

January - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Aavin has received the Dairy Titan Award for its leadership in promoting sustainability in the dairy sector and farmers' welfare.
- ❖ India is set to begin trial operations of its first hydrogen-powered train on the Jind to Sonapat route in Haryana.
- ❖ Rajasthan will host the Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference in Jaipur.
 - The agenda is based on the Three Sutras: People, Planet, and Progress and the Seven Chakras of the India Artificial Intelligence Mission.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Namma Arasu WhatsApp Chatbot

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government launched the “Namma Arasu” WhatsApp chatbot to provide government services to citizens through WhatsApp.
- ❖ The chatbot was introduced at the UImagineTN 2026 event.
- ❖ Citizens can access the service by sending messages to +91 7845252525 on WhatsApp.
- ❖ It offers 51 government services from multiple departments.
- ❖ Services available include certificate downloads, utility and tax bill payments, welfare schemes, grievance filing, and more.



“Namma Arasu” was officially inaugurated on January 8, 2026 by Thiru Dr. Palanivel Thiagarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services in UIMAGINE 2026 in presence of Thiru Brajendra Navnit, IAS Principal Secretary to the Government, Information Technology and Digital Services Department, Dr. Alby John Varghese IAS, CEO TNeGA, Mr. Srutanjay Narayanan IAS, JCEO TNeGA, Mr. Arun Srinivas, Head of Meta India and Mr. Deepak Goyal, CEO, Karix Mobile Pvt. Ltd.,

NATIONAL NEWS

Commercial Bio-Bitumen Production

- ❖ India became the first country in the world to produce bio-bitumen commercially for road construction.
- ❖ Bio-bitumen is produced from biomass and agricultural waste and serves as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based bitumen.
- ❖ Conventional bitumen is a black, viscous hydrocarbon derived from crude oil and acts as the binding material in roads.
- ❖ Bio-bitumen helps reduce fossil fuel dependence and addresses crop residue burning, a major source of air pollution in India.
- ❖ The technology was developed and commercialized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

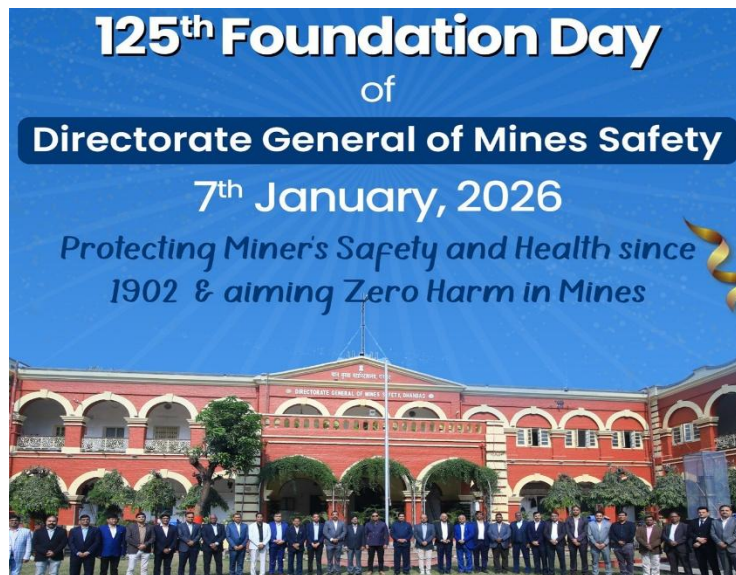


Global Democracy Meet - IICDEM 2026

- ❖ The Election Commission of India will host the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference is organised by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management under the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world.
- ❖ India will chair the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in 2026.



125 Years of DGMS



- ❖ The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) marked its 125th Foundation Day in 7th January.
- ❖ DGMS was established in 1902 and works under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ❖ It is the statutory authority for the safety, health and welfare of workers in coal, metalliferous and oil mines.
- ❖ The headquarters of DGMS is located in Dhanbad, Jharkhand.
- ❖ DGMS enforces the Mines Act, 1952 and other mining safety rules.
- ❖ It aims to ensure safe and hazard-free working conditions in mines.

Census of India 2027 Schedule

- ❖ The first phase of Census 2027, called House Listing Operations, will be held from 1 April to 30 September 2026 in all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ During this phase, data on houses, facilities, family details and consumption patterns will be collected.
- ❖ A self-enumeration facility will be available 15 days before the start of house-to-house data collection.
- ❖ The second phase, called Population Enumeration, will be conducted in February 2027.
- ❖ Caste details will be collected during the Population Enumeration phase.
- ❖ This will be India's first digital Census and the 16th Census overall.



