DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 23.11.2026

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TamilNadu Highlights

Kolathur Assembly Constituency Declared Vacant

News

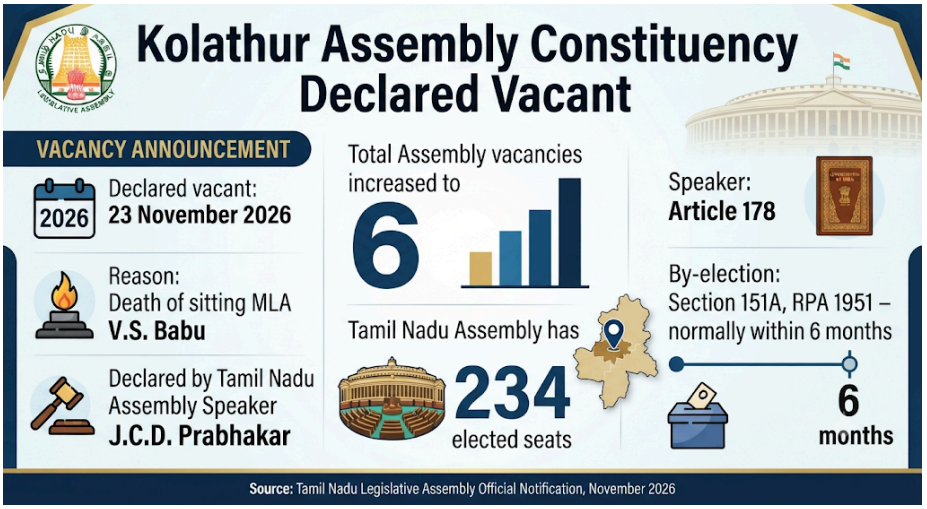
- **Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar** declared the **Kolathur Assembly constituency vacant** on **23 November 2026**.
- **Reason:** The death of its sitting MLA, **V.S. Babu**.
- **Total Vacancies in the Assembly:** Now **six**.

Constitutional and Legal Provisions

Provision	Details
Article 190(1)	A person cannot be a member of **both Houses**, or represent **two seats**; must **vacate one**
Article 190(3)(b)	A member may **resign by writing to the Speaker**; the seat falls vacant once the **resignation is accepted**
Representation of the People Act, 1951 – Section 70	A person elected from **two seats** must resign one within **14 days** of the result; otherwise **both fall vacant**
Representation of the People Act, 1951 – Section 151A	**By-elections** must be held within **6 months** of a vacancy (unless the remaining term is **less than 1 year**)
Role of the Speaker	**Declares the vacancy** and informs the **Election Commission of India**

Do You Know?

- **Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly: 234 elected members**; **unicameral** (the **Legislative Council** was abolished in **1986**).
- **Speaker** – elected under **Article 178**.
- **Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law, 1985)** – the **Speaker** decides **disqualification for defection**.
- **By-elections** are conducted by the **Election Commission of India (Article 324)**.



Topic: Science & Technology

RAPP-8 Gets Regulatory Clearance for First Approach to Criticality

Context

- The **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board** approved the **First Approach to Criticality** of **RAPP-8** at **Rawatbhata, Rajasthan**.

Key Terms

- **First Approach to Criticality:** The stage when a reactor starts a **controlled, self-sustaining chain reaction** for the **first time** at **low power**.
- **RAPP-8:** An **indigenous 700 MWe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor** at the **Rawatbhata plant, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan**.

Organisations

- **Nuclear Power Corporation of India:** Under the **Department of Atomic Energy**; **builds and operates** the reactor.
- **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board: India's nuclear safety regulator**.

Process

- **Safety Review:** The Board checks **design**, **construction**, **equipment** and **fuel loading**.
- **Moderation: Heavy water (D_2O)** slows **neutrons**; **neutron-absorbing chemicals** are gradually reduced.
- **Control Rods:** Withdrawn slowly to reach a **self-sustaining chain reaction (k-eff = 1)**.
- **Testing: Low-power tests**, then gradual **power increase**, **grid connection** and **commercial operation**.

Key Features

- **Fourth 700 MWe Reactor**, after:

- **Kakrapar Units 3 and 4 (Gujarat)**.
- **RAPP-7** (its **twin** at **Rawatbhata**).

- **Fuel: Natural uranium dioxide**.
- **Coolant and Moderator: Heavy water**.
- **Safety: Double containment** and **passive decay heat removal**.
- **Indigenous Content:** Over **90%** of major components **made in India**.
- **Monitoring:** The Board's **resident observer team** oversees **commissioning**.

