

January - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ RPF inspector Chandana Sinha awarded with Indian Railways' highest service honour, the Ati Vishisht Rail Sewa Puruskar, for her exceptional work in preventing child trafficking and rescuing children.
- ❖ Indian climber Aritra Roy successfully climbed Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak outside Asia.
- ❖ American biologist Toby Kiers has won the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for her research on mycorrhizal fungal networks.
- ❖ Karnataka Bank won the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Banking Technology Award for Best Fintech and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Adoption.
 - Karnataka Bank was also runner-up in Best Tech Talent and received Special Mentions in Best Technology Bank, Best Digital Financial Inclusion, and Best Digital Sales categories.
- ❖ India's first commercial run of the Vande Bharat sleeper train is going to operate from Guwahati (Kamakhya) to Howrah by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) zone.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Green Schools Solar Energy Study



- ❖ A study reported that solar energy use reduced grid electricity consumption by about 46% in Tamil Nadu government schools.
- ❖ The report was prepared in collaboration with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS).
- ❖ It studied 97 government schools under the State's Green Schools initiative.

- ❖ Each school saved an average of 3,572 electricity units and about ₹26,000 per year.
- ❖ The Green Schools programme has been expanded to 300 government schools across almost all districts.
- ❖ The study estimates that statewide expansion could offset up to 91% of power consumption in government, aided educational institutions and hospitals.

Tamil Nadu Translation Grants Catalogue



- ❖ Tamil Nadu released the Translation Grants Catalogue to promote Tamil books in other languages.
- ❖ The catalogue lists Tamil literary works available for translation rights.
- ❖ It is part of the Tamil Nadu Translation Grant Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme supports the translation of Tamil books into Indian and foreign languages.
- ❖ It is implemented through the Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation (TNTESC).
- ❖ The aim is to take Tamil literature to global readers.

Hosur Airport Proposal

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) rejected Tamil Nadu's proposal to set up an airport at Hosur.

- ❖ The request was denied because Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) requires the controlled airspace in the region.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government had earlier sought airspace relaxation in June 2025, which was also rejected.
- ❖ Hosur Airport is proposed as an international airport with a capacity of 30 million passengers.
- ❖ The project site is located in Shoolagiri taluk and covers about 2,300 acres.
- ❖ The airport also faces a restriction due to the 150 km distance rule from Bengaluru Airport.

Defence Ministry Rejects Hosur Airport Proposal

The Ministry of Defence has again rejected Tamil Nadu's proposal for an airport at Hosur, citing airspace requirements of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The State government is now exploring further options. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has sought an impact study from TIDCO on passenger traffic at nearby airports and faces restrictions linked to the Bengaluru airport existing agreement.

John Doe Suit

- ❖ Actor Kamal Haasan has filed a case in the Madras High Court to protect his personality rights.
- ❖ He filed a John Doe suit, which is a legal action taken against unknown persons or entities.
- ❖ A John Doe suit is used when the identity of the violators is not known at the time of filing.
- ❖ The suit seeks to stop unauthorised commercial use of his name, initials (KH), image, likeness and titles.
- ❖ It also covers misuse through artificial intelligence (AI), deep fakes and digital technologies.

- ❖ Personality rights protect an individual's identity, image and reputation from unauthorised exploitation.

Madras High Court Finds Prima Facie Case, Grants Interim Relief to Kamal Haasan in Personality Rights Suit

India's First Global Education Summit

India's First Global **Education Summit** ■ January 28 - 29, 2026
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Shaping the Future of Global Knowledge & Talent

Programme Highlights ↗

- Keynote Ministerial Address
- Unveiling of Knowledge City
- Presidential Roundtables
- Strategic Networking with Global Decision-Makers

■ Innovation & Engagement

- Dealroom: Turning conversations into collaborations
- B2B Expo featuring leading institutions, industry and innovators
- Focus tracks on AI, Climate, Sustainability, Health, Creative Economies
- Workshops, Masterclasses & Capacity building on Mobility, TNE & Internationalisation
- Industry x Academia x Impact - Leading practices showcased

