

February - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Ophthalmologist Mohan Rajan received the Outstanding Service for Prevention of Blindness Award 2026 for his three decades of contribution to community ophthalmology and prevention of blindness in the Asia-Pacific region.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Tamil Nadu's Economic and Development Performance

TN Tops India with **11.19%** **Growth** — Highest in 14 Yrs

After 14 years, TN achieves double-digit economic growth at 11.19% in 2024-25 — the highest in India! **The State's GSDP hit ₹17.32 lakh crore, driven by strong industrial, services, and export performance.** This milestone proves that TN is firmly on track for its \$1 trillion economy goal by 2031-32. From higher per capita income to improved fiscal health, the future looks brighter than ever for TN's people.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded the highest per capita income growth in India, increasing from 0.07% in 2020–2021 to 11.19%.
- ❖ The per capita income of Tamil Nadu increased from ₹2,09,628 in 2020–2021 to ₹3,61,619, showing an increase of ₹1.76 lakh.
- ❖ The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Tamil Nadu increased from ₹17.89 lakh crore in 2020–2021 to ₹31.19 lakh crore, recording about 16% growth and ranking first in India.
- ❖ The poverty rate in Tamil Nadu declined from 2.20% in 2020–2021 to 1.43%, showing a reduction of about 11.2%.
- ❖ The export value of Tamil Nadu increased from 64.93 billion US dollars in 2020–2021 to 80.89 billion US dollars, making the state one of the leading exporters in India.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu improved from 3rd place in 2020–2021 to 1st place in electronic goods exports in India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) index score increased from 74 points in 2020–2021 to 78.8 points, and the state ranked 3rd in India.

Strategic Roadmap for Soil Health



TAMIL NADU'S
Soil Health Mission

Tamil Nadu launched the Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme (CM's MKMKS) to address soil degradation and promote sustainable agriculture.

The scheme covers 34 districts, targets 2 lakh acres, and supports 2 lakh farmers with a comprehensive soil restoration approach.

With a **total allocation of Rs. 206 crore**, it represents one of the state's largest soil health initiatives.

Source: Impact Analysis of Green Manuring under CM's MKMKS (2026)

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is implementing a strategic roadmap to improve soil health and support sustainable agriculture in the State.
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu is strengthening soil fertility through the Soil Health and Fertility Scheme with a budget of about ₹206 crore.
- ❖ The roadmap promotes green manure cultivation to improve soil nutrients and fertility across farmlands.
- ❖ Around 2 lakh acres of farmland are planned to be covered by spreading green manure seeds, benefiting more than 2 lakh farmers.
- ❖ A start-up fund of ₹20 crore was allocated to support soil-health improvement activities.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has already distributed over 15.25 million Soil Health Cards (SHC) to farmers to provide information on soil nutrients and fertilizer use.
- ❖ The roadmap supports sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and long-term food security in the State.

NATIONAL NEWS

No-Confidence Motion against Speaker

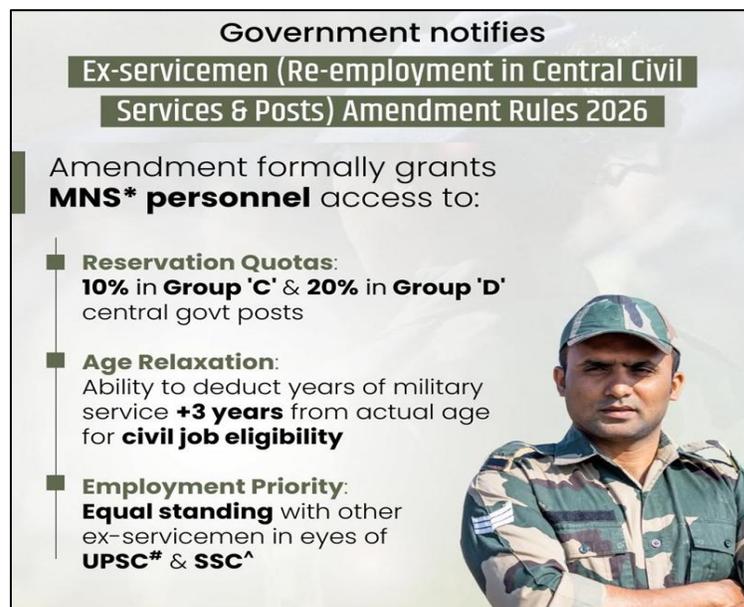


- ❖ The Opposition has moved a No-Confidence Motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in February 2026.
- ❖ For the removal of the Speaker, Article 94 requires at least 50 members to give a written notice and a 14-day notice period before voting.
- ❖ The procedure is governed by Rules 200 A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Speaker cannot decide the admissibility of the resolution as there's charge against him.
- ❖ Deputy Speaker post is a mandatory provision by the Constitution as per Article 93.
- ❖ As there is no Deputy speaker on a resolution to remove the Speaker, the Speaker cannot chair the House.
- ❖ But the panel of chairs will preside when the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is not present.

