

February - 03

TNPSC BITS

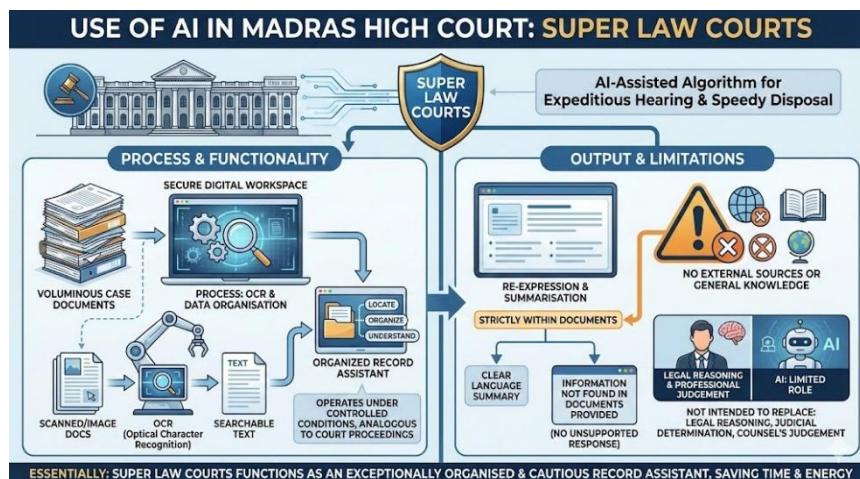
- ❖ The State government has notified the Tamil Nadu Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2026.
 - Anand Marriages are solemnised according to Sikh marriage ceremonies, commonly known as Anand Karaj.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that the Thiruvottiyur highway in Chennai would henceforth be called 'Vallalar Nedunchalai'.
- ❖ The DMK government plans to install a 125-foot statue of Chola king Raja Raja Chola at the Grand Chola Museum in Thanjavur.
- ❖ Captain Hansja Sharma became the first woman officer of the Indian Army qualified to fly the Rudra Armed Helicopter.
- ❖ India has launched its first AI-enabled university pilot at Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU), Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ International Development Week observed in the first full week of February since 1991 to highlight Canada's contributions to international development worldwide.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Use of AI in the Madras High Court

- ❖ In a first of its kind, the Madras High Court is set to use an artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted algorithm system called 'Super law Courts'.
- ❖ It is for filtering the required information from the case documents aimed at expeditious hearing, speedy disposal of cases and saving time and energy in the justice delivery system.
- ❖ The algorithm was designed to help legal professionals locate, organise, and understand information contained strictly within the documents placed before it for a particular matter.
- ❖ The algorithm was intended to reduce the time and effort involved in manual searching and cross-referencing of voluminous documents.
- ❖ It was, however, not intended to replace legal reasoning, judicial determination, or a counsel's professional judgement in a given matter.
- ❖ Superlaw Courts operate under controls analogous to those expected in court proceedings.

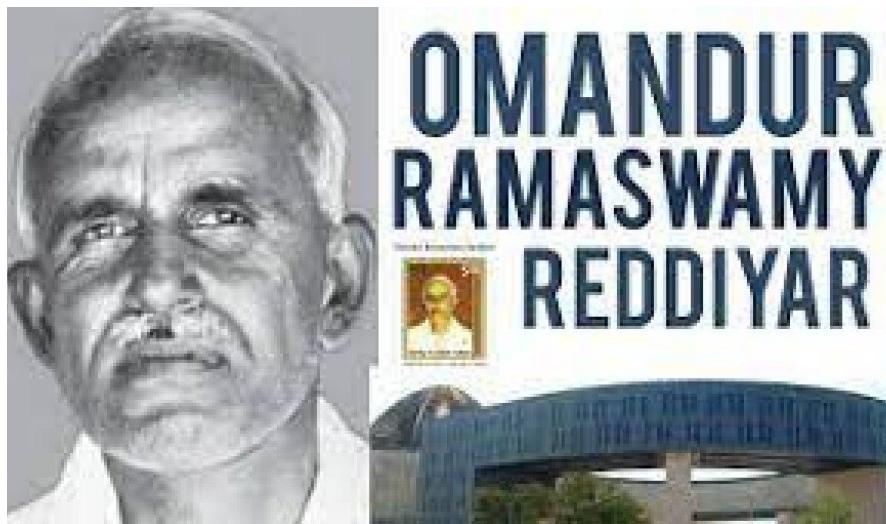
- ❖ It was also brought to the notice of the judge that the Superlaw Courts works exclusively on documents provided for the matter and that it does not consult external sources, general knowledge, or materials outside the record.
- ❖ If the record does not contain information in a traceable form, the system states that such information was not found in the documents provided.
- ❖ Rather than it will be generating an unsupported response, when documents are uploaded to Superlaw Courts.
- ❖ The system creates a dedicated digital workspace, comparable to a sealed record room in judicial chambers, and then the documents get processed to ensure they are workable.
- ❖ Scanned or image-based documents get converted into searchable text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) so they can be searched.
- ❖ The AI partner's role was limited to re-expressing or summarising the retrieved excerpts in clear language.
- ❖ It would not introduce new facts, make assumptions, or apply legal reasoning.
- ❖ If the retrieved material does not support an answer, the system states so explicitly.
- ❖ Superlaw Courts functions as an exceptionally organised and cautious record assistant.



