

February - 23

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ IIT Madras Global Research Foundation launched its first Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation Centre at Dubai CommerCity, UAE.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the first export of 0.5 metric tonne (MT) of GI-tagged Salem Sago from Tamil Nadu to Canada.
- ❖ 'Bharat GI' is launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to promote India's GI tagged products globally under the tagline "A World Exclusive."
- ❖ 13th edition of Exercise MILAN, a multilateral naval exercise hosted by the Indian Navy was inaugurated at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India has operationalised its first private-sector helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) for the H125 at Vemagal, Karnataka.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Tamil Nadu Legislature – Coffee Table Book Release



- ❖ The book titled "Tamil Nadu Legislature – A Journey in Legislating & Policy Making" was released in Chennai.
- ❖ The book was released by Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker M. Appavu.
- ❖ It covers major laws such as the Temple Entry Authorization Act (1939), Sales Tax Act (1939), Devadasi Abolition Act (1947), and the law granting equal property rights to women (1989).

- ❖ It also mentions welfare schemes like the Midday Meal Scheme, Breakfast Scheme, and Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thittam.
- ❖ It recalls the 1967 resolution to rename Madras State as Tamil Nadu.

### **Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government withdrew the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The Bill proposed the conversion of existing private or government-aided colleges into “Brownfield Universities.”
- ❖ It reduced the minimum land requirement from 100 acres to 25 acres in municipal corporation areas, 35 acres in municipal council or town panchayat areas, and 50 acres in other areas.
- ❖ Higher Education Minister earlier stated that the government would review and withdraw the Bill.
- ❖ The government also withdrew the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- ❖ The Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill and the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility (Amendment) Bill during the same session.

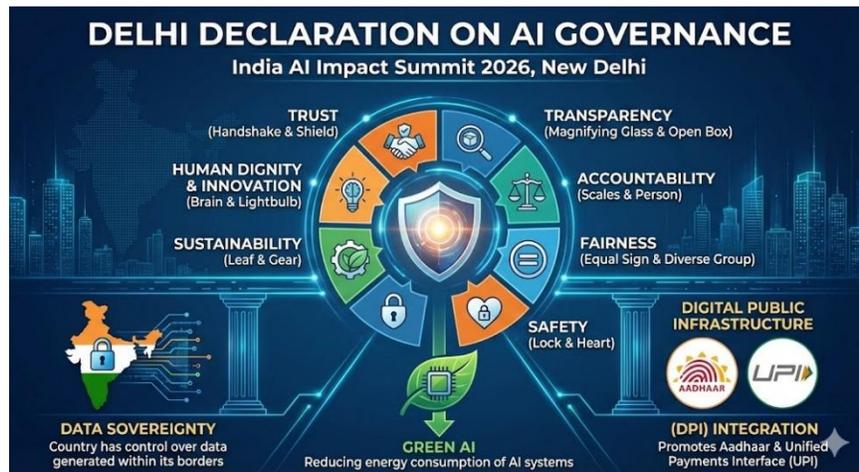


## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Delhi Declaration 2026**

- ❖ The Delhi Declaration was formally adopted at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held in New Delhi.

- ❖ The declaration outlines seven principles for Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance.
- ❖ It promotes trust, transparency, accountability, fairness, safety, sustainability, human dignity and innovation in AI systems.
- ❖ It supports data sovereignty, which means a country has control over data generated within its borders.
- ❖ It encourages integration of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) such as Aadhaar (Unique Identification Authority of India) and UPI (Unified Payments Interface).
- ❖ It also promotes Green AI, which focuses on reducing the energy consumption of AI systems.