- ❖ If passed by a majority of all the then members of the House, the Speaker must vacate office.

Ex-Servicemen Rules 2026

- ❖ The Government of India amended the Ex-servicemen (Re-employment in Central Civil Services and Posts) Rules, 2026, to include personnel of the Military Nursing Service under the definition of ex-servicemen.
- ❖ The amendment was notified under Article 309 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ It removes earlier confusion about the eligibility of Military Nursing Service (MNS) officers for re-employment benefits.
- ❖ MNS veterans are now eligible for 10% reservation in Group C posts and 20% reservation in Group D Central Government posts.
- ❖ They will also receive age relaxation equal to their years of military service plus three years.



Government notifies
Ex-servicemen (Re-employment in Central Civil Services & Posts) Amendment Rules 2026

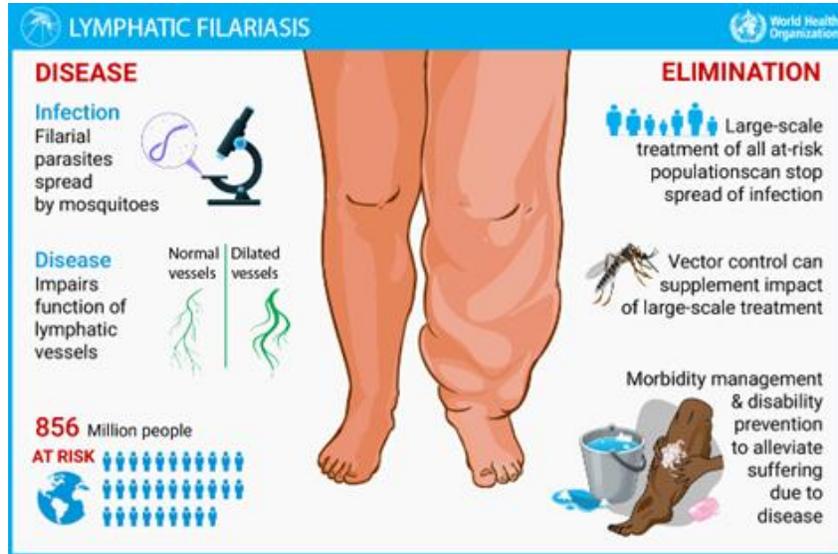
Amendment formally grants **MNS* personnel** access to:

- **Reservation Quotas:**
10% in Group 'C' & 20% in Group 'D' central govt posts
- **Age Relaxation:**
Ability to deduct years of military service **+3 years** from actual age for **civil job eligibility**
- **Employment Priority:**
Equal standing with other ex-servicemen in eyes of **UPSC# & SSC^**

Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis.
- ❖ Anti-filarial medicines such as Diethylcarbamazine, Albendazole, and Ivermectin are given to the eligible population.

- ❖ The campaign is being implemented in 12 endemic states, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- ❖ Lymphatic Filariasis is a neglected tropical disease caused by parasitic worms and spread through mosquito bites.
- ❖ The disease can lead to elephantiasis, hydrocele, and long-term disability.
- ❖ India aims to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 under Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG-3).



State Cyber Crime Coordination Centre



- ❖ The State Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (S4C) dashboard of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre was launched during a national conference on cyber-enabled frauds.
- ❖ The dashboard was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs to strengthen coordination between states in tackling cybercrime.

- ❖ Around 62 banks and financial institutions have already been onboarded to the cybercrime coordination system.
- ❖ The government aims to onboard all banks, including cooperative banks, by December 2026.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India-UK Social Security Agreement 2026

- ❖ India and the United Kingdom signed a Social Security Agreement in New Delhi.
- ❖ The agreement aims to avoid double social security contributions for employees on temporary assignments in each other's country for up to 36 months.
- ❖ It supports the employee mobility and ensures continued social security coverage during short-term overseas postings.
- ❖ The agreement forms part of India's trade deal with the United Kingdom and will come into effect along with the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA).



Arctic Sentry Mission

- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched the "Arctic Sentry" mission to strengthen security in the Arctic region after tensions related to Greenland.
- ❖ The mission aims to coordinate the military activities of NATO countries in the Arctic under one command.

- ❖ Countries like Denmark, Germany, Finland, and the United Kingdom are contributing forces and defence support.
- ❖ The mission focuses on security concerns in the Arctic due to Russia's military activity and China's growing interest in the region.
- ❖ NATO countries are also discussing greater cooperation and a permanent security presence in the Arctic region.