Statue of Ramasamy Reddiar

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced that a statue of former Premier (CM) of Madras presidency, Omandur Ramasamy Reddiyar would be installed on the campus of the Government Medical College, Omandur Government Estate, Chennai.

- ❖ He served as the Premier of Madras Presidency from 23 March 1947 to 6 April 1949.
- ❖ Ramaswamy Reddiyar was a devotee of Vallalar.
- ❖ During his tenure, the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947 was passed.
- ❖ This act was intended to give Dalits and other prohibited Hindus full and complete rights to enter Hindu temples.
- ❖ The Devadasi Dedication Abolition Act of 1947 put an end to the devadasi system.
- ❖ It was during his tenure that India achieved independence from the United Kingdom.
- ❖ In 1948, he ordered the purchase of a de Havilland Dove, the first aeroplane to be owned by the Government of Madras.
- ❖ He introduced for the first time in the country; a 14.29% quota was provided to Backward Classes in public services.
- ❖ A 29% reservation was also provided for Scheduled Castes and Tribes during his tenure.
- ❖ He also oversaw the Zamindari Abolition Act, 1947, aimed at empowering farmers.



Union Budget 2026 on Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman announced the development of mountain trails, turtle trails and birdwatching trail.
- ❖ The Government will develop ecologically sustainable mountain trails in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu Kashmir, Araku Valley (Andhra

Pradesh) in the Eastern Ghats and Podhigai Malai (Tamil Nadu - Kerala) in the Western Ghats.

- ❖ Further, it announced the establishment of turtle trails along key nesting sites in the coastal areas of Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala.
- ❖ A birdwatching trail along the Pulicat Lake in the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border will be developed.



Archaeological investigations in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Archaeological investigations have couched Tamil Nadu's rich and diverse heritage within a broader perspective.
- ❖ This is in alignment with the argument of David Shulman, Indologist and author of "Tamil: A Biography".
- ❖ Discoveries at Keeladi suggest that an urban and industrial civilisation once flourished there.
- ❖ Carbon dating of artefacts recovered from the site places them between the 6th century BCE and the 1st century CE.
- ❖ Excavations here revealed Sangam-age characteristics and continuity of brick structures.
- ❖ Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) dates from stratigraphical contexts show that Keeladi's inhabitants were literate as early as the 6th century BCE and lived in an urban civilisation along the Vaigai river.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has also established an open-air site museum at Keeladi, located at Kondagai in Sivagangai District.
- ❖ The museum features organised galleries with informative panels and curated archaeological exhibits in six thematic sections: Vaigai and Keeladi; Agrarian and Water Management; Ceramic Industries; Weaving and Beads; Sea Trade; and Lifestyle.
- ❖ The museum has structural remains and cultural layers of a Sangam-age urban settlement along the Vaigai river basin.
- ❖ Excavated features include aligned burnt-brick walls, rectangular brick tanks identified as dyeing vats, covered drainage made of terracotta pipes and bricks and terracotta ring wells used for water management.
- ❖ The Porunai Museum showcases artefacts obtained from the excavations at Sivagalai, Korkai, and Adichanallur.
- ❖ It is located at Reddiarpatti in Tirunelveli district.
- ❖ It also displays underwater finds, including shipwreck materials, lead ingots, and Roman pottery, pointing to ancient trade links with Rome, China, and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The museum at Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district is being developed to preserve and present the historical and cultural heritage of the Imperial Chola dynasty.
- ❖ It is located near the Brihadeesvara Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ❖ Gangaikonda Cholapuram was a city established by Rajendra Chola to mark his conquest of the north.
- ❖ Its Theme was Rajendra Chola I's imperial legacy, maritime trade, and diplomacy.
- ❖ It will display brick remains from the royal palace at Maligaimedu, war trophies, stone sculptures, inscriptions, architectural fragments, and archaeological artefacts from the region.
- ❖ Construction of the Grand Chola Museum is under way to establish the museum on the campus of Tamil University in Thanjavur.
- ❖ It will foreground the historical significance of the Chola dynasty.
- ❖ A centrepiece of the museum will be a 125-foot-tall statue of the Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I.
- ❖ Naavai Museum's location will be Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district.
- ❖ Its theme will be Materials excavated at Alagankulam.
- ❖ Naavai means a large ship in ancient Tamil.
- ❖ The Chola conquest of the seas in the later period stands as clear evidence of a sustained naval policy pursued by Chola monarchs.

