

February - 24

TNPSC BITS

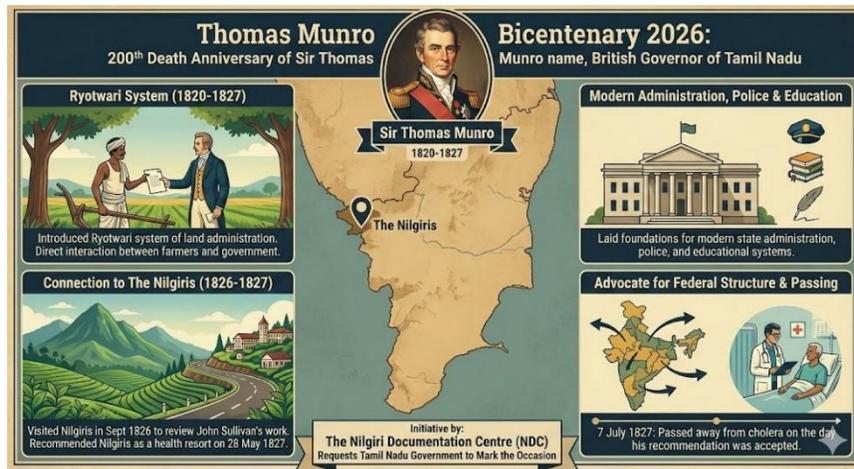
- ❖ India is hosting the inaugural United Nations Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Control for the Asia-Pacific region in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, for the first time in Asia.
- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the world's first commercial-scale Second-Generation (2G) bioethanol plant that uses bamboo as feedstock at Golaghat in Assam.
- ❖ The Bihar state cabinet approved the construction of a new international airport at Sonapur in Saran district.
- ❖ The 475-year-old Our Lady of Grace Cathedral in Vasai, Maharashtra, has won the Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
- ❖ Japan's lower house reappointed Sanae Takaichi as Prime Minister, making her Japan's first woman PM after her landslide election win.
- ❖ Eight-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva became the youngest speaker at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.
- ❖ India's Tata Group has partnered with OpenAI to build the country's first large-scale AI data centre.
- ❖ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog launched AI-Preneurs of India, a coffee table book documenting 45 AI startups across 30+ sectors supported by Atal Incubation Centres.
- ❖ Losar Festival 2026 is celebrated from 18–20 February in McLeod Ganj, Himachal Pradesh, marking the Tibetan New Year and the start of the Fire Horse Year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister released the fourth volume of the comparative etymological dictionary of Tamil and Indo-European languages in Chennai.
 - The fourth volume traces the historical development of words in Western Indo-European languages like Latin, Greek, German, French, English and Eastern languages like Sanskrit, Pali, and Sinhala from 19 Tamil root words.
- ❖ The Global AI Brain Race Report 2026 ranks the United States 1st in artificial intelligence (AI), followed by China (2nd) and Singapore (3rd).
 - India ranks 6th, scoring 32/100, strong in talent readiness but weak in infrastructure and governance.
- ❖ Zomi National Day was celebrated on 20 February 2026 in the Churachandpur district of Manipur, marking its 78th celebration.

- The day aims to promote the unity and cultural identity of the Zomi community and was first observed in 1948 to mark the formation of the Zomi National Organization.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Thomas Munro Bicentenary 2026

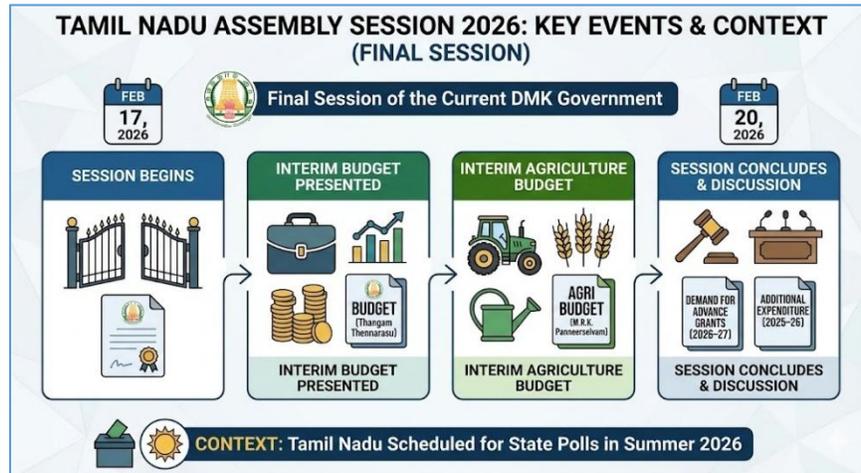
- ❖ The Nilgiri Documentation Centre (NDC) has requested the Tamil Nadu government to mark the 200th death anniversary of British Governor Sir Thomas Munro.
- ❖ Munro served as Governor from 1820 to 1827 and introduced the Ryotwari system of land administration in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He laid the foundations for modern administration, police, and education in the state and advocated a federal structure for India.
- ❖ Munro visited The Nilgiris in September 1826 to review John Sullivan's work in developing it as a hill station.
- ❖ He recommended making The Nilgiris a health resort on 28 May 1827 and passed away from cholera on 7 July 1827, the day the recommendation was accepted.



