

February - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Meghana Sajjanar won individual bronze medal in the Asian Rifle and Pistol Shooting Championships 2026, held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Cochin International Airport (CIAL) in Kerala will become the first airport in India to operate hydrogen-powered buses for passenger transport to reduce emissions in airport transportation.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of the Sharda River Corridor Project at Tanakpur in Champawat district to promote tourism, infrastructure development, and employment generation.
- ❖ The 5th Rüsoma Orange Festival began at Rüsoma village near Kohima, Nagaland, promoting horticulture-led rural development and orange cultivation.
 - The festival is held under the theme “Abundance of Rüsoma.”

NATIONAL NEWS

Mission Aatmanirbharta in Pulses



**MISSION FOR
AATMANIRBHARTA IN PULSES**

Focused on enhancing pulses production, particularly Tur, Urad, and Masoor, through climate-resilient seeds, improved productivity, protein content, post-harvest management, and ensuring remunerative prices for farmers.

←—————→

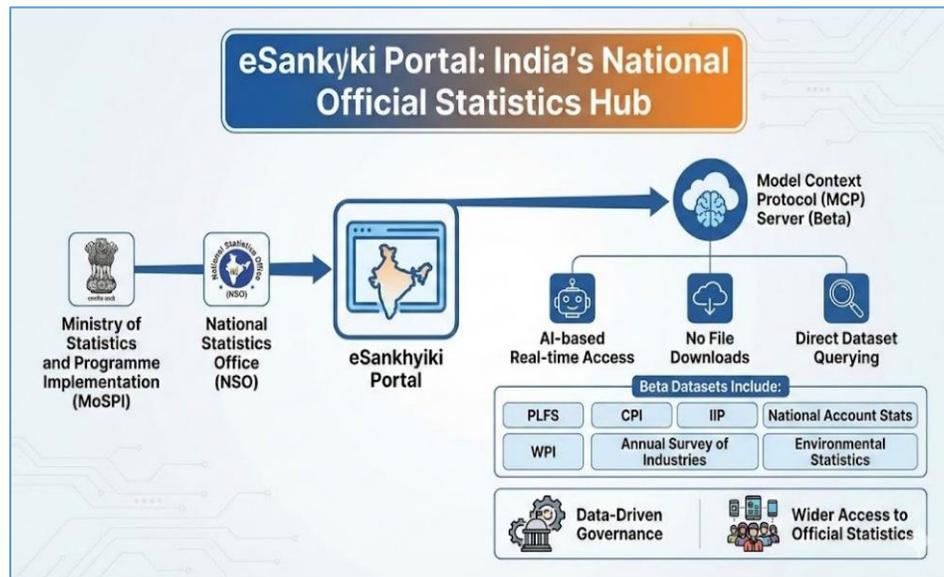
Outcome:
Development and commercial availability of climate resilient seeds, Enhancing protein content, Increasing productivity, Improving post-harvest storage and management, Assuring remunerative prices to the farmers.

- ❖ India launched the nationwide pulses revolution from Amlaha, Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ The programme is called Mission for Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance) in Pulses.
- ❖ It aims to make India self-sufficient in pulses production and reduce imports.
- ❖ The mission was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26.
- ❖ The mission period is 2025–26 to 2030–31 with an outlay of ₹11,440 crore.
- ❖ The government plans to support seed development, cluster farming, processing mills, and markets.

eSankhyiki Portal

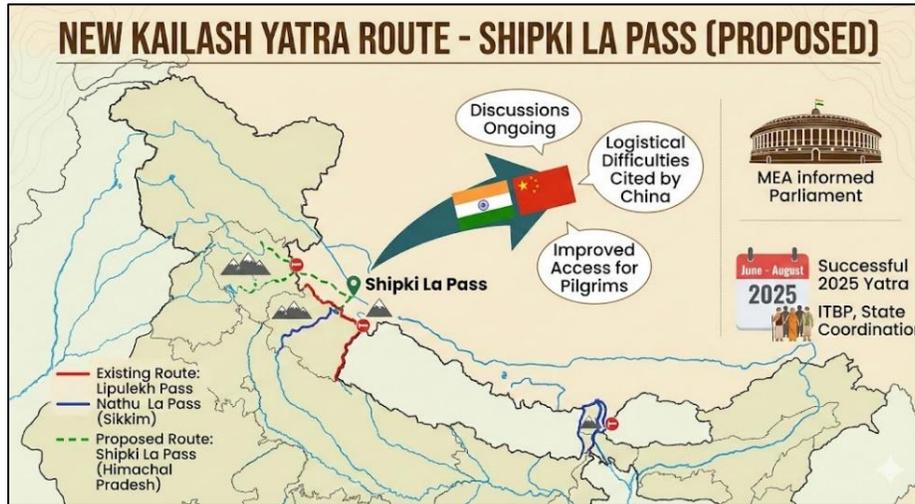
- ❖ The National Statistics Office (NSO) launched the beta version of the Model Context Protocol (MCP) server for the eSankhyiki portal.
- ❖ eSankhyiki is India’s national portal for official statistics.
- ❖ MCP allows AI-based, real-time access to datasets without downloading files.
- ❖ The beta release includes datasets such as the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Consumer Price Index (CPI), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), National Account Statistics, Wholesale Price Index (WPI), Annual Survey of Industries, and Environmental Statistics.
- ❖ The initiative supports data-driven governance and wider access to official statistics.