- ❖ Historian K.A. Nilakanta Sastri notes that the early Cholas of the Sangam age also played a significant role in maritime trade and seafaring activity in the Indian seas.

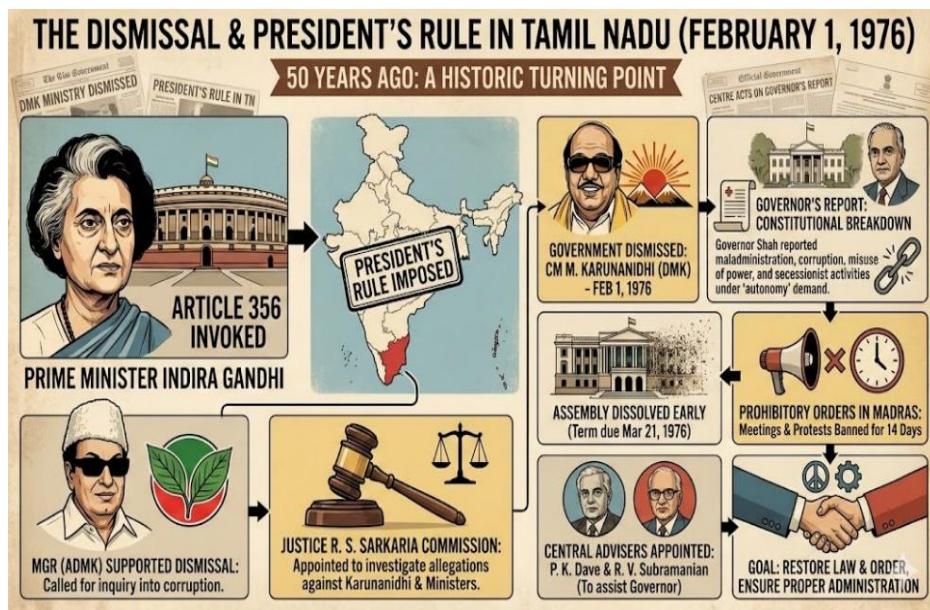


- ❖ The Pandyas, too, excelled in maritime commerce.
- ❖ The historical basis for this lies in the extensive archaeological finds from Alagankulam.
- ❖ It was an ancient port located at the confluence of the Vaigai River and the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Between the 2nd century BCE and the 5th century CE, the port functioned as a major Pandya trade hub, linking South India with Rome, Egypt, and Southeast Asia.

- ❖ Among the most striking exhibits will be the ‘ship graffiti’ — a rare potsherd bearing the incised image of a three-masted sailing vessel — offering material evidence of advanced seafaring traditions.
- ❖ More than 13,000 antiquities recovered from the site, including Roman amphorae, Arretine ware, and a cross-inscribed seal, point to a cosmopolitan trading settlement with far-reaching connections.
- ❖ Noyyal Museum is located at Perundurai in the Erode district.
- ❖ Its theme will be the Materials excavated at Kodumanal.
- ❖ Kodumanal was referred to as Kodumanam in the Padhitrupathu of Sangam literature.
- ❖ Situated on the northern bank of the Noyyal River, Kodumanal functioned as a multi-industrial settlement between the 5th century BCE and the 3rd century CE.
- ❖ The site was a major centre for the production of semi-precious stone beads, with thousands of beads made of beryl, carnelian, agate, quartz, lapis lazuli, and sapphire.
- ❖ While beryl was sourced locally from nearby Padiyur, lapis lazuli originated in Afghanistan, pointing to extensive long-distance trade networks.
- ❖ Kodumanal has also yielded one of the largest collections of Tamil-Brahmi inscribed potsherds in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In addition, the museum will present the region’s megalithic burial culture, including menhirs and cist burials furnished with rich grave goods such as carnelian beads and iron swords.
- ❖ Known in ancient literature as Thirukadalmallai, Mamallapuram — the ancient port city of the Tamil country — has, for centuries, stood as a powerful symbol of maritime strength.
- ❖ Flourishing from the Sangam age and reaching its architectural zenith under the Pallavas between the 6th and 9th centuries CE, it functioned not merely as a centre of trade and travel but as a vital bridge linking the Tamil region with distant civilisations in Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia, and beyond.
- ❖ The museum will be established at the Beach Resort Complex on the East Coast Road (ECR), owned by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.
- ❖ The State government has proposed the establishment of the Dharmapuri Museum at Adhiyaman Kottai in the Dharmapuri district, with the theme of hero stones.
- ❖ The hero stone serves as an important archaeological artefact, providing insight into the social, historical, and artistic practices of ancient Tamil communities.

- ❖ The ongoing construction of the Courtallam Museum at Courtallam in the Tenkasi district will feature excavated materials from Tirumalapuram and Rajakalmangalam.
- ❖ Other proposed museums include the Tamil Cultural Museum at Tiruvannamalai and the Indus Gallery Museum in Egmore, Chennai.

