

February - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) signed an agreement to produce Superjet-100 (SJ-100) aircraft in India.
- ❖ Senior ophthalmologists Dr. Haripriya Aravind and Dr. R. Venkatesh from Puducherry have been selected for the Chang-Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026 for their contribution to reducing cataract-related blindness.
- ❖ India has been designated Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026, the world's largest organic trade fair held in Nuremberg, Germany, from 10–13 February 2026.
- ❖ Nokia has inaugurated its largest global fixed networks R&D facility at SIPCOT (State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu), Siruseri, Chennai.
- ❖ Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second Tuesday of February, and in 2026 it falls on February 10, 2026.
 - The theme of the year 2026 is "Smart Tech, Safe Choices: Exploring the Safe and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)".

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu Electronics Hub



TAMIL NADU RECORDED ITS HIGHEST-EVER ELECTRONICS EXPORTS OF \$14.65 BN IN FY2025.

Accounting for **41.2%** of India's total electronics exports.

The total exports from the state in FY24 were **\$52.07 billion.**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is projected to become a \$150 billion electronics hub by 2030.

- ❖ The State had a 41 % share in India's total electronics exports in the Financial Year (FY) 2025, valued at \$15 billion, and this is expected to rise to 45 % in FY2026.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu accounts for 28.6 % of India's electronics manufacturing gross sales value, ranking second in the country.
- ❖ Electronics exports from the State reached \$14.65 billion, recording a 414 % increase since 2021-22.
- ❖ There are 191 electronics manufacturing units in the State, with major clusters in Chennai, Sriperumbudur, Hosur, Coimbatore, and Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ India's electronics manufacturing industry aims to reach \$500 billion by 2030.

Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions in Egypt



Pathbreaking Tamil Brahmi Discovery In Egypt

A pathbreaking study has identified nearly 30 Tamil Brahmi inscriptions inside tombs at the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. **Dating to the 1st-3rd centuries CE, they record personal Tamil names, clearly indicating individuals from ancient Tamilagam travelling to Egypt. The name Cikai Korran appears eight times across five tombs, carved near entrances and high on walls, including one placed nearly four metres above an entrance.**

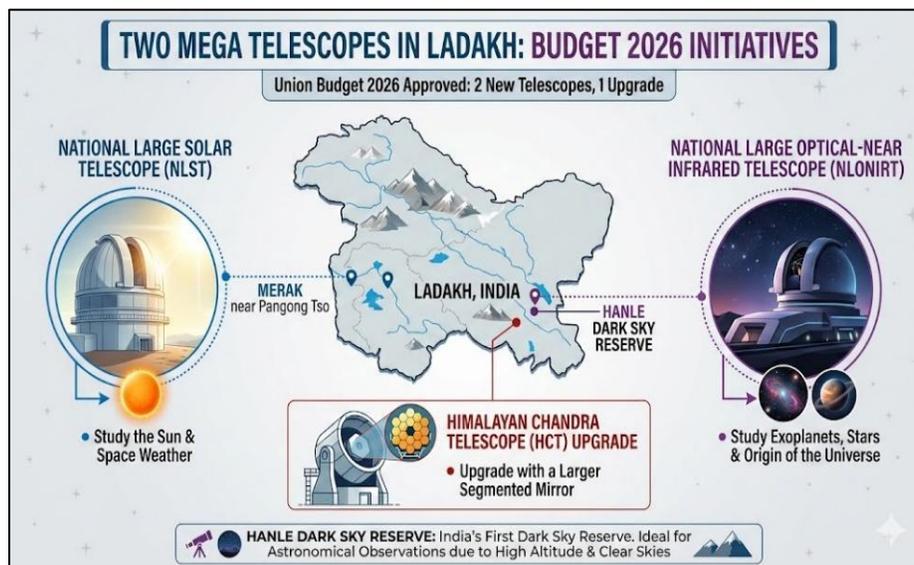
- ❖ Nearly 30 Tamil Brahmi inscriptions have been identified in Egypt's Valley of the Kings, dating between the 1st and 3rd Centuries C.E.
- ❖ The inscriptions were found in six tombs in the Theban Necropolis during studies conducted in 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ They include writings in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit, indicating the presence of Indian visitors.
- ❖ The repeated name Cikai Korran was inscribed eight times across five tombs.
- ❖ The findings provide evidence of ancient trade links between Tamilagam and the Roman Empire.

