



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 06, 2025

TAMILNADU

➤ **Manjappai to cost Rs. 5 at kiosks**

- ✓ State-supplied Rs.10 'manjappai' (yellow cloth bags) will be available at half price through vending machines at prominent locations in the city from February 2026.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) is collaborating with bag manufacturers and vending unit operators to recalibrate machines via software updates.
- ✓ The machines were in-stalled as part of the chief minister's 'Meendum Manjappai' initiative in 2022.
- ✓ According to TNPCB data, as of Nov 2025, 226 machines are being operated in the state, with 44 of them being in Chennai. Since the launch, 5.05 lakh bags have been dispensed across the state and 1.65 lakh in Chennai.
- ✓ Beaches, markets, and bus shelters are some of the spots where the machines have been installed. The machines allow UPI payment.

➤ **UGC wants 3 languages**

- ✓ University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed all higher educational institutions (HEIs), including state universities, central universities, private and deemed universities, affiliated colleges, and technical institutions, to teach one more Indian language in addition to their mother tongue or local language.

- ✓ All higher educational institutions will offer courses for at least three languages – one shall be the local language, and another may be any from the 22 scheduled languages, a circular issued by UGC.

IN COLLEGES AND UNIVS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UGC launched this initiative based on the multilingualism envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) ➤ UG, PG and doctoral students are target group ➤ The language courses will also be open for all teaching and non-teaching staff 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All universities and colleges need to offer one local language and another Indian language ➤ These courses must be offered at three levels—basic, Intermediate and advanced—with flexible entry and exit
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- ✓ TN state has followed the two-language formula (Tamil and English) for nearly 60 years. Further, UGC asked the institutions to design and offer language courses at three levels – basic, inter-mediate, and advanced – with flexible entry and exit.

NATIONAL

➤ 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit

- ✓ The India-Russia Annual Summit held in New Delhi on December 4-5, 2025, 23rd edition of this summit coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership established in 2000, delivered outcomes that significant advancements in the "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" between the two nations.
- ✓ Programme for the Development of Strategic Areas of India-Russia Economic Cooperation till 2030 (Programme 2030).
- ✓ Bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.
- ✓ Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on goods between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).
- ✓ President Putin assured "uninterrupted shipments of fuel for the growing Indian economy,".
- ✓ Russia committed to 3 – 6 units of Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP).

- ✓ Joint research and development, co-development, and co-production of advanced defense technology and systems under the "Make-in-India" program.
- ✓ India announced a free 30-day e-Tourist Visa and a 30-day Group Tourist Visa for Russian citizens.

➤ **EARTH Summit 2025**

- ✓ Amit Shah inaugurated the EARTH Summit 2025 on 5 December 2025 in Gandhinagar, launching Sahakar Sarathi, a major digital push for India's cooperative and rural banking sector.
- ✓ Over 13 new services were unveiled, including Digi KCC, ePACS, the Cooperative Governance Index, and the world's largest grain-storage application, all aimed at modernising cooperative banks with internet banking, UPI, AEPS, e-KYC, core banking, and real-time tracking.
- ✓ The summit also introduced Sahakar Taxi, a cooperative taxi network with 51,000+ drivers, and a comprehensive Cooperative Insurance scheme to expand rural social security.
- ✓ These initiatives reinforce India's goal of empowering 50+ crore cooperative members through tech-driven rural development.

DEFENCE

➤ **Exercise Harimau Shakti**

- ✓ India and Malaysia have launched the fifth edition of Exercise Harimau Shakti from 5–18 December 2025 at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, focusing on sub-conventional operations under UN Chapter VII mandates.
- ✓ The exercise, featuring India's Dogra Regiment and Malaysia's 25th Battalion, emphasizes interoperability, heliborne operations, cordon-and-search drills, combat reflex shooting, and physical endurance training through AMAR and yoga, marking a strategic shift to semi-arid and desert warfare from the jungle operations of previous editions.

➤ **DRDO Transfers Seven Indigenous Technologies to Armed Forces**

- ✓ DRDO Transfers Seven Indigenous Technologies to Armed Forces marks a major boost to India's defence self-reliance, showcasing innovations developed under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme, which supports MSMEs and startups with funding up to ₹50 crore.
- ✓ The transferred systems – including airborne jammer power supplies, VLF/HF communication systems, indigenous waterjet propulsion, and seawater battery systems – strengthen critical capabilities across naval, aerospace, and EW domains.
- ✓ Alongside this, the approval of 12 new TDF projects in strategic and emerging tech areas underscores India's accelerating push toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