Significance

- Strengthens India's **700 MWe PHWR programme**, with **12 more sanctioned reactors**.
- With **Kudankulam** and **Kalpakkam's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor**, supports the goal of **100 GWe nuclear capacity by 2047**.

Do You Know?

- **India's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme (Homi Bhabha):**
  - **PHWRs (natural uranium)**.
  - **Fast breeder reactors (plutonium)**.
  - **Thorium reactors**.
- **Rawatbhata (RAPS-1) – India's first PHWR (1973)**, built with **Canadian help**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Kudankulam (Tirunelveli) – India's largest nuclear plant** (**Russian VVERs**).
  - **Madras Atomic Power Station (Kalpakkam) – India's first fully indigenous PHWR (1984)**.
  - The **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor** is at **Kalpakkam**.

Topic: Reports and Indices

UNFPA State of World Population Report 2026

Context

- The **United Nations Population Fund** released its **State of World Population Report 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- **Title: "Succeeding Generations: Empowering young people to chart the future."**

About

- An **annual flagship report** on **population trends**, **human rights** and **sexual and reproductive health**.
- The **2026 edition** studies **youth aspirations** on **relationships**, **parenthood** and **life milestones**.

- It draws on the **Demographic Futures Survey** and consultations with **300+ youth leaders** in **40+ countries**.

Global Findings

- **Delayed Milestones:**
  - **70%** of adults aged **18–39** see **marriage as ideal**, and **90%+** want **children**.
  - But **economic barriers** delay **independent living** to **25–29** and **partnering** to **30–34**.
- **Money and Housing Barriers:**
  - **72%** cite **economic and housing constraints** as obstacles to having children.
  - **88%** say **financial security** and **87%** say **stable jobs** are preconditions.
- **Optimism and Fertility: Two-thirds** feel optimistic; the most optimistic intend **0.42 more children (16% higher)** than the most pessimistic.
- **NEET Youth (Not in Employment, Education or Training):**
  - **1 in 5** globally.
  - **27%** of young women, against **13%** of young men.
  - **49%** of youth with **disabilities**.
- **Political Under-Representation:**
  - People aged **18–30** are **19%** of the population but hold only **2.8%** of **parliamentary seats**.
  - **76%** feel **unheard**.
- **Mental Health and Conflict:**
  - **Mental health** is **19%** of the **adolescent disease burden**.
  - Youth (**10–24**) living within **50 km of conflict** doubled to **340 million**.
- **Aid Cuts: Official development aid** fell a record **23%** in **2025**, to **$174.3 billion**.

India Findings (with NFHS-6)

- **Demographic Dividend:** Over **1 in 4 Indians** are aged **10–24**.
- **Total Fertility Rate: 2.0**, ranging from **1.0 (Sikkim)** to **2.7 (Bihar)**.
- **Optimism: 83%** positive about the future, though **47%** worry about **conflict, insecurity and inequality**.
- **Ideal vs Actual Family Size:**
  - Women aged **18–39** want **2.1 children**, but women aged **35–39** have just **1.0** on average.
  - **85%** of **childless women** aged **35–39** still want children.
- **Maternal Health:**
  - **Maternal Mortality Ratio: 87 per lakh live births (SRS 2022–24)**.