New Kailash Yatra Route - Shipki La pass

- ❖ India is in talks with China to explore opening an additional route for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, including Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh.

- ❖ Existing routes for the yatra include Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.
- ❖ The 2025 yatra was successfully conducted from June to August, coordinated with state governments and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.
- ❖ Shipki La Pass is located near the India–China border, but China has cited logistical difficulties for opening new corridors.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global LEED Certifications



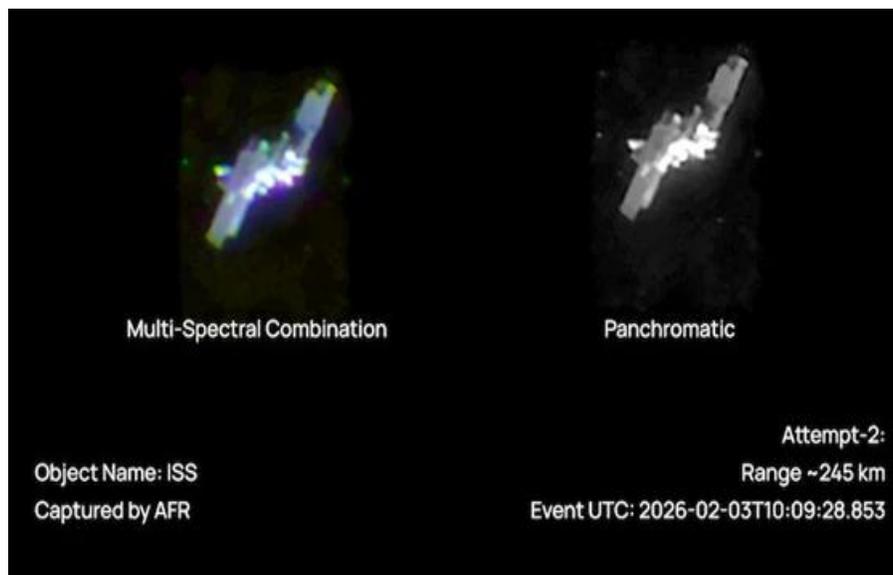
- ❖ India ranking second worldwide outside the United States in LEED-certified building space in 2025.

- ❖ The United States leads with over 50 million gross square metres (GSM) of certified space.
- ❖ China ranks first outside the US with 26 million GSM, followed by India with 16 million GSM.
- ❖ India showed higher growth in LEED Operations and Maintenance (O+M) certifications, focusing on improving the performance of existing buildings.
- ❖ LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is managed by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Orbital Tracking - Azista Satellite

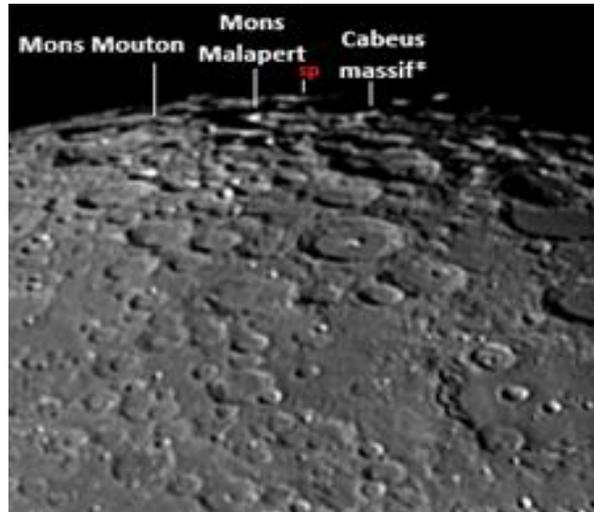
- ❖ Azista Space achieved India's first in-orbit imaging ("in-orbit snooping") capability by capturing images of the International Space Station (ISS) using an indigenous satellite.
- ❖ The demonstration was done using the ABA First Runner (AFR) satellite.
- ❖ The satellite was launched in June 2023 on a Falcon 9 rocket by SpaceX.
- ❖ AFR is an 80-kg Earth observation satellite built by Azista Space.
- ❖ The imaging was done from about 250–300 km distance in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).



