

January - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap, the first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited, is also the largest ship in the ICG fleet and was commissioned in Goa.
- ❖ Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune.
 - He served as Union Minister of State for Railways and was a former President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- ❖ Fatima Abdulrahman Al Awadhi from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the youngest Arab to summit Mount Vinson in Antarctica.
- ❖ Scientists have created the first three-dimensional (3D) images of Mexico's Popocatépetl volcano to better understand its internal magma movement.
- ❖ Bengaluru was ranked the best city for women in India in 2025 with the highest City Inclusion Score of 53.29, based on social and industrial inclusion.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–26



- ❖ Tamil Nadu has unveiled India's first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy at UmagineTN 2026 in Chennai.

- ❖ The policy is called Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–2026 (TNDTSP).
- ❖ The iTNT Hub will act as the nodal implementing agency for the policy.
- ❖ The policy aims to support 100 deep tech start-ups and mobilise ₹100 crore in public and private investments.
- ❖ It targets 10 technology transfer or licensing deals from academic and Research and Development (R&D) institutions.
- ❖ The policy plans to train over 10,000 students and professionals in deep tech areas like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, robotics, and biotechnology.

UmagineTN 2026



The banner features the ELCOT logo at the top left and the UmagineTN logo with the tagline 'Inform. Inspire. Innovate' at the top right. The main title 'UMAGINE TN 2026' is in large white and blue letters, with 'POLICY POWERS INNOVATION' in blue below it. A subtext box in the center-left states: 'Led by ELCOT, the nodal agency driving IT, ITeS, AVGC-XR, and Data Centres, Umagine TN 2026 brings together government, industry, and innovators to shape Tamil Nadu's digital future.' At the bottom, it says '8–9 January 2026 | Chennai Trade Centre' and 'Join us at Umagine TN 2026: umaginetcn.com/register'. To the right is a graphic of a city skyline with various tech icons like a smartphone, server, rocket, and circuit board.

- ❖ UmagineTN 2026, the 4th edition of Tamil Nadu's flagship global technology and innovation summit was held in Chennai.
- ❖ The event aims to bring innovators, investors, start-ups, and policymakers onto a single platform to drive technology-led growth in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The main theme focuses on frontier technologies such as AI, Blockchain, Quantum Technology, Cybersecurity, and AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics – Extended Reality).

- ❖ Key focus areas include Deep Tech start-up scaling, Digital Public Infrastructure, next-generation e-Governance, data economy, and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

NATIONAL NEWS

Bhairav Drone Force

- ❖ The Indian Army created a new modern warfare force named Bhairav.
- ❖ The force has over 1 lakh trained drone operatives for surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strikes.
- ❖ 15 battalions have been raised, with plans to expand to 25 battalions across borders.
- ❖ Bhairav bridges the gap between Para Special Forces (SF) and regular infantry for tactical and operational missions.
- ❖ One battalion is deployed in the desert sector under Southern Command, mainly with troops from Rajasthan.
- ❖ The battalions will appear publicly at the Indian Army Day Parade on 15 January 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.



BHARATI for Agri Startups

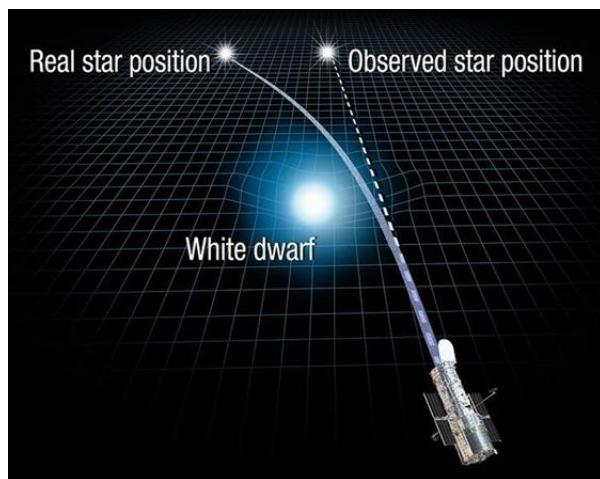
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched the BHARATI initiative.