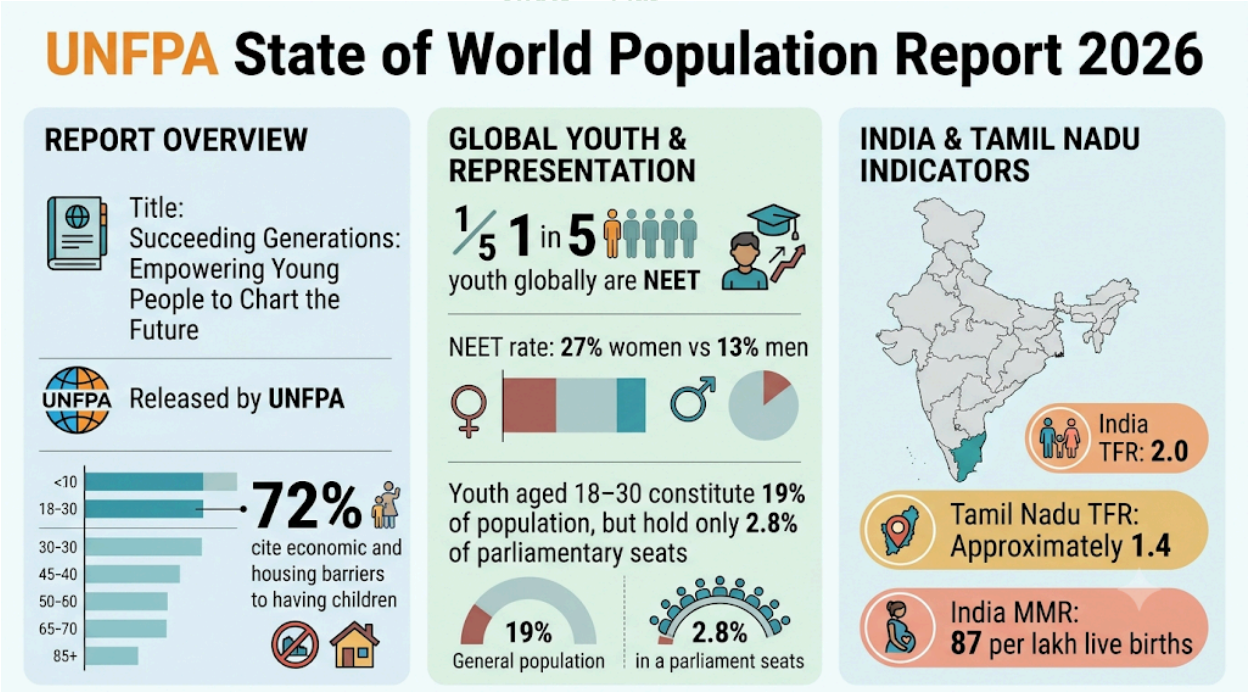
  - **Skilled birth attendance: 91.3%**.
  - **Universal Health Coverage index: 69/100**.
- **Family Planning:**
  - **Unmet need: 8.5%** – lowest **4.4% (Andhra Pradesh)**, highest **21.0% (Meghalaya)**.
  - **Traditional methods** rose to **16.4%**; **modern methods** fell to **52.7%**.
- **Digital Divide: 64%** of women own a **mobile** – **77.6% urban** vs **57.4% rural**.

Challenges

- **Education–Work Gap:** Youth stuck in **informal and gig jobs** without **social protection**.
- **Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence:**
  - **Deepfakes** and **harassment online**.
  - In India, **22.3%** of women reported **intimate partner violence** in the past year.
- **Limited Bodily Autonomy: 44%** of partnered women in **78 countries** lack **full autonomy**.
- **Tokenism: 68%** of parliamentarians are **over 45**.

Recommendations

- **Future-fit education: Paid internships, AI and green skills**; **social security for gig workers**.
- **Youth-friendly health care:**
  - **Mental health** and **sexuality education**.
  - More **modern contraceptive choices**, e.g., **DMPA-SC injectables** and **single-rod implants** in India.



- **Real youth power:**
  - **Youth quotas** and **participatory budgeting**.
  - At least **20% youth** in **COP delegations**.
- **Digital safety: Platform accountability** and **engaging men and boys**.
- **Multi-year funding** for **youth-led groups**.

Do You Know?

- **UNFPA:** Set up in **1969**; HQ **New York**.
- **Replacement-Level Fertility: 2.1**.
- **India's National Population Policy, 2000** – target to **stabilise population by 2045**.
- **Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu's Total Fertility Rate** is about **1.4**, among the **lowest in India**; it has a strong **maternal health record**.

Topic: Economy

India's Minerals Policy Must Move to Material Security

Context

- Experts urged India to strengthen **domestic processing, refining and recycling** of **critical minerals** under the **₹34,300 crore National Critical Mineral Mission**, to cut **import dependence**.

About Material Security

- **Assured supply** of **refined, battery-grade and industrial-grade minerals** (**lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths**) ready for factories.
- It goes beyond **mining** to **beneficiation**, **refining**, **recycling** and **strategic reserves**.

Policy Pillars

- **National Critical Mineral Mission (2025): ₹34,300 crore** over **seven years**, for **exploration, mining, processing, overseas acquisitions and R&D**.
- **Mines and Minerals Act Amendments (2023, 2025):**
  - The **Centre** can **auction critical mineral blocks**.
  - Funding for **overseas acquisitions** and **recovery from mining waste**.
- **Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme: ₹1,500 crore (2025–31)**, for recovery from **e-waste, batteries and industrial waste**; target **400 kilotonnes by 2031**.
- **Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL):** Secures **overseas minerals**, e.g., **lithium blocks in Argentina**.

Why Auctions Alone Are Not Enough

- **Refining Bottleneck: Raw ore** must be processed before use. **China's dominance** comes from **refining**, not just mining.

