

February - 27

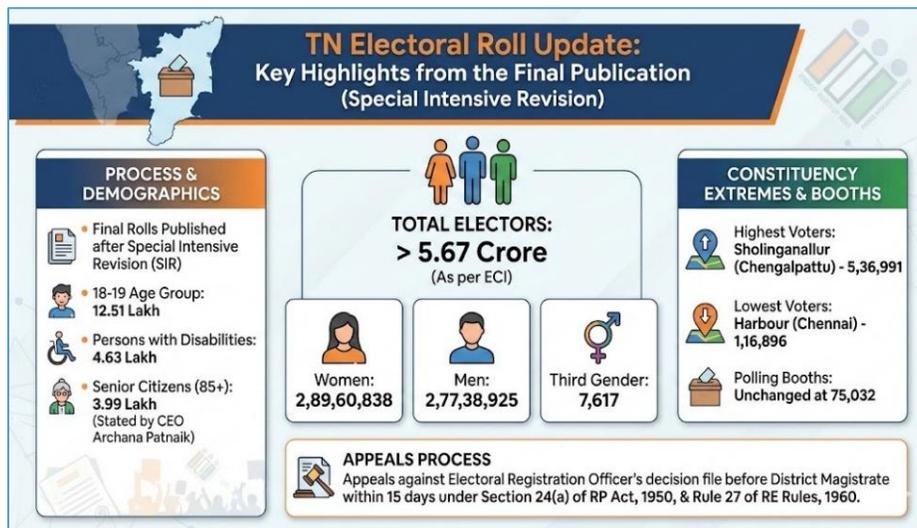
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ After the India AI Impact Summit 2026, plans were announced for the next global AI summits in Geneva (2027) and the UAE in 2028.
- ❖ Rob Jetten became the youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands at the age of 38.
- ❖ Nidhi Chhibber has taken additional charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog after BVR Subrahmanyam completed his three-year tenure on February 24, 2026.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Knesset Plenum (Parliament of Israel) during his two-day visit to Israel.
- ❖ Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh will host India's first Quantum Valley under the National Quantum Mission.
- ❖ Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan has released the updated Tamil and Gujarati editions of the Constitution of India at Uprashtrapati Bhavan.
- ❖ The Indian Army and the United States Army are conducting the 16th edition of Exercise Vajra Prahar from 23 February to 15 March 2026 at Bakloh in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Government of India has launched the Access Pass for Fishing in India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone) at Veraval, Gujarat.
- ❖ NPCI extended the 'UPI One World' wallet service to visitors from over 40 countries attending the India AI Impact Summit 2026.
 - The facility allows foreign travellers to make Person-to-Merchant (P2M – Person to Merchant) payments using UPI without an Indian bank account.
- ❖ China is the largest producer of bell pepper (capsicum) in the world.
 - In India, Karnataka is one of the largest producers, especially in Kolar and Bengaluru Rural districts, and other major producing states in India include Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The World Health Organization has prequalified an additional Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2) to combat circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2).
- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has appointed retired IAS officer Atulya Misra and retired IPS officer Abhay Kumar Singh as State Information Commissioners in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
 - The State government had increased the number of State Information Commissioners from six to eight in December last year.

- ❖ The Chief Minister inaugurated the statue of freedom fighter and Congress leader Ponnappa Nadar in Nagercoil.
 - The statue recognises his role, along with Marshall Nesamani, in the merger of Kanniyakumari district with Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ World Peace and Understanding Day is celebrated every year on 23 February to promote global peace, ethical leadership, and international cooperation, and it marks the first meeting of Rotary International held in Chicago in 1905.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TN Electoral Roll Update



- ❖ The Final electoral rolls of Tamil Nadu were published after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has more than 5.67 crore electors, as released by the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ The list includes 2,89,60,838 women, 2,77,38,925 men, and 7,617 third-gender electors.
- ❖ Sholinganallur in Chengalpattu district has the highest voters (5,36,991), and Harbour in Chennai district has the lowest (1,16,896).
- ❖ Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik stated that there are 12.51 lakh electors aged 18–19, 4.63 lakh persons with disabilities, and 3.99 lakh senior citizens aged 85+.
- ❖ Appeals against the decision of the Electoral Registration Officer can be filed before the District Magistrate within 15 days under Section 24(a) of the

Representation of the People Act, 1950, read with Rule 27 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

- ❖ The number of polling booths remains unchanged at 75,032.