Compact on Antimicrobial Resistance 2025

WHAT IS AMR?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when disease-causing microbes — bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites – become resistant to medicines due to overuse or misuse of antibiotics: they adapt, change and become stronger to survive the antibiotic attack. This results in infections increasingly becoming difficult or impossible to treat.

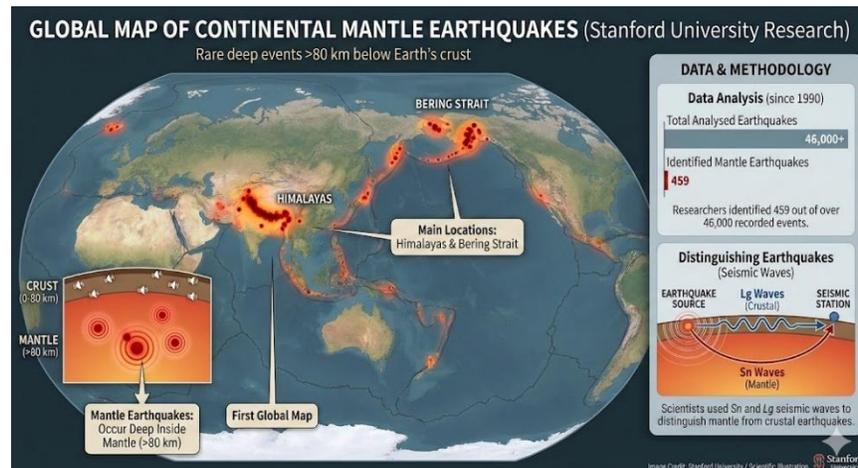
- ❖ The World Economic Forum launched the Davos Compact on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in 2025 to support global action against drug-resistant infections.
- ❖ The compact aims to mobilize public and private financing to reduce deaths caused by AMR.
- ❖ AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites stop responding to antimicrobial medicines such as antibiotics and antivirals.

- ❖ The compact aims to help save more than 100 million lives globally by 2050.
- ❖ In India, about 6 lakh people die every year due to infections caused by antimicrobial resistance.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Global Map of Continental Mantle Earthquakes

- ❖ Scientists from Stanford University created the first global map of rare continental mantle earthquakes.
- ❖ Mantle earthquakes occur deep inside the Earth's mantle, usually more than 80 kilometres below the crust.
- ❖ Researchers analysed data from over 46,000 earthquakes recorded since 1990 and identified 459 continental mantle earthquakes.
- ❖ These deep earthquakes were mainly found beneath the Himalayas and the Bering Strait.
- ❖ Scientists used Sn and Lg seismic waves to distinguish mantle earthquakes from crustal earthquakes.



ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Terrestrial Bird Census 2026

- ❖ The Forest Department is conducting a two-day synchronised terrestrial bird census in the central region of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The census is being conducted in Tiruchi and Pudukottai districts.
- ❖ The survey including the counting of nocturnal terrestrial birds.

- ❖ The census aims to identify bird species, study their diversity and habitats, and support conservation measures.



REPORTS AND INDICES

NITI Aayog report on Net Zero

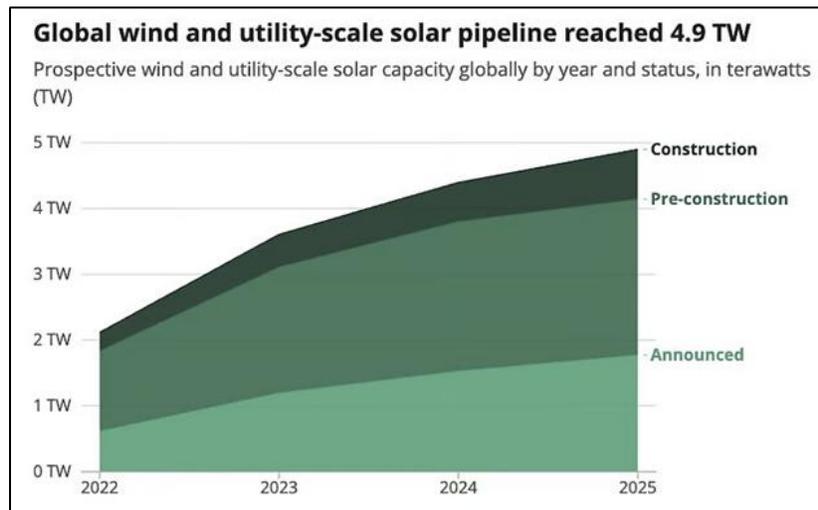


- ❖ NITI Aayog released 11 reports on “Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero.”
- ❖ The reports present pathways for India to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047 and to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.
- ❖ India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to increase from USD 4.18 trillion in 2025 to USD 30 trillion by 2047.
- ❖ The share of electricity in final energy demand is projected to rise from 21% in 2025 to 60% by 2070.
- ❖ Renewable energy capacity is projected to exceed 6,000 gigawatts (GW) by 2070.
- ❖ Nuclear power capacity is projected to increase from 8 GW to over 300 GW by 2070.

