



January - 13

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), commissioned the world's first Liquid Conversion–Maximum (LC-Max) unit at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the Aadhaar mascot Udai to help users understand Aadhaar update, authentication, offline verification, and secure data sharing.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Railways conferred the 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2025 on 100 railway officials in New Delhi.
 - Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar is among the highest honours in Indian Railways, which covers innovation, operational efficiency, safety, security, revenue growth, project completion, sports, and other distinguished services.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

TAPS G.O 2026

TN Assured Pension Scheme Takes Effect

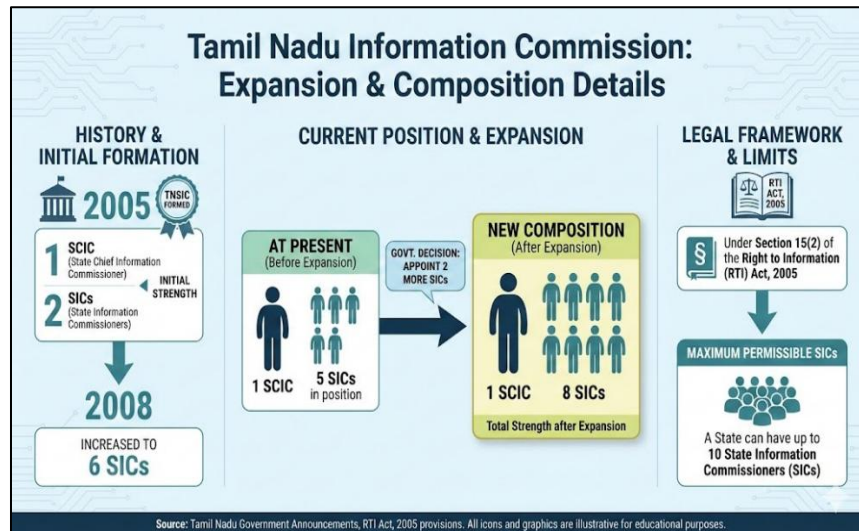
The TN Assured Pension Scheme, announced by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, has come into effect from January 1, 2026, following a Government Order issued by the Finance Department. The scheme will be mandatory for eligible State government employees joining service from 2026 and will also cover CPS employees retiring on or after that date, providing assured pension, family pension, dearness allowance hikes and gratuity benefits.

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has implemented the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for State government employees from January 1, 2026.
- ❖ A Government Order (G.O.) was issued by the Finance Department on January 9, 2026, to enforce the scheme.
- ❖ All government employees joining service from January 1, 2026, will be compulsorily covered under TAPS.

- ❖ Employees covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and retiring on or after January 1, 2026, will come under TAPS.
- ❖ Employees who were in service before January 1, 2026, under CPS can choose TAPS or CPS benefits at the time of retirement.
- ❖ Under TAPS, employees will get an assured pension equal to 50% of last-drawn basic pay and dearness allowance (DA), with 10% contribution by the employee and the remaining amount paid by the State Government.

Tamil Nadu Information Commission Expansion

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to appoint two more State Information Commissioners in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
- ❖ With this, the Commission will have one State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) and eight State Information Commissioners (SICs).
- ❖ The Commission was formed in 2005 with one SCIC and two SICs, which was increased to six SICs in 2008.
- ❖ At present, there is one SCIC and five SICs in position.
- ❖ Under Section 15(2) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, a State can have up to 10 State Information Commissioners.



NATIONAL NEWS

Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026

- ❖ India has launched the Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026 to strengthen the interface between science, technology, and diplomacy.

- ❖ It aims to integrate science diplomacy into India's Raisina Dialogue, the country's premier conference on geopolitics and geo-economics.
- ❖ RSDI focuses on the governance of emerging technologies, research security, technology control regimes, and ensuring equitable participation in global standards.
- ❖ The platform will engage scientists, diplomats, policymakers, and industry leaders through plenary sessions and expert roundtables.
- ❖ The initiative is scheduled to be held alongside the Raisina Dialogue from 5–7 March 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to enhance India's role in global science diplomacy, particularly for the Global South.