State Level Steering Committee - HRH Strategy

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a State-level Steering Committee to develop a comprehensive Human Resources for Health (HRH) Strategy.
- ❖ The initiative is undertaken under the World Bank-supported Enhanced Health Service Delivery Program (EHSDP).
- ❖ The committee is chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, and the Mission Director of National Health Mission (NHM), Tamil Nadu, serves as the Member Secretary; the committee has 16 members.
- ❖ EHSDP follows the Program-for-Results model of the World Bank, where funds are released based on Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs).
- ❖ The HRH Strategy aims to identify gaps in recruitment, capacity building, workforce distribution and retention in public health facilities.
- ❖ The Steering Committee will provide overall guidance and ensure coordination among departments such as Finance, Education, Labour Welfare, Skills Development and Law for effective implementation.



Double Century Jail Term

- ❖ The Sivagangai POCSO Court sentenced a 51-year-old astrologer to a cumulative 200 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting two minor girls in 2021.

- ❖ A case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, and the accused was arrested in 2022.
- ❖ The court awarded 100 years of rigorous imprisonment for each victim (a total of 200 years), imposed a ₹2 lakh fine, and directed the government to provide ₹10 lakh compensation to each survivor.
- ❖ The judgment is believed to be the first instance of a court awarding a cumulative sentence of 200 years of rigorous imprisonment.

**"சிவகங்கையில் 2021 ஆம் ஆண்டு பரிகார
பூஜை செய்வதாகக் கூறி 2 சிறுமிகளை
பாலியல் வன்கொடுமை செய்த ஜோதிடருக்கு
200 ஆண்டுகள் சிறை தண்டனை"
சிவகங்கை போக்சோ நீதிமன்றம் உத்தரவு**

NATIONAL NEWS

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026

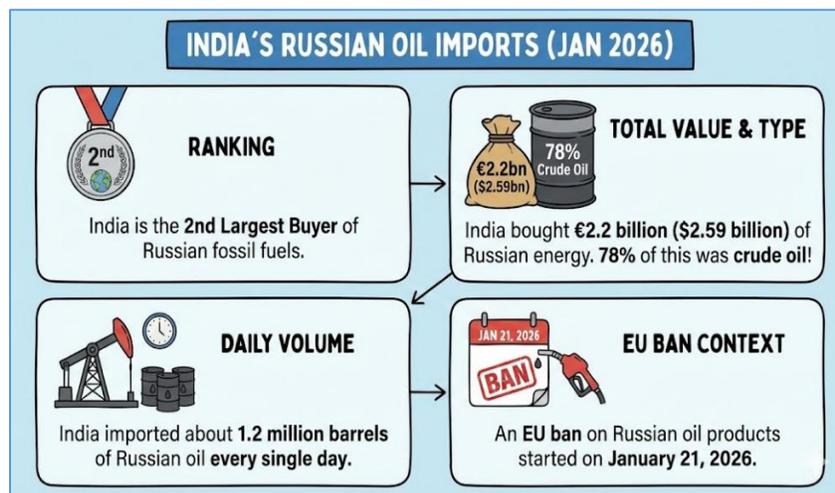
Alteration of the name of the State of **"Kerala"** to **"Keralam"**

- **Cabinet approves** the proposal for alteration of name of State of 'Kerala' as **'Keralam'**
- After approval of Union Cabinet, the **President of India** will refer the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026** to the State Legislative Assembly of Kerala for expressing its views under proviso to **article 3 of the Constitution of India**
- After receipt of the views of the **State Legislative Assembly of Kerala**, Government of India will take further action and the recommendation of President will be obtained for introduction of the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026** in Parliament

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to change the name of Kerala to "Keralam."

- ❖ The proposal was based on a resolution passed unanimously by the Kerala Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The President will refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, to the State Legislature under Article 3 of the Constitution of India for its views.
- ❖ After receiving the views, the Union Government will seek the President's recommendation to introduce the Bill in Parliament.
- ❖ Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to alter the name of any existing State by law.

