

SANSKRITI IAS DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

12-10-2026

Global Initiative on AI for Agri-Food Systems (GI-AI4FS)



Press Information Bureau

Second Meeting of Global Initiative on AI for Agri-Food Systems (GI-AI4FS) held at IMC 2026 in New Delhi

Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, Government of India hosted...



Why in News: The **Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)** under the Department of Telecommunications hosted the second meeting of the UN Global Initiative on AI for Agri-Food Systems.

Objectives and Institutional Framework

- **Coordination:** The initiative is coordinated by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in collaboration with **FAO, IFAD and WFP**.
- **Objective:** It promotes responsible AI use in agriculture and food systems through trustworthy, interoperable and farmer-centric solutions.
- **Governance:** It strengthens international cooperation on standards and identifies practical applications of AI in agriculture.

International Telecommunication Union

- **Establishment:** Founded in **1865** as the International Telegraph Union, it became a **UN specialised agency in 1947**.
- **Mandate:** The ITU coordinates global **information and communication technologies (ICTs)** between governments and private-sector organisations.
- **Membership:** It has **194 member countries** and more than 1,000 companies, universities and organisations.
- **Headquarters:** **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **India's Association:** India has been an ITU member since **1869** and a regular member of its Council since **1952**.

National Household Travel Survey (NHTS)

Why in News: The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** released

 The Times of India

Only 15% going to work use public transport: NSO

NEW DELHI: Long traffic snarls, a common feature on roads across the country, may be linked to how people commute to work.



key indicators from India's first National Household Travel Survey.

Institutional Framework and Objectives

- **Publisher:** The survey is conducted by the **NSO under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- **Objective:** It generates data on domestic travel to support transport planning, infrastructure development and evidence-based policymaking.
- **Coverage:** It records travel purposes, transport modes, journey duration and distances travelled.

Key Findings

- **Student Mobility:** Students aged **15–29 years** recorded the highest regular educational travel participation, at **79.1% in rural India** and **73.3% in urban India**.
- **Workforce Mobility:** Men recorded a higher share of daily work trips exceeding 1 km (**61.9%**) than women (**41.9%**).
- **Commuting Expenditure:** Average monthly expenditure on commuting to a fixed workplace was **₹785 per worker**, compared with **₹1,044 for urban workers** and **₹612 for rural workers**.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)

The Indian Express

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme: 26 railway stations redeveloped in Tamil Nadu as PM Modi inaugurates 5 more

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in Tamil Nadu: Check the list of railway stations covered, including Chennai Egmore, Coimbatore Junction,...



Why in News: The Prime Minister inaugurated five redeveloped railway stations in Tamil Nadu modernised under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.

Objectives and Key Features

- **Launch:** The scheme was launched in **2022** to modernise railway stations across the Indian Railways network.
- **Infrastructure:** It provides improved waiting halls, toilets, lifts, escalators, Wi-Fi, executive lounges, access roads and landscaping.
- **Local Architecture:** Redeveloped stations incorporate **local culture, heritage and architectural features**.
- **Multimodal Connectivity:** The scheme promotes better passenger accessibility and integrated transport connectivity.

Economic and Social Significance

- **One Station One Product:** Dedicated kiosks promote local products and support regional artisans and businesses.

- **Sustainability:** Station redevelopment includes efforts to improve greenery and the overall passenger experience.

Garba Dance



Garba Night Health Alert: When Dizziness And A Racing Heart Signal More Than Fatigue

Prolonged Garba dancing can cause dizziness and palpitations due to dehydration, low blood sugar, heat exhaustion, or heart rhythm issues.



Why in News: Gujarat began its traditional **nine-night Garba celebrations** during Navratri.

Cultural and Religious Significance

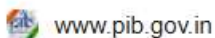
- **Origin:** Garba is a devotional and ritualistic dance primarily associated with **Gujarat**.
- **Religious Linkage:** It is performed during **Navratri** to celebrate feminine energy or **Shakti** and worship Goddess Ambe.
- **Performance:** It is traditionally performed in homes, temple courtyards and community spaces.
- **UNESCO Recognition:** **Garba of Gujarat** was inscribed on UNESCO's **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2023**.



Social Significance

- **Community Participation:** Garba promotes community bonding, social inclusion and participation across rural and urban communities.
- **Cultural Identity:** It represents Gujarat's distinctive folk traditions and devotional heritage.

Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses



India's Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses

Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media...



Why in News: The mission is advancing efforts to increase domestic pulse production and reduce import dependence.

Objectives and Targets

- **Duration:** The mission will operate for six years, from **2025–26 to 2030–31**.
- **Cultivation Expansion:** It aims to bring an additional **35 lakh hectares** under pulses, including rice fallows, while promoting intercropping and crop diversification.
- **Core Objective:** It seeks to achieve pulse self-sufficiency, improve farmers' incomes and strengthen domestic supply.

Seeds and Processing Infrastructure

- **Seed Distribution:** The mission targets the production and distribution of **126 lakh quintals of certified seeds** and the free distribution of **88 lakh seed kits**.
- **Research:** The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** will supervise breeder seed production.
- **Seed Planning:** States will prepare **five-year rolling seed production plans**.
- **Processing:** It proposes **1,000 processing units**, with subsidies of up to **₹25 lakh** for processing and packaging units.

