DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 24.11.2026

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

Karnataka Moves Supreme Court Against Tamil Nadu's Cauvery–South Vellar–Vaigai–Gundar Link Project

Context

- **Karnataka** has asked the **Supreme Court** for a **temporary injunction** against **Tamil Nadu** and the **Union government** over the **Cauvery (Kattalai)–South Vellar–Vaigai–Gundar Link Project (CVG Link)**.

Karnataka's Arguments

- **Water Source:** Tamil Nadu has worked out the project's water from **surpluses at Mettur Dam** – about **8.60 TMC** at **50% dependability**.
- **Concern:** Using **surplus water** from Karnataka **unilaterally** may later be used to **claim rights**, hurting **Karnataka's share of Cauvery surplus**.

Reliefs Sought by Karnataka

- **Restrain Tamil Nadu from:**
  - The **Cauvery–South Vellar Link (Phase I)**, including **ongoing works**.
  - Any further works under **Phases I, II and III**.
- Direct the **Centre** not to process Tamil Nadu's **January 2021 request**, and not to declare the **CVG Link** a **national project**.
- **Demolition** of completed **Phase-I works**.

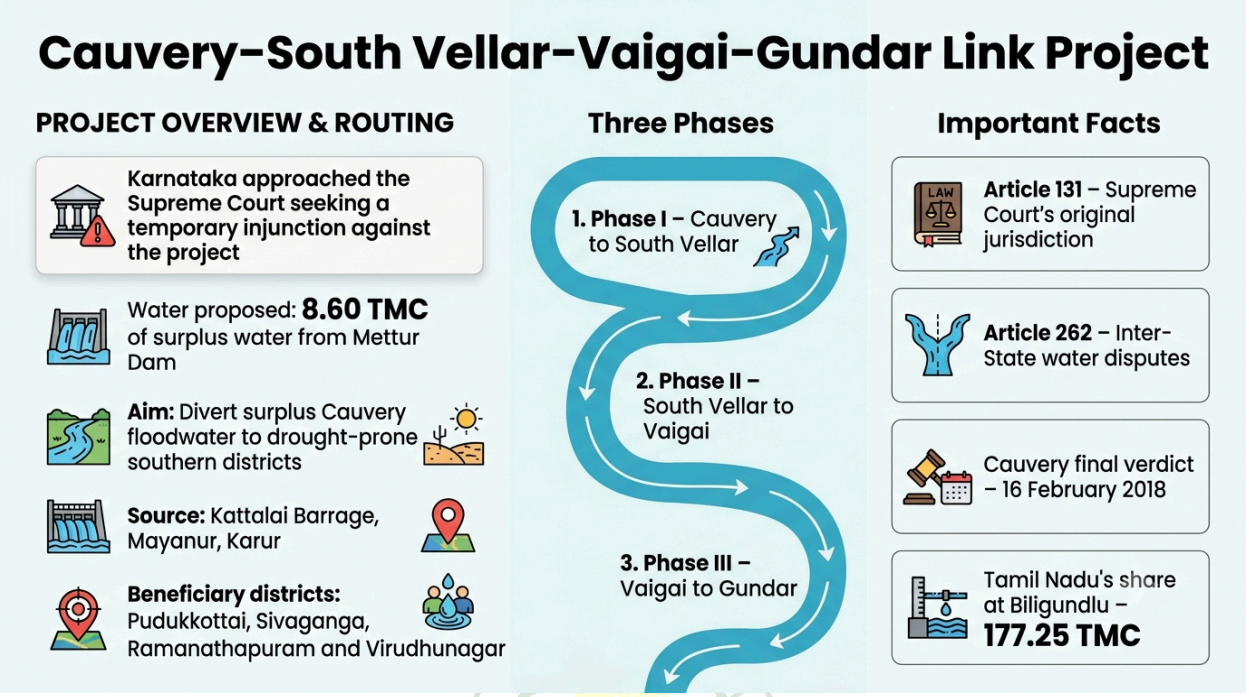
About the CVG Link Project

- **Aim:** Divert **surplus Cauvery flood water** from the **Kattalai barrage (Mayanur, Karur)** to the **South Vellar, Vaigai and Gundar basins**.
- **Purpose: Irrigation** and **drinking water** for **drought-prone southern districts** (**Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar**).
- **Three Phases:**
  - **Phase I: Cauvery – South Vellar**.
  - **Phase II: South Vellar – Vaigai**.
  - **Phase III: Vaigai – Gundar**.

Do You Know?