CENSUS OF INDIA 2027
Phase I: Houselisting & Housing Census

Houselisting Operations

- ✓ April 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026
- ✓ To be **conducted across India** during a **30-day period** specified by each State/UT*

Self-enumeration

- ✓ Provision to be available for **15 days prior** to the commencement of house-to-house houselisting#

Pesticides Management Bill, 2025

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released the Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The Bill will replace the Insecticides Act, 1968.
- ❖ It will regulate the manufacture, import, sale, storage, transport and use of pesticides in India.
- ❖ The Bill provides for a Central Pesticides Board and a Registration Committee to control pesticide approval.
- ❖ It makes licensing, labelling and digital registration of pesticides compulsory.

- ❖ It includes penalties for unsafe or illegal use of pesticides.



GOVT INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT BILL, 2025

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Foreign Policy Shift

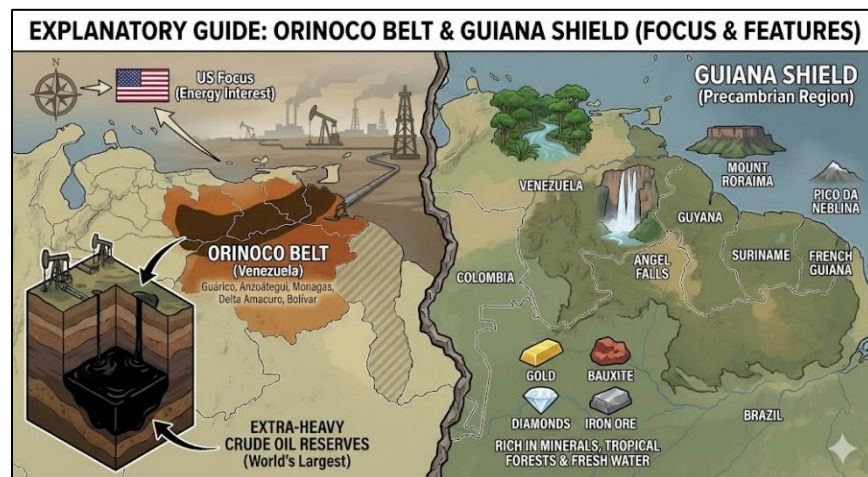


US TO EXIT 66 GLOBAL BODIES

President Trump orders the US to withdraw from 66 UN and international organisations, including major forums for cooperation on climate change, peace and democracy; directs US departments to end funding for 31 UN and 35 non-UN entities.

- ❖ The United States announced its withdrawal from 66 international organisations under the Trump administration.
- ❖ This includes 31 United Nations bodies and 35 non-United Nations organisations.
- ❖ The United States will leave the Paris Agreement again, and this will take effect on January 27, 2026.
- ❖ The United States is also planning to withdraw from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the main global climate treaty.
- ❖ The exit includes major bodies like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Renewable Energy Agency, and International Solar Alliance.
- ❖ The United States will remain a member of the United Nations Security Council, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Orinoco Belt and Guiana Shield



- ❖ The USA has focused on Venezuela's mineral-rich Orinoco Belt and Guiana Shield.
- ❖ The Orinoco Belt in Venezuela holds the world's largest extra-heavy crude oil reserves.
- ❖ It is located in the Orinoco River Basin across Guárico, Anzoátegui, Monagas, Delta Amacuro, and Bolívar states.
- ❖ The Guiana Shield is an ancient Precambrian geological region spread across Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, and Colombia.
- ❖ It has large tropical forests, fresh water resources, and mineral deposits like gold, bauxite, diamonds, and iron ore.

- ❖ It includes famous features such as Angel Falls, Mount Roraima, and Pico da Neblina.

BRICS Chairmanship

- ❖ Brazil has handed over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) presidency to India for 2026.
- ❖ India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.
- ❖ India's chairmanship focuses on four pillars: Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Environmental Sustainability.
- ❖ India aims to reform global governance without replacing international institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.
- ❖ India represents the concerns of the Global South and promotes a multipolar world order.
- ❖ BRICS includes approximately 49.5% of the global population, 40% of global GDP, and 26% of global trade.



