

February - 26

## TNPSC BITS

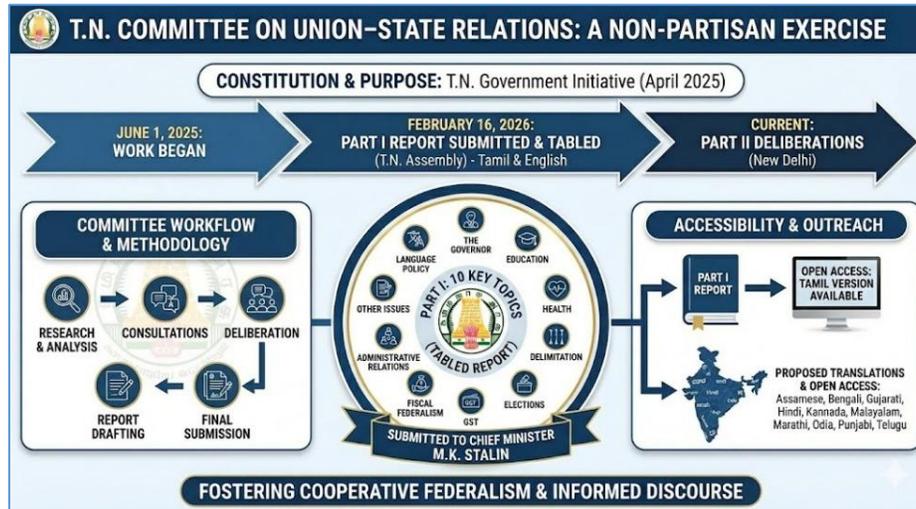
- ❖ The Indian Navy launched its first indigenously designed and built Cadet Training Ship (CTS) 'Krishna' at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.
- ❖ Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan has released the coffee table book 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman' in New Delhi to pay tribute to Atal Bihari Vajpayee and highlights his journey from the Member of Parliament to the Prime Minister.
- ❖ India's top cue sports player, Pankaj Advani, won the Liber Win Champions Cup 2026 and was named Indian Brand Ambassador for Liber Win.
- ❖ Addverb has launched Elixis-W, a Made-in-India wheeled humanoid robot, at LogiMAT India 2026 for logistics and warehouse operations.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of India inaugurated India's first Namu Bharat Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS – Regional Rapid Transit System) on the Delhi–Meerut corridor connecting Delhi and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.
  - This is the first time in India that Namu Bharat and Metro trains operate from the same station and on the same track.
- ❖ The U.S. Department of Energy has removed the 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable' (ALARA) principle from its radiation safety rules.
  - ALARA aims to reduce unnecessary exposure using engineering controls and encourages a safety culture.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### TN Committee on Union–State Relations

- ❖ The T.N. Committee on Union–State Relations met in New Delhi to deliberate on Part II of its report.
- ❖ The committee was constituted by the Tamil Nadu Government in April 2025 as a non-partisan exercise and began its work on 1 June 2025.
- ❖ Part I of the report was submitted to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and tabled in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on 16 February 2026 in Tamil and English.
- ❖ Part I covered 10 key topics, including language policy, the Governor, education, health, delimitation, elections, and GST.

- ❖ The Tamil version of Part I has been made open access, and the government has proposed translations in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, and Telugu, and to make them open access.