### **Bharat VISTAAR initiative**

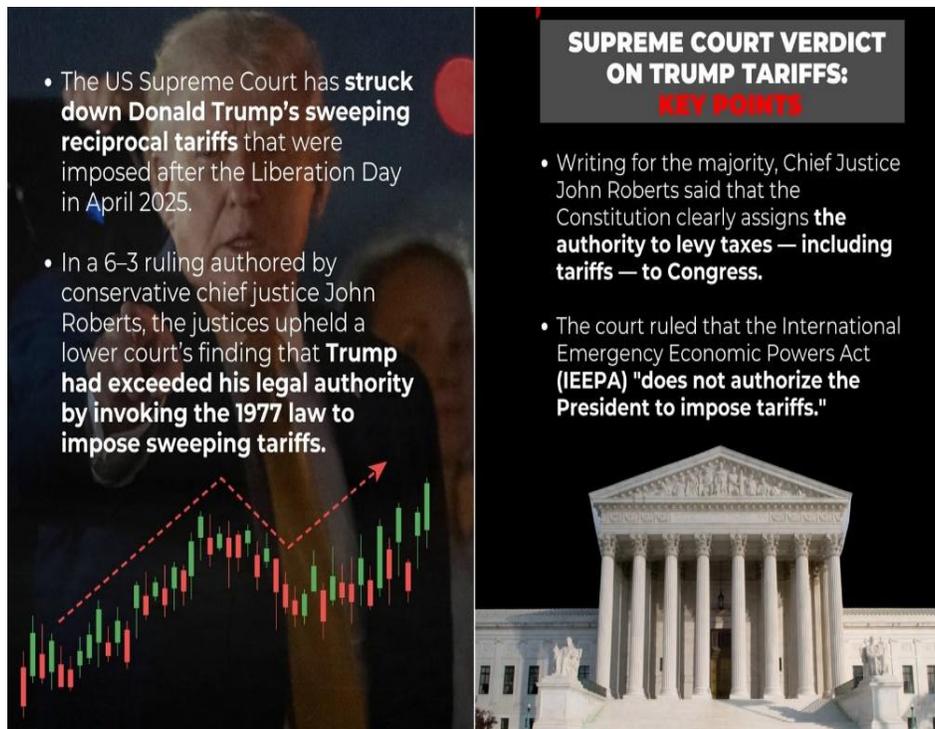


- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture has launched Phase-1 of Bharat VISTAAR in Jaipur, Rajasthan, during the AI Summit 2026.

- ❖ It is a multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) based conversational advisory system for farmers.
- ❖ Farmers can call the helpline number 155261 to receive instant answers.
- ❖ A Digital Farmer Identity Card will link services such as Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and the Soil Health Card Scheme.
- ❖ It provides the guidance on soil testing, seeds, fertilisers, irrigation, loans and insurance.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### U.S. Supreme Court - Tariff Verdict



**SUPREME COURT VERDICT ON TRUMP TARIFFS: KEY POINTS**

- The US Supreme Court has **struck down Donald Trump's sweeping reciprocal tariffs** that were imposed after the Liberation Day in April 2025.
- In a 6-3 ruling authored by conservative chief justice John Roberts, the justices upheld a lower court's finding that **Trump had exceeded his legal authority by invoking the 1977 law to impose sweeping tariffs.**
- Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts said that the Constitution clearly assigns **the authority to levy taxes — including tariffs — to Congress.**
- The court ruled that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) **"does not authorize the President to impose tariffs."**

- ❖ The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down former President Donald Trump's earlier tariffs, after which a new 10% global import duty was announced.
- ❖ The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the earlier tariffs exceeded presidential authority.
- ❖ A temporary 10% ad valorem import duty was imposed for 150 days from 24 February 2026.
- ❖ The duty was imposed under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974.
- ❖ After this order, India's tariff rate was reduced from 18% to 10% under the Interim Trade Agreement framework.

- ❖ Some goods, such as critical minerals, energy products and pharmaceuticals, were exempted from the temporary duty.

### **India and France - Special Global Strategic Partnership**

- ❖ India and France upgraded their ties to a “Special Global Strategic Partnership” during French President Emmanuel Macron’s visit to India.
- ❖ India and France had earlier established a Strategic Partnership in 1998, which was India’s first with a Western nation.
- ❖ The new framework covers defence, nuclear energy, space, climate, trade, technology and people-to-people relations.
- ❖ Both countries are implementing the Horizon 2047 Roadmap to align cooperation with 100 years of diplomatic relations.
- ❖ Civil nuclear cooperation includes the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant project in Maharashtra.



## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

### **Global AI for Energy Mission**

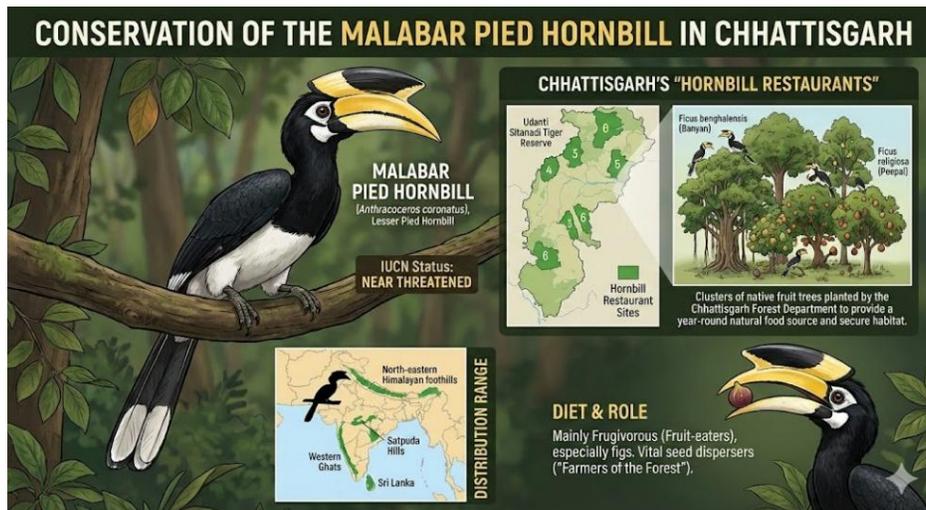
- ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched the Global AI-for-Energy Mission at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The mission aims to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into clean energy systems across more than 120 member countries.

- ❖ It is launched in partnership with India's Ministry of Power and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ The objective is to improve grid stability, increase renewable energy use, and ensure affordable and reliable electricity access in developing countries.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Malabar Pied Hornbill



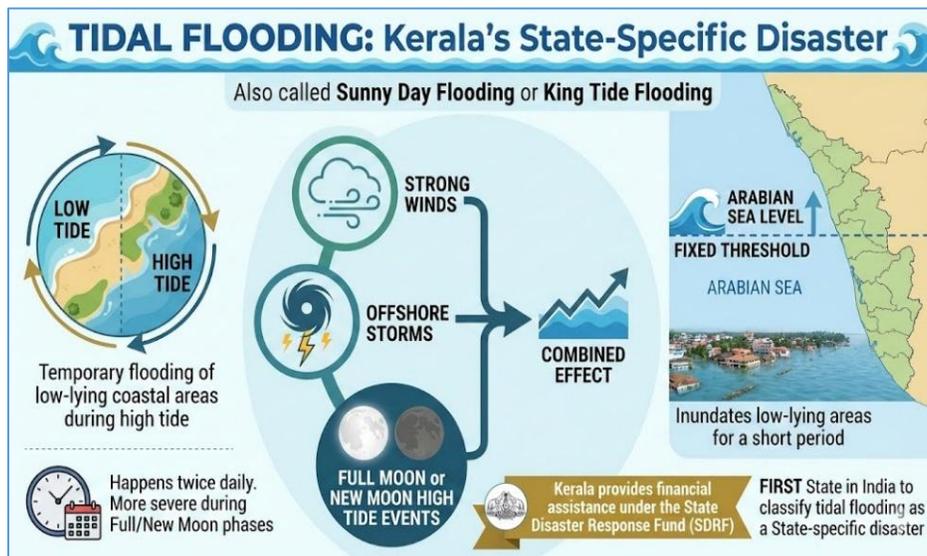
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Forest Department has started six "hornbill restaurants" in Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve for the Malabar Pied Hornbill.
- ❖ The Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*), also called the lesser pied hornbill.

- ❖ It is found in the Western Ghats, north-eastern Himalayan foothills, Satpua Hills, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It is mainly frugivorous and is listed as Near Threatened by the IUCN.

## STATE NEWS

### Tidal Flooding – State Specific Disaster

- ❖ The Kerala government has declared tidal flooding as a State-specific disaster.
- ❖ Tidal flooding, also called sunny day flooding or king tide flooding, is the temporary flooding of low-lying coastal areas during high tide.
- ❖ It occurs due to the combined effect of strong winds, offshore storms and full moon or new moon high tide events.
- ❖ It happens twice daily and becomes more severe during full moon and new moon phases.
- ❖ Along the Kerala coast, the Arabian Sea level rises above a fixed threshold and inundates low-lying areas for a short period.
- ❖ Kerala will provide financial assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), and it is the first State in India to classify tidal flooding as a State-specific disaster.