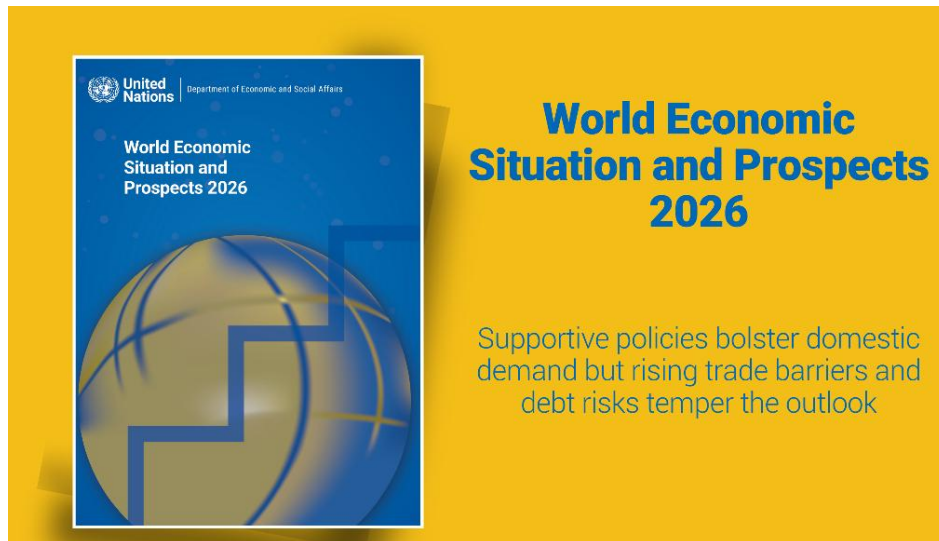


REPORTS AND INDICES

UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2026

- ❖ It was produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- ❖ It was also in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the five United Nations regional commissions.
- ❖ According to the UN report, the increase in global military expenditure in 2024 to \$2.7 trillion reflects "the steepest annual increase since at least 1988".
- ❖ The rise has been driven by the world's 10 largest spenders, which make up nearly 75 per cent of the total.

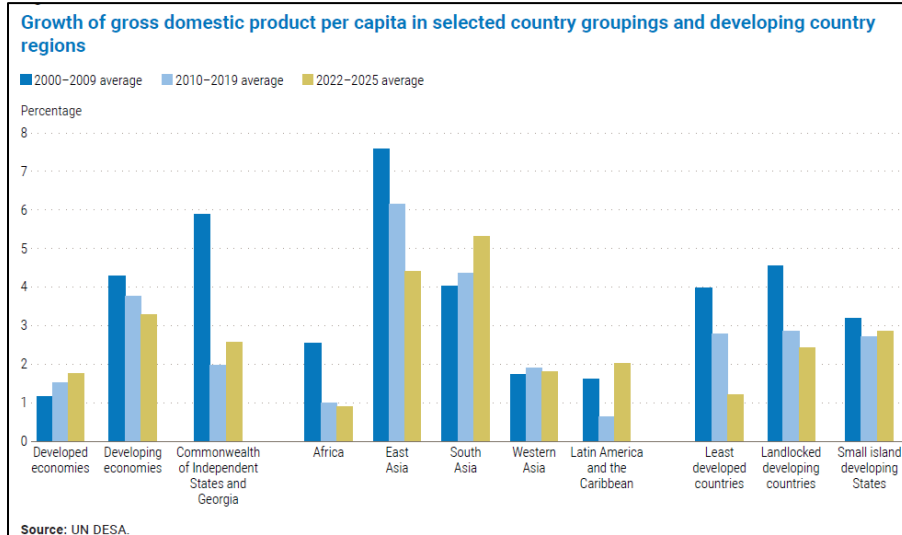
- ❖ Many developing countries continue to struggle with elevated debt burdens, limited fiscal space and tepid growth.
- ❖ The progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals remains distant.
- ❖ Some important steps that were taken in 2025 by the international community to renew solidarity and strengthen collective action.
- ❖ These collective actions include the Sevilla Commitment, the World Social Summit and COP30
- ❖ World Social Summit that reaffirmed that jobs, equality and human rights are the foundation of peace and prosperity.
- ❖ 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) was in June 2025 Seville, Spain.
- ❖ A Sevilla Commitment was adopted which laid down a path to close the \$4 trillion annual SDG financing gap in developing countries.



UN DESA Report 2025

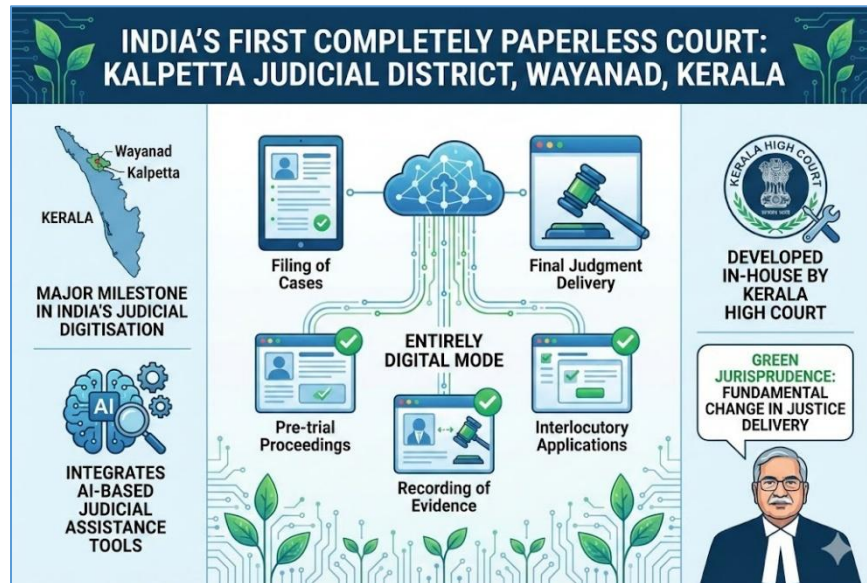
- ❖ The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) released the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026 report.
- ❖ India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth for 2025-26 is projected at 7.2%, slightly below the Indian government's forecast of 7.4%.
- ❖ India is now the fourth-largest economy in the world.
- ❖ Growth is supported by strong consumption, public investment, recent tax reforms, and monetary easing.
- ❖ India's GDP is projected to grow 6.6% in 2026-27 and 6.8% in 2027-28.