Tamil Nadu Assembly Session 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Assembly session was concluded on February 20, 2026.
- ❖ The final session of the current Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government began on February 17, 2026.
- ❖ Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu presented the interim Budget for the State.

- ❖ Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister M.R.K. Panneerselvam presented the interim Agriculture Budget.
- ❖ On February 20, the Assembly discussed the demand for advance grants for 2026–2027 and additional expenditure for 2025–2026.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is scheduled to go to the polls in the summer of 2026.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Genocide Concerns of El-Fasher City



- ❖ The siege and capture of El-Fasher city in North Darfur, Sudan, has been reported to bear “hallmarks of genocide” following a United Nations-mandated independent fact-finding mission’s investigation.

- ❖ El-Fasher was under an 18-month siege by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) during the ongoing Sudanese civil war, and the city fell to the RSF in late October 2025.
- ❖ The UN report documented systematic ethnically targeted killings, sexual violence and destruction of civilian infrastructure during and after the siege.
- ❖ The RSF is accused of targeting non-Arab ethnic groups such as the Zaghawa and Fur communities.
- ❖ Following the UN findings, the United States sanctioned three RSF commanders for their roles in atrocities linked to the siege and capture of El-Fasher.

Nigeria Mine Tragedy 2026

- ❖ At least 37 miners died from carbon monoxide poisoning at a mining site in the Kampani community, Wase area, Plateau State, central Nigeria.
- ❖ The incident occurred at a dormant lead mine where accumulated minerals and chemical residues in underground tunnels released lethal gases.
- ❖ Preliminary reports indicate a sudden release of toxic gases, including carbon monoxide, lead oxide, and sulphur compounds, in the poorly ventilated tunnels.
- ❖ These gases are colourless, odourless, and highly poisonous, causing miners to lose consciousness and die upon inhalation.

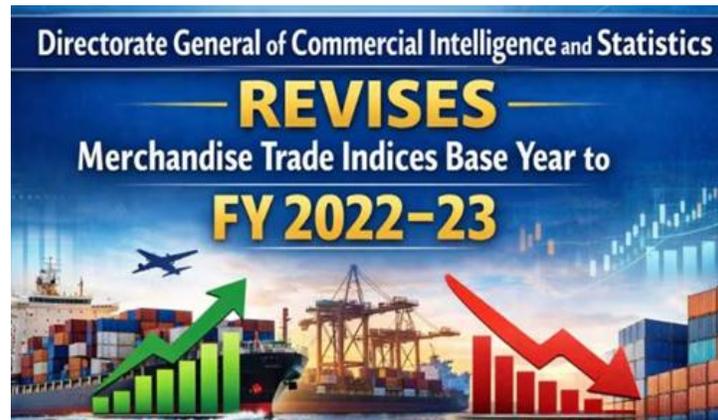


ECONOMY NEWS

Base Year of Merchandise Trade Indices

- ❖ The Government of India revised the base year of India's merchandise trade indices from 2012–13 to 2022–23.

- ❖ The update was done by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) to improve relevance, reliability, and analytical usefulness for policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders.
- ❖ The revision reflects structural changes in India's economy, including changes in commodity composition, export diversification, and new trade partnerships.
- ❖ The committee, chaired by Professor Nachiketa Chattopadhyay of the Indian Statistical Institute, recommended the update.
- ❖ The new indices include updated commodity coverage, revised weighting based on 2022–23 trade values, alignment with international trade classifications, and expanded terms of trade analysis (gross, net, and income terms).



STATE NEWS

AI-based CM Shri School Model



- ❖ Delhi Chief Minister inaugurated the CM Shri School at Sarojini Nagar, marking India's first AI-driven comprehensive education model.

- ❖ The government laid foundation stones for 75 CM Shri School projects across Delhi.
- ❖ The initiative follows the National Education Policy 2020 and aims to provide technology-integrated, high-quality public education.
- ❖ The schools will offer modern infrastructure, AI-enabled smart classrooms, and digital learning tools for personalized education.

Recent initiatives in Assam

- ❖ The Assam Cabinet has approved 3% reservation for tea tribes and Adivasi communities in Class I and II state government jobs.
- ❖ Earlier, the quota was limited to Grade III and IV posts, but now it includes higher posts like state civil services and professors.
- ❖ The Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan (MMUA) scheme has been expanded to include 1,07,532 additional women, adding to the 32 lakh beneficiaries who received ₹10,000 each.
- ❖ The new measures aim to increase social mobility, improve employment opportunities, and strengthen rural entrepreneurship.

Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan

Helping **39 lakh** women SHG members become Micro Entrepreneurs with minimum annual income of **₹1 lakh** each

₹10,000

Assam Cabinet Approves 3% Reservation for Tea Tribes and Adivasi Communities in Grade I & II Posts

Muslim Reservation in Maharashtra

- ❖ The Maharashtra government, led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, has revoked a decade-old 5% reservation for socially and educationally backward sections of the Muslim community.
- ❖ The quota was originally introduced in July 2014 by the Congress-NCP government through an ordinance, but was never converted into law and had lapsed in December 2014.
- ❖ The government cited constitutional concerns under Articles 15(1) and 16(2), which prohibit discrimination based solely on religion.

