DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 13.11.2026

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Director,
Department of Employment and Training.

TamilNadu Highlights

New Insights into Ancient South India's Food Culture – Keeladi and Gottiprolu

Context

- A new study of **pottery shards** from **Keeladi (Tamil Nadu)** and **Gottiprolu (Andhra Pradesh)** shows **dairy** and **advanced plant processing** practices between the **6th and 1st century BCE**.
- It gives, for the **first time**, **direct chemical evidence** of **cow milk consumption** and **plant processing** in **ancient South India**.

Sites and Periods

Site	State	Period
Keeladi	Tamil Nadu	6th – 2nd century BCE
Gottiprolu	Andhra Pradesh	2nd – 1st century BCE

Key Findings

- **Keeladi**
  - **70 animal bone fragments** were analysed.
  - Mostly **cattle**, **buffaloes** and **goats**.
  - Also **wild animals – antelope** and **wild boar** – with **cut marks**, showing **hunting** supplemented the diet.
  - **Organic residues:** A complex mix of molecules, notably **peanut residues**, indicating **sophisticated plant processing**.
- **Gottiprolu**
  - Remains of **cow/ox**, **buffalo**, **sheep**, **goat**, **horse**, **dog** and **pig**.
  - **Most common cattle: Humped cattle (Bos indicus)**.
- These societies depended mainly on **agriculture**, **cattle rearing** and **dairying**.

Significance

- **First direct biomolecular evidence of dairying** in **South India**. Dairying was earlier thought to be limited to **North India** and the **Indus Valley**.
- Moves beyond **structural artefacts** to **direct chemical evidence of diet**.
- Offers a method to detect **degraded residues** that older techniques miss.
- Can also reveal **trade networks** and **mobility**, even when physical remains don't survive.

About Keeladi

- A prosperous **Sangam-age urban settlement** with **brick structures** and **thriving trade**.
- **18,000 artefacts** found, including:

- **Potsherds** with **Tamil Brahmi inscriptions**.
- Evidence of **weaving**, **dyeing** and **glass-bead making**.
- **Gold ornaments**, **ivory bangles** and **dice**.

About Gottiprolu

- A **maritime trade centre**, possibly with an **army**, about **2,000 years ago**.
- Large settlement with a **massive brick enclosure**.
- **Interlocking terracotta pipes** and **drainage**, showing strong **civic amenities**.

Comparison

- **Indus Valley Civilisation: Pottery research** already showed a diet of **dairy**, **meat** and **plants** as far back as **2500 BCE**.



Do You Know?

- **Keeladi:**
  - Located in **Sivaganga district**, on the banks of the **Vaigai River**, near **Madurai**.
  - First excavated by the **Archaeological Survey of India (2014–2017)**, led by **K. Amarnath Ramakrishna**.
  - Excavated by the **Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology** since **2018**.
  - **Carbon dating** places the site around the **6th century BCE**, pushing back the **Sangam age**.
  - The **Keeladi Museum** opened in **2023**.

- **Tamil Brahmi** – the **earliest script** used to write **Tamil**.
- **Other Tamil Nadu Sites:**
  - **Adichanallur**, **Sivagalai** – **Iron Age**.
  - **Kodumanal** – **trade and industry**.
  - **Arikamedu** – **Indo-Roman trade**.
  - **Gudiyam** – **prehistoric** (covered on **13 November**).

Topic: Environment

Climate Change Performance Index 2027 – India Slips to 28th

Context

- India slipped **five places** to **28th** in the **Climate Change Performance Index 2027**, released at **COP31, Antalya, Türkiye**.

About the Index

- An **independent annual ranking** of the **climate performance** of **major emitters**.
- **Published since: 2005**, at each **United Nations Climate Change Conference**.
- **Published by:**
  - **Germanwatch**.
  - **NewClimate Institute**.
  - **Climate Action Network International**.

Criteria – 14 Indicators in 4 Categories

Category	Weight
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	40%
Renewable Energy	20%
Energy Use	20%
Climate Policy	20%

Key Features of the 2027 Index

- **Top Three Spots Vacant:** No country is on a **1.5°C-compatible path** in all categories.
- **Five Ratings: Very High**, **High**, **Medium**, **Low**, **Very Low**.
- **G20 Focus:** The **G20** produces over **75% of global emissions**. **10 G20 economies** were rated **"Very Low"**.