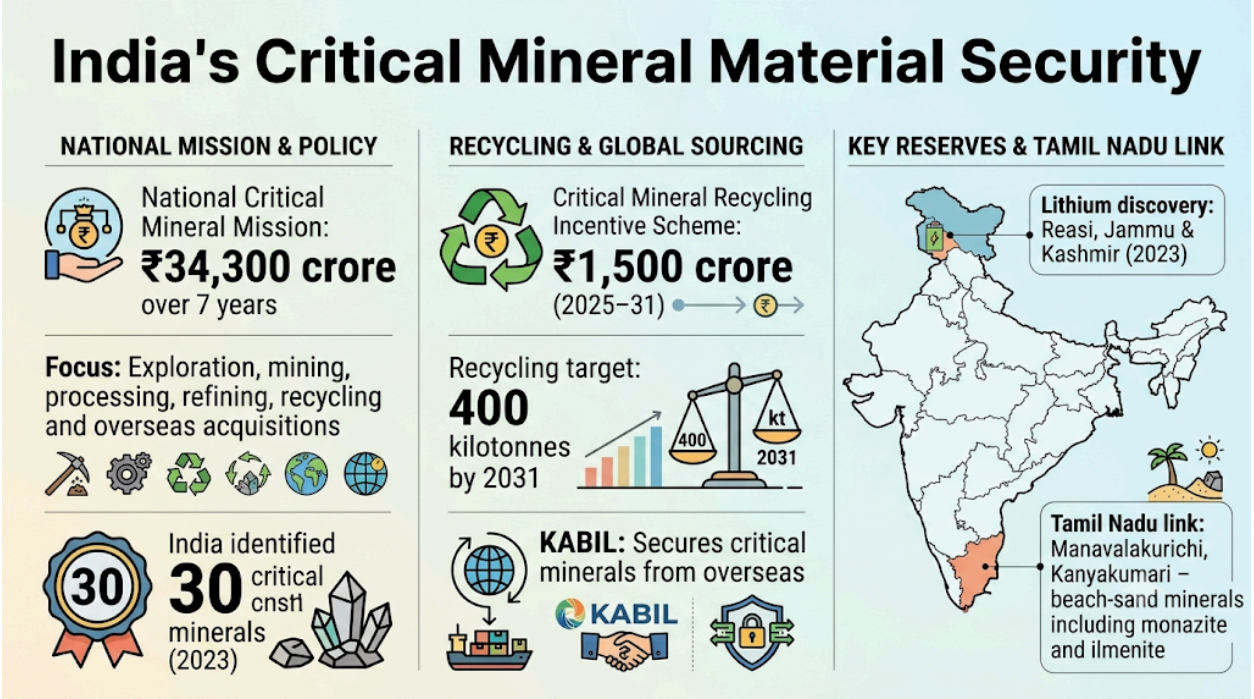
- **Slow New Mines: Clearances, land and infrastructure** take years.
- **Import Dependence: Near-total** for **processed lithium, cobalt, nickel** and **rare-earth magnets**.

Challenges

- **No Midstream Refining:** No **commercial-scale refining plants**, so ores may be **exported for processing** and **re-imported**.
- **Fragmented E-Waste Recycling:**
  - **3.8 million tonnes** of e-waste in **2024**.
  - The **informal sector** limits access for **formal recyclers**.
- **Changing Battery Chemistry:** Shifts between **LFP** and **NMC** batteries change which minerals matter, making **stockpiling risky**.
- **Export Bans:** Sudden curbs on **rare-earth magnets** disrupt **auto** and **clean-energy manufacturing**.

Do You Know?

- **India's Critical Minerals List (2023): 30 minerals**.
- **Lithium** discovered in **Reasi, Jammu and Kashmir (2023)**.
- **Minerals Security Partnership** – a **United States-led group**; India joined in **2023**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **IREL (India) Limited** at **Manavalakurichi (Kanyakumari)** processes **beach-sand minerals** (**monazite, ilmenite, rutile, zircon**), a source of **rare earths**.
  - **Tamil Nadu** also hosts **EV battery** and **electronics manufacturing**.



Topic: Modern Indian History

Rani Lakshmibai – 198th Birth Anniversary

Context

- The **Prime Minister** paid tribute to **Rani Lakshmibai, Queen of Jhansi**, on her **198th birth anniversary (19 November)**.

Who She Was



- The **Maharani** of the **Maratha-ruled princely state of Jhansi** (now in **Uttar Pradesh**).
- One of the foremost **military leaders** and **symbols of resistance** in the **Revolt of 1857**.

Early Life

- **Born: 19 November 1828**, in **Varanasi**, as **Manikarnika Tambe**.
- **Parents: Moropant Tambe** and **Bhagirathi Sapre**.
- Raised at **Peshwa Baji Rao II's** court in **Bithoor**, alongside **Nana Sahib** and **Tatya Tope**.
- Trained in **horse-riding, swordsmanship, archery and shooting**.
- Married **Raja Gangadhar Rao Newalkar** of Jhansi in **1842**; renamed **Lakshmibai**.
- **Adopted Son:** After their son died (**1851**), the Raja adopted **Damodar Rao** shortly before his own death (**November 1853**).
- **Annexation: Lord Dalhousie** refused to recognise **Damodar Rao** and **annexed Jhansi (1854)** under the **Doctrine of Lapse**.
- **Famous Words: "Main apni Jhansi nahin doongi"** ("I shall not give up my Jhansi").