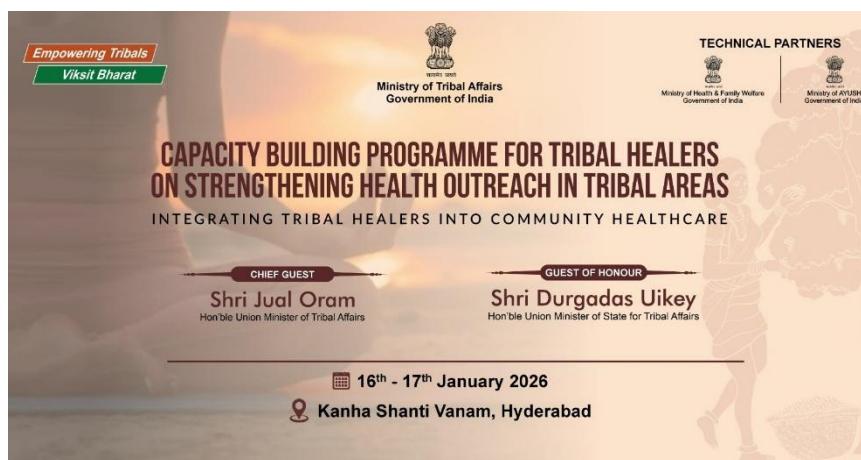
Thiru. M.K. Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The India Global Education Summit (IGES) 2026 is being held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ It is co-organised by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) to foster global partnerships.
- ❖ The summit aims to bring together education leaders, universities, employers and policymakers from across the world.
- ❖ IGES is designed to shape the global education and skills agenda for the next decade.

NATIONAL NEWS

Program for Tribal Healers



- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), has launched a National Capacity Building Programme for Tribal Healers in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ This first-of-its-kind national initiative aims to formally recognize and engage tribal healers as collaborative partners within India's public health ecosystem.
- ❖ It aids to strengthen last-mile health service delivery in geographically and culturally isolated tribal regions.
- ❖ A MoU with ICMR-Regional Medical Research Centre, Bhubaneswar was signed to establish India's first Bharat Tribal Health Observatory (B-THO) under Project DRISTI.
- ❖ Project DRISTI aims to create a tribe-disaggregated health information system.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Cattle Breeds - Karan Fries and Vrindavani

- ❖ The Indian government has registered two high-yielding synthetic cattle breeds, Karan Fries and Vrindavani.

- ❖ Karan Fries was developed by the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) in Karnal, Haryana.
- ❖ It is developed by crossing indigenous Tharparkar cows with Holstein-Friesian bulls.
- ❖ A Karan Fries cow can produce over 3,500 kg of milk in a 10-month lactation period, with peak daily yields of up to 46.5 kg.
- ❖ Vrindavani was developed by the ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, by crossing Holstein-Friesian, Brown Swiss, Jersey, and indigenous Haryana cattle.
- ❖ These synthetic breeds combine high milk productivity with resilience and adaptability to Indian conditions.
- ❖ Both breeds aim to enhance dairy production in India while maintaining genetic diversity and improving farmer incomes.



India Registers High-Yield Synthetic Cattle Breeds, Adds 14 Indigenous Varieties to National List

India has registered two synthetic cattle breeds — Karan Fries and Vrindavani — with milk yields over 3,000 kg per lactation, alongside 14 new indigenous breeds, bringing the national total to 246. Experts highlight this move as vital for dairy productivity and climate resilience.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

World's First Mountain Ice Core Repository

- ❖ Scientists inaugurated the world's first global repository of mountain ice cores at Concordia Research Station on the Antarctic Plateau.
- ❖ The facility is called the Ice Memory Sanctuary, developed by the Ice Memory Foundation, a group of research institutions from France, Italy, and Switzerland.

- ❖ The ice vault is a cave made in compacted snow and maintained at -52 degrees Celsius to preserve ice cores for a long time.
- ❖ The first ice cores were taken from Mont Blanc in France and the Grand Combin massif in Switzerland and transported to Antarctica over 50 days.
- ❖ Ice cores act as atmospheric time capsules, keeping information about past climate, gases, dust, and pollutants.
- ❖ The Ice Memory project, started in 2015, has collected ice cores from 10 glacier sites worldwide and plans to expand storage for future research.