- ❖ Courts, including the Supreme Court of India, have consistently ruled that affirmative action cannot be based solely on religious identity.
- ❖ Following the revocation, the issuance of Special Backward Category-A (SBC-A) caste and validity certificates for Muslims has been stopped.



The Maharashtra government has formally cancelled the 5% reservation for Muslims in jobs and education.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Earthshot Prize 2026



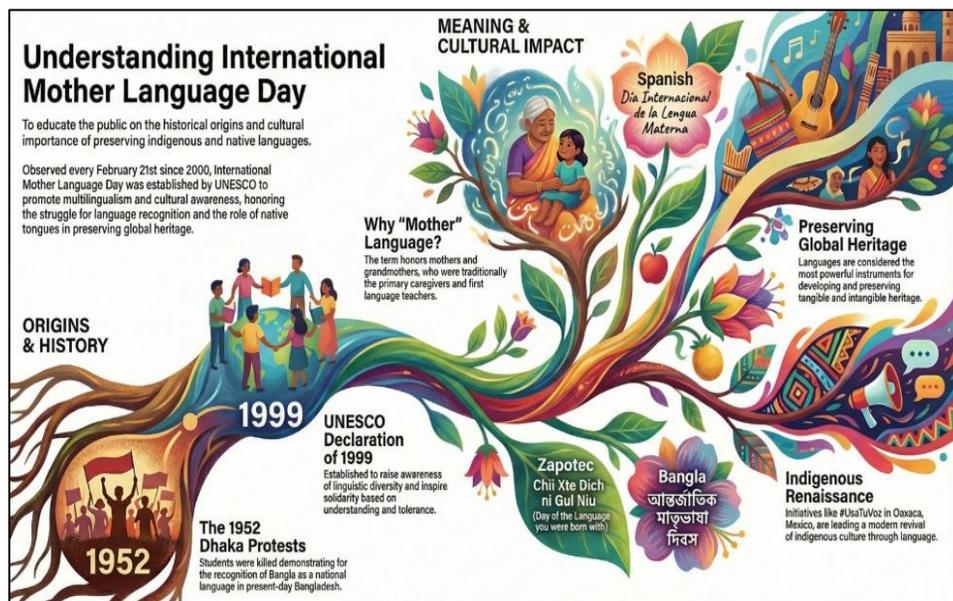
- ❖ Mumbai will host the Earthshot Prize 2026, founded by Prince William, for the first time during Mumbai Climate Week.

- ❖ The prize awards £1 million to five global innovators annually for solutions in climate action, biodiversity, clean energy, air quality, and ocean restoration.
- ❖ Prince William highlighted India's role in climate leadership and sustainable innovation as a reason for hosting the event.
- ❖ The initiative reinforces India's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and promoting green technology.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mother Language Day 2026 - February 21

- ❖ The day aims to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education worldwide.
- ❖ It was first proclaimed in 1999 by UNESCO and later recognized in 2002 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ It commemorates the 1952 Language Movement in Bangladesh.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Youth Voices on Multilingual Education."



World Pangolin Day 2026 - February 21

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about pangolin conservation and illegal wildlife trade.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2012 and is observed annually on the third Saturday of February.

- ❖ All eight pangolin species are listed under Appendix I of the CITES.
- ❖ The Indian pangolin and Chinese pangolin are found in India.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Royal Indian Navy Revolt 1946

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY REVOLT 1946
THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION (FEBRUARY 18, 2026)

FEBRUARY 18-23, 1946: A FIVE-DAY UPRISING

 <p>CAUSES & BEGINNINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROTEST AGAINST BRITISH COLONIAL AUTHORITY • POOR FOOD, LOW WAGES, RACIAL RACIAL DISCRIMINATION • STARTED BY NAVAL RATINGS 	 <p>SPREAD & SCALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78 SHIPS & 20 SHORE ESTABLISHMENTS • NEARLY 20,000 SAILORS PARTICIPATED • SPREAD ACROSS INDIA (Bombay, Karachi, Madras, Calcutta) 	 <p>SOLIDARITY & IMPACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WORKERS, STUDENTS, CIVILIANS JOINED • SHOWED HINDU-MUSLIM UNITY • SHOOK BRITISH CONFIDENCE • ACCELERATED PATH TO INDEPENDENCE • ENDED WITH ARRESTS & SUPPRESSION
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OBSERVED ON 18 FEBRUARY 2026: REMEMBERING THE 'NAVAL MUTINY'

- ❖ The 80th anniversary of the 1946 Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Revolt is observed on 18 February 2026.
- ❖ The revolt was a five-day uprising (18–23 February 1946) by Indian naval ratings against British colonial authority.

- ❖ It began as a protest over poor food, low wages, and racial discrimination, and spread to 78 ships and 20 shore establishments across India.
- ❖ Nearly 20,000 sailors participated, with workers, students, and civilians joining in solidarity, showing Hindu-Muslim unity.