Mons Mouton Mountain

- ❖ ISRO's Space Applications Centre identified a safe landing site near Mons Mouton on the Moon for Chandrayaan-4.

- ❖ Mons Mouton is a large, flat-topped mountain about 160 km from the Moon's south pole.
- ❖ It lies near the rim of the South Pole–Aitken (SPA) Basin, one of the largest and oldest impact basins.
- ❖ The mountain is 100 km wide and rises 6,000 m above the surrounding terrain with rugged craters and boulders.
- ❖ Some areas receive near-continuous sunlight while others remain in permanent shadow.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Marine Worm Species



- ❖ Researchers discovered two new marine worm species along the West Bengal coast in the northern Bay of Bengal.

- ❖ The species are *Namalycastis solenotognatha* and *Nereis dhritiae*.
- ❖ *Nereis dhritiae* is named after Dhriti Banerjee, Director of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- ❖ These nereidid (polychaete) worms help in nutrient cycling and sediment aeration.

World's Longest Snake - Malayopython reticulatus

- ❖ A reticulated python was discovered in Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- ❖ It has been recognised by the Guinness World Records as the longest measured snake in the world.
- ❖ The snake *Malayopython reticulatus* measured 7.22 metres or 23 feet 8 inches.
- ❖ It is nicknamed Ibu Baron or The Baroness.
- ❖ The reticulated python is the world's longest snake species, native to Southeast Asia.

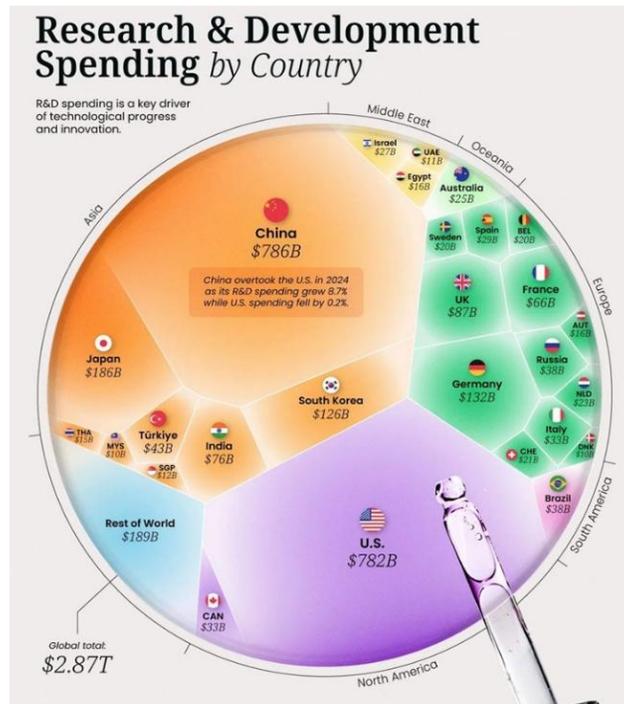


REPORTS AND INDICES

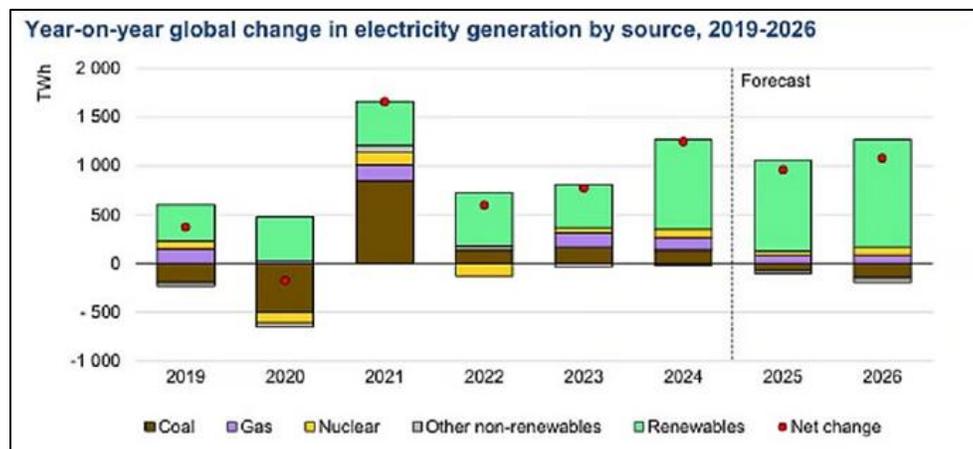
Global Innovation Index

- ❖ The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and ranks countries by innovation inputs and outputs.
- ❖ China became the world's largest spender on research and development (R&D) in 2024.
- ❖ Global R&D spending reached \$2.87 trillion in 2024, growing nearly 3% annually.