- ❖ BHARATI stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- ❖ The programme supports agri-food and agri-tech startups and helps them reach global markets.
- ❖ APEDA will select the top 10 startups to showcase their products internationally.
- ❖ APEDA's agri-exports grew about 7% during April–November 2025–26, reaching \$18.6 billion.
- ❖ India's total agricultural exports are expected to cross \$30 billion in the 2025–26 fiscal year.
- ❖ The initiative was announced at Indus food 2026, a global food and beverages exhibition with participants from over 120 countries.
- ❖ APEDA functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

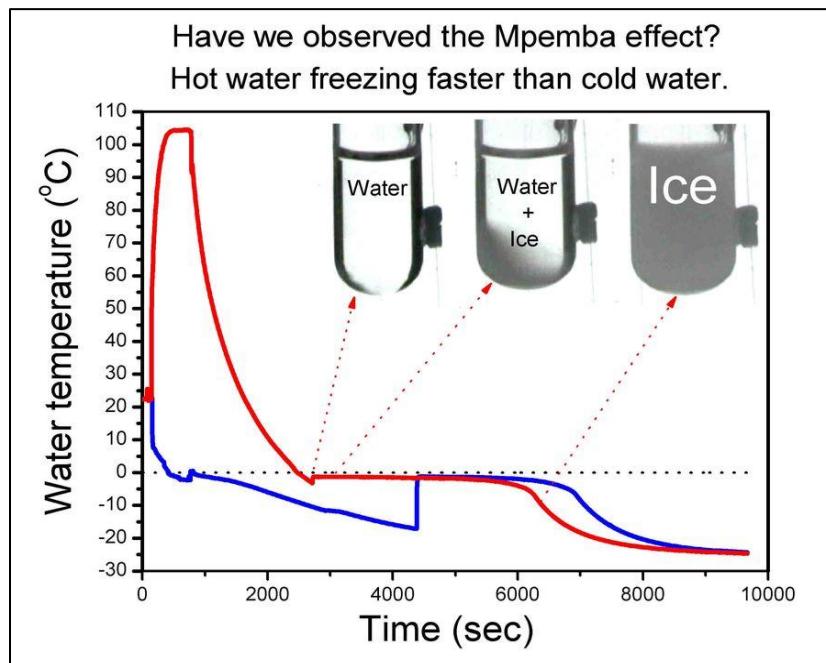
White Dwarf System



- ❖ NASA has, for the first time, studied the internal structure of a white dwarf system in detail.

- ❖ The study was carried out using the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer, which is known as IXPE.
- ❖ The observations focused on EX Hydrae, which is a white dwarf binary system located about two hundred light years away in the Hydra constellation.
- ❖ EX Hydrae emits strong X-rays because it pulls gas from a nearby companion star.
- ❖ IXPE measured the polarisation of X-rays to understand the structure of superheated gas near the white dwarf.

Mpemba Effect



- ❖ Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) used supercomputers to simulate ice formation and confirm the Mpemba Effect.
- ❖ The Mpemba Effect is a phenomenon where hot water can freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions.
- ❖ Aristotle mentioned this effect in his book Meteorologica.
- ❖ Tanzanian student Erasto Mpemba brought attention to this phenomenon in 1969.
- ❖ Microbubbles in hot water, faster evaporation, and convection can make hot water cool faster.
- ❖ The effect is not limited to water; it can occur in other liquids during liquid-to-solid transitions.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Beni Greenlet