President's Rule in Tamil Nadu (1976)



- ❖ 50 years ago, on February 1, 1976, the Tamil Nadu government was dismissed for the first time in history.
- ❖ President's Rule was imposed under Article 356 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The government was led by Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.
- ❖ The dismissal followed a report from Governor K. K. Shah stating that the state government could no longer function according to the Constitution.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was dissolved before completing its five-year term, which was due to end on March 21, 1976.
- ❖ The Governor has reported acts of maladministration, corruption, and misuse of power by the DMK government.
- ❖ The government was accused of encouraging secessionist activities under the guise of demanding more autonomy.
- ❖ Prohibitory orders were imposed in Madras to ban meetings, demonstrations, and processions for 14 days.

- ❖ M. G. Ramachandran, leader of the ADMK (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam), supported the dismissal and called for a commission of inquiry into corruption charges.
- ❖ The Centre appointed Justice R. S. Sarkaria of the Supreme Court as a one-man Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations against Karunanidhi and some DMK ministers.
- ❖ Two central government advisers, P. K. Dave and R. V. Subramanian, were appointed to help the Governor administer the state.
- ❖ The imposition of President's Rule was expected to restore law and order and ensure proper administration in Tamil Nadu.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Rare Earth Corridors



UNION BUDGET 2026

The scheme for rare earth permanent magnets was launched in November 2025.

We now propose to support the mineral rich states of Kerala, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to establish dedicated rare earth corridors

- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed to support the mineral-rich states of Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It will establish the dedicated rare-earth corridors to push to secure India's supplies of rare earth magnets.
- ❖ The move comes as India looks to reduce its dependence on China for rare-earth minerals.
- ❖ In November 2025, the Union government approved a new "first-of-its-kind" scheme to manufacture Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) in India, with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore.

- ❖ The 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets' aimed to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India.

Menstrual Health - Fundamental Right

- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to menstrual hygiene is an integral part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It was given in a landmark verdict Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Government of India.
- ❖ Inaccessibility of sanitary products affects the fundamental right to education under Article 21A and the Right to Education (RTE) Act.
- ❖ Inaccessibility of MH measures strips away the right to participate on equal terms in schools.
- ❖ It violates the Right to Equality under Article 14.
- ❖ The Court also directed the pan-India implementation of the Union's national policy, 'Menstrual Hygiene (MH) Policy for School-going Girls' in schools for adolescent girl children from Classes 6-12.
- ❖ All schools must provide Sensitisation of male teachers and students, gender-segregated toilets, free sanitary napkins (preferably through vending machines), and dedicated MHM corners.



Supreme Court on UGC Equity Regulations 2026

- ❖ The Supreme Court ordered that the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, be kept in abeyance.

- ❖ The court directed that the previous 2012 guidelines (UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2012) remain in force.
- ❖ Since the 2012 Regulations had been repealed, the Court was exercising its powers under Article 142.
- ❖ The bench examined the regulation through Article 15(4).
- ❖ That enables the State to make special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, including SCs and STs.
- ❖ The 2026 Regulations were formulated in response to the ongoing case *Abeda Salim Tadvi v. Union of India* (2019).
- ❖ The present petitions specifically challenged Section 3(1)(c).
- ❖ The section exclusively defines discrimination against SC, ST, and OBC members, thereby excluding the general category.
- ❖ Moreover, the 2026 Regulations contain no mechanism to penalize false complaints.
- ❖ The Supreme Court invoked the "principle of no-regression" from environmental and social justice law, questioning why the 2026 rules were less inclusive than the 2012 version.



Indigenous Suryastra rocket system in parade

- ❖ It was the first-ever display of the Universal Rocket Launcher System (URLLS) – Suryastra.
- ❖ It will be India's first indigenous universal multi-calibre rocket launcher.
- ❖ It is capable of precision surface-to-surface strikes.

- ❖ It will strike ranges of 150 km and 300 km.
- ❖ It can integrate multiple rocket and missile variants on a single platform.

Republic Day 2026 parade
Bhairav battalion,
Suryastra rocket launcher
system among firsts