- ❖ Similar Tamil names have also been found earlier at Berenike, a Red Sea port in Egypt.

NATIONAL NEWS

Two Mega Telescopes in Ladakh

- ❖ The Union Budget 2026 approved two new telescopes and an upgrade of an existing telescope in Ladakh.
- ❖ The National Large Solar Telescope will be built in Merak near Pangong Tso in Ladakh to study the Sun and space weather.
- ❖ The National Large Optical-Near Infrared Telescope will be built in the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve to study exoplanets, stars, and the origin of the universe.
- ❖ The Himalayan Chandra Telescope in Hanle will be upgraded with a larger segmented mirror.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China's Panda Diplomacy Reversal

- ❖ China's giant pandas Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei were returned from Japan's Ueno Zoological Gardens to China in January 2026, ending over five decades of continuous panda presence in Japan.
- ❖ Their return marks the first time since 1972 that Japan has no giant pandas in the country.

- ❖ Xiao Xiao and Lei Lei were born in 2021 at Ueno Zoo but are owned by China under its long-standing panda diplomacy programme.
- ❖ The move was originally scheduled for February 2026 but was brought forward by agreement; pandas are usually sent back after the loan period ends.
- ❖ This departure ended a symbolic era of panda friendship between Japan and China and occurred amid strained bilateral relations.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

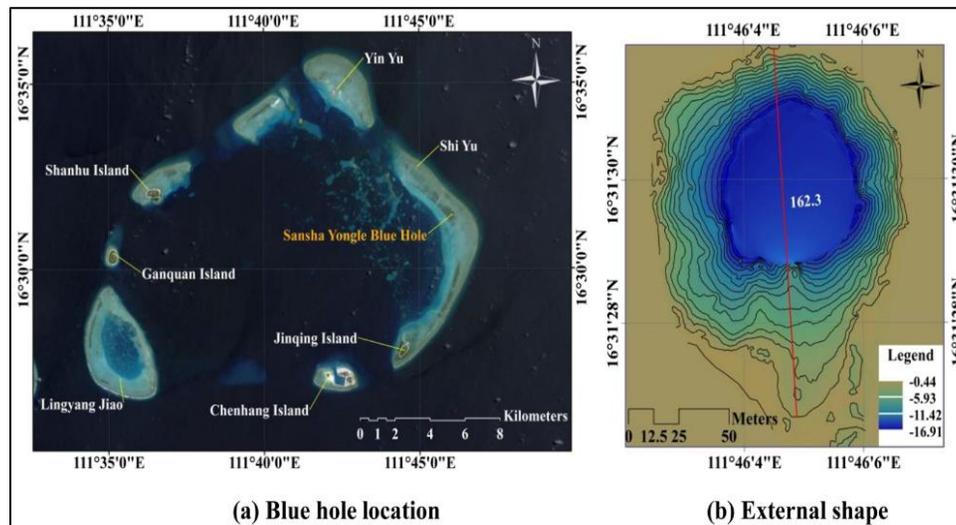
Copernicus Sentinel-2 Mission

- ❖ Recently, the European Space Agency (ESA) has released a high-resolution image of the 2026 Winter Olympic venues in northern Italy using the Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission.
- ❖ Copernicus Sentinel-2 is an Earth observation satellite mission developed by the ESA under the Copernicus Programme of the European Union (EU).
- ❖ The mission aims to monitor changes in land-surface conditions on Earth.
- ❖ It consists of two polar-orbiting satellites in a sun-synchronous orbit providing high-resolution multispectral images.

- ❖ The data is used for agriculture, ecosystem monitoring, disaster management, water-quality assessment, and climate-related studies.