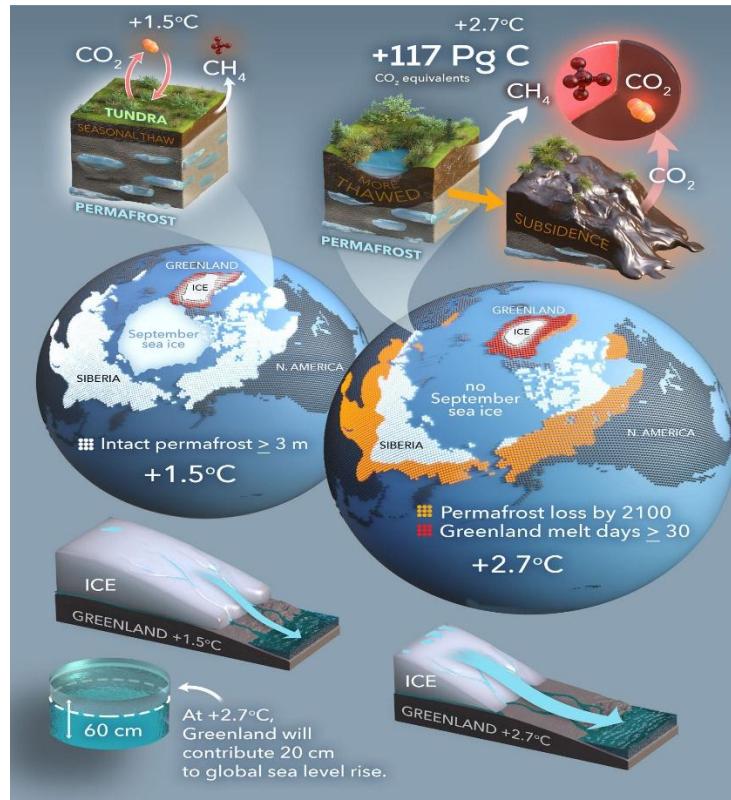
- ❖ For over sixty years, a small olive-green bird in Bolivia's Beni savannas was misclassified, but new research confirmed it as a distinct species.
- ❖ Its scientific name is *Hylophilus moxensis*, and it belongs to the family *Muscicapidae*.
- ❖ It lives in tropical moist lowland forests of northern Bolivia, mostly in forest canopies and edges.
- ❖ It faces threats from habitat loss, altered rainfall, human activities, and river or floodplain changes, and has not yet been assessed by the IUCN Red List.



Arctic Warming 2025

- ❖ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the Arctic Report Card 2025.
- ❖ It showing that the Arctic region is warming much faster than the rest of the planet.
- ❖ The Arctic surface air temperatures were the highest on record from October 2024 to September 2025 since 1900.
- ❖ The last ten years are the warmest decade ever recorded in the Arctic.
- ❖ Atlantification, which is the inflow of warm water and organisms from lower latitudes, is causing sea ice to melt and affecting ocean circulation.

- ❖ The Rivers in Arctic Alaska have turned orange because thawing permafrost has released iron into the water, affecting fish and local water supplies.
- ❖ The greening of the Arctic has increased tundra vegetation since the late 1990s, impacting landscapes, wildlife, and permafrost conditions.
- ❖ The Northern Sea Route along Russia's Arctic coast is becoming increasingly usable for shipping as sea ice melts.



REPORTS AND INDICES

NITI Aayog report 2025

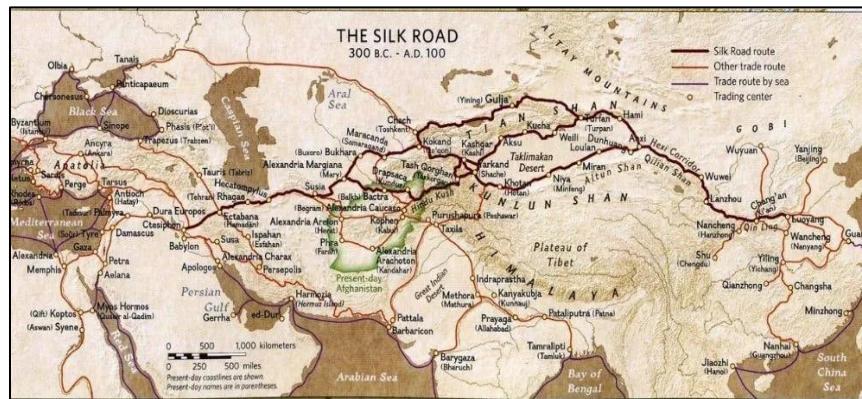
- ❖ NITI Aayog has prepared the report "A Comprehensive Framework to Promote Affordable Housing" with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ It suggested reintroducing a 100% tax exemption for developers of approved affordable housing projects.
- ❖ The loan limit under the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Scheme for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH) has been proposed to double to ₹40 lakh.
- ❖ Tax exemptions on capital gains and rental income from Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are proposed to lower funding costs.

- ❖ National Housing Bank (NHB) may issue tax-free bonds for concessional funding for economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) buyers.
- ❖ Stamp duty, registration fees, and change of land use charges may be exempted for affordable housing projects, including those under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0.