AMRUT 2.0 update

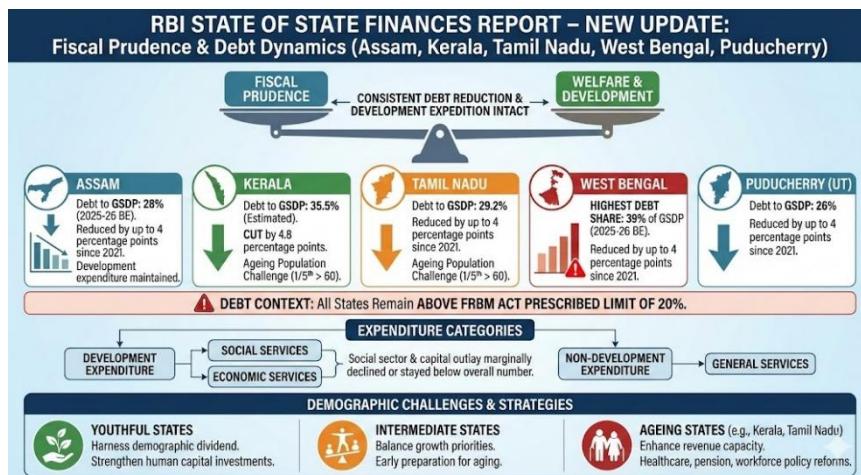
<p>Urban tap water coverage rose from 49% to 77%, with 228 lakh tap connections</p> <hr/> <p>20 lakh sewer connections added, 7,480 acres of water bodies rejuvenated</p>	 <p>TAPPING POTENTIAL 6,008 AMRUT PROJECTS OF ₹83K CR APPROVED AFTER LAUNCH IN 2015</p>	<p>AMRUT 2.0 approved 9,000 projects worth ₹1.89 lakh cr; ₹13,400 cr spent in current fiscal</p> <hr/> <p>'Jal Hi Amrit' & AMRUT Mitra involve 25 states/UTs and 28,000 women for water management</p>
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- ❖ Tap water coverage in urban areas has increased by 64% since 2011 under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and AMRUT 2.0.
- ❖ It is rising from 49% to about 77% in 2026.

- ❖ A total of 228 lakhs household tap connections and 20 lakh sewer connections have been provided across cities.
- ❖ The mission has rejuvenated 7,480 acres of water bodies and developed 2,704 acres of green space.
- ❖ Under AMRUT 2.0, nearly 9,000 projects worth Rs 1.89 lakh crore, including operations and maintenance, have been approved.
- ❖ AMRUT Mitra has engaged over 28,000 women self-help group members to support water management, quality monitoring, billing, and plant maintenance.

ECONOMY NEWS

RBI State of State Finances report – New update



- ❖ Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry consistently reduced their debt by up to 4 percentage points since 2021.
- ❖ These States reduced their outstanding liabilities as a share of GSDP while keeping development expenditure intact, signalling fiscal prudence without compromising on welfare.
- ❖ West Bengal has the highest share of debt in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at 39% as per the Fiscal 2025-26 Budget Estimates.
- ❖ Kerala cut its outstanding liabilities by 4.8 % points to an estimated 35.5% of its GSDP.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's debt stood at 29.2% of the GSDP.
- ❖ Assam had a 28% of GSDP in debt, and Puducherry, a Union Territory, at 26% of GSDP in 2025-26.

- ❖ While the States reduced the share of debt in comparison with the size of their economies, the ratio continued to stay above the FRBM Act prescribed limit of 20%.
- ❖ The social sector and capital outlay in the five states either declined marginally or stayed consistently below the overall number.
- ❖ All expenditures relating to revenue account, capital outlay and loans and advances are categorised into social services, economic services, and general services.
- ❖ While social and economic services constitute development expenditure, expenditure on general services is treated as non-development expenditure.
- ❖ Youthful States may harness their demographic dividend by strengthening human capital investments, intermediate States may balance growth priorities with early preparation for ageing, and ageing States may enhance revenue capacity alongside healthcare, pension and workforce policy reforms.
- ❖ While Kerala and Tamil Nadu have a fifth of the population above the age of 60.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Doomsday Clock 2026 Update



- ❖ The Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock at 85 seconds to midnight on January 27, 2026, the closest it has ever been.
- ❖ The clock symbolizes humanity's proximity to global catastrophe from nuclear war, climate change, and disruptive technologies like artificial intelligence (AI).

- ❖ The rising nuclear threats, record greenhouse gas emissions, and declining international cooperation are cited as major causes.
- ❖ The clock was first set in 1947 at seven minutes to midnight after World War II.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