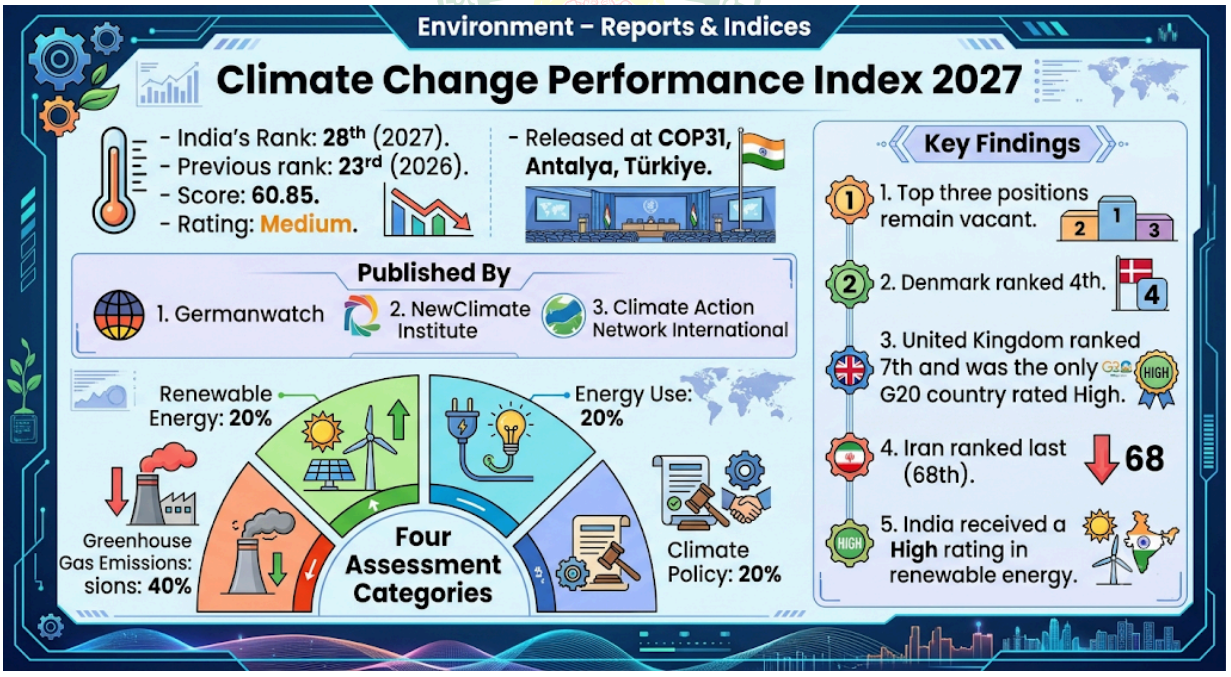
- **India's Mixed Record:**

- **"High" in Renewable Energy** for reaching **50% non-fossil installed capacity** ahead of its **2030 target**.
- But a gap remains between **installed capacity** and **actual clean generation**, due to **storage bottlenecks** and **solar curtailment**.

- **Experts:** Inputs from over **450 national climate experts**.

Rankings

- **Top:**
  - **4th – Denmark** (score **84.05**; top-ranked country for the **sixth year**).
  - **5th – Lithuania**.
  - **6th – Luxembourg**.
  - **7th – United Kingdom** (the **only G20 country** rated **"High"**).
- **India:**
  - **28th**, score **60.85**, rated **"Medium"**.
  - Down from **23rd (2026)** and **10th (2025)** – a fall of **18 places** in **two years**.
- **Bottom:**
  - **66th – Russia**.
  - **67th – United States**.
  - **68th – Iran (last)**.



Do You Know?

- **Germanwatch** also publishes the **Global Climate Risk Index**.
- **India's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2022):**
  - **45% cut** in **emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product** by **2030** (from **2005 levels**).
  - **50%** of **installed power capacity** from **non-fossil sources** by **2030**.

- **Net Zero Target:** India aims for **2070** (announced at **COP26, Glasgow**).

Topic: Awards and Honor

Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025–26

Context

- The **President of India** presented the **Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025–26** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- **60 national awards** for India's **cleanest Urban Local Bodies**.

About Swachh Survekshan

- The **world's largest annual urban cleanliness survey**.
- Under **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban**, run by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.
- **Started: 2016**, covering **73 cities**.
- **10th edition (2025–26)** covers **4,751 cities**.

Assessment

- **43 indicators** across **10 domains**.
- **Fully digital**, **GPS-monitored**, with over **3,000 assessors**.
- Feedback from **2.70 crore citizens**.