## NATIONAL NEWS

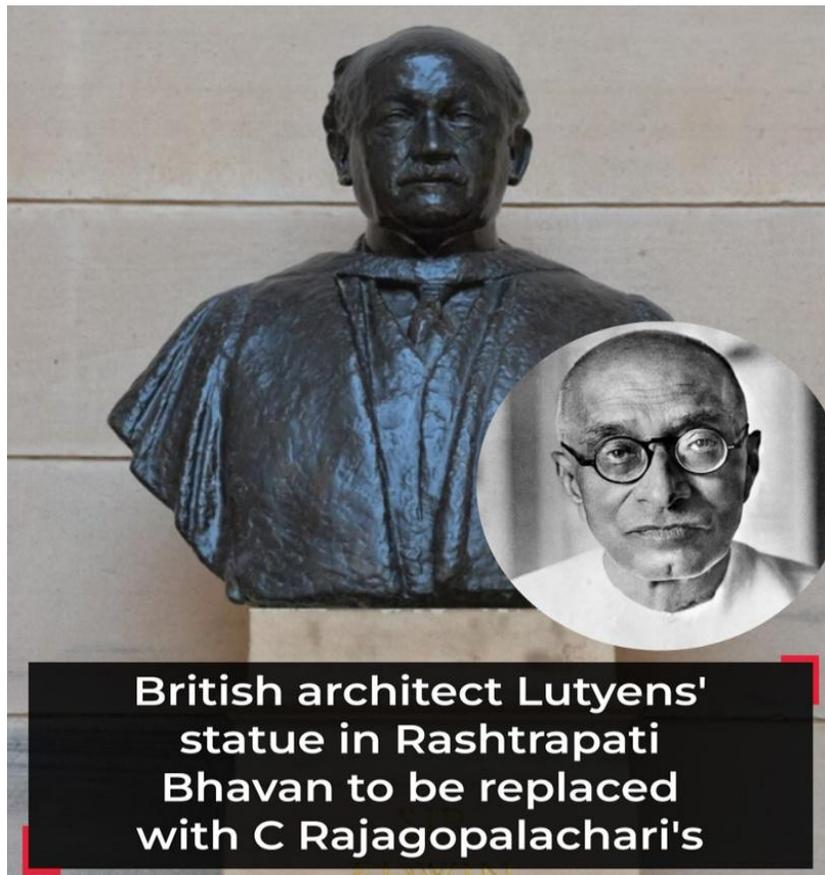
### SAHI and BODH Initiatives



- ❖ The union Health minister launched the Secure AI for Health Initiative (SAHI) and Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI (BODH) at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to strengthen India's health AI ecosystem.
- ❖ SAHI provides a national governance framework for responsible AI adoption in healthcare with a focus on accountability, privacy protection, and citizen-centric safeguards.

- ❖ BODH offers a structured platform to test, benchmark, and validate AI-based health solutions for safety, performance, and real-world readiness before deployment.
- ❖ The initiatives aim to ensure AI solutions are safe, reliable, evidence-based, and people-centric while strengthening public trust.
- ❖ They build on the National Health Policy 2017 and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (2020) to create interoperable and scalable digital health infrastructure.

### **Rajaji Statue at Rashtrapati Bhavan**



- ❖ The Prime Minister of India announced that the statue of Edwin Lutyens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be replaced by that of C. Rajagopalachari.
- ❖ Chakravarti Rajagopalachari was the first and last Indian Governor-General of independent India.
- ❖ He was born on 10 December 1878 in Salem, Madras Province.
- ❖ He led the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and authored the C.R. Formula in 1944 to address the constitutional deadlock.
- ❖ He was one of the first recipients of the Bharat Ratna in 1954.

- ❖ Edwin Lutyens was the British architect who designed Rashtrapati Bhavan and several major buildings in New Delhi.

### Anti-Terror Policy 'PRAHAAR'



- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has released India's first anti-terror policy, named PRAHAAR.
- ❖ PRAHAAR states that India faces terrorist threats through water, land, air, and cyber space.
- ❖ It highlights threats from cross-border terrorism, global groups like Al-Qaeda and Islamic State, and the misuse of drones and encrypted platforms.
- ❖ The policy covers protection of key sectors like power, railways, aviation, ports, defence, space, and atomic energy.
- ❖ It also focuses on legal action, de-radicalisation, cyber monitoring, and better coordination between States and central agencies.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### India-Brazil Strategic Partnership

- ❖ India and Brazil signed 10 agreements during the visit of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to New Delhi.