2 New Ramsar sites in India

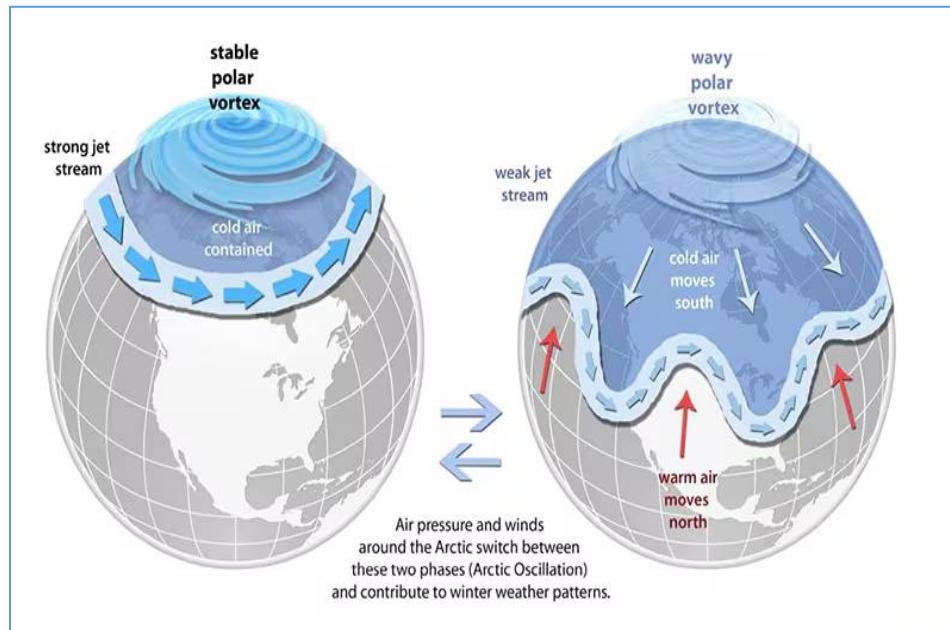


**India Adds Patna Bird Sanctuary
And Chhari-Dhand to Ramsar List**

- ❖ Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah district, Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch district of Gujarat have been added to India's Ramsar network.
- ❖ It will take India's total to 98.
- ❖ India is one of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
- ❖ India became a signatory to the convention on 1st February 1982.
- ❖ Gujarat has the highest wetland area in India, holding over 20% of the country's total wetlands.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu (20) boasts the highest number of Ramsar Sites.

- ❖ According to the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules of 2017, the Indian government's definition of wetlands does not include river channels, paddy fields, or other areas utilized for commercial activities.

Southward Polar Vortex – US



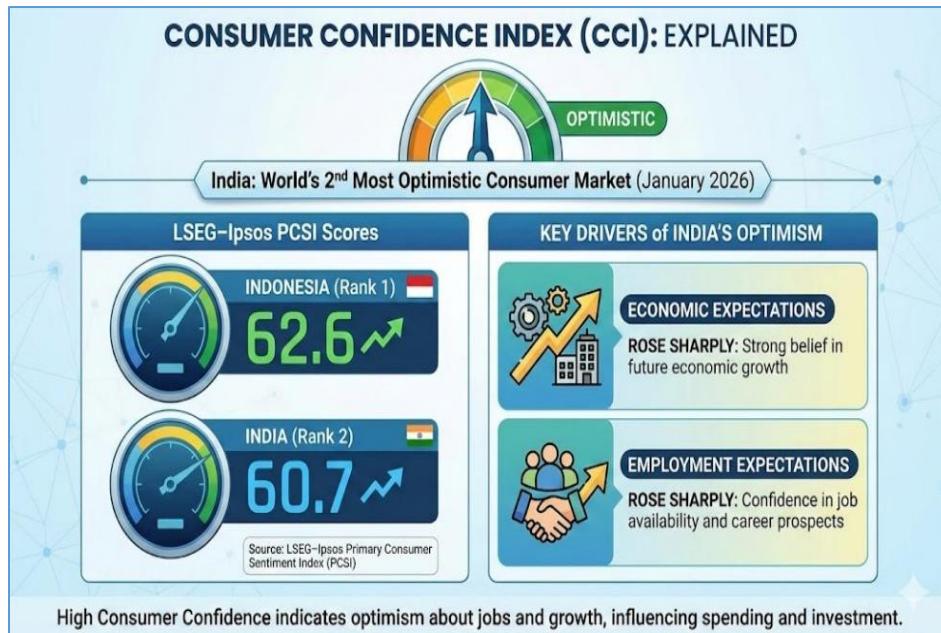
- ❖ A severe winter storm hit the eastern two-thirds of the United States in January 2026, spreading over 2,000 miles from New Mexico and Texas to New England.
- ❖ US President has approved federal emergency declarations for nearly 20 states and the District of Columbia.
- ❖ The storm was caused by the southward expansion of the polar vortex, bringing Arctic air and extreme cold, with wind chills reaching -50°F (-45°C).
- ❖ Heavy snowfall affected the Ohio Valley to the Northeast.
- ❖ Catastrophic ice accumulation hit the Lower Mississippi Valley, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic regions.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Consumer Confidence Index