ECONOMY NEWS

India's Silver Import

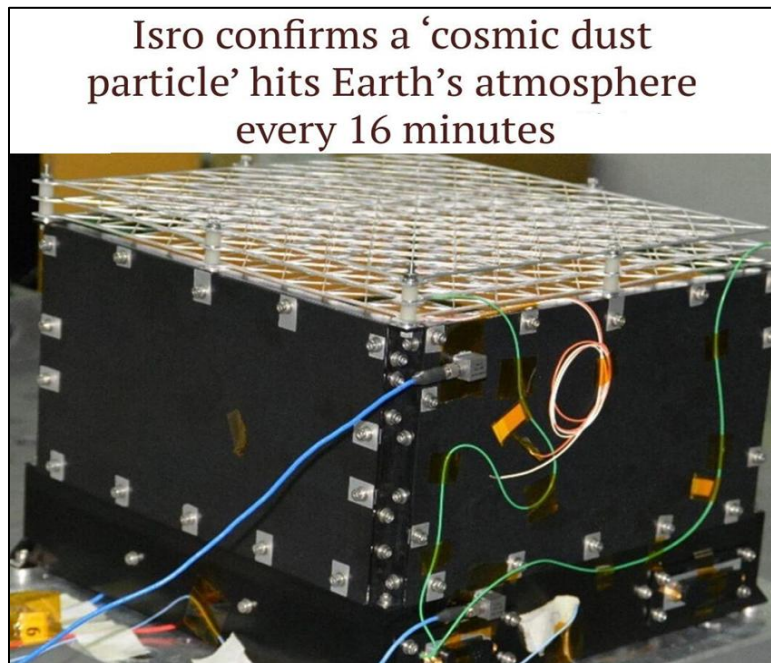
- ❖ India imported \$6.4 billion of refined silver in 2024, making it the world's largest consumer of finished silver.
- ❖ In FY25, India exported only \$478.4 million of silver products while importing \$4.83 billion.

- ❖ China dominates global silver processing, importing \$5.6 billion of silver ores and concentrates and exporting high-value silver products.
- ❖ Silver is critical for industry and energy transition, used in electronics, solar panels, electric vehicles, medical devices, and batteries.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Cosmic Dust Monitoring



- ❖ ISRO reported that cosmic dust hits Earth's atmosphere every 16 minutes.
- ❖ This was detected using the Dust Experiment DEX, which is India's first indigenous cosmic dust detector.

- ❖ DEX was launched on January 1, 2024, on the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite XPoSat mission.
- ❖ The particles detected are Interplanetary Dust Particles that mainly come from comets and asteroids.
- ❖ These particles form a thin meteor layer in Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ The data support satellite safety and space environment studies.

ISO IEC 42001 Status - FSS

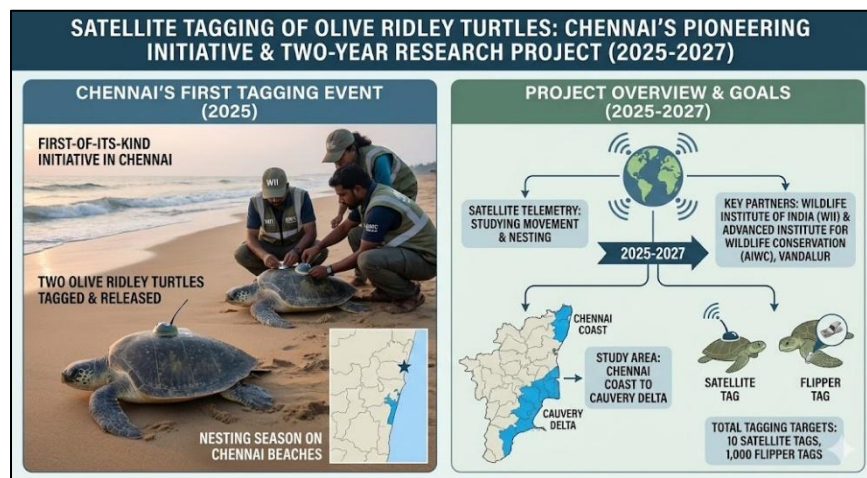


- ❖ Financial Software and Systems has become the first payments company in India, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, and South Africa to get ISO IEC 42001 Certification Lead status.
- ❖ ISO IEC 42001 is a global standard for artificial intelligence management systems.
- ❖ The certification confirms that FSS follows a structured and organisation-wide system for managing artificial intelligence.
- ❖ Artificial intelligence at FSS is used for fraud detection, transaction monitoring, dispute handling, and automation.
- ❖ The standard focuses on fairness, transparency, accountability, and risk control in artificial intelligence use.
- ❖ The certification was assessed and approved by TUV SUD.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Satellite Tagging of Olive Ridley Turtles

- ❖ Satellite tagging of sea turtles began on Chennai beaches as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
- ❖ Two Olive Ridley Sea turtles, which came ashore to nest, were satellite-tagged and released back into the sea.
- ❖ The two-year project 2025–2027 uses satellite telemetry to study turtle movement and nesting.
- ❖ The project is carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India WII and the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Vandalur.
- ❖ The study will cover the Chennai coast and the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ A total of 10 turtles will be satellite-tagged, and 1,000 turtles will be flipper-tagged.