Key Features

- **"Swachh Shehar Jodi":**
  - Based on the **Guru–Shishya ("Each One – Teach One")** idea.
  - **70 mentor cities** paired with **191 mentee cities**, judged on **combined performance**.
- **New Ecological Categories (first time):**
  - **Clean Himalayan City**.
  - **Swachh River Front Town**.
  - **Swachh Coastal Town**.
- **Small Towns Rising:** Over **1,700 smaller bodies** improved; over **350 cities** jumped **500+ ranks**.
- **PRAGATI-50: 50 cities** to be developed as **technology-driven Model Clean Cities**.
- **National Milestones:**
  - **80%** of **urban waste processed**.
  - Over **96% door-to-door collection**.
  - **11,000 acres** reclaimed from **legacy dumpsites**.

Major Winners

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Super Swachh League	**Navi Mumbai** (Maharashtra)	**Surat** (Gujarat)	**Vijayawada** (Andhra Pradesh)
Million-Plus Cities	**Visakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh)	**Jabalpur** (Madhya Pradesh)	**Lucknow** (Uttar Pradesh)
Swachh Shehar Jodi	**Ahmedabad – Sanand**	**Indore – Depalpur**	**Tirupati – Kuppam**
Clean Himalayan Cities	**Rudrapur** (Uttarakhand)	**Jammu**	**Shopian** (Jammu and Kashmir)
River Front Towns	**Rewa** (Madhya Pradesh)	**Bilaspur** (Chhattisgarh)	**Varanasi** (Uttar Pradesh)
Coastal Towns	**Puri** (Odisha)	**Alappuzha** (Kerala)	**Ratnagiri** (Maharashtra)

- **State First Swachh City:** Given to **30 cities**, one for each **State and Union Territory**.

Do You Know?

- **Indore** topped India's **cleanest city** ranking for **seven years in a row (2017–2023)** and has now moved into the **Super Swachh League** and the **mentor role**.
- **Swachh Bharat Mission** – launched on **2 October 2014**. **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0** runs from **2021 to 2026**, aiming for **"Garbage-Free Cities"**.

Topic: Economy

Stand-Up India Scheme Extended to 2031

Context

- The **Union Cabinet** extended the **Stand-Up India Scheme** for **five years**, until **31 March 2031**.
- **Target:** At least **2.5 lakh additional beneficiaries**.

About the Scheme

- A **credit scheme** run by the **Department of Financial Services**, **Ministry of Finance**.
- Helps **Scheduled Commercial Banks** lend to **underserved entrepreneurs** for **greenfield (new) enterprises**.

Background

- **Launched: 5 April 2016**.
- **Reach:** Loans to over **75 lakh women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs** (as stated).

Aim

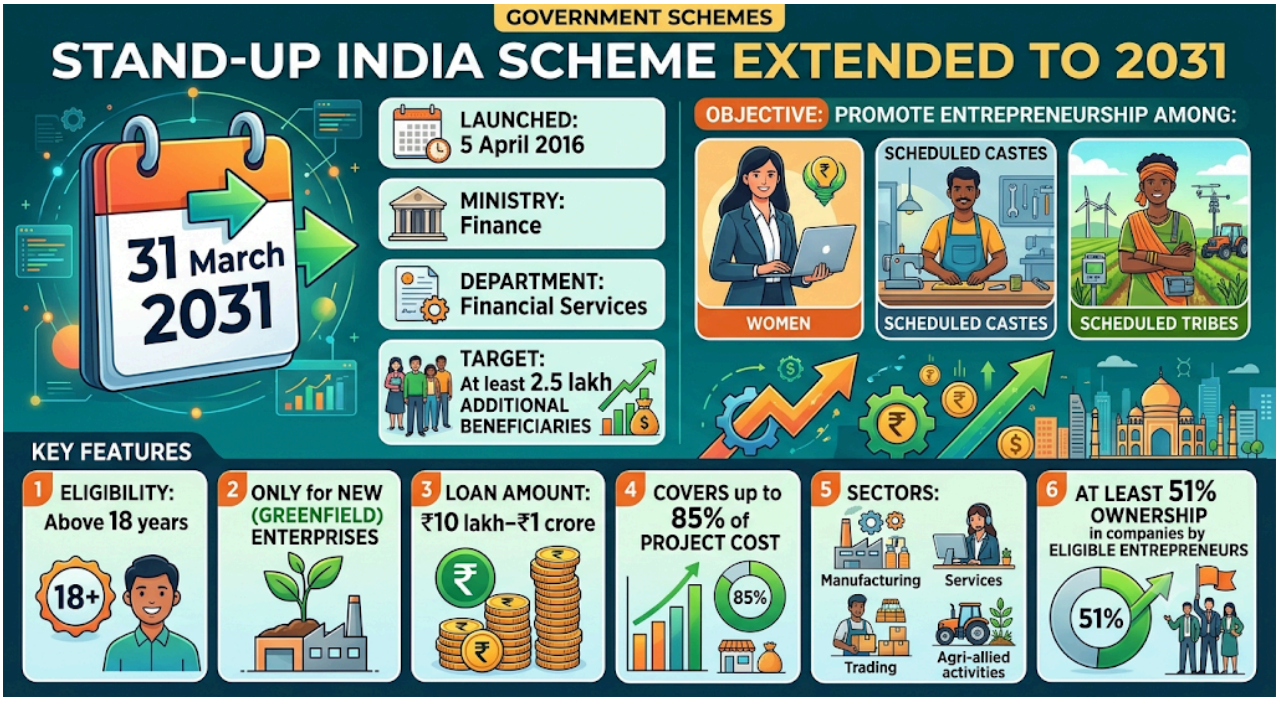
- Promote **entrepreneurship** and **jobs** among **women**, **Scheduled Castes** and **Scheduled Tribes** through easy **bank finance**.