Sansha Yongle Blue Hole



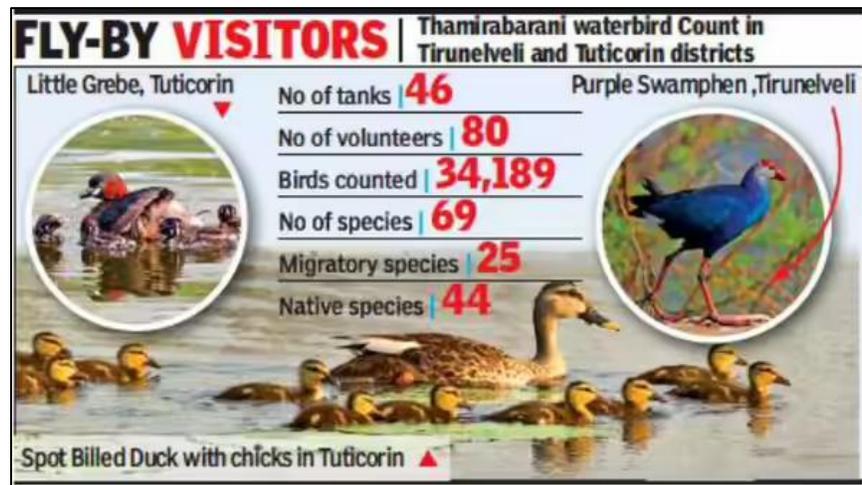
- ❖ Scientists released detailed findings on the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole in the South China Sea.
- ❖ The Sansha Yongle Blue Hole, also called Dragon Hole, has a confirmed depth of 301.19 metres.
- ❖ It was once the world's deepest blue hole before a deeper site was confirmed in Mexico.

- ❖ A remotely operated vehicle created its first complete three-dimensional map in 2017.
- ❖ Rock ledges inside the hole show past sea level changes during colder climatic periods.
- ❖ Oxygen levels drop sharply below about 100 metres, and hydrogen sulphide is present in deeper layers.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Water Bird Count 2026

- ❖ The 16th Tamiraparani water bird survey recorded over 21,000 water birds in southern Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ A total of 21,091 water birds belonging to 69 species were counted across 68 irrigation tanks in Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, and Thoothukudi districts.
- ❖ Migratory birds formed about 36 % of the total count, including species from the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ The Thoothukudi district recorded the highest bird abundance and species diversity.



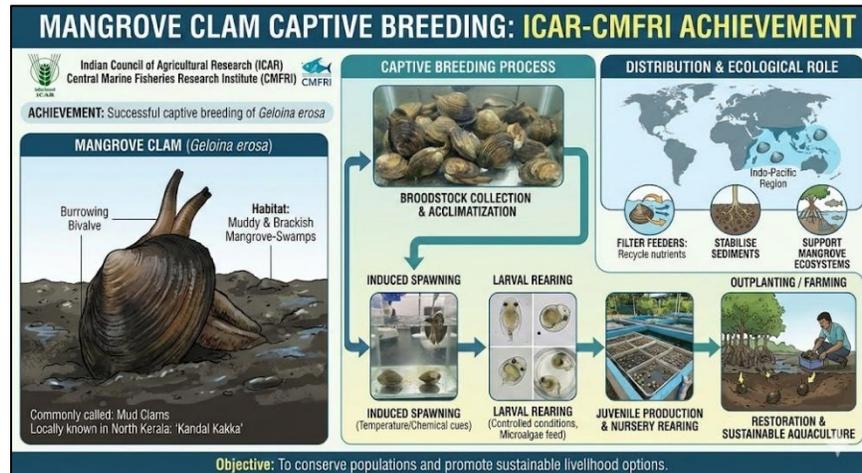
Flowering plant species - *Dicliptera pakhalica*

- ❖ A new flowering plant species, “*Dicliptera pakhalica*,” has been discovered in Pakhal Wildlife Sanctuary, Telangana.
- ❖ The species belongs to the Acanthaceae family, a tropical flowering plant group.
- ❖ The genus *Dicliptera* has over 220 species globally, with about 29 taxa recorded in India.