- **Article 131** – **original jurisdiction** of the **Supreme Court** in disputes between **States** or between the **Centre and States**.
- **Article 262** – **Parliament** may bar courts from **inter-State water disputes**; the **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956**.
- **Cauvery Final Verdict: 16 February 2018**. Tamil Nadu's share at **Biligundlu** is **177.25 TMC**.

- **Mettur Dam (Stanley Reservoir):** Built in **1934**, in **Salem district**.
- **Kollidam** – the **northern branch of the Cauvery**, splitting at **Srirangam (Mukkombu)**.
- **Godavari–Cauvery Link** – part of the **National Perspective Plan (1980)** for **interlinking rivers**.



Topic: Schemes and Initiatives

Inclusion Errors in the Public Distribution System

Context

- A **government-commissioned study** found a **13.2% inclusion error** among beneficiaries of the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**, under the **National Food Security Act, 2013**.

Key Terms

- **Inclusion Error: Ineligible households** included in the beneficiary list, receiving **subsidised grain**. It reflects weak **identification and verification**.
- **Exclusion Error: Eligible households left out** and denied their **entitlements**.

National Food Security Act, 2013

- **Coverage:** Up to **75% of rural** and **50% of urban population – 81.35 crore people (Census 2011)**.
- **Delivery:** Through the **Targeted Public Distribution System**.
- **Entitlements:**
  - **Antyodaya Anna Yojana: 35 kg per household per month**.
  - **Priority Households: 5 kg per person per month**.

Who Is Eligible?

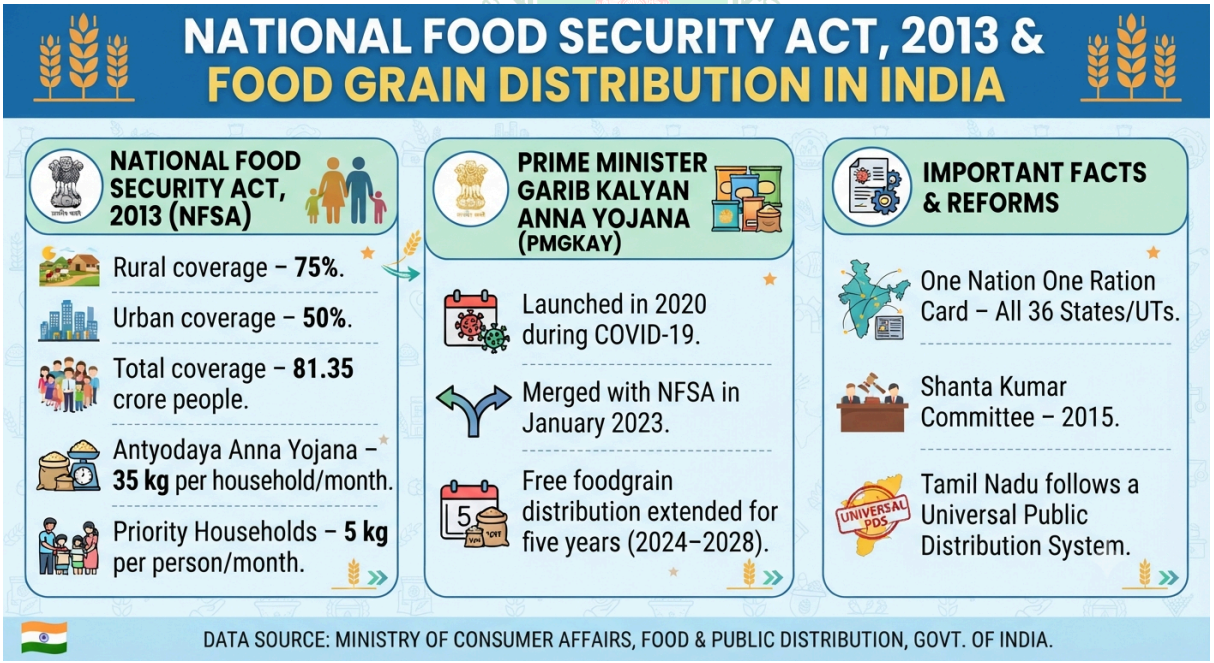
- **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (poorest of the poor):**
  - Households headed by **widows**, **terminally ill**, **disabled** or **elderly (60+)** persons without support.
  - All **primitive tribal households**.
  - **Landless labourers**, **marginal farmers**, **artisans**, **slum dwellers** and **informal workers**.
  - **BPL families** of **HIV-positive persons**.
- **Priority Households:** Selected by **States/Union Territories** using their **own criteria**.