- ❖ India and Brazil decided to increase their trade to 20 billion US dollars within five years.
- ❖ Brazil is India's largest trading partner in Latin America.
- ❖ Both countries signed an agreement to cooperate in critical minerals and rare earth elements.
- ❖ They agreed to work together on Digital Public Infrastructure.
- ❖ They will cooperate in Artificial Intelligence and semiconductor technology.
- ❖ An agreement was signed in the field of health and pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs – Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises).
- ❖ They agreed to share traditional knowledge systems.
- ❖ An agreement was signed for cooperation in mass communication and media.
- ❖ Both sides decided to strengthen defence cooperation and joint military exercises.
- ❖ India and Brazil work together in international groups such as BRICS, G20, International Solar Alliance, IBSA Dialogue Forum, and G4.



### **Poland's Exit from Ottawa Convention**

- ❖ Poland withdrew from the Ottawa Convention (Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty).
- ❖ Poland has ratified the treaty in 2012 and destroyed its anti-personnel mine stockpiles in 2016.
- ❖ The decision is linked to security concerns near its borders with Russia (Kaliningrad) and Belarus after the Ukraine war.

- ❖ The Ottawa Convention (1997) bans the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel mines.
- ❖ Anti-tank mines are regulated under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (1980), Amended Protocol II (1996).
- ❖ India, Russia, and the United States have not joined the Ottawa Convention.



## **ECONOMY NEWS**

### **India's Forex Reserves – February 2026**

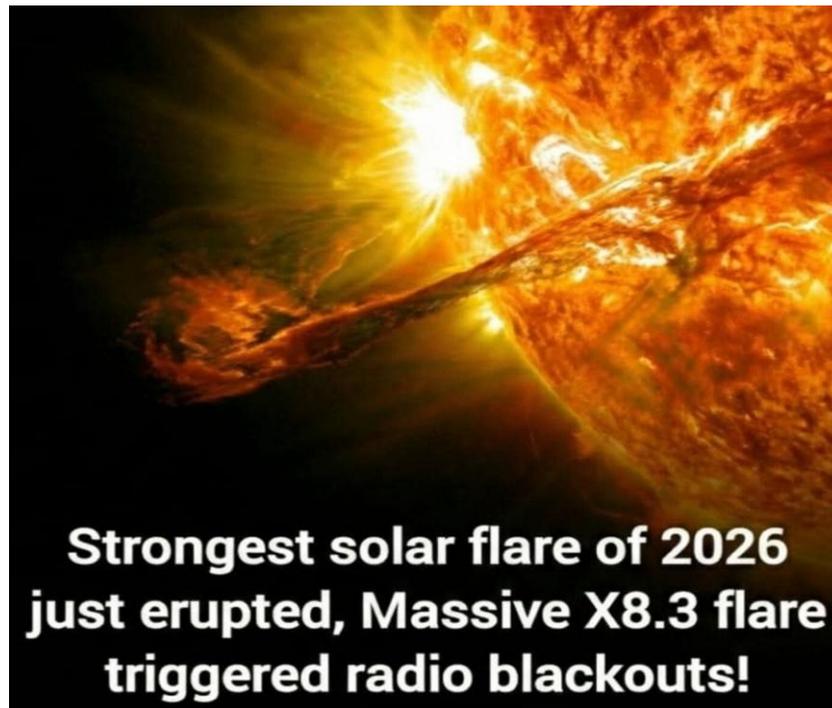


- ❖ India's foreign exchange reserves rose to a record 725.727 billion US dollars for the week ended 13 February 2026, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

- ❖ The reserves increased by 8.663 billion US dollars in one week.
- ❖ Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) are the largest component at 573.603 billion US dollars.
- ❖ Gold reserves increased to 128.466 billion US dollars.
- ❖ Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) stood at 18.924 billion US dollars.
- ❖ FCA includes holdings in US Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen, and British Pound.
- ❖ SDRs are international reserve assets created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