STATES' NEWS

Spice Routes Network

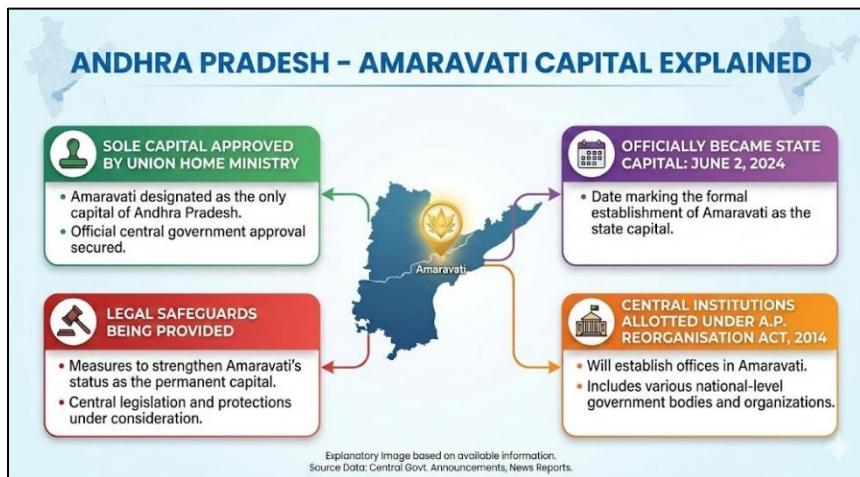


- ❖ Kerala launched the International Spice Routes Heritage Network.
- ❖ The initiative aims to revive historic spice trade routes connecting Kerala with global markets.
- ❖ The launch has happened during the three-day International Spice Routes Conference in Kochi.
- ❖ The Muziris Heritage Project introduced 33 heritage trails called “Spice Journeys” across Kerala.

- ❖ The network promotes research, heritage preservation, museum development, and archival documentation.
- ❖ Spices from Kerala historically influenced trade, taxes, and cultural exchanges across Europe, West Asia, and East Africa.

Andhra Pradesh - Amaravati Capital

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has approved Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Amaravati officially became the state capital on June 2, 2024.
- ❖ Legal safeguards are being provided to strengthen Amaravati's status as the capital.
- ❖ Central institutions allotted under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, will establish offices in Amaravati.

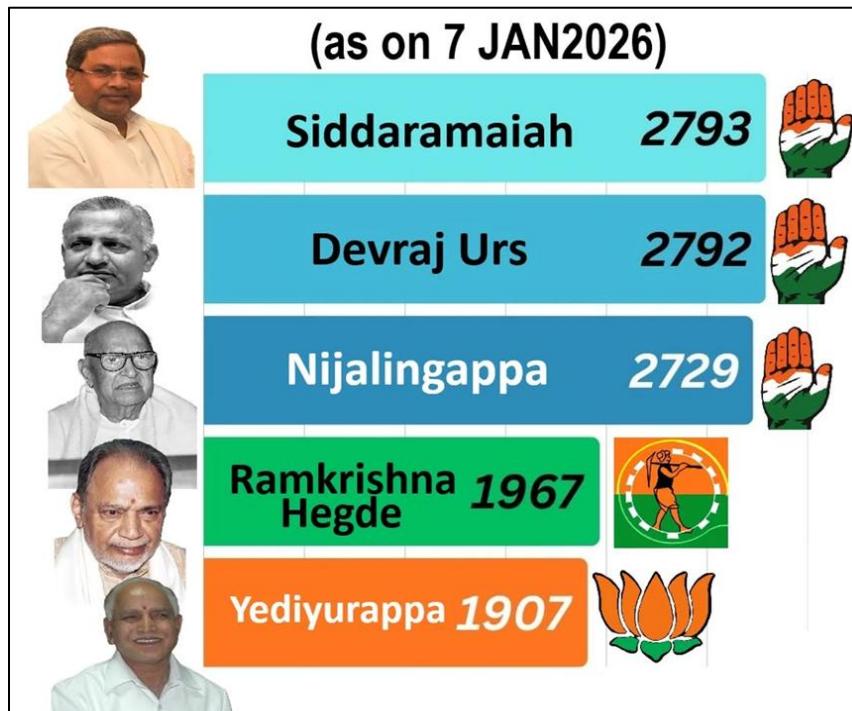


PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Karnataka's Longest-Serving CM

- ❖ Siddaramaiah became the longest-serving CM of Karnataka on January 7, 2026, by surpassing the tenure of D. Devaraj Urs.
- ❖ He is a Congress leader and a prominent AHINDA leader representing minorities, backward classes and Dalits.
- ❖ D. Devaraj Urs served as Chief Minister for seven years and 239 days across two terms.
- ❖ Siddaramaiah earlier served a full term as Chief Minister from 2013 to 2018 and has been in office again since May 2023.