Merger with PMGKAY

- **2020: PMGKAY** launched during **COVID-19** to give **extra free grain**.
- **January 2023:** Merged with the Act; **regular entitlements made free**.
- **November 2023:** Extended for **five years (January 2024 – December 2028)**.

Challenges

- **Outdated databases**.
- **Different criteria** across States.
- **Weak verification**.
- **Digital exclusion** due to **Aadhaar/biometric failures**.
- **Dynamic poverty** – temporary income gains don't mean **lasting security**.



Do You Know?

- **One Nation One Ration Card** – all **36 States/Union Territories** (covered on **13 November**).

- **Shanta Kumar Committee (2015)** – recommended cutting coverage to **40%**.
- **Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu** runs a **universal Public Distribution System** (covered under the **Access Equality Index**).

Topic: Polity

Prorogation of Parliament

Context

- **Parliament's Monsoon Session** remains **unprorogued** after **100 days**, with **no special sitting** announced.

Key Provisions

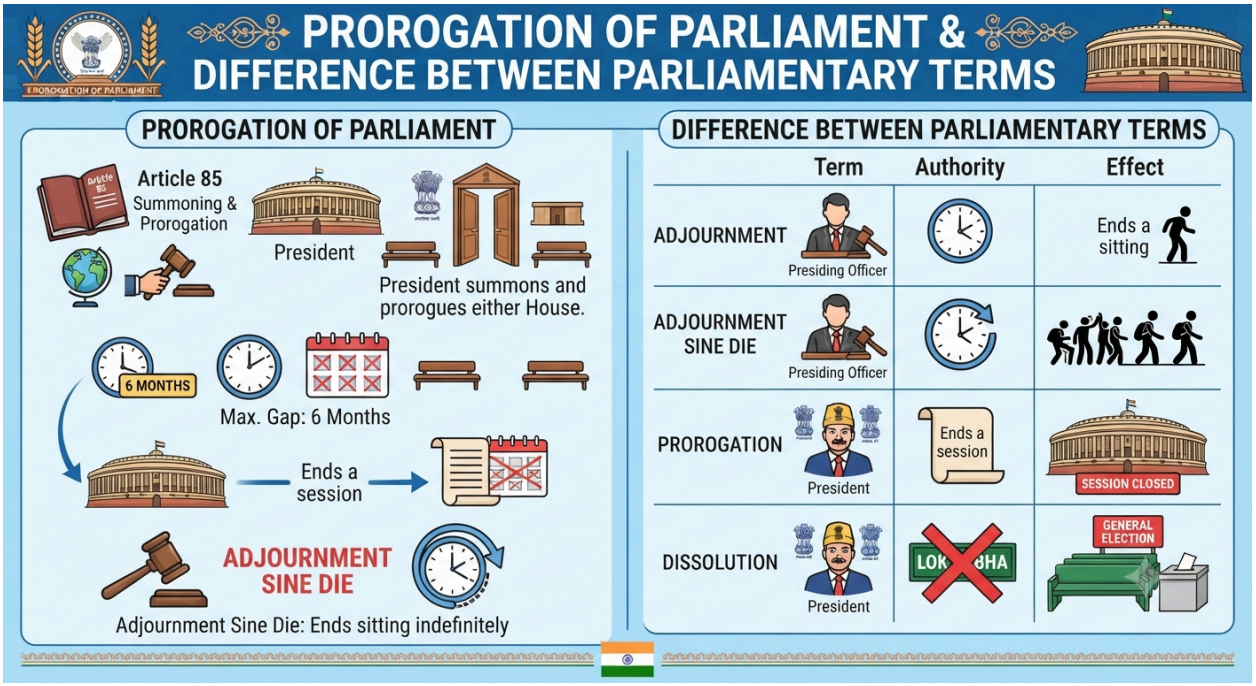
- **Article 85** – **summoning and prorogation** of Parliament.
- **Prorogation: Ends a session**, usually a few days after **adjournment sine die**.
- **Adjournment Sine Die:** Ends a sitting for an **indefinite period**.
- **Article 85(1):**
  - The **President** summons each House on the advice of the **Council of Ministers**.
  - The **gap between sessions** must not exceed **six months**.
- **Article 85(2):** The President may **prorogue either House** and **dissolve the Lok Sabha**.

Do You Know?

- **Notice Period:** No minimum is fixed, but **14 days' notice** is followed by **convention**.
- **Rule 15 (Lok Sabha)** and the matching **Rajya Sabha rule**:
  - The **Speaker/Chairman** can **reconvene a House** after **adjournment sine die**, if it is **not prorogued**.
  - This can be done at **short notice**, even **two days**.