India's Russian Oil Imports – January 2026

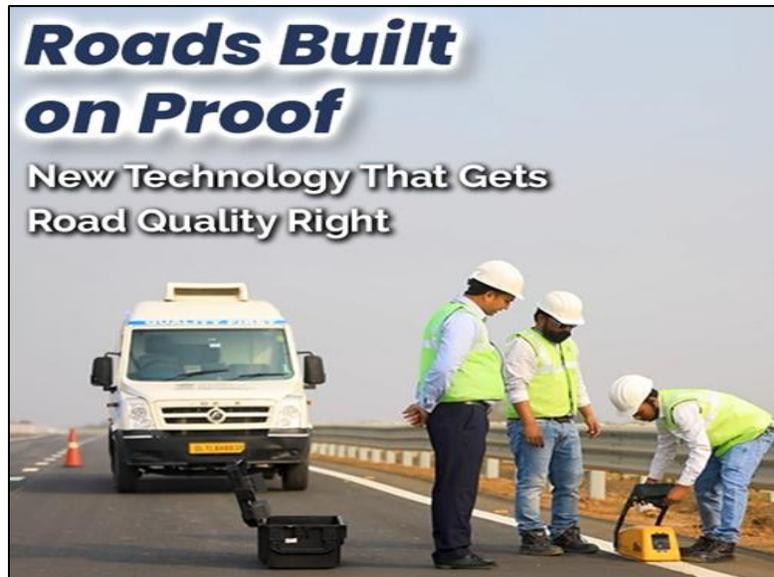


- ❖ India remained the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in January 2026, according to data released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- ❖ India imported €2.2 billion (\$2.59 billion) worth of Russian energy, with crude oil forming 78% of total purchases.
- ❖ India imported about 1.2 million barrels per day of Russian oil in January 2026.
- ❖ The European Union (EU) ban on oil products refined from Russian crude came into effect on January 21, 2026.
- ❖ Despite sanctions and price restrictions, Russia continued to remain a major supplier in India's energy basket, while China ranked as the largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels during the same period.

Mobile Highway Testing Labs

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has launched Mobile Quality Control Vans to monitor the quality of National Highways.

- ❖ The pilot project has started in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Odisha.
- ❖ The Mobile Quality Control Vans are equipped with non-destructive testing tools such as ultrasonic pulse velocity meters and rebound hammers.
- ❖ The government is developing a National Highway Quality Monitoring Portal with real-time Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve the quality, safety, and durability of National Highway construction projects.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Takeshima - Dokdo Island Dispute

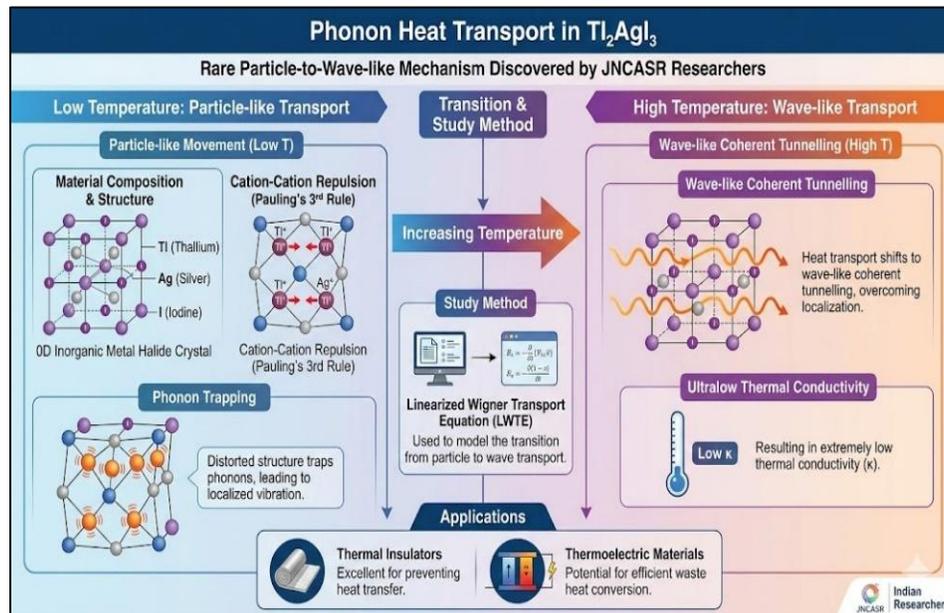


- ❖ South Korea lodged a diplomatic protest against Japan's Takeshima Day event held on 22 February 2026 in Shimane Prefecture.

- ❖ The islands are known as Takeshima in Japan and Dokdo in South Korea.
- ❖ They are located in the Sea of Japan, which South Korea refers to as the East Sea.
- ❖ The territory consists of two main islets named Dongdo and Seodo, along with several smaller rocks.
- ❖ South Korea has maintained effective control over the islands since 1954 by deploying police personnel.
- ❖ Japan claims the islands as part of Shimane Prefecture and observes Takeshima Day every year on 22 February.
- ❖ The surrounding waters are rich in fisheries and are believed to contain significant reserves of gas hydrates.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Phonon Heat Transport