Role in 1857

- Took control of **Jhansi**, raised an army of about **14,000** and strengthened **fortifications**.
- **Women's Unit:** Formed the **Durga Dal**, linked with **Jhalkari Bai** and **Mundar**. It inspired the **INA's Rani of Jhansi Regiment**.
- **Defence of Jhansi (March–April 1858):** Resisted **Sir Hugh Rose's** forces, then escaped with **Damodar Rao**.
- **Capture of Gwalior:** Joined **Tatya Tope** at **Kalpi** and helped capture **Gwalior** in **June 1858**.

Last Days

- **Battle of Kotah-ki-Serai (June 1858):** She led her troops near **Gwalior** against **Sir Hugh Rose**.
- **Death:** Fell in battle on **17–18 June 1858**.
- **Sir Hugh Rose** praised her **bravery and leadership**.

Do You Know?

- **Doctrine of Lapse – Lord Dalhousie (1848–56)** used it to annex **Satara (1848)**, **Jhansi (1854)**, **Nagpur (1854)** and others.
- **INA's Rani of Jhansi Regiment (1943)** – led by **Captain Lakshmi Sahgal**.
- **Subhadra Kumari Chauhan's** poem **"Jhansi ki Rani"** – "Khoob ladi mardani..."
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **Captain Lakshmi Sahgal** was born in **Madras (Chennai)**.
  - **Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga** fought the British even earlier, in the **1780s**.

Topic: Awards and Honor

International Children's Peace Prize 2026

Context

- **17-year-old Colombian climate activist Francisco Javier Vera Manzanares** won the **22nd International Children's Peace Prize**.
- **Presented by: Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi**, at the **Peace Palace, The Hague**.

About the Prize

- An **annual global award** for a child who has made an extraordinary contribution to **children's rights**; seen as the **youth equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize**.
- **Founded: 2005**, by **Marc Dullaert**, Chair of the **KidsRights Foundation (Amsterdam)**.
- **Aim:** Recognise children as **changemakers**, not **passive victims**.

About the 2026 Winner

- Founder of **Guardianes por la Vida**.
- **UN Child Advisor** on **climate rights**.
- Campaigned for **Colombia's ratification** of the **Escazú Agreement (2024)**.

Key Features

- Presented by **Nobel Peace laureates** (e.g., **Kailash Satyarthi** in **2026**; earlier **Desmond Tutu**).
- **Nkosi Statuette:** Named after child activist **Nkosi Johnson**, plus an **education grant**.
- **€100,000 Project Fund:** For Francisco's plan to train **20,000 children** in **climate justice and human rights**.
- **Selection:** An **expert committee**; **280 nominations** from **57 countries** in **2026**.

Do You Know?

- **Malala Yousafzai** won this prize in **2013**, before her **Nobel (2014)**.
- **Escazú Agreement (2018)** – a **Latin America and Caribbean treaty** on **environmental rights** and protecting **environmental defenders**.

- **Kailash Satyarthi** – **Nobel Peace Prize 2014**; founder of **Bachpan Bachao Andolan**.

Deendayal Port (Kandla), Gujarat

Context

- **Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla**, won **"Major Port of the Year"** at the **13th Samudra Manthan Awards** in **Mumbai**.

About

- One of India's **Major Ports**, under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**.
- An **all-weather natural tidal port**, and **India's largest State-owned major port** by **cargo volume**.
- **Location:**
  - **Kandla Creek**, on the **northern shore** of the **Gulf of Kutch**, **Kutch district, Gujarat**.
  - Its **offshore oil terminal** is at **Vadinar**.

History

- **1930:** A jetty at **Old Kandla** built by **Maharao Khengarji III of Kutch**.
- **After Partition:** Developed to replace **Karachi Port**.
- **Nehru** laid the foundation in **January 1952**.
- It became a **Major Port** on **8 April 1955**.
- **2017:** Renamed **Deendayal Port**, after **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**.
- **2021:** Became the **Deendayal Port Authority** under the **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021**.