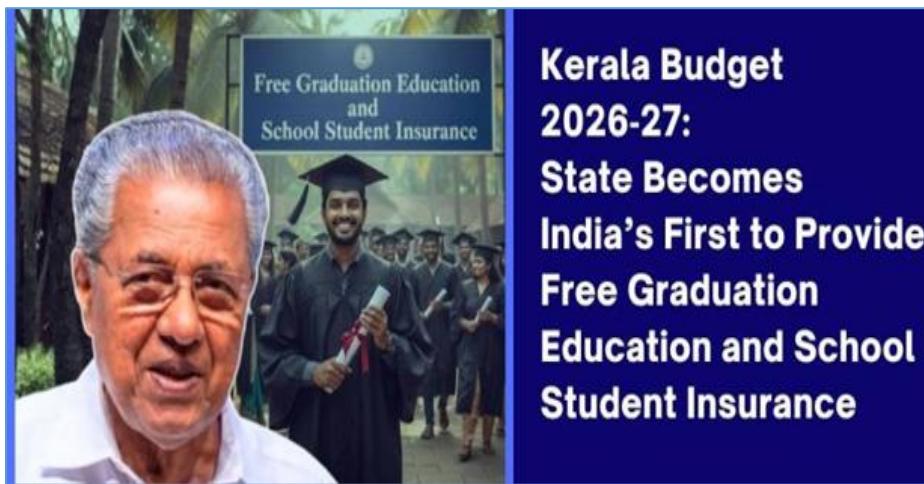
- ❖ India became the world's second most optimistic consumer market in January 2026.
- ❖ The LSEG-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index (PCSI) gave India a score of 60.7.

- ❖ Indonesia ranked first with a score of 62.6.
- ❖ Economic and employment expectations in India rose sharply, indicating optimism about jobs and growth.



STATE NEWS

Medical insurance for Kerala students



- ❖ The Kerala State becomes India's First to Provide Free Graduation Education and School Student Insurance.
- ❖ Kerala Budget 2026-27 announces Life, Accident Insurance Scheme for School Children.

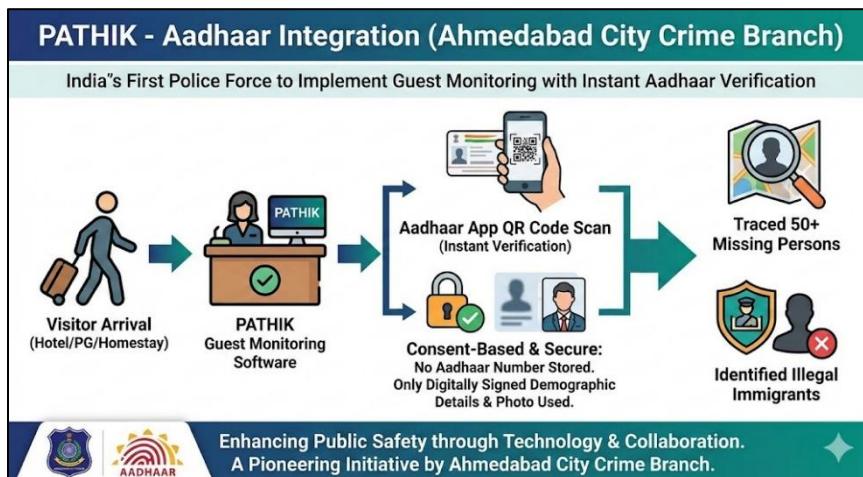
- ❖ It will be India's first such kind of initiative.
- ❖ The students from Classes I to XII in government, aided, and government-approved schools following the State syllabus will be covered by the scheme.
- ❖ No premium will have to be paid by the students or parents to maintain insurance coverage.

Chittoor Guinness records

- ❖ Chittoor district enters the Guinness World Records as CM Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh distributes 5,555 e-cycles.
- ❖ It is for achieving the largest distribution of electric cycles within 24 hours.
- ❖ It was distributed in the Kuppam Assembly constituency.



PATHIK - Aadhaar Integration



- ❖ Ahmedabad City Crime Branch has become the first police force in India to integrate Aadhaar verification with PATHIK software.

- ❖ PATHIK is a guest monitoring software used by hotels, paying guest accommodations, and homestays to record visitor details for security purposes.
- ❖ With Aadhaar integration, visitors can be verified instantly using QR codes through the Aadhaar App.
- ❖ The system is consent-based and does not store Aadhaar numbers, using only digitally signed demographic details and photographs.
- ❖ The system has helped trace more than 50 missing persons and identify illegal immigrants.

Gig Workers' Welfare Board - Karnataka

Karnataka Leads the Way with Gig Worker Welfare Law

The Karnataka Assembly has passed the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2025, making it the first southern state to roll out a dedicated law for app-based gig workers.