Key Features

- **Eligible:**
  - **Women**, **Scheduled Caste** and **Scheduled Tribe** entrepreneurs aged **above 18**, for **new enterprises only**.
  - In **companies**, at least **51% of the stake** must be held by such entrepreneurs.
- **Loan: ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore**, covering up to **85% of project cost** (**composite or term loan**).
- **Sectors: Manufacturing**, **services**, **trading** and **agri-allied activities**.
- **Credit Guarantee:**
  - **85% coverage**.
  - New **₹4,111 crore corpus** for the **Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand-Up India**.
  - **Fee** of **0.50%**.
- **Branch Target:** Every **bank branch** must support at least **one Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe borrower** and **one woman borrower**.
- A **digital portal** offers **handholding**.

Significance

- Removes **collateral barriers**.
- Promotes **self-employment** and **gender equality** in business.



Do You Know?

- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (2015):**
  - Loans for **micro-enterprises**: **Shishu**, **Kishore**, **Tarun** and **Tarun Plus**.
  - Up to **₹20 lakh**.
- **Startup India** was launched on **16 January 2016**.

Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for Rabi 2026–27

Context

- The **Union Cabinet** approved **Nutrient Based Subsidy rates** for **phosphatic and potassic fertilisers** for **Rabi 2026–27 (1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027)**.
- **Allocation: ₹62,370.02 crore** – up **₹24,417.73 crore** over the previous Rabi season.

About the Scheme

- A **central sector subsidy scheme** run by the **Department of Fertilizers**, **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers**.
- A **fixed subsidy per kg of nutrient** is given on each **phosphatic and potassic fertiliser grade**.

Background

- **Started: 1 April 2010**, replacing the **product-based Concession Scheme**.
- **Purpose:** Correct **soil nutrient imbalance** caused by **overuse of cheap urea**.

Nutrients Covered

- **Nitrogen**, **Phosphorus**, **Potash** and **Sulphur**.
- **Extra subsidy** for fortification with **boron** and **zinc**.
- **Urea** is outside the scheme; it has a separate **price-control system**.

Key Features

- **Nutrient-Based Rates: Fixed per-kg subsidy** for each nutrient. Total subsidy depends on the fertiliser's **nutrient content**.
- **28 Grades** covered, including:
  - **Di-Ammonium Phosphate**.
  - **Muriate of Potash**.
  - **Single Super Phosphate**.
  - **NPKS complexes**.
- **Market-Based Prices:** Companies fix the **Maximum Retail Price**; the government pays the **fixed subsidy**.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer:** Subsidy paid only after **verified sales** through **Aadhaar-based Point-of-Sale machines**.
- Incentives for **fortified** and **customised fertilisers**.

Significance

- Protects farmers from **global price shocks**.
- Promotes **balanced fertiliser use** and **soil health**.

Do You Know?

- **Ideal NPK Ratio: 4:2:1**. India's actual ratio is much higher in **nitrogen**.
- **Nano Urea** and **Nano DAP** – developed by the **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative**.
- **PM-PRANAM** – encourages States to reduce **chemical fertiliser** use.
- **Soil Health Card Scheme** – launched in **2015**.
- **Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu** has **fertiliser units** at **Tuticorin (SPIC)** and **Ennore/Manali**.

Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units Extended to 2031

Context

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the **Prime Minister**, extended the **Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units** for **five years**, until **31 March 2031**.
- **New corpus: ₹5,000 crore**.

About the Fund

- A **government-backed credit guarantee** managed by the **National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (Ministry of Finance)**.
- Protects lenders against defaults on **collateral-free micro-loans**.