Key Features

- **All-Weather Harbour:** Sheltered in **Kandla Creek**, enabling **24×7 operations**.
- **Multi-Cargo Hub:**
  - **Containers**, **dry cargo**, **crude oil** and **chemicals**.
  - **16 cargo berths**, **6–7 oil jetties**, **Vadinar facilities**.
  - **23 lakh+ kilolitres** of **liquid storage**.
- **Record Cargo:** Crossed **150 million tonnes** in **2025–26**.
- **Public-Private Partnerships at Tuna Tekra:**
  - A **mega container terminal** with **DP World**.
  - A **₹2,276.06 crore multipurpose terminal** with **Essar Ports**.
- **Near India's First SEZ: 9 km** from the **Kandla Special Economic Zone** – **India's and Asia's first Export Processing Zone (1965)**.

TIME100 Next India 2026 – Nine Indian Sportspersons Recognised

Context

- **TIME Magazine (United States)**, in partnership with **Reliance**, released its **first TIME100 Next India list** in **November 2026**.
- **Coverage: 100 changemakers** through **98 entries**.
- **Five Categories: Innovators**, **Phenoms**, **Leaders**, **Advocates**, **Artists**.
- **Purpose:** Recognises those **shaping India's future**.

Notable Honourees

Category	Names
Artists	Alia Bhatt, Jitendra Kumar, Samantha Ruth Prabhu
Phenoms	Ali Fazal, Diya Joukani, Sai Pallavi
Innovators	Aryan Khan, Payal Kapadia, Theja Rio
Leaders	Pawan Kumar Chandana, Nayanthara, Diljit Dosanjh
Advocates	Kuldeep Dantewadia, Chintan Pandya, Sania Mirza

Nine Sportspersons

Name	Sport
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi	Cricket
Mirabai Chanu	Weightlifting
Kumkum Mohod	Archery
Lovlina Borgohain	Boxing
D. Gukesh	Chess
Vithya Ramraj	Athletics
Savita Punia	Hockey
Harmanpreet Kaur	Cricket
Sania Mirza	Tennis

- The sportspersons were recognised across **four categories**.

Do You Know?

- **TIME100 Next (global list)** – started in **2019**, for **rising stars**.
- **D. Gukesh** became the **youngest World Chess Champion** in **2024**, at **18**.
- **Payal Kapadia** won the **Cannes Grand Prix (2024)** for **"All We Imagine as Light."**
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - **D. Gukesh** is from **Chennai**.
  - **Vithya Ramraj (athletics)** is from **Coimbatore**.
  - **Nayanthara** and **Sai Pallavi** are leading **Tamil cinema** figures.

Topic: Appointments

Karthik Muralidharan Appointed ADB Chief Economist

Context

- The **Asian Development Bank** appointed Indian economist **Karthik Muralidharan** as **Chief Economist** and **Director General** of its **Economic Research and Development Impact Department**.
- **Effective: 1 July 2027**.
- **Succeeds: Albert Park**, in the post since **December 2021**.



About Karthik Muralidharan

- **Current Role: Tata Chancellor's Professor of Economics, University of California, San Diego**.
- **Career:**
  - **Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education (2007–08)**.
  - Joined **UC San Diego** as **Assistant Professor (2008)**; **Professor (2018)**.
  - Co-founded the **Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States**.
- **New Responsibilities:**
  - Lead ADB's **economic research**, **policy analysis** and **forecasting**.
  - Oversee the **Asian Development Outlook**.
- **Expertise: Public finance**, **education**, **health**, **social protection** and **governance**.
- **Book: "Accelerating India's Development: A State-Led Roadmap for Effective Governance" (2024)**.

About ADB

- **Established: 19 December 1966**.
- **HQ: Manila, Philippines**.
- **President: Masato Kanda**.

Do You Know?

- **Asian Development Outlook – ADB's flagship report** (**April**, with updates).
- **Indians Who Have Been Chief Economists of Global Bodies:**
  - **Kaushik Basu** and **Indermit Gill – World Bank**.
  - **Gita Gopinath** and **Raghuram Rajan – IMF**.
- **Japan** has always held the **ADB Presidency**.

Topic: Important Days

World Heritage Week – 19 to 25 November

- **Purpose:** Celebrate **India's cultural heritage** and encourage people to **explore monuments**.
- **Organised by:** The **Archaeological Survey of India**, under the **Ministry of Culture**.
- Part of the government's efforts to **preserve heritage** for **future generations**.

Related Day

- **World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) – 18 April**.
- Started by the **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**; approved by **UNESCO** in **1983**.

Do You Know?

- **India's UNESCO World Heritage Sites: 44 (as of 2025)**.
- **Archaeological Survey of India:** Founded in **1861** by **Alexander Cunningham**.
- **Tamil Nadu's World Heritage Sites:**
  - **Great Living Chola Temples** (**Thanjavur**, **Gangaikonda Cholapuram**, **Darasuram**).
  - **Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram**.
  - **Nilgiri Mountain Railway** (part of the **Mountain Railways of India**).