Procurement and Market Support

- **Priority Pulses:** Assured procurement focuses on **tur, urad and masoor** under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS) of PM-AASHA**.
- **Implementing Agencies:** **NAFED and NCCF** will undertake procurement in participating states for four years from registered farmers who enter into agreements.
- **Climate Resilience:** The mission promotes high-yielding, pest-resistant and climate-resilient pulse varieties.



Palamu Tiger Reserve

TOI The Times of India

Palamu Tiger Reserve farmer trampled to death by elephant

Farmer Tobias Birjiya, 55, was trampled to death by a lone elephant in Palamu Tiger Reserve; family received Rs 50000, with Rs 10 lakh ex...



Why in News: Villagers from **25 villages in the Garu region** of Palamu Tiger Reserve, Jharkhand, voluntarily surrendered **31 country-made guns** to support wildlife protection.

Location and Historical Significance

- **Location:** The reserve is situated on the **Chhotanagpur Plateau in Jharkhand** and forms part of **Betla National Park**.
- **Project Tiger:** It was among the first **nine tiger reserves** established when Project Tiger began in **1973**.
- **Historical Record:** A tiger census using the pugmark method was conducted here in **1932** under J.W. Nicholson.

Geography and Biodiversity

- **Terrain:** The reserve features valleys, hills and plains, with geological formations including **gneiss, granite and limestone**.
- **Rivers:** The **North Koel, Auranga and Burha** rivers drain the reserve.
- **Vegetation:** It contains **moist and dry deciduous forests**, dominated by **sal and bamboo**.
- **Fauna:** Important species include the **tiger, Asian elephant, leopard, grey wolf, wild dog, gaur, sloth bear and four-horned antelope**.

Conservation Significance

- **Community Participation:** The voluntary surrender of firearms demonstrates local participation in wildlife protection.
- **Ecological Importance:** The reserve supports forest biodiversity and provides habitat for several large mammals and threatened species.

Other Important News of the day

Environment

Chocolate Mahseer

 ThePrint

[Sikkim CM bats for conserving indigenous fish species, protecting aquatic biodiversity](#)

Gangtok, Oct 11 (PTI) Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Sunday released 'Chocolate Mahseer' fish into the Rangeet river,...



Why in News: The Sikkim Chief Minister released **Chocolate Mahseer** into the Rangeet River to promote indigenous fish conservation.

Habitat and Distribution

- **Scientific Name:** *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*, a freshwater fish belonging to the family **Cyprinidae**.
- **Local Name:** It is known as '**Kha Saw**' in Meghalaya and is designated as the **state fish of Meghalaya and Sikkim**.

	➤ Distribution: It occurs in rivers and hill streams of Meghalaya, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura. ➤ Habitat: It prefers clear, fast-flowing rivers with stony, pebbly or rocky bottoms. Ecological Significance and Conservation ➤ Characteristics: It has powerful fins that help it navigate strong currents, and females are generally larger than males of the same age. ➤ Ecological Role: It is an indicator of healthy river ecosystems. ➤ Threats: Habitat degradation, overfishing and environmental changes threaten its populations. ➤ IUCN Status: Near Threatened.
Defence	Exercise Pitch Black  News On AIR  <u>INS Trishul Arrives in UK for India-UK Maritime Exercise KONKAN-26</u> Indian Navy ship INS Trishul has arrived at Plymouth in the United Kingdom to participate in the India-UK bilateral maritime exercise... Why in News: The Indian Navy's guided-missile stealth frigate INS Trishul is scheduled to participate in Exercise KONKAN-2026 at Plymouth, United Kingdom. Bilateral Maritime Cooperation ➤ Participants: The exercise is conducted between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom. ➤ Objective: It enhances maritime interoperability, operational coordination and mutual understanding. ➤ Phases: The Harbour Phase includes professional interactions and cross-deck visits, while the Sea Phase involves operational drills across air, surface and sub-surface domains. ➤ Strategic Linkage: The exercise supports the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the India-UK Vision 2035.

Science and Technology

Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026

 The Indian Express

Knowledge Nugget | Global Innovation Index 2026: Where India stands and which economies lead the world

The Global Innovation Index 2026 has been released. What are its key highlights? What are the main indicators? Which countries host the...



Why in News: The **Global Innovation Index 2026** assessed the innovation performance of 139 economies worldwide.

Institutional Framework and Parameters

- **Publisher:** The index is released annually by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.
- **Launch:** It was first published in **2007** and is recognised as an important benchmark for science, technology and innovation policy.
- **Assessment:** It tracks innovation through investment, technological progress, adoption and socioeconomic impacts.

Global and Indian Rankings

- **Top Economies:** **Switzerland** ranked first, followed by **Sweden and the United States**.
- **Other Rankings:** The **Republic of Korea** ranked fourth, **Singapore** fifth, **China** tenth and **Japan** twelfth.
- **India's Position:** India ranked **38th among 139 economies**.
- **Income-Group Performance:** India ranked first among **36 lower-middle-income economies** and among **11 economies in Central and Southern Asia**.