- ❖ UN DESA, based in New York, USA, works on development issues, economic and social analysis.



STATES' NEWS

India's First Fully Paperless District Court



- ❖ The Kalpetta judicial district in Kerala's Wayanad district has become the first district in the country.
- ❖ It is to function as a completely paperless court system, marking a major milestone in India's judicial digitisation efforts.

- ❖ Under the new system, all courts in the district judiciary will operate entirely in digital mode, from the filing of cases to the delivery of final judgments.
- ❖ Every stage of the judicial process—including pre-trial proceedings, recording of evidence, interlocutory applications and final adjudication—will now be conducted electronically.
- ❖ The system also integrates Artificial Intelligence-based judicial assistance tools.
- ❖ The entire system has been developed in-house by the Kerala High Court.
- ❖ The CJI Surya Kant Mishra described the shift as a fundamental change in justice delivery, calling it “green jurisprudence”.

ICJS 2.0 National Rankings

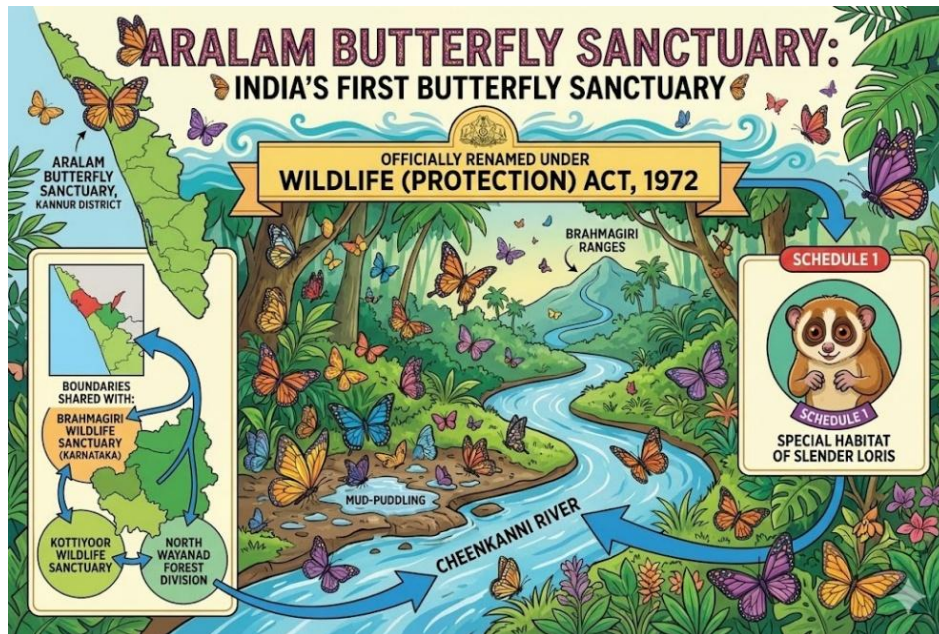


- ❖ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, released the second edition of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 rankings
- ❖ In the latest ICJS 2.0 ranking, Uttarakhand ranked first with 93.46.
- ❖ It is followed by Haryana at 93.41 and Assam at 93.16.
- ❖ Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System enables seamless data sharing among police, courts, and prisons.
- ❖ Uttarakhand has two major achievements of the Uttarakhand Police.
- ❖ It was securing first position in the ICJS (Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System) and the exemplary performance of the Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) during Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025.

Renaming of Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❖ The Kerala government has officially renamed the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary.

- ❖ It is India's First Butterfly Sanctuary as well in the state.
- ❖ The notification was issued under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The region is known for large-scale butterfly migration and mud-puddling and is also a special habitat of the Schedule 1 Slender loris.
- ❖ It shares boundaries with the Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka, the Kottiyoor Wildlife Sanctuary, and the North Wayanad forest division.
- ❖ The Cheenkanni river, an important river in Kannur district originating from the Brahmagiri ranges, flows through the dense forests of Aralam.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hindi Day 2026 - January 10

- ❖ This day commemorates the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, with participation from 30 countries.
- ❖ It was officially observed for the first time on 10 January 2006, during the tenure of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs and Indian Missions abroad also observe the day annually.
- ❖ The date is linked with a historical event from 10 January 1949, when Hindi was used for the first time in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

- ❖ Hindi Diwas is observed on September 14 to mark the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script as an official language of India in 1949.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Integrated Standardization Portal



- ❖ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Foundation Day is celebrated on 6th January, 2026.
- ❖ Centre has launched the Beta Version of new Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Integrated Standardisation portal.



- ❖ BIS-SAKSHAM (Scheme for Acknowledging Knowledge, Skills and High-impact Merit) Annual Excellence Recognition Scheme was also launched on this occasion.
- ❖ “SHINE- Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women”—is a new scheme of BIS that places women, at the center of India’s quality journey.
- ❖ BIS is India’s National Standards Body under the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