- ❖ The species is currently classified as “Data Deficient” under IUCN guidelines due to its limited known distribution.
- ❖ The name “Pakhalica” is derived from Pakhal Lake, after which the sanctuary is named.



Mangrove Clam Captive Breeding

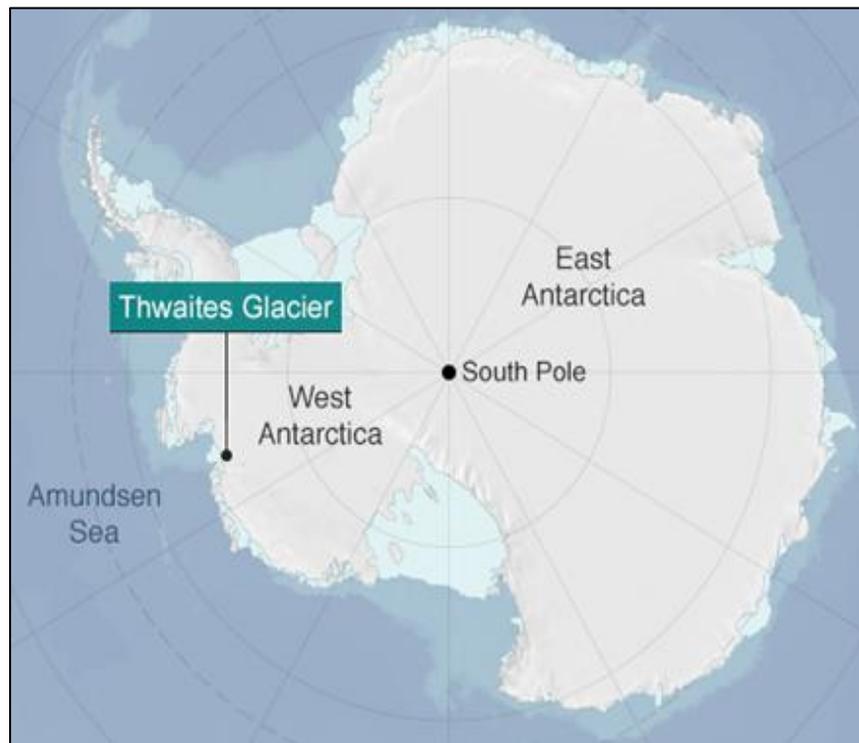


- ❖ Recently, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) achieved captive breeding of the mangrove clam *Geloina erosa*.
- ❖ Mangrove clams are burrowing bivalves that live in muddy and brackish mangrove-swamp habitats.
- ❖ They are commonly called mud clams and are locally known as “Kandal Kakka” in northern Kerala.
- ❖ Mangrove clams are widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific region.

- ❖ They are filter feeders that recycle nutrients, stabilise sediments, and support mangrove ecosystems.

Thwaites Glacier

- ❖ Scientists recently warned that Thwaites Glacier is melting rapidly due to climate change caused by human activities.
- ❖ Thwaites Glacier is a large glacier located in West Antarctica, often called the “Doomsday Glacier.”
- ❖ It is a wide, fast-flowing glacier about the size of Florida or Great Britain.
- ❖ The glacier contributes about 4% of global annual sea-level rise.
- ❖ Its collapse could destabilise the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and significantly raise global sea levels.



New dragonfly species - Lyriothemis keralensis

- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new dragonfly species named Lyriothemis keralensis in Kerala.
- ❖ The species was first observed in 2013 in the Varappetty area of Kothamangalam, Kerala.
- ❖ It was earlier mistaken for Lyriothemis acigastra, also known as Little Bloodtail.