Key Highlights

- Establishes a Gig Workers Welfare Fund financed through a 1-5% levy on each payout, collected by aggregators
- Contributions will also come from gig workers, State & Central Government grants
- A Welfare Board with officials, worker & aggregator representatives, and civil society members will oversee the fund, worker registration and grievance redressal
- Mandates transparency in fares, earnings, algorithms and customer feedback

- ❖ Karnataka has set up the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Development Board in January 2026.
- ❖ It was setup under the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare Development) Act, 2025.
- ❖ It is headed by the Labour Minister as ex officio president and includes senior officials, four gig worker representatives, and four aggregator representatives (Zomato, Uber, Ola, Amazon).
- ❖ All aggregators and gig workers in Karnataka must register with the board, and each worker receives a unique ID for social security benefits.
- ❖ Karnataka levies a welfare fee of 1%-1.5% on aggregator platforms, adjustable up to 5% if funds are insufficient.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu created India's first gig workers' welfare board.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Platform-Based Gig Workers Welfare Board was formally established in December 2023.
- ❖ It was set up under the Tamil Nadu Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Work) Act, 1982, to provide basic social security benefits.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Sunetra Pawar



- ❖ She becomes the first Woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ❖ Sunetra Pawar, wife of the late Nationalist Congress Party (AP) chief Ajit Pawar, took oath as Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- ❖ Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath in the presence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- ❖ Deputy CM is a political post, and it's not a constitutional post like the Vice President of India.
- ❖ In 1989, a writ petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the oath taken by Devi Lal, as the Deputy Prime Minister in Prime Minister V.P. Singh's Cabinet.
- ❖ The top court held that the person is just a Minister like other members of the Council of Ministers, though he has been described as Deputy Prime Minister; the description of him as Deputy Prime Minister does not confer on him any powers of the Prime Minister.

- ❖ The designation of Devi Lal as Deputy Prime Minister was only descriptive, and that for all purposes he would be considered only as a Minister since there was no constitutional sanction for the post of Deputy Prime Minister as such.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, a press release was issued by the Raj Bhavan in August 2017.
- ❖ It only states that the Governor had accepted the Chief Minister's recommendation to designate Mr. Panneerselvam as Deputy Chief Minister.
- ❖ And it does not indicate that he had also been administered the oath as Deputy Chief Minister.
- ❖ A deputy Chief minister is, first and foremost, a Minister in the Government of the State.
- ❖ The appellation of a deputy Chief minister does not breach the constitutional position, namely, that a person who holds the office of a Minister must, in any event, within a stipulated period, be a member of the legislature to qualify for appointment as a Minister.

President's Police Colour Award for Sikkim



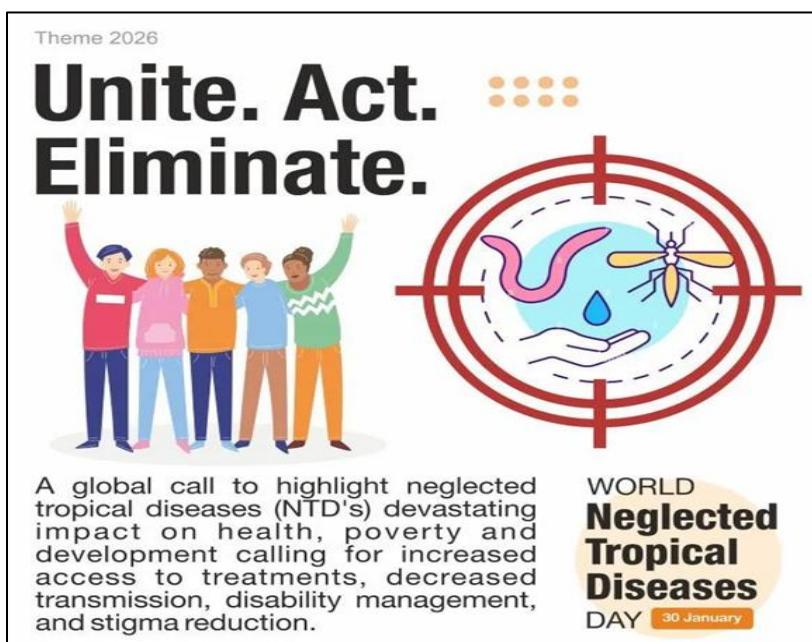
- ❖ Sikkim Police has been awarded the prestigious President's Police Colour Award for distinguished service, professionalism, and discipline.

- ❖ Sikkim is the 15th state in India and the 3rd in the Northeast to receive this rare recognition.
- ❖ The President's Police Colour Award is popularly known as the Nishaan.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2026 – January 30

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness and accelerate efforts to control, eliminate, and eradicate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- ❖ The day was first observed in 2020 by the WHO.
- ❖ NTDs are a group of preventable and treatable infectious diseases affecting poor and vulnerable populations.
- ❖ About 1.4 billion people required NTD interventions in 2024, a 36% decline since 2010.
- ❖ As of 2026, 58 countries have eliminated at least one NTD, and the WHO targets 100 countries by 2030.
- ❖ The theme of 2026 is “Unite. Act. Eliminate”.



World Wetlands Day 2026 - February 02

- ❖ The day is marked to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for people and nature.

- ❖ Wetlands include marshes, lakes, rivers, mangroves, lagoons, and human-made wetlands like rice fields.
- ❖ On this day in 1971, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) adopted in Ramsar city, Iran
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage.”