Background

- **Launched: January 2016**, to support lending under **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**.
- **Mudra Loans (up to September 2026):** Over **36 crore loans** worth **₹43.34 lakh crore**.

Key Features

- **Coverage:**
  - **Mudra loans** up to **₹20 lakh** (including the new **Tarun Plus** category).
  - **Jan Dhan overdrafts** up to **₹10,000**.
  - **Self-Help Group loans** with a portfolio of **₹10–20 lakh**.
- **Lower Fees:**
  - **Mudra guarantee fee** cut from **1.00% to 0.75%** a year.
  - **Self-Help Groups** pay **0.25%** in the **first year** and **0.50%** after that.
- Aligned with the **16th Finance Commission cycle**: **2026–27 to 2030–31**.
- **Portfolio-Level Guarantee** for **faster claim settlement**.

Significance

- Expected to mobilise about **₹12.6 lakh crore** in credit over **five years**.
- Reduces reliance on **moneylenders** and promotes **financial inclusion**.

Do You Know?

- **Mudra – Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency**, launched on **8 April 2015**.
- **Mudra Loan Categories:**

Category	Amount
Shishu	Up to **₹50,000**
Kishore	**₹50,000 – ₹5 lakh**
Tarun	**₹5 – 10 lakh**
Tarun Plus	**₹10 – 20 lakh**

- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** – launched on **28 August 2014**.



Topic: Science & Technology

Export Ban on Lithium-Ion Battery "Black Mass"

Context

- The **Directorate General of Foreign Trade** prohibited **exports** of **lithium-ion battery black mass** (**ITC(HS) Code 85491400**) with **immediate effect**.
- Its policy status changed from **"Free"** to **"Prohibited"**.

About Black Mass

- A **dark, fine powder** obtained after **discharging**, **dismantling** and **shredding** used **lithium-ion batteries** and **battery scrap**.

- Works as a concentrated **"secondary ore"** of **critical metals**.

How It Is Made

- **Shredding:** Used batteries are safely **discharged** and **shredded** to prevent fires.
- **Separation: Magnetic**, **density** and **eddy-current** methods remove metals and plastics, leaving **black mass**.
- **Refining: Hydrometallurgical** or **pyrometallurgical** processes recover **battery-grade lithium**, **cobalt** and **nickel**.

Key Characteristics

- **Rich in Critical Minerals: Lithium**, **cobalt**, **nickel**, **manganese**, **graphite**.
- **Higher Concentration** than **natural ores** – uses **less energy and water** to process.
- **Hazardous:** Contains **electrolytes** and **lithium hexafluorophosphate**, posing **fire and toxicity risks**.
- **Variable Content:** Depends on **battery chemistry**:
  - **Nickel Manganese Cobalt**.
  - **Lithium Cobalt Oxide**.
  - **Lithium Iron Phosphate**.

Role in the Circular Economy

- Turns **scattered waste** into **mineral-rich feedstock**.
- **Urban Mining** – reduces **fresh mining**.
- Supplies domestic **Advanced Chemistry Cell battery factories**.
- Keeps **value within India**.

Current Status in India

- **Notification No. 49/2026-27** banned exports to ensure supply for **domestic recyclers**.
- **National Critical Mineral Mission: ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme (September 2025)** for **recycling battery waste** and **e-waste**.
- **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022:** Mandate **Extended Producer Responsibility** and **minimum recycled content**.

Do You Know?

- **National Critical Mineral Mission** – approved in **2025**.
- India's **critical minerals list**: **30 critical minerals** (identified in **2023**).
- **Production-Linked Incentive for Advanced Chemistry Cell Batteries (2021): ₹18,100 crore** for **50 GWh** capacity.
- **Capex Support Scheme for Critical Mineral Processing (₹2,814 crore)** – covered on **5 November**.

Topic: Defence

Exercise Sea Vigil-26

Context

- The **fifth edition** of the **pan-India coastal defence exercise "Sea Vigil-26"** is under way.
- **Lead Agency: Indian Navy**.

About the Exercise

- India's **largest biennial national coastal defence exercise**.
- Tests the entire **coastal security system** from the **shoreline** to the **Exclusive Economic Zone**.

Background

- **Conceived: 2018**.
- **First held: January 2019**.
- Evaluates the **coastal security architecture** set up after the **26/11 Mumbai attacks (2008)**.
- Serves as a precursor to the Navy's **Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)**.

Aim

- Assess **preparedness**, **inter-agency coordination** and **standard procedures** against **seaborne threats**.