International Men's Day – 19 November

- **2026 Theme: "The Future Is Everyone."**

Do You Know?

- **19 November** is also:
  - **World Toilet Day (United Nations)**.
  - **Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary** (**National Integration Day**).
  - **Rani Lakshmibai's birth anniversary**.
- **International Women's Day: 8 March**.





Topic: Art and Culture

Karthigai Deepam

Context

- The **Supreme Court** permitted a **one-time ceremonial lamp lighting** at the **Deepathoon pillar** on **Thirupparankundram hill (Madurai)** for **Karthigai Deepam**.
- It **stayed** the broader **Madras High Court ruling**.

About the Festival

- An **ancient festival of lights**, celebrated mainly in **Tamil Nadu** (also parts of **Kerala**, **Karnataka**, **Sri Lanka**).
- **When:** On the **full moon** coinciding with the **Krittika nakshatra** in the Tamil month of **Karthigai (November–December)**.

History

- **Sangam Roots:** One of the **oldest Tamil festivals**, mentioned in **Akananuru** and **Narrinai** (about **200 BCE – 300 CE**) as **"Peruvizha"** (the great festival of lights).
- **Mythology:**
  - **Lord Shiva** appeared as an **infinite pillar of fire (Annamalaiyar)** to settle a dispute between **Brahma** and **Vishnu**.
  - **Lord Murugan** was nurtured by the **six Krittika maidens**.

Key Features

- **Agal Vilakku: Clay oil lamps** lit in homes, streets and temples.

- **Maha Deepam (Tiruvannamalai):** A huge **fire cauldron** lit atop the **2,668-ft Annamalai Hill** at the **Arunachaleswarar Temple**.
- **Sokkappanai: Bonfires of dried palm leaves**, representing **Shiva's column of light**.
- **Murugan Shrines:** Celebrated grandly at the **Arupadai Veedu (six abodes)**:
  - **Thirupparankundram**.
  - **Palani**.
  - **Tiruchendur**.
  - **Swamimalai**.
  - **Tiruttani**.
  - **Pazhamudircholai**.

The Thirupparankundram Case – Legal Facts

- **Heritage:** The **1,050-ft hill** has a **Murugan temple**, **Jain caves** and the **Sulthan Sikkandar Avulia Dargah**.
- **Earlier Rulings:**
  - A **1923 court decree** recognised **temple and Muslim property rights**.
  - A **1996 ruling** directed **Deepam lighting** near the **Uchipillaiyar Temple**.
- **The Dispute:** Petitioners call the hilltop pillar a **lamp structure**; the **Tamil Nadu government** considers it a **historical marker** or **Jain relic**.
- **Supreme Court Interim Order (2026):**
  - Allowed **one-time lighting** on **24 November** by **authorised temple officials**.
  - **Restricted public access**, balancing **religious practice**, **public order** and **heritage**.

Do You Know?

- **Thirupparankundram** – the **first of Murugan's Arupadai Veedu**; a **rock-cut cave temple (Pandya period)**.
- **Arunachaleswarar Temple (Tiruvannamalai)** – one of the **Pancha Bhoota Sthalams**, representing **fire (Agni)**.

International Highlights

First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum (New Delhi)

Context

- The **Prime Minister** inaugurated the **first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Civilisational Dialogue Forum** at **Purana Qila, New Delhi**, on **20 November 2026**.

About

- A **cultural, academic and heritage platform** under the **SCO**.

- **Origin:** Proposed by **PM Modi** at the **2025 SCO Summit (Tianjin, China)**; endorsed in the **Bishkek Declaration**.
- **Hosted by: Ministry of Culture** and **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- **SCO Members: India**, **China**, **Russia**, **Pakistan**, **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan**, **Uzbekistan**, **Iran**, **Belarus**.
- **Aim:** Celebrate **shared civilisational heritage** and **people-to-people ties**, in the spirit of **"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"** (The World Is One Family).

Key Features

- **Opening Show: "Civilisations in Conversation"** – music, dance and multimedia on **India–Eurasia links**.
- **"ASTITVA" Exhibition: Delhi's history** from **1200 BCE to 1200 CE** through artefacts.
- **"Anant" Pavilion:** A rare **18th-century Mahabharata scroll**.
- **Four Sessions:**
  - **Cultural expressions**.
  - **Shared art and architecture**.
  - **Linguistic heritage**.
  - **Monastic and philosophical traditions**.
- **Participants:** Scholars from **SCO members**, **observers** and **dialogue partners**.