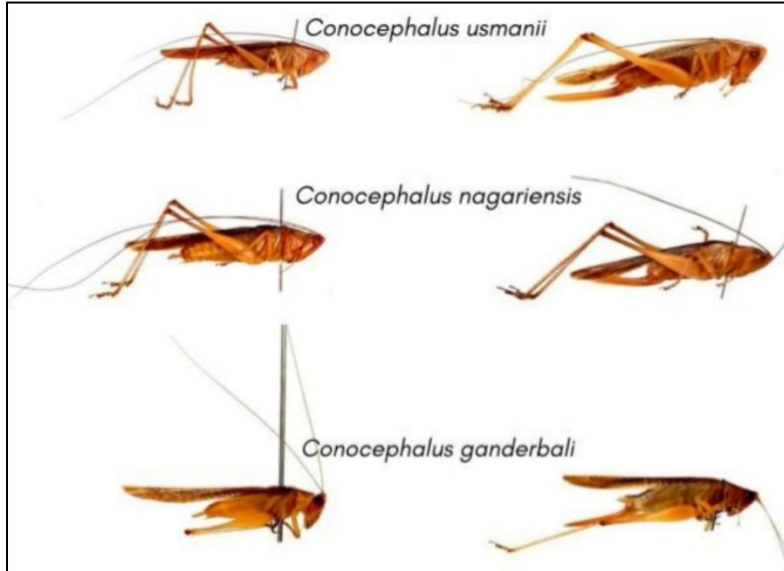


New Reserve Forests in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government notified 100 forest blocks as Reserved Forests during 2021–2025.
- ❖ This brought about 13,495 hectares under legal forest protection in the State.
- ❖ The notifications were issued under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.
- ❖ The new reserve forests are located across 10 districts, including Dindigul, the Nilgiris, and Theni.
- ❖ Dindigul district has the highest number, with 37 new reserve forest blocks.
- ❖ Kallakurichi district has the largest area added, with about 4,118 hectares.



New Katydid Species – Kashmir



- ❖ Three new meadow katydid species were discovered in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The species belongs to the genus *Conocephalus*.
- ❖ The new species are named *Conocephalus usmanii*, *Conocephalus nagariensis*, and *Conocephalus ganderbali*.
- ❖ The insects were found in meadows, bushes, and forests of the Kashmir Valley.

STATES' NEWS

National Textiles Ministers Conference 2026

- ❖ The Conference was held in Guwahati, organised by the Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with the Government of Assam.

- ❖ The Conference aims to strengthen India’s textile sector, boost exports, generate employment, promote sustainable growth, preserve heritage textiles, and make India a global textile hub by 2030.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is “India’s Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation”.
- ❖ It focuses on boosting exports, generating employment, preserving handlooms and handicrafts, promoting technical and new-age fibres, and ensuring sustainability.
- ❖ Flagship initiatives such as PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks and integrated value-chain development will be highlighted.
- ❖ A dedicated conclave will explore the North-Eastern Region’s textile potential, including Eri, Muga, and Mulberry silk, women-led enterprises, and improved market access.



GI Tag - Nagauri Ashwagandha



- ❖ The Government of India has given the GI tag to Nagauri Ashwagandha from Nagaur district in Rajasthan.
- ❖ This is Rajasthan's second agricultural product to get a GI tag after Sojat Mehendi.
- ❖ Nagauri Ashwagandha grows well in the dry climate and sandy soil of Nagaur.
- ❖ It is known for its long and thick roots with high medicinal value.

Sagar Island Bridge Project

- ❖ West Bengal has started a 5 km long bridge over the Muriganga River to connect Sagar Island with the mainland.
- ❖ The bridge will connect Lot 8 in Kakdwip with Kachuberia on Sagar Island.
- ❖ The total project cost is ₹1,670 crore.
- ❖ Sagar Island is the largest island in the Sundarbans delta.
- ❖ The island hosts the annual Gangasagar Mela during Makar Sankranti.