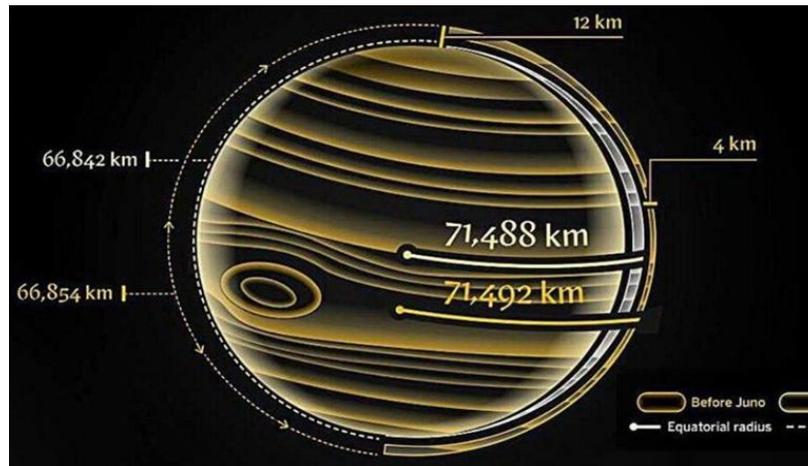


- ❖ Recently, Indian researchers discovered a rare particle-to-wave-like phonon heat transport mechanism in Tl_2AgI_3 .
- ❖ Tl_2AgI_3 is a zero-dimensional inorganic metal halide crystal made of Thallium (Tl), Silver (Ag), and Iodine (I).
- ❖ It was developed by the researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.
- ❖ Due to Pauling's third rule-driven cation-cation repulsion, the structure becomes distorted and traps phonons.

- ❖ The material shows ultralow thermal conductivity and can be used in thermal insulators and thermoelectric materials.

Revision of Jupiter Size

- ❖ NASA revised Jupiter's size using data from the Juno mission.
- ❖ Jupiter's equatorial diameter is 88,841 miles (142,976 kilometres), about 5 miles smaller than earlier estimates.
- ❖ Its polar diameter is 83,067 miles (133,684 kilometres), about 15 miles smaller than previous data.
- ❖ The findings show Jupiter is about 7% wider at the equator than at the poles due to rapid rotation.
- ❖ Juno has been orbiting Jupiter since 2016 and provides precise data on its structure.

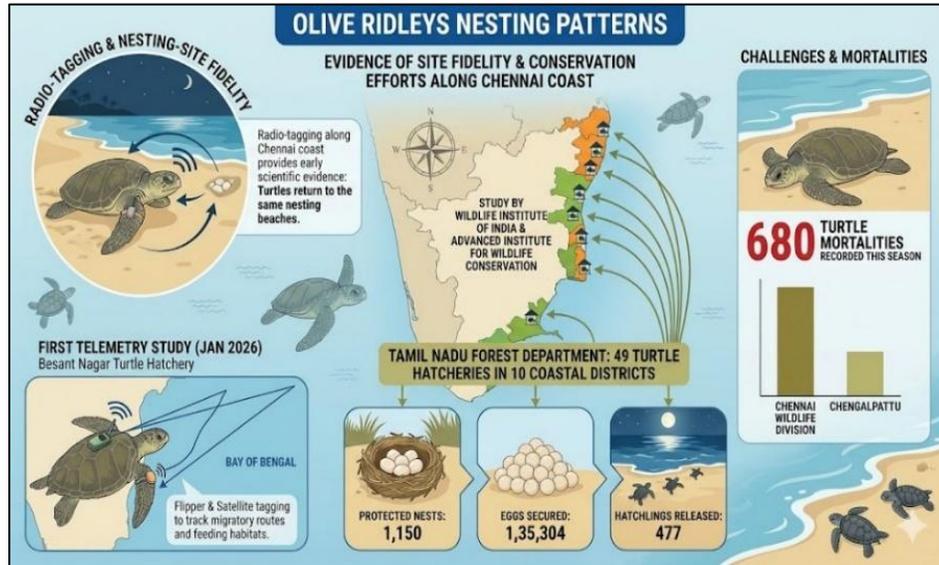


ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Olive Ridleys Nesting Patterns

- ❖ Radio-tagging of Olive Ridley sea turtle along the Chennai coast has provided early scientific evidence of nesting-site fidelity.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first telemetry study, launched in January 2026 at the Besant Nagar turtle hatchery, uses flipper and satellite tagging to track migratory routes and feeding habitats in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The study is being carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India and the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has set up 49 turtle hatcheries across 10 coastal districts.

- ❖ So far, 1,150 nests securing 1,35,304 eggs have been protected, and 477 hatchlings have safely reached the sea.
- ❖ However, 680 turtle mortalities have been recorded this season, with the highest number reported from Chennai Wildlife Division, followed by Chengalpattu.



STATE NEWS

Mandya Inscription



12th century multi-lingual Hoysala inscription

- ❖ A 12th-century multi-lingual Hoysala inscription was discovered at K. Bettahalli village in Mandya district, Karnataka.



- ❖ The inscription dates to the reign of Narasimha I of the Hoysala dynasty.
- ❖ It was found at the Sri Mahalakshmi Temple in Pandavapura taluk and is engraved on a white granite slab with nine lines of text.
- ❖ The inscription is written in Kannada script using Kannada, Tamil and Sanskrit languages.
- ❖ It records a land grant by Dandanayaka (military commander) Karikudi Tillai Koottandi for temple rituals at Sri Yadava Narayana temple (present-day Kere Tonnuru).