- ❖ China spent \$785.9 billion, overtaking the United States (\$781.8 billion).
- ❖ India ranked 7th, with \$75.7 billion spent on R&D in 2024.
- ❖ Asia now accounts for about 45% of global R&D spending, showing a shift from Western dominance.



Electricity Report 2026



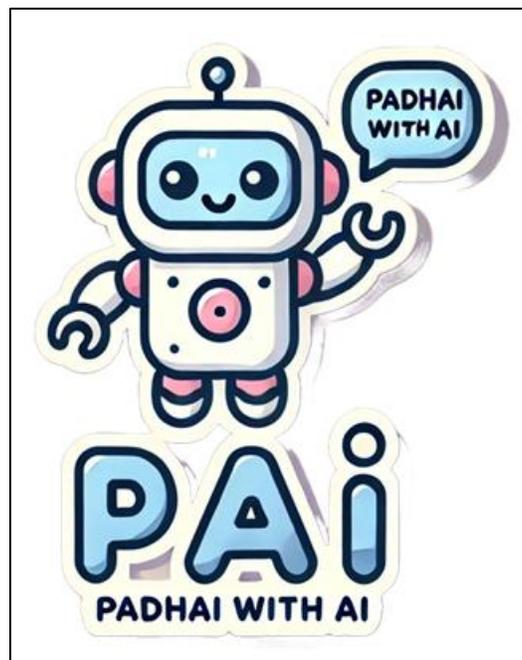
- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) released the Electricity 2026 report on global electricity markets.
- ❖ Global electricity demand is expected to grow by 3.6% annually until 2030.
- ❖ The growth is driven by electric vehicles, data centres, and air conditioning use.

- ❖ Low-emission sources such as renewable energy and nuclear power are expected to meet most additional demand.
- ❖ These sources may account for nearly half of global electricity generation by 2030.
- ❖ Global power-sector carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are expected to plateau.

STATE NEWS

AI-Based Learning Platform - Padhai with AI

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister launched 'Padhai with AI' in Bilaspur district.
- ❖ The initiative uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide digital learning, exam-oriented study material, and personalized support.
- ❖ It mainly benefits students preparing for government and competitive exams who lack access to quality coaching.
- ❖ The programme ensures equal access to education and provides continuous academic counselling to improve learning outcomes.