Term	Done by	Effect
Adjournment	**Presiding Officer**	Ends a **sitting**
Adjournment sine die	**Presiding Officer**	Ends a sitting **indefinitely**
Prorogation	**President**	Ends a **session**
Dissolution	**President**	Ends the **Lok Sabha's term**

- **Pending bills: Do not lapse on prorogation**. Bills pending in the **Lok Sabha lapse on dissolution**.



Topic: Economy

India's Merchandise Exports – H1 2026–27

Context

- **Merchandise exports** rose **18.5%** to **$259.89 billion** in **April–September 2026**, with growth in **all regions**.
- **Leading Regions: Africa (44%)** and **Asia (21%)**.

Performance

- **Total Exports:**
  - **Merchandise: $259.89 billion**.
  - **Services: $216.31 billion**.
  - **Combined: $476.20 billion (up 13.8%)**.
- **Deficit:**
  - **Merchandise deficit: $177.64 billion**.
  - **Services surplus: $102.71 billion**.
  - **Overall deficit** widened to **$74.93 billion**.
- **September Surge:** Up **23%** to **$44.40 billion**, with **electronics +70%** and **engineering +21%**.

Key Trends

- **Electronics as the New Engine:**
  - **+91% to Asia**, **+52% to Europe**, and **$15.35 billion to the Americas**.

  - Driven by the **PLI scheme** for **mobile phones**.
  - **Smartphones** became **India's largest export item** in **2025**.
- **Africa – Fastest Growing:**
  - **Petroleum products** are about **38%** of exports to Africa.
  - **Tanzania +121%, Kenya +101%**.
- **United States:** Exports **+11%**, despite the **18% tariff** under the **February 2026 interim deal**.
- **Asian Value Chains: Singapore +103%, Malaysia +83%**, as India joins **ASEAN electronics chains**.
- **Engineering Goods:** The **largest category** in **Asia**, the **Americas** and **Europe**.

Significance

- **Diversification:** Growth across **24+ markets**.
- **Make in India** going global.
- **Global South outreach**.
- Supports the **rupee** and the **current account**.

Concerns

- **Widening deficit**, from **oil, gold and electronic components**.
- **Low value addition:** Electronics rely on **Chinese components**.
- **Price Effect: Petroleum export values** rose due to the **West Asia war**.
- **Global share** stuck at about **1.7%**.
- **Protectionism: US tariffs**, **EU CBAM**.
- **High logistics costs** compared with **China and Vietnam**.

Government Initiatives

- **Export Promotion Mission (Budget 2025–26)** for **MSMEs**.
- **Foreign Trade Policy 2023: $2 trillion exports by 2030**; **Districts as Export Hubs**.
- **Trade Agreements: India–UK CETA**, **India–EU FTA**, **EFTA TEPA**, **Oman CEPA**.
- **RoDTEP** and **RoSCTL** – refund of **embedded taxes**.
- **PM GatiShakti** and the **National Logistics Policy**.

Do You Know?

- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Tamil Nadu** is **India's top electronics exporter ($14.65 billion**, covered in **October)**.
  - **Sriperumbudur** is a **smartphone manufacturing hub**.
- **Districts as Export Hubs** – identifies **export products** in each district.

India Achieves 19.99% Ethanol Blending in ESY 2025–26

Context

- The **All India Distillers' Association** reported that India effectively achieved the **20% ethanol blending target** in **Ethanol Supply Year 2025–26**.
- **Average Blending: 19.99%** (provisional data as of **31 October 2026**).

Key Figures

Item	Quantity
Ethanol blended	**1,134.36 crore litres**
Requirement	**1,050 crore litres**
Total allocations	**1,196.90 crore litres**
Supplies	**1,088.91 crore litres**

Feedstock Contribution

- **Grain-based: 800.53 crore litres (73.52%)**. **Maize** is the **largest single feedstock**, at about **46%** of total supplies.
- **Sugar-based: 288.38 crore litres (26.48%)**.

Sugar Diversion

- About **32.45 lakh tonnes** of sugar diverted to ethanol:
  - **23 lakh tonnes** from **sugarcane juice**.
  - **9.44 lakh tonnes** from **B-Heavy molasses**.

About Ethanol

- **Ethyl alcohol (C_2H_5OH)** – a **renewable biofuel** made by **fermenting sugar- or starch-rich materials** such as **sugarcane and grains**.

Do You Know?