- ❖ The Net Zero pathway is estimated to require USD 22.7 trillion investment by 2070, with an annual investment need of about USD 500 billion.

Global Energy Monitor report

- ❖ A report by Global Energy Monitor stated that the global wind and utility-scale solar project pipeline reached a record 4.9 terawatts (TW) in 2025.
- ❖ The total pipeline increased by 11 per cent from 4.4 TW in 2024 to 4.9 TW in 2025.
- ❖ China leads with over 1.5 TW prospective capacity and 448 gigawatts (GW) under construction, while India has 125 GW under construction and more than 163 GW operating capacity.
- ❖ The G7 countries account for only 11 per cent of global prospective wind and solar capacity, with a combined pipeline of about 520 GW.
- ❖ Globally, 758 GW of projects are under construction, with nearly three-fourths located in China and India.
- ❖ The report noted that current progress is insufficient to meet the tripling of the renewable energy target by 2030 agreed at the COP28 summit.

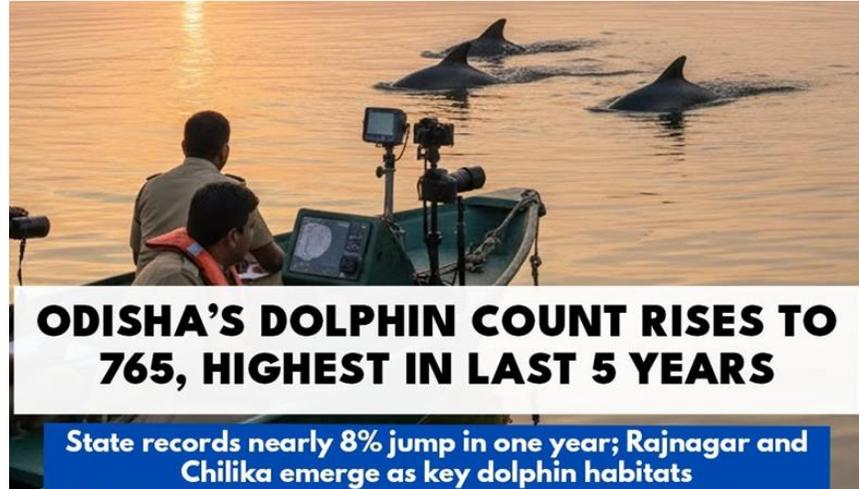


STATE NEWS

Odisha Dolphin Census 2026

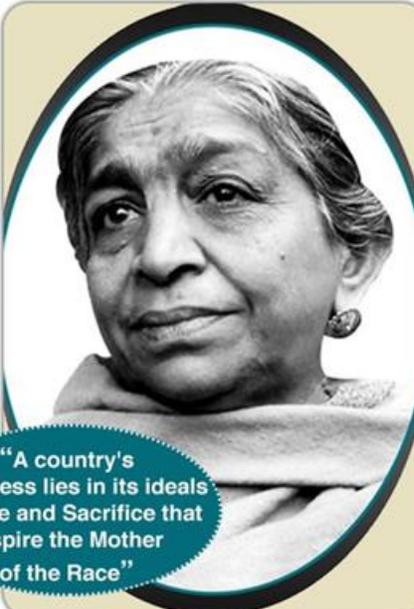
- ❖ Odisha recorded its highest marine dolphin population in five years, with 765 dolphins counted in the 2026 census.
- ❖ A total of 765 dolphins were recorded across marine and estuarine areas of the state.

- ❖ Chilika Lake recorded 159 Irrawaddy dolphins, which is the largest single-area concentration.
- ❖ Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary recorded 474 humpback dolphins, the highest in the state.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Women's Day 2026 - February 13

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| <p>Sarojini Naidu 13 February 1879 - 2 March 1949</p> <p>The Nightingale of India</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Was the first woman to become Governor in 1947 Great patriot, politician, orator and administrator</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Began writing at the age of 12 Her Famous works include Maher Muneer & The Golden Threshold</p> |  <p>"A country's greatness lies in its ideals of Love and Sacrifice that inspire the Mother of the Race"</p> |
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- ❖ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
- ❖ Sarojini Naidu was born on 13 February 1879 in Hyderabad and was a poet, freedom fighter, and political leader.

- ❖ She became the first Indian woman President of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1925.
- ❖ She later became the first woman Governor of the United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) in 1947.
- ❖ She was known as the “Nightingale of India” for her patriotic poetry.
- ❖ The day aims to promote women’s empowerment, gender equality, education, and leadership in society.