### India's First Graphene Policy

- ❖ Kerala has approved India's first comprehensive Graphene Policy to promote research, development and manufacturing of graphene.

- ❖ Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice and is known for its high strength, electrical conductivity and thermal stability.
- ❖ The policy proposes a dedicated graphene industrial park in Palakkad and a Digital Innovation Centre with an investment of ₹200 crore.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Graphene Park to support graphene-based innovation and manufacturing.
- ❖ Kerala will provide a 50% subsidy on lease payments for manufacturing units in government-managed parks.



## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **BBC Awards 2025**

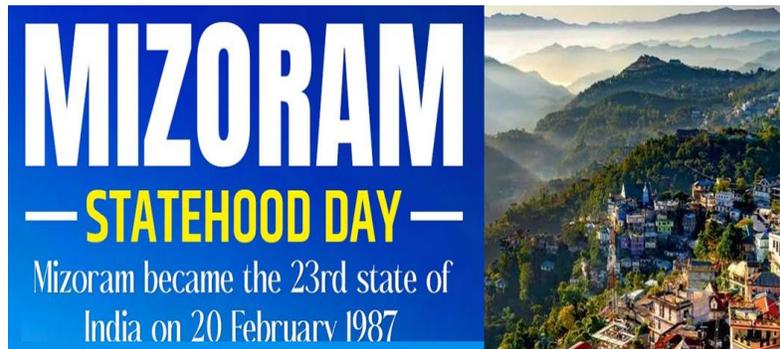
- ❖ Smriti Mandhana was named BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 at an award ceremony held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Divya Deshmukh received the Emerging Player of the Year award for winning the FIDE Women's World Cup.
- ❖ Preethi Pal was awarded Para-Sportswoman of the Year for winning two bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

- ❖ Anjali Bhagwat received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her career in shooting and for reaching an Olympic final.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Mizoram Foundation Day 2026

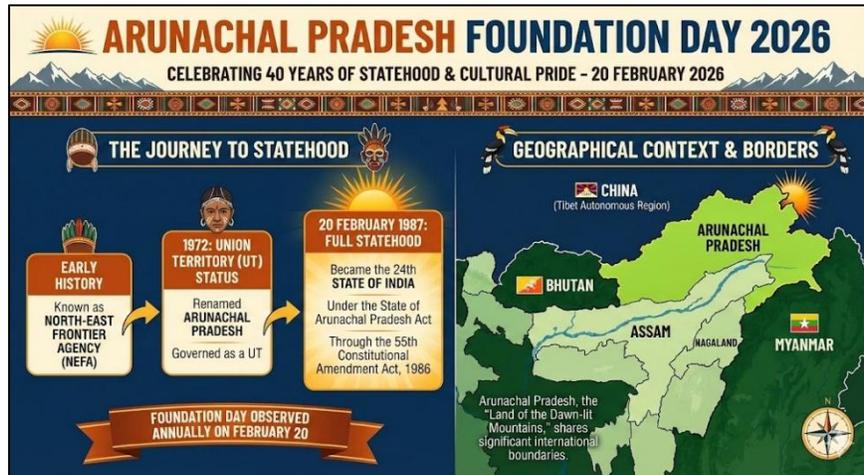


- ❖ Mizoram became a 23rd state on 20 February 1987 after the signing of the Mizoram Accord in 1986.
- ❖ The Mizoram Accord was signed between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front (MNF).
- ❖ Mizoram was earlier a Union Territory (UT) from 1972 under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.
- ❖ Statehood was granted through the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986.
- ❖ Mizoram shares international borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh.