- **Ethanol Supply Year: 1 November – 31 October**.
- **E20 target** advanced from **2030** to **2025–26** (under the **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018**, amended **2022**).
- **PM JI-VAN Yojana (2019)** – supports **second-generation (2G) ethanol** from **crop residue**.
- **E20 milestone: 893 samples** across **27 States/Union Territories**; **forex savings** of over **₹1.97 lakh crore** since **ESY 2014–15** (covered on **9 November**).
- **Tamil Nadu link:** Tamil Nadu's **sugar mills** and **maize growers** (e.g., **Perambalur, Salem**) supply **ethanol feedstock**.

Topic: Environment

COP31 UNFCCC Summit, Antalya, Türkiye – Overview

About

- **31st Conference of the Parties** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- **Dates: 9–21 November 2026**.
- **Venue: Antalya Expo Center, Antalya, Türkiye**.
- **COP31 President: Murat Kurum**, Türkiye's **Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change**.
- **President of Negotiations: Chris Bowen**, Australia's **Climate and Energy Minister**.
- **India's Delegation:** Led by **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav**.

Key Highlights

- **Climate Finance Work Programme Adopted:**
  - Adopted as a **standalone agenda item**, after demands from **developing countries**, including **India**.
  - Set up under the **COP30 "Global Mutirão" decision**.
  - A **two-year programme** on **climate finance obligations** under **Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement**.
- **Items Excluded or Deferred:**
  - Separate proposals on **tripling adaptation finance** and **climate-related trade measures** were **excluded**.
  - The **Green Climate Fund review** was **deferred to COP32**.
- **Children and Youth Pavilion:**
  - Inaugurated by **Sally Higgins**, the **COP31 Presidency Youth Climate Champion**.
  - Held for the **5th consecutive year**, with **10 spokespeople** aged **14–31**.
- **Canada–United Kingdom Finance Pledges:**
  - Reaffirmed the goal of **$1.3 trillion a year by 2035** for developing countries, and **tripling adaptation finance**.
  - **Canada: CAD 14 billion+** over **five years**, including **CAD 116 million** for **12 projects**.
  - **United Kingdom: GBP 6 billion** in climate finance over **three years**, plus **GBP 6.7 billion** in other **public investment**.

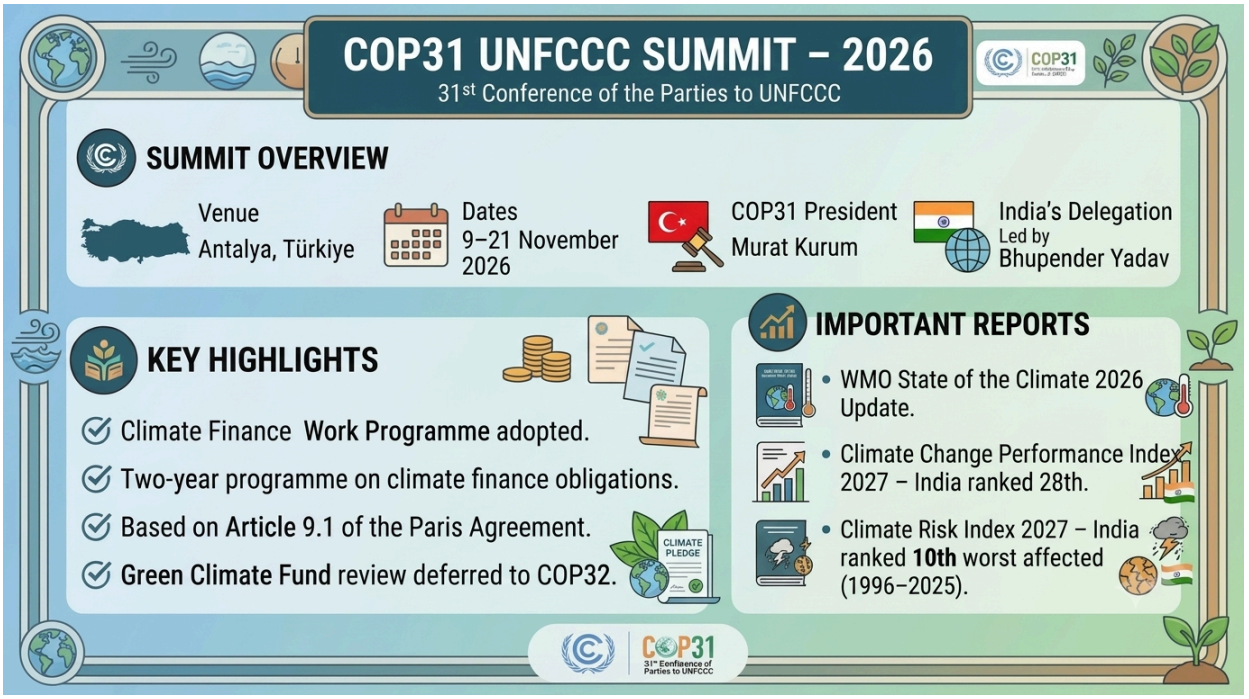
Key Reports Released

- **WMO "State of the Climate 2026 Update": 2026** is set to be among the **four warmest years on record**.