- ❖ His welfare initiatives, branded as Bhagya schemes and later as five guarantees, are regarded as a major pro-poor policy intervention.
- ❖ The guarantee schemes are considered the fourth passive socio-political revolution in Karnataka after land reforms, reservation and decentralisation.
- ❖ Siddaramaiah also holds the Finance portfolio and has presented a record sixteen State Budgets.
- ❖ The 2025–26 Karnataka Budget crossed the four lakh crore rupees mark for the first time.



Madhav Gadgil's demise

- ❖ Renowned Indian ecologist Madhav Gadgil passed away.
- ❖ Madhav Gadgil (1942–2026) has played a key role in ecological research in the Western Ghats, especially the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).
- ❖ He authored the concept document for the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India's first Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO.
- ❖ He established the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- ❖ He was the Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), which submitted its report in 2011.

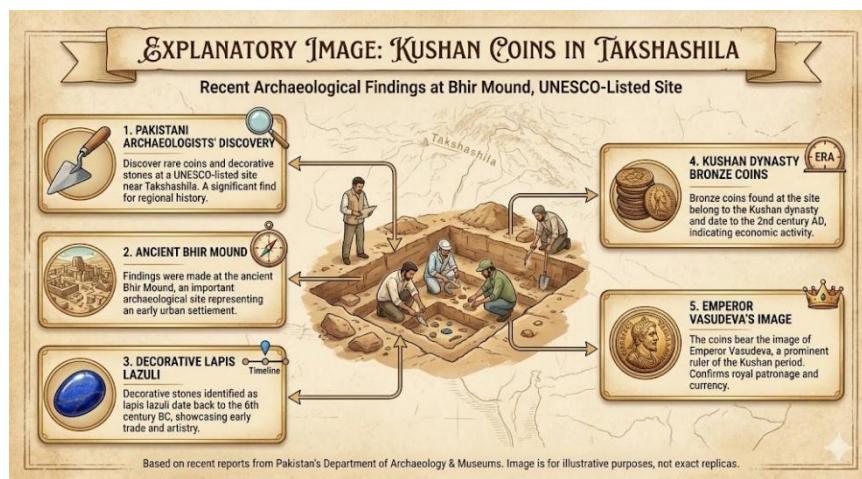
- ❖ His work helped highlight the biodiversity importance and conservation needs of the Western Ghats.

VETERAN ECOLOGIST, MADHAV GADGIL NO MORE

Veteran ecologist, Madhav Gadgil (83), known for his seminal work on the Western Ghats and a bottom up approach to environmental conservation passed away after a brief illness in Pune

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Kushan Coins in Takshashila



- ❖ Pakistani archaeologists have discovered rare coins and decorative stones at a UNESCO-listed site near Takshashila.
- ❖ The findings were made at the ancient Bhir Mound, an important archaeological site of early urban settlement.
- ❖ Decorative stones identified as lapis lazuli date back to the 6th century BC.

- ❖ Bronze coins found at the site belong to the Kushan dynasty and date to the 2nd century AD.
- ❖ The coins bear the image of Emperor Vasudeva, a ruler of the Kushan period.

International Year for Rangelands

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- ❖ The focus is on grasslands and savannahs, which are important for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and climate resilience.
- ❖ Grasslands face threats from agriculture, plantations, invasive species, fossil fuel extraction, and fire suppression policies.
- ❖ Indigenous practices like controlled burning and grazing help maintain ecosystem health, but are often overlooked.
- ❖ Global and Indian policies aim to integrate grasslands into climate plans and the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- ❖ Recognising grasslands as carbon sinks can support both climate mitigation and pastoral livelihoods.