Participants

- **Indian Navy**.
- **Coast Guard**.
- **Marine Police**.
- **Customs**.
- **Central Industrial Security Force**.
- **Port authorities**.
- **Fishing communities**.

Key Features

- **Two Phases:**
  - **Coastal Defence and Security Readiness Evaluation – infrastructure audit**.
  - **Sea Phase – simulated threats**.
- **Coverage: 7,516+ km coastline** across **9 coastal States** and **4 Union Territories**, including islands.
- **Threat Scenarios:**
  - **Infiltration**.
  - **Hijacking**.
  - **Attacks on offshore platforms**.
  - **Sabotage of ports and nuclear plants**.

- **Fisherfolk Role:** Act as **"eyes and ears"**, with **biometric ID** and **vessel transponders** tested.

Significance

- Improves **joint command** and **intelligence sharing**.
- Protects **ports**, **offshore energy**, **undersea cables** and **sea lanes**.

Do You Know?

- **Coastline Revision:** India's coastline was re-measured as about **11,098.81 km** (covered on **10 November**). **7,516 km** is the **older figure**.
- **Coastal Security Scheme** – started in **2005**.
- **Sagar Kavach** – a **State-level coastal security drill**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:**
  - Coastline of about **1,076 km** (**second-longest**).
  - **Coastal security** is handled by the **Tamil Nadu Coastal Security Group**.

Topic: Polity

Election Commission Extends Model Code of Conduct Curbs to Retired Government Officials

Context

- The **Election Commission of India** said that restrictions under the **Model Code of Conduct** for **serving government employees** will also apply to:
  - **Retired government officials**.
  - Other individuals engaged by **State and Union Territory governments** in various capacities.
- **Date: 10 November 2026**, through a letter to the **Chief Secretaries**.

Why?

- Complaints that **retired officials** engaged by States were convening meetings of **election officials** during the **poll code period**.

Key Directions

- They must maintain **political neutrality**.
- They must not **campaign or canvass** in elections.
- They cannot use their **names**, **positions** or **authority** to favour any party or individual.
- The **Code** already applies to all **organisations**, **committees**, **corporations** and **commissions** funded wholly or partly by the government, and their employees. Until now, however, there were no specific guidelines for **re-employed retired officials**.

About the Model Code of Conduct

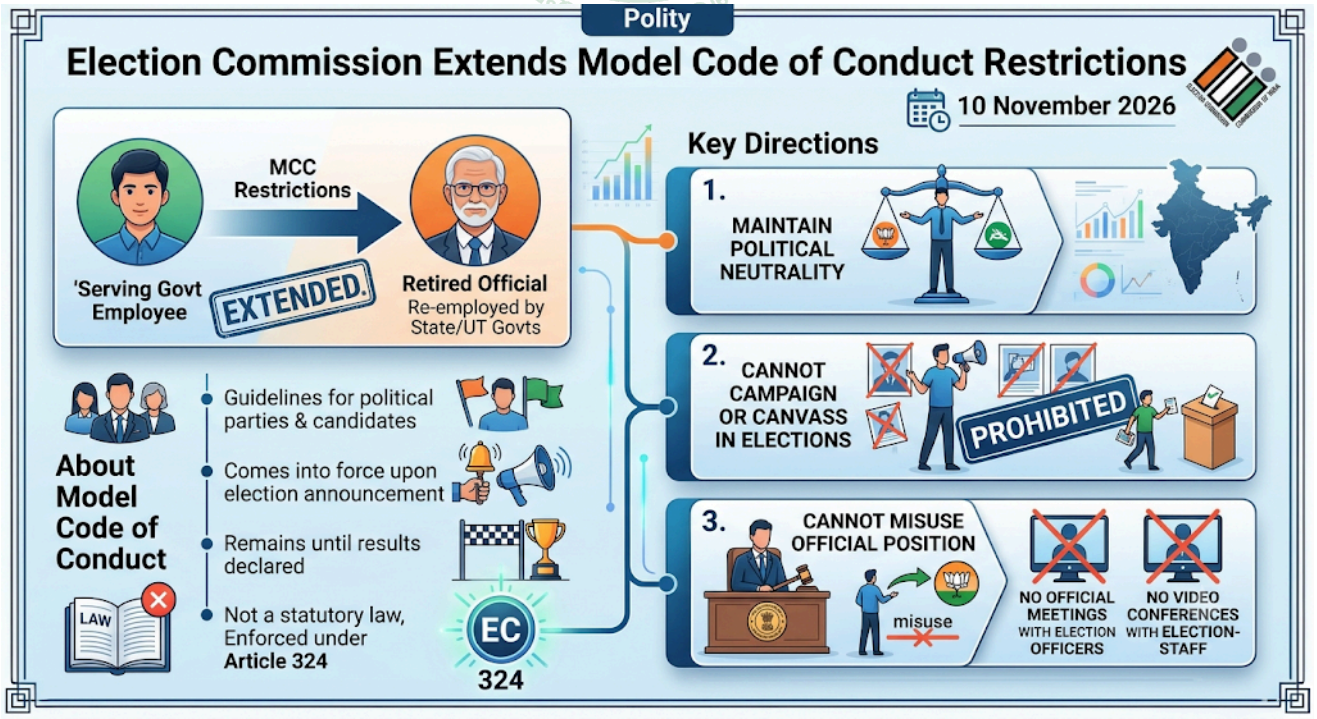
- A set of **guidelines** issued by the **Election Commission of India** for **political parties** and **candidates** on conduct during **campaigning and polling**.
- Comes into force when **elections are announced**, and stays until **results are declared**.
- **Not a law** – it is based on **consensus among parties**.
- It is enforced using the Commission's powers under **Article 324**.