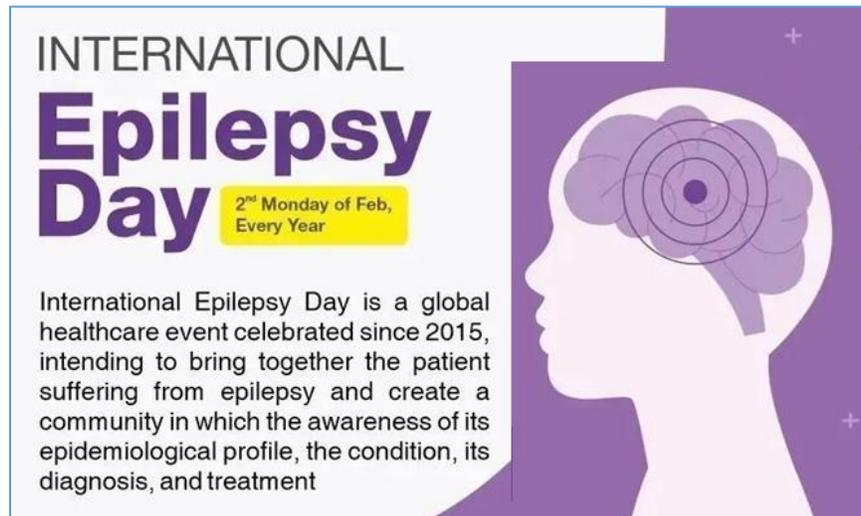


IMPORTANT DAYS

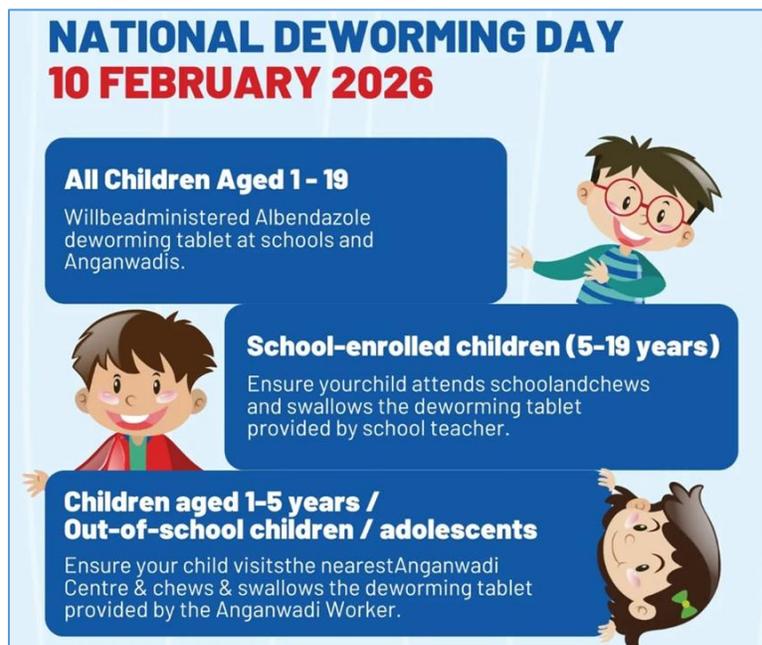
International Epilepsy Day 2026 - February 10

- ❖ This day has been observed on the second Monday of February every year since 2015.

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about epilepsy and promote better treatment and support for patients.
- ❖ Epilepsy is a neurological disorder affecting about 50 million people worldwide.
- ❖ In India, more than one crore people live with epilepsy, with higher prevalence in rural areas.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “#EpilepsyPledge”.



National Deworming Day 2026 - February 10

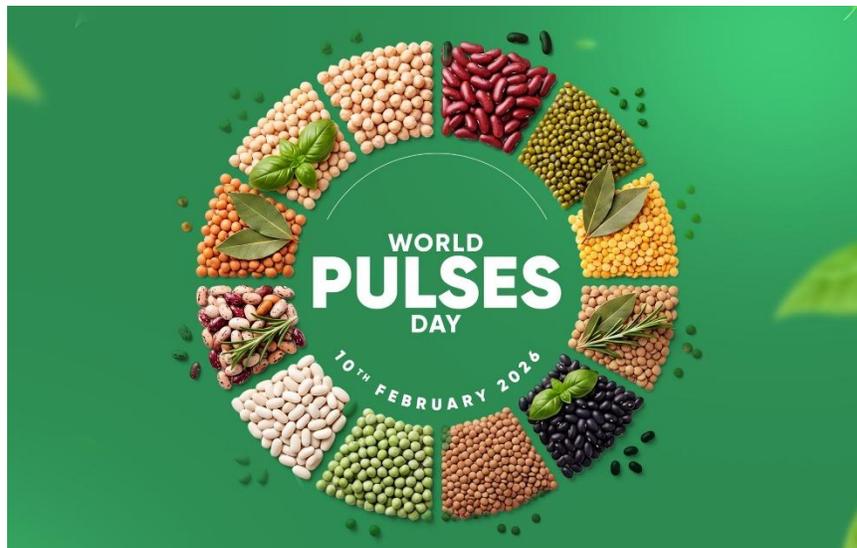


- ❖ National Deworming Day is a public health programme launched in 2015 under the National Health Mission (NHM).

- ❖ The day aims to prevent intestinal worm infections in children and adolescents (1–19 years) by giving Albendazole tablets.
- ❖ The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) through schools and Anganwadi centres.
- ❖ It targets soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections such as roundworm, whipworm, and hookworm.

World Pulses Day 2026 - February 10

- ❖ The day highlights the importance of pulses for nutrition and food security.
- ❖ The day was declared by the UN in 2019, after the International Year of Pulses (2016).
- ❖ The day aims to promote the production and consumption of pulses such as lentils, chickpeas, beans, and peas.
- ❖ Pulses are rich in protein, fibre, iron, and vitamins, and are an important part of the Indian diet.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

50 Years of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act

- ❖ India marked 50 years of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act (BLSA), 1976, which abolished bonded labour.
- ❖ The Act declared bonded labour illegal, cancelled bonded debts, and ordered the release of bonded labourers.

- ❖ District Magistrates and Vigilance Committees are responsible for identifying, releasing, and rehabilitating bonded labourers.
- ❖ The law provides rehabilitation support such as financial assistance, land, housing, and livelihood programmes.
- ❖ Articles 21, 23, and 24 of the Constitution of India protect people from forced labour and exploitation.
- ❖ Section 143 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, punishes trafficking and forced labour.