- **Climate Change Performance Index 2027 – New Points:**
  - Released by **Germanwatch**, **NewClimate Institute** and **Climate Action Network**.
  - **India: 28th (score 60.85)**, down from **23rd (2026)** and **10th (2025)** – a fall of **18 places** in **two years**.
- **Climate Risk Index 2027: India 10th worst hit (1996–2025)**: **78,000 deaths**, **$170 billion+** in losses, **436 events**.

Do You Know?

- **COP30 (2025): Belém, Brazil**.
- **COP32 (2027): Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)**.
- **Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement: Developed countries** shall provide **financial resources** to **developing countries**.
- **Green Climate Fund:** Set up at **COP16 (Cancún, 2010)**; HQ **Songdo, South Korea**.
- **India's Updated NDC (2022): 45% cut** in **emissions intensity** by **2030**; **net zero by 2070**.



Atmospheric Organic Nitrogen Deposition in Oceans

Context

- A study found that about **12.8 million tonnes** of **organic nitrogen** are deposited into **oceans** every year, about **27%** of total **atmospheric nitrogen deposition**.

About Nitrogen

- A **non-metal** of **Group 15** of the **periodic table**.
- A **colourless, odourless, tasteless gas** – the **most plentiful element** in **Earth's atmosphere**.

- **Where Nitrogen Is Found:**
  - **Atmosphere:** About **78% by volume**.
  - **Compounds: Ammonia** and **ammonium salts**; in **rain, soil and seawater** (as **ammonium, nitrite, nitrate**).
  - **Minerals: Nitre/saltpetre (potassium nitrate)** and **Chile saltpetre (sodium nitrate)**.
  - **Living Matter:** A key part of **proteins**.
- **Nitrogen Fixation:**
  - **Lightning** and **UV rays** produce **nitric oxide**.
  - **Soil microbes** produce **ammonia, nitrites and nitrates** (the **larger share**).

Significance of the Study

- **Organic nitrogen** supports **marine productivity**, shapes **ocean ecosystems** and may affect **climate**.

Do You Know?

- **Nitrogen-Fixing Bacteria: Rhizobium (legumes)**, **Azotobacter**, and **cyanobacteria** (e.g., **Anabaena**).
- **Haber-Bosch Process – industrial ammonia production**.
- **Nitrous oxide (N_2O)** – a **greenhouse gas** about **265 times stronger than CO_2**.
- **Indian Nitrogen Assessment (2017)** – **India's first nitrogen report**.

Prince William Announces 5-Year Insurance Cover for 10,000 Indian Wildlife Rangers

Context

- **Prince William (Prince of Wales)** announced a **five-year personal accident insurance programme** for **10,000 temporary wildlife rangers** in **India**.
- **Through:** The **Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife** initiative.
- **Effective from: December 2026**.

Key Features

- **Coverage: 24-hour accident cover, on and off duty**.
- **Seven States: Madhya Pradesh**, **Karnataka**, **Assam**, **Uttarakhand**, **Maharashtra**, **Kerala**, **Rajasthan**.
- **Risks Covered:**
  - **Accidental death** and **serious injury**.
  - **Wildlife attacks** and **snakebites**.
  - **Drowning, floods, landslides**.

- **Electrocution, burns**.
- **Travel accidents** and **assaults**.

- **Beneficiaries: Temporary rangers**, including **daily-wage forest watchers** who do **anti-poaching patrols**, **wildlife monitoring**, **animal rescue** and **human–wildlife conflict** work.

Do You Know?

- **World Ranger Day: 31 July** (**International Ranger Federation**).
- **International Big Cat Alliance:** Launched by **India** in **2023**; HQ in **India**; covers **7 big cats**.
- **Earthshot Prize 2026** was also hosted in **Mumbai** by **Prince William** (covered on **18 November**).
- **Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu** is **not among the seven States**, but has **anti-poaching watchers** in **Mudumalai**, **Anamalai** and **Sathyamangalam tiger reserves**.