Significance

- Boosts India's **soft power** via **Buddhist heritage**, **Silk Road** and **linguistic links**.
- Promotes **heritage cooperation** and **cultural tourism** despite **geopolitical differences**.

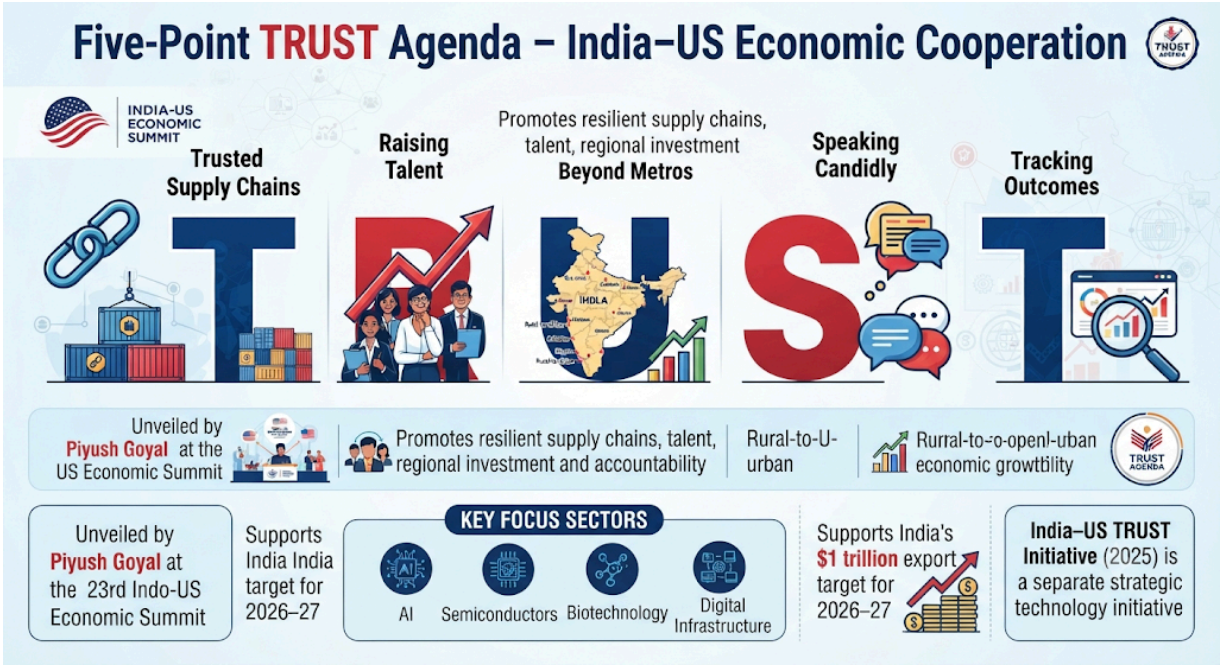
Do You Know?

- **SCO:** Founded in **2001 (Shanghai)**; HQ **Beijing**.
- **India** became a **full member** in **2017**.
- **Iran** joined in **2023**; **Belarus** in **2024**.
- **Purana Qila** – built by **Sher Shah Suri** and **Humayun (16th century)**; linked to **Indraprastha** of the **Mahabharata**.

Five-Point "TRUST" Agenda

Context

- **Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal** unveiled a **five-point "TRUST" agenda** at the **23rd Indo-US Economic Summit**, organised by the **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce** in **New Delhi**.
- A **bilateral economic framework** to deepen **India–US commercial ties** among **governments, businesses and universities**.



- **Aim:**
  - **Resilient supply chains** and **inclusive growth**.
  - Support for **Viksit Bharat**.
  - The **$1 trillion export target** for **2026–27**.

The Five Points

Letter	Meaning	Focus
T	**Trusted Supply Chains**	Reliable, transparent trade; backed by the **Quad Business Leaders' Forum**
R	**Raising Talent**	**Dual degrees, joint research, US campuses in India**
U	**Unlocking Bharat Beyond Metros**	Investment in **Northeast and eastern States**; **MSMEs, artisans, farmers** in global trade
S	**Speaking Candidly**	**Open dialogue** on **regulatory and tariff issues**
T	**Tracking Outcomes**	**Measurable progress** and **accountability**

- **Technology:** Cooperation in **AI**, **semiconductors**, **biotechnology** and **digital infrastructure**.

Significance

- **Stable, rules-based trade** that reduces **supply-chain risks**.
- Brings **investment and technology** to **smaller cities**.

Do You Know?

- The **United States** is **India's largest trading partner**.
- **India–US TRUST Initiative (2025) – "Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology"**, a **technology partnership** (different from this **economic TRUST agenda**).
- **Indo-American Chamber of Commerce:** Founded in **1968**.