Significance

- Closes a **loophole** in **neutrality rules**.
- Prevents **misuse of official machinery** through **re-employed officials**.
- Strengthens **free and fair elections**.

Do You Know?

- **Origin:** First issued as the **"Minimum Code of Conduct"** on **26 September 1968**, during the **1968–69 mid-term elections**.
- **Kerala** first used a **code of conduct** during its **1960 Assembly elections**.
- **Article 324** – gives the **Election Commission superintendence, direction and control** of elections.
- **Election Commission: Chief Election Commissioner** plus **two Election Commissioners**.
  - Appointed under the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.



Topic: Defence

Kulgam Terror Attack

Context

- **Three Central Reserve Police Force personnel** of the **46 Battalion** were injured when **motorcycle-borne terrorists** fired at a **security checkpoint** in **Kulgam district, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The attack came on the same day the **Lieutenant Governor** visited the district to open a **cultural festival**.

Key Details

- About **30 rounds** were fired in **15 seconds** at **close range**, and the attack was caught on **CCTV**.
- **Injured:**
  - **Constables Rakesh Dass** and **Santosh Chandru**.
  - **Head Constable Somveer Singh**.
- The critically injured jawan was airlifted to **Badamibagh Army Hospital, Srinagar**.
- **Cordon-and-search operations** were launched across **south Kashmir**.

Recent Incidents

- **Kulgam Brick Kiln Attack: Two migrant workers** from **Chhattisgarh** killed.
- **Anantnag: Police constable** shot.
- **Sukma (Chhattisgarh): Four CRPF personnel** injured in an **IED blast**.
- **Reasi** and **Kathua: Ambushes** on **convoys** and **pilgrim buses** south of the **Pir Panjal range**.

Why Attacks Persist

- **Cross-Border Support: Drones** drop **arms and ammunition** in **Punjab** and **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **"Hybrid" Militancy: Part-time radicalised youth** with **no police record** strike and blend back into society.
- **Targeting Events:** Attacks timed with **official visits** and **festivals** to undermine **normalcy** (for example, the **Veshow Festival**, opened by **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha**).
- **Difficult Terrain: Dense forests** and **caves** in **Pir Panjal** hide **foreign militants**.

Counter-Terror Initiatives

- **Zero-tolerance policy** with **intelligence-sharing** through the **Multi-Agency Centre**.
- **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System:**
  - **Smart fencing**.
  - **Thermal imagers**.

- **Anti-drone radars**.

- **Village Defence Guards** – **armed local volunteers**.
- Crackdown on **terror financing** and **Over Ground Workers** under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act** and through **National Investigation Agency property attachments**.

Do You Know?

- **Multi-Agency Centre** – set up under the **Intelligence Bureau** after **Kargil (1999)**.
- **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967** – amended in **2019** to allow designating **individuals as terrorists**.
- **Article 370** was abrogated on **5 August 2019**.
- **Kulgam** – in **south Kashmir**, near **Anantnag** and **Shopian**.
- **Central Reserve Police Force milestone (4 November): 12 months** without an **operational fatality**.

Topic: Important Days

National Legal Services Day – 9 November 2026

- **Why this date:** The **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** came into force on **9 November 1995**.
- **Purpose:** Promote **legal awareness** and **equal access to justice**, especially for **disadvantaged sections**.
- **2026** marks the **32nd observance**.
- **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987:**
  - Enacted in **October 1987**.
  - Provides **free and competent legal services** to eligible **weaker sections**.
  - Aims to ensure **equal access to justice**.