Topic: Science & Technology

Skyroot Partners with Exolaunch, HEX20 and OhmSpace for Second Vikram-1 Flight

Context

- **Skyroot Aerospace** (an **Indian private space firm**) partnered with:
  - **HEX20 (India)**.
  - **Exolaunch (Germany)**.
  - **OhmSpace (Italy)**.
- **Purpose:** The **second orbital test flight** of its **Vikram-1 launch vehicle**.
- **Announced at: Space Tech Expo Europe 2026, Bremen, Germany**.

Mission Highlights

- **Collaboration:** Brings together **launch services**, **satellite development**, **deployment systems** and **in-space propulsion** from **India, Germany and Italy**.
- **Payloads:**
  - **HEX20's 4U NILA III CubeSat**.
  - **Skyroot's 4U SCOPE satellite**.
  - Each is made of **four 1U units (10 cm × 10 cm × 10 cm)**.
  - Both fly in a single **8U deployer** from **Exolaunch**.
- **Propulsion Demo: NILA III** carries **OhmSpace's 3D-printed high-temperature resistojet**, which heats propellant to about **2,400 K** for **high-thrust orbital manoeuvres**.

About Skyroot Aerospace

- **Founded: 2018**.

- **HQ: Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- **CEO: Pawan Kumar Chandana** (also named in the **TIME100 Next India 2026** list under **Leaders**).

Do You Know?

- **Vikram-S (November 2022) – India's first privately built rocket** to reach space (**suborbital**), launched from **Sriharikota**.
- **Vikram series** – named after **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai**, **father of India's space programme**.
- **CubeSat** – a **miniature satellite standard**; **1U = 10 cm cube**, about **1–1.33 kg**.
- **IN-SPACe (2020)** – authorises **private space activities**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Agnikul Cosmos (Chennai)** launched **Agnibaan SOrTeD (2024)**, the **world's first single-piece 3D-printed semi-cryogenic engine**.
  - **Kulasekarapattinam spaceport** is coming up in **Thoothukudi**.

National HPV Vaccination Campaign Crosses 1 Crore Doses

Context

- India crossed **1 crore HPV vaccine doses**, about **87%** of the **annual target** of **1.20 crore 14-year-old girls**.

About the Campaign

- **HPV Vaccine:** A **non-infectious recombinant vaccine** against **high-risk Human Papillomavirus strains** that cause **cervical cancer**.
- **Launched: 28 February 2026**, **Ajmer, Rajasthan**, by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Aim:** Protect girls **before exposure**; support the **WHO elimination strategy**.

Key Features

- **Free**, **single dose**, **voluntary**, with **parental consent**.
- **Target:** Girls aged **14 (before turning 15)**, about **1.20 crore a year**.
- **Vaccine: Gardasil-4 (quadrivalent)**, against **HPV types 6, 11, 16, 18**.
- **Digital Tracking:** Through the **U-WIN platform**.