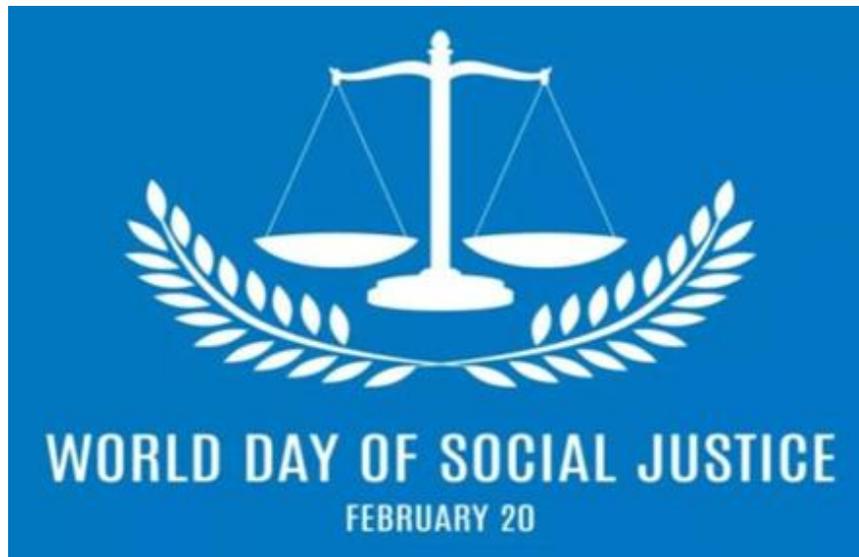
### Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day 2026

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh attained statehood on 20 February 1987.

- ❖ It was earlier known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).
- ❖ It became a Union Territory (UT) in 1972 and was renamed Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Statehood was granted under the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act through the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986.
- ❖ The state shares international borders with Bhutan, China, and Myanmar.



## World Day of Social Justice 2026 - February 20

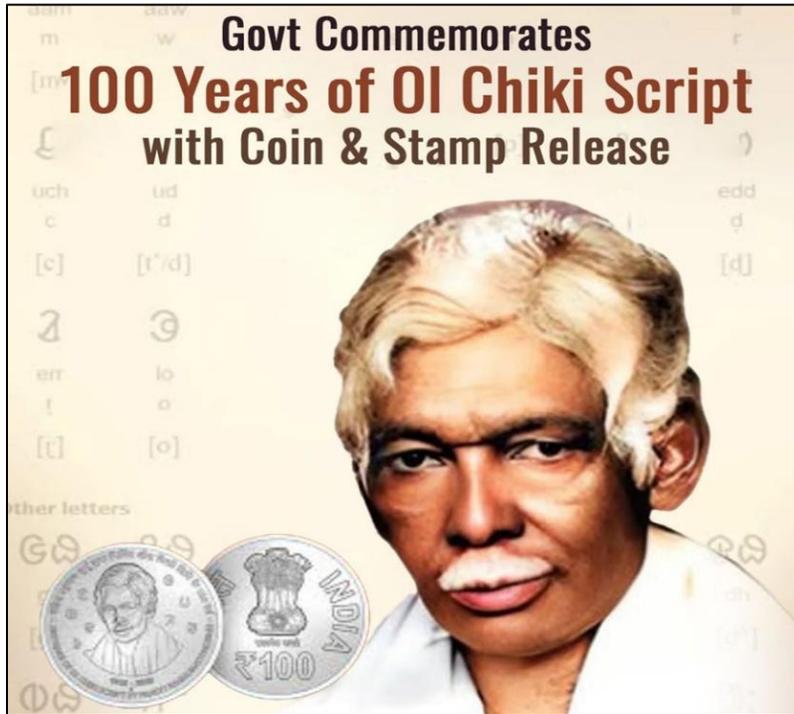


- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about poverty eradication, decent work opportunities, gender equality, and social inclusion in society.
- ❖ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2007.
- ❖ The day supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

- ❖ The 2026 theme is “Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice”.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Ol Chiki Script – 100 Years Celebration



- ❖ The President of India inaugurated the Centenary Celebration of the Ol Chiki script in New Delhi to mark 100 years of its invention.
- ❖ The Ol Chiki script was invented in 1925 by Pandit Raghunath Murmu of Mayurbhanj, Odisha.
- ❖ It was created to provide a separate script for the Santhali language.
- ❖ The script consists of 30 letters and is completely phonetic in nature.
- ❖ The Santhali language was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- ❖ In December 2025, the Constitution of India was translated into Santhali using the Ol Chiki script.