Do You Know?

- **Article 39A** (added by the **42nd Amendment, 1976**) – the State shall provide **free legal aid** and **equal justice**.
- **Structure of Legal Services Authorities:**

Level	Body	Patron-in-Chief / Chairman
National	**National Legal Services Authority**	**Chief Justice of India** (Patron-in-Chief); **senior-most Supreme Court judge** (Executive Chairman)
State	**State Legal Services Authority**	**Chief Justice of the High Court** (Patron-in-Chief)

District	**District Legal Services Authority**	**District Judge** (Chairman)
Taluk	**Taluk Legal Services Committee**	**Senior Civil Judge**

- **Lok Adalats:** Set up under the same Act.
  - Their awards are **final and binding**, with **no appeal**.
  - **No court fee** is charged.
- **Eligible for Free Legal Aid (Section 12):**
  - **Women** and **children**.
  - **Scheduled Castes** and **Scheduled Tribes**.
  - **Persons with disabilities**.
  - **Industrial workmen**.
  - **Victims of trafficking or disaster**.
  - **Persons in custody**.
  - **Low-income persons**.

World Science Day for Peace and Development – 10 November 2026

- A **United Nations** day observed every year on **10 November**, under **UNESCO**.
- **Purpose:** Highlight the **role of science in society** and involve the **public** in debates on **emerging scientific issues**.
- **2026** marks the **25th edition**, held during the **International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033)** led by **UNESCO**.

Theme 2026

- **"Common Ground Through Science Diplomacy"**.
- **Focus:** Using **science diplomacy** to build bridges across borders, promote **dialogue and cooperation**, and tackle **shared global challenges**.

Do You Know?

- **National Science Day (India): 28 February**, marking the **Raman Effect** discovery by **C.V. Raman (1928)**.
- **UNESCO** – HQ **Paris**; founded in **1945**.
- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February**.

International Highlights

BOB-NOR – Bay of Bengal Network of Ocean Researchers for Fisheries

Context

- **India**, **Sri Lanka**, **Bangladesh** and the **Maldives**, with **oceanographers** and **marine scientists**, launched a **Regional Research Network** called **BOB-NOR**.
- **Full Form: Bay of Bengal Network of Ocean Researchers for Fisheries**.
- **Aim:** Strengthen **climate-resilient fisheries** in the **Bay of Bengal** by combining **ocean observations**, **climate information** and **fisheries data**.

Launch Details

- **Venue: Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi (Kerala)**.
- **Occasion:** On the sidelines of an **international symposium on fisheries and remote sensing**.
- **Hosted by:** The **Department of Fisheries**, **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**.
- **Supported by: GEO Blue Planet** and the **Trevor Platt Science Foundation**.

Participants

- **Member Countries (4): India**, **Sri Lanka**, **Bangladesh**, **Maldives**.
- **Experts from: United States**, **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Portugal**, **United Kingdom**, **Greece**.

Complementary Network

- **BOB-NOR** will complement the existing **Bay of Bengal Stock Assessment Network**.
- That network focuses on:
  - **Fish-stock assessment**.
  - **Recruitment** (young fish joining stocks).
  - **Fishing mortality**.
  - **Catch data**.

Significance

- Helps fishers adapt to **climate change – warming seas**, **marine heatwaves**, **cyclones**.
- Uses **satellite remote sensing** and **ocean data** for better **fisheries management**.
- Strengthens **regional cooperation** under India's **"Neighbourhood First"** and **SAGAR** visions.

About ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute

- India's **premier tropical marine fisheries research institute**.
- **Established: 3 February 1947** under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- **Joined ICAR: 1967**.

- **Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala**.

Do You Know?

- **Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation:**
  - **Members: India**, **Bangladesh**, **Maldives**, **Sri Lanka**.
  - **HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
  - Works on **sustainable fisheries** in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- **Tamil Nadu link:** The **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute** was first set up at **Mandapam Camp (Ramanathapuram)** and later moved to **Kochi**. It still has a **regional centre at Mandapam**.
- **Bay of Bengal:** The **world's largest bay**; bordered by **India**, **Bangladesh**, **Myanmar** and **Sri Lanka**.
- **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** – **7 members**; HQ **Dhaka**.
- **GEO Blue Planet** – an initiative of the **Group on Earth Observations** to use **ocean data** for society's benefit.
- **Island fisheries push (10 November):**
  - **Andaman and Nicobar Islands – "Tuna Cluster"**.
  - **Lakshadweep – "Seaweed Cluster"**.