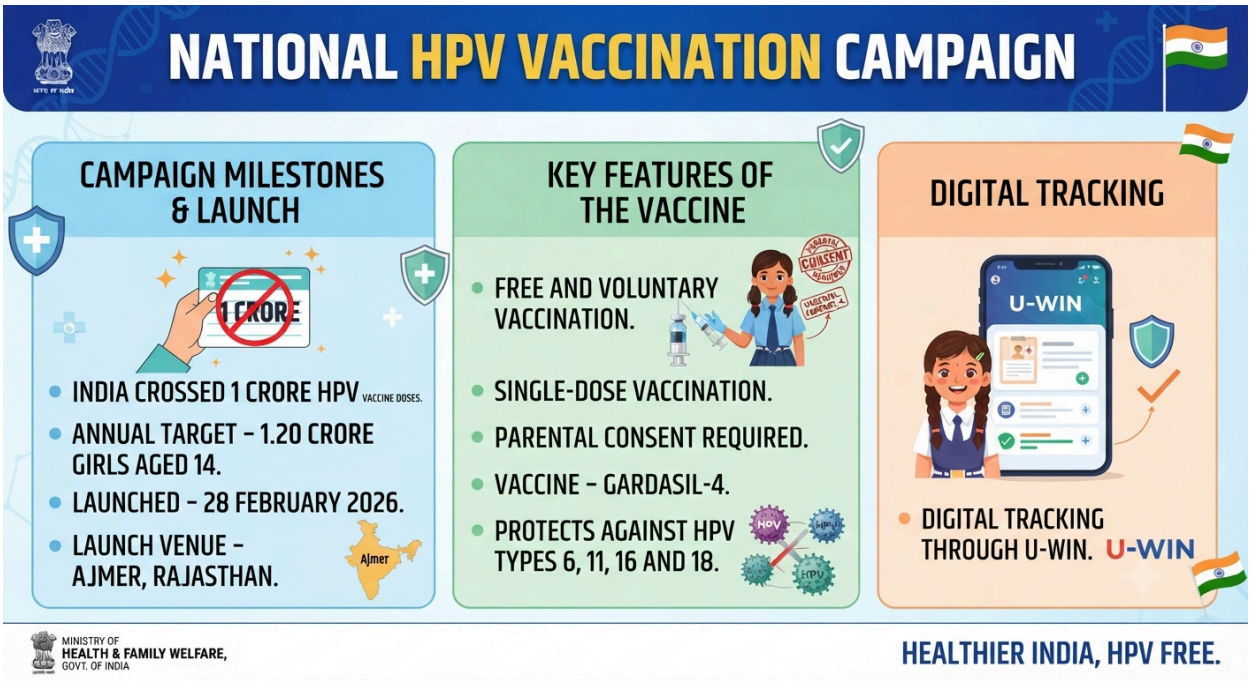
Significance

- Prevents **cervical cancer**.
- **Equity** for **rural girls**.
- Supports **Universal Health Coverage** and **WHO goals**.

Do You Know?

- **World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day: 17 November** (covered on **21 November**).

- **Cervavac** – **India's indigenous quadrivalent HPV vaccine** (**Serum Institute**).
- **U-WIN** – the **digital immunisation registry** (like **CoWIN**).



Riemann Hypothesis – AI-Assisted Proof Claim

Context

- Mathematician **Levent Alpöge (Anthropic)** announced a **claimed proof** of the **Riemann Hypothesis**, developed with help from the AI model **Claude**.

About the Riemann Hypothesis

- Proposed by **Bernhard Riemann** in **1859**, on the **distribution of prime numbers**.
- **Prime Number Theorem (1896):** Estimates **how many primes** exist below a number, but not their **exact distribution**.
- **The Hypothesis:** All **non-trivial zeros** of the **Riemann zeta function** have a **real part of 1/2**.

Recent Developments

- **Levent Alpöge's claim:** Released over **1.7 crore lines of computer code**.
- **Alessandro Masullo (Stanford):** A **940-page manuscript** from **12 years of work**; **possible errors** were identified.
- Acceptance by the **Clay Mathematics Institute** requires:
  - **Publication**.
  - **Wide acceptance** for at least **two years**.
  - **Expert scrutiny**.
- **Status:** The hypothesis remains **officially unproven**.

Do You Know?

- **Millennium Prize Problems (2000): 7 problems**, each with a **$1 million prize** from the **Clay Mathematics Institute**.
- Only the **Poincaré Conjecture** has been solved (**Grigori Perelman, 2003**).
- **Srinivasa Ramanujan** (born in **Erode, Tamil Nadu**) worked on **prime numbers** and **number theory**. **National Mathematics Day** is **22 December**.

Topic: Important Days

World Toilet Day – 19 November

About

- A **United Nations observance** to raise awareness of **sanitation**, **public health** and **dignity**.
- **2026 Theme: "Sanitation and Gender Equality."**
- **Slogan: "Safe toilets. Equal futures."**

Do You Know?

- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** Launched **2 October 2014**.
- **SBM-Grameen Phase II (2020–21 to 2025–26):** Focus on **ODF Plus** (**solid and liquid waste management**).
- **SDG 6.2** – **sanitation for all** and **ending open defecation**.

World COPD Day – 18 November

- **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease** – a **lung disease** causing **breathing difficulty** (e.g., **chronic bronchitis**, **emphysema**).
- **When: Third Wednesday of November**; **18 November 2026** is the **25th observance**.
- **2026 Theme: "Early Diagnosis and Management for a Better Life."**

Do You Know?

- **Main Causes: Tobacco smoking**, **indoor air pollution (biomass fuel)**, **outdoor pollution**.
- **COPD** is among the **top causes of death worldwide (WHO)**.
- **PM Ujjwala Yojana (2016)** – **LPG connections** to cut **indoor smoke**.

Women's Entrepreneurship Day – 19 November

- Celebrates and supports **women entrepreneurs**, promoting **economic independence** and their role in **business and innovation**.
- **19 November 2026** is the **13th observance**.

Do You Know?

- **Indian Schemes for Women Entrepreneurs:**
    - **Stand-Up India (2016; extended to 2031)**.

- **Mudra Yojana (2015)**.
- **Mahila E-Haat (2016)**.

- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - Over **50%** of **Tamil Nadu's 16,000+ startups** are **women-led (50.8%**, covered on **9 November)**.
  - **Tamil Nadu** has a strong **women Self-Help Group network**.