- ❖ *Lyriothemis keralensis* belongs to the family Libellulidae under the order Odonata and is endemic to Kerala.
- ❖ The species is commonly called the Slender Bombardier and is found in low-lying coastal and agricultural areas.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Women, Peace and Security Index 2025–26

Countries and index scores by rank, 2025/26 WPS Index								
RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
TOP QUINTILE			62	Cabo Verde	.741	123	Algeria	.621
1	Denmark	.939	63	Belarus	.739	124	São Tomé and Príncipe	.620
2	Iceland	.932	63	Chile	.739	125	Egypt	.617
3	Norway	.924	63	Palau	.739	126	Lesotho	.614
3	Sweden	.924	63	Saudi Arabia	.739	127	Ecuador	.612
5	Finland	.921	67	Malaysia	.738	128	Iran	.608
6	Luxembourg	.918	68	Albania	.731	128	Libya	.608
7	Belgium	.912	68	Fiji	.731	128	Namibia	.608
8	Netherlands	.905	70	Kuwait	.723	131	India	.607
9	Austria	.898	70	Qatar	.723	131	Philippines	.607
9	New Zealand	.898	72	Kazakhstan	.722	133	Angola	.601
11	Australia	.896	THIRD QUINTILE			133	Sierra Leone	.601
11	Estonia	.896	73	Viet Nam	.721	135	Comoros	.590
13	Ireland	.891	74	Turkmenistan	.720	135	Zimbabwe	.590
14	Slovenia	.889	75	Russian Federation	.718	137	Côte d'Ivoire	.589
15	Lithuania	.887	76	Puerto Rico	.707	138	Benin	.587

- ❖ The Women, Peace and Security Index 2025–26 was released by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

- ❖ Denmark ranks first with a score of 0.939, followed by Iceland and Norway.
- ❖ India ranks 131st with a score of 0.607, while the United States ranks 31st.
- ❖ Afghanistan ranks last at 181st with a score of 0.279 among 181 countries.
- ❖ The index was first launched in 2017 and is published every two years.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2025



- ❖ The index was released by Transparency International.
- ❖ The index score ranges from 0 for highly corrupt to 100 for very clean.
- ❖ Denmark ranks first with a score of 89, followed by Finland and Singapore.
- ❖ South Sudan and Somalia rank last at 181st, while Venezuela ranks 180th.
- ❖ India ranks 91st with a score of 39, and the United States ranks 29th.
- ❖ The global average score is 42, and 122 countries scored below 50.

- ❖ Among India's neighbours, Bhutan ranks 18th, China ranks 76th, Nepal ranks 110th, Sri Lanka ranks 115th, Pakistan ranks 140th, Bangladesh ranks 149th, and Myanmar ranks 172nd.

STATE NEWS

Vulture Conservation in Maharashtra



- ❖ Migratory griffon vultures were recently spotted in Melghat and Tadoba Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra after nearly ten years.
- ❖ A Himalayan Griffon Vulture was recorded in Melghat Tiger Reserve, and a Eurasian Griffon Vulture was recorded in Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The Maharashtra Forest Department and the Bombay Natural History Society started a Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre programme.
- ❖ In January 2026, captive-bred long-billed vultures were released into the wild after being fitted with Global System for Mobile communications and satellite transmitters.
- ❖ The Himalayan Griffon is classified as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The Eurasian Griffon Vulture is generally listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Unani Day 2026 – February 11

- ❖ The day is observed to honour the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, a pioneer of Unani medicine in India.
- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness about Unani medicine and its role in healthcare.

- ❖ It also encourages research, education, and integration of traditional Unani practices with modern medicine.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice.”



World Unani Day

February- 11

Celebrating the birth anniversary of **Dr. Hakim Ajmal Khan**

11 February 1868 - 29 December 1927

2026 Theme : Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice.

Speciality of Unani System of Medicine :

- * It strives to treat the root cause of the disease.
- * It enhances the body's immunity.
- * As the treatment methods are natural, there are no side effects.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 - February 11



- ❖ The day was observed under the leadership of the UN with the support of UNESCO.
- ❖ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015, and first observed in 2016.
- ❖ The day aims to promote full and equal access to and participation of women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “From Vision to Impact: Redefining STEM by Closing the Gender Gap.”

- ❖ UNESCO data states that women account for 35 % of science graduates and one in three researchers worldwide.