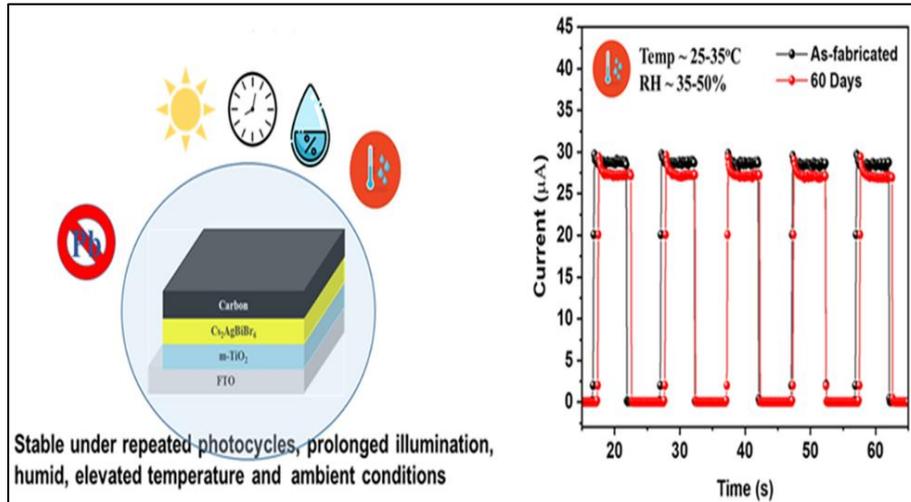
### X8.3 Solar Flare



- ❖ The Sun produced an X8.3 solar flare on 1 February 2026, the strongest solar flare recorded this year.
- ❖ Solar flares are sudden bursts of energy from the Sun caused by changes in its magnetic field.
- ❖ Flares are classified as A, B, C, M and X, with X being the most powerful category.
- ❖ The X8.3 flare disrupted radio communication over parts of the South Pacific, eastern Australia and New Zealand.

- ❖ The flare originated from a sunspot group named Region 4366, which is showing unstable magnetic activity.

### Lead Free Photodetector

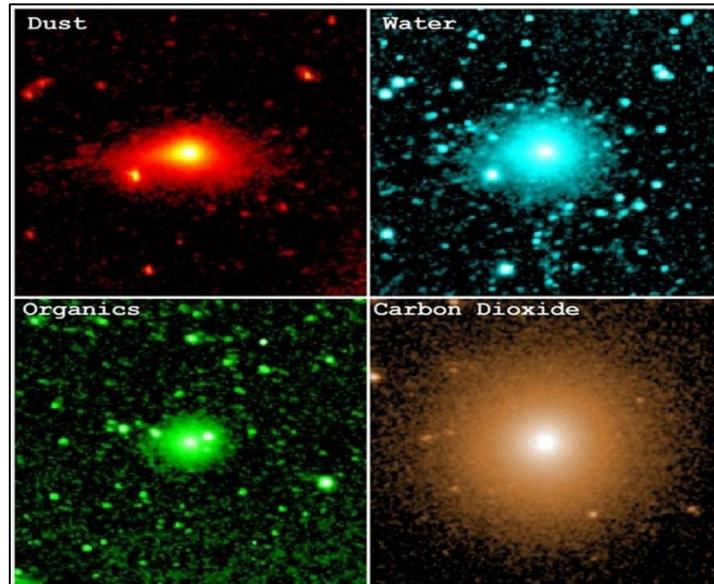


- ❖ Indian researchers have developed novel lead-free and eco-friendly photo detector in February 2026.
- ❖ The device was developed by the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials, Hyderabad, in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad under the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ It is based on a double perovskite material called  $Cs_2AgBiBr_6$  and uses low-cost carbon electrodes.
- ❖ The photodetector is lead free, self-powered, and shows a strong response to visible light.
- ❖ It retains more than 90 % performance even after 60 days and is made using a one-step coating method at room temperature.
- ❖ It can be used in consumer electronics, security systems, industrial monitoring and biomedical imaging.

### Organic Molecules in Interstellar Comet

- ❖ NASA's SPHEREx space telescope detected organic molecules in interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS.
- ❖ SPHEREx observed the comet in December 2025 using infrared wavelengths.
- ❖ Scientists detected organic molecules such as methanol, methane and cyanide.

