill Council for Green Jobs:** Under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**. It sets **occupational standards**, designs **curricula** and **certifies trainers**.
- Revision of the **National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (2015)** to include **green jobs**.
- **PM Surya Ghar** rooftop solar **technician training**.

Challenges

- Over **90%** of youth lack **vocational or technical credentials**.
- About **43%** of trained workers did courses **under six months** – too short for complex roles.
- **Outdated Industrial Training Institutes:** Many of the **15,000+ institutes** still teach **petrol/diesel engines**, not **electric vehicle powertrains**.
- Weak **school-to-work links** and poor **placement tracking**.

Do You Know?

- **World Bank extreme poverty line: $3 a day (2021 prices)**; India's rate was **2.6%** in **2023** (covered on **2 November**).
- **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** – formed on **9 November 2014**.
- **Skill India Mission** – launched in **2015**.
- **International Labour Organization** defines **green jobs** as **decent jobs** that **preserve or restore the environment**.

Topic: Defence

India–Myanmar Naval Exercise (IMNEX-26)

Context

- The **8th edition** of **IMNEX-26** began at **Visakhapatnam (10–14 November 2026)**.
- **Ships Taking Part:**
  - **Myanmar: UMS King Sin Phyu Shin**.
  - **India: INS Rana** and **INS Sumedha**.

About the Exercise

- A **bilateral naval exercise** between the **Indian Navy** and **Myanmar Navy**.
- **Host: Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)**.
- **Aim:**
  - Share **expertise**.
  - Build **operational synergy**.
  - Maintain a **rules-based maritime order** in the **Bay of Bengal** and **Indian Ocean**.

Key Features

- **Two Phases:**
  - **Harbour Phase** – **exchanges**, **ship visits** and **planning**.
  - **Sea Phase** – in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- **Drills: Gunnery**, **tactical manoeuvres** and **communication exercises**.
- **Aligned with MAHASAGAR:** India's vision of **"Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions"**.
- **Non-Traditional Threats:**
  - **Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief**.
  - **Search and rescue**.
  - **Anti-piracy**.
  - **Anti-smuggling**.
  - **Illegal fishing**.

Significance

- Secures **sea lanes** and counters **extra-regional influence**.

- Supports India's **Neighbourhood First** and **Act East** policies.

Do You Know?

- **Exercise RAHAT MITRA** (first **India–Myanmar tri-service humanitarian and disaster relief exercise**) was held in **Chennai** (covered on **10 November**).
- **Other India–Myanmar Exercises:**
  - **IMBEX – Army**.
  - **IMCOR – Coordinated Navy patrol**.
- **MAHASAGAR** – announced in **2025** as an expanded version of **SAGAR (2015)**.

Karakoram-2026 – China–Pakistan Joint Army Exercise

Context

- **China** and **Pakistan** concluded **Karakoram-2026**, their **first-ever joint exercise** with **regular army formations**.
- **Venue: Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region** (bordering **Ladakh** and **Jammu and Kashmir**).

About the Exercise

- The **first full-scale regular army bilateral exercise** between the two countries.
- **Earlier drills:**
  - **Warrior series – counter-terrorism**.
  - **Sea Guardian – naval**.
  - **Shaheen – air force**.

Key Features

- **Regular Formations: Infantry** and **mechanised units**, not just **special forces**.
- **Two Phases:**
  - **High-altitude tactics**, **close combat**, **drone operations**.
  - **Joint manoeuvres** and **live firing**.
- **Chinese Hardware:** Used **Chinese weapons**, **armoured vehicles**, **artillery**, **drones** and **counter-drone systems**, showing **Pakistan's heavy dependence on China**.
- **Mixed Combat Teams** under **joint command**.
- **Focus Areas: Mountain logistics**, **drone swarms**, **electronic warfare** and **counter-drone capabilities**.

Implications for India

- Raises the risk of a **two-front threat** along the **Line of Actual Control** and **Line of Control**.
- Activity near **Ladakh**, **Gilgit-Baltistan** and **Siachen** is a concern.
- India needs **theatre commands**, **indigenous defence** and **multi-domain deterrence**.

Do You Know?

- **Karakoram Highway** – links **Xinjiang (China)** with **Pakistan** through **Gilgit-Baltistan** (**Indian territory under Pakistan's illegal occupation**).

- **China–Pakistan Economic Corridor** – passes through **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**; **India opposes it**.
- **Shaksgam Valley** – ceded by **Pakistan** to **China** in **1963**; India does not recognise this.

International Highlights

India–Sri Lanka Innovation Forum

Context

- The **India–Sri Lanka Innovation Forum** was launched in **Colombo**.
- It is a **business-led platform** for **startups**, **investors**, **incubators** and **industry**.
- Turn **technology cooperation** into **commercial partnerships**, **investment**, **market access** and **joint innovation**.

Key Functions

- **Startup–Investor Matchmaking**.
- **Mentorship and Incubation**.
- **Commercialising Joint Research** in **FinTech**, **AgriTech**, **HealthTech**, **artificial intelligence** and **sustainable mobility**.
- **Market Access** in both directions.
- **Policy Coordination** to remove **regulatory barriers** and improve **digital trade**.

Significance

- Takes ties beyond **trade and infrastructure** into **deep tech** and **youth entrepreneurship**.
- Builds an **Indian Ocean innovation ecosystem**.



Do You Know?

- **India–Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement** – signed in **1998**, in force from **2000**.
- **Unified Payments Interface** launched in **Sri Lanka** in **2024**.

- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Palk Strait** separates **Tamil Nadu** from **Sri Lanka**.
  - **Katchatheevu** was ceded to **Sri Lanka** in **1974**.