- ❖ The comet showed increased brightness after passing closest to the Sun due to sublimation.
- ❖ Comet 3I/ATLAS was discovered in July 2025 and confirmed as an interstellar object.
- ❖ SPHEREx was launched in March 2025 to study the universe in 102 infrared wavelengths.



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### 'Vanjeevi Didi' Initiative



- ❖ Palamu Tiger Reserve has launched the 'Vanjeevi Didi' initiative to promote community-based wildlife conservation.

- ❖ The initiative empowers 18 educated women from each of 17 villages to act as forest ambassadors and spread awareness against poaching and deforestation.
- ❖ It was launched on 17 February 2026 in the Garu range of Jharkhand.
- ❖ Each selected woman will receive a monthly incentive of ₹3,000.
- ❖ Palamu Tiger Reserve is part of Project Tiger, which was launched in 1973 to protect Bengal tigers.

## **Galapagos Giant Tortoise**



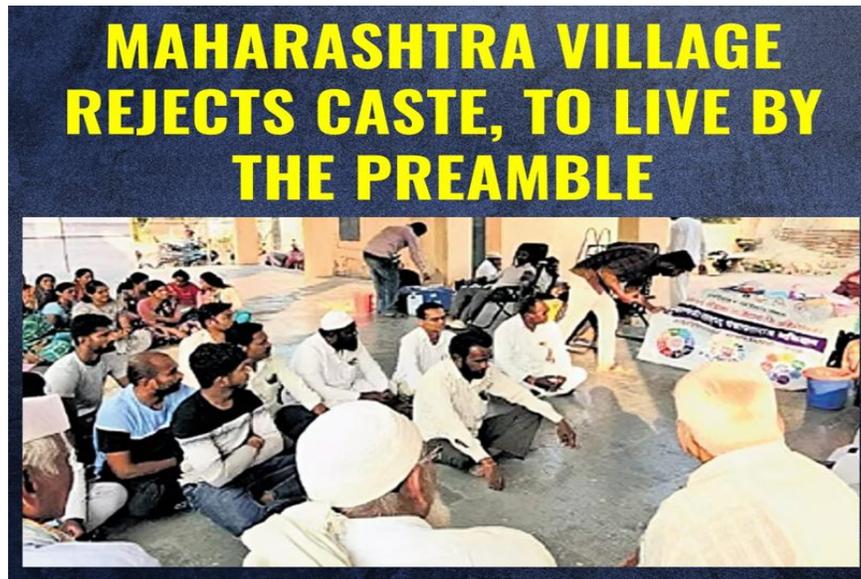
- ❖ The Galapagos National Park released 158 hybrid giant tortoises on Floreana Island to restore the ecosystem.
- ❖ The tortoises carry 40–80% DNA of *Chelonoidis niger*, a species declared extinct in the 19th century.
- ❖ The Galapagos Islands are located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 kilometre west of Ecuador, and were formed by volcanic activity.
- ❖ The islands inspired Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection and were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.

- ❖ Giant tortoises are called ecological engineers because they spread seeds, control vegetation, and create habitats for other species.
- ❖ The genus *Chelonoidis* is generally listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

## STATE NEWS

### Caste-Free Status - Saundala

- ❖ Saundala village in Maharashtra declared itself a caste-free village on 5 February 2026 through a Gram Sabha resolution.
- ❖ The resolution rejects caste-based discrimination and promotes equality under the motto “Aamchi jaat... manav” (My caste is humanity).
- ❖ All public places, such as schools, temples, water bodies, and cremation grounds, will provide equal access to all residents.
- ❖ Caste-based discrimination is prohibited under Article 15 of the Indian Constitution.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 100<sup>th</sup> World Thinking Day 2026 – February 22

- ❖ The day is observed by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across the world.
- ❖ This day aims to promote friendship, unity, and leadership among girls and young women.

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1926 after the 4th World Conference held in New York.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Our Friendship”, announced by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