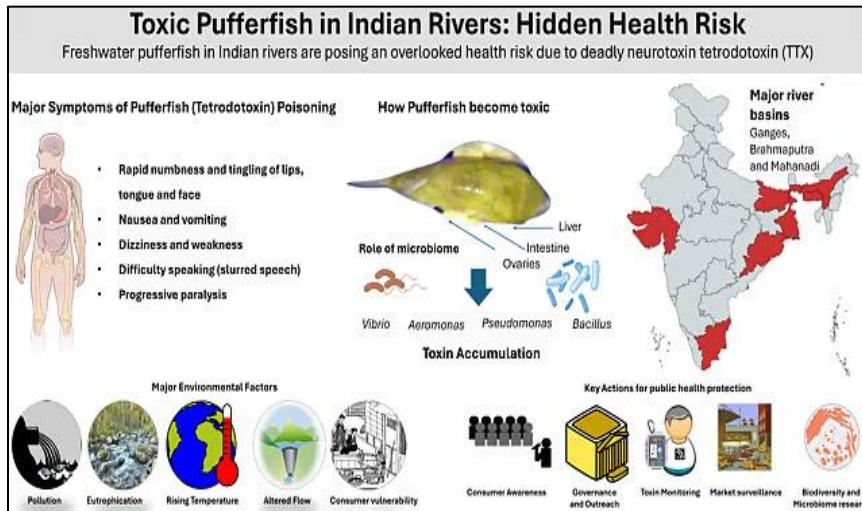


**Antarctica Opens World's
First Ice Vault To Preserve
Ancient Glacier Ice At -61°F**

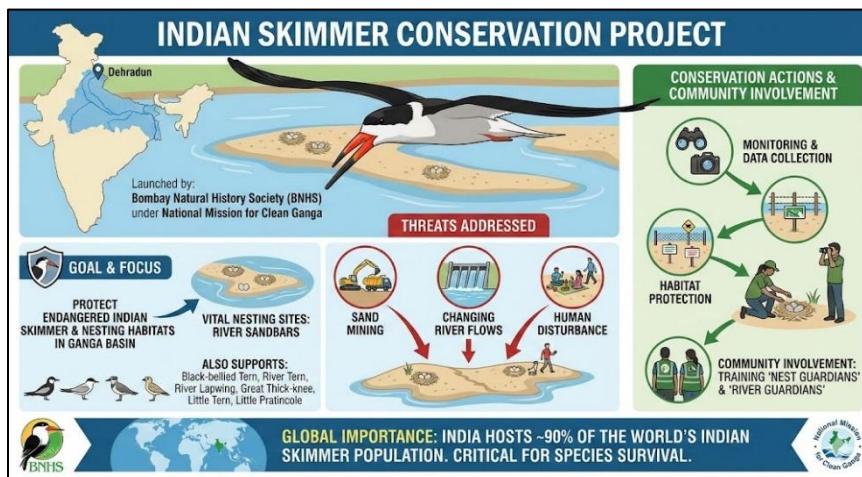
Pufferfish Poisoning Case

- ❖ India has reported its first scientifically confirmed case of pufferfish poisoning in Veraval, Gujarat.
- ❖ Freshwater pufferfish, *Tetraodon cutcutia* (currently classified as *Leiodon cutcutia*), contain tetrodotoxin (TTX).
- ❖ TTX is a potent neurotoxin present in rivers such as the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Mahanadi.
- ❖ Tetrodotoxin is believed to originate from bacteria such as *Vibrio*, *Pseudomonas*, *Aeromonas*, and *Bacillus*, which live in pufferfish tissues.

- ❖ India currently does not have a freshwater fish toxin surveillance program, making public awareness and timely prevention essential.
- ❖ Although pufferfish are ecologically important, safe handling and education are necessary to prevent health risks.



Indian Skimmer Conservation Project

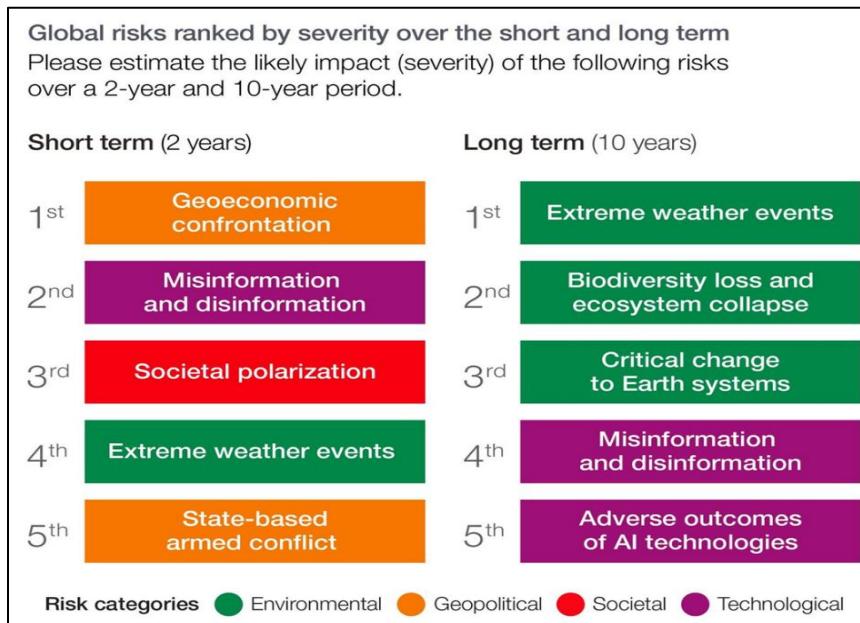


- ❖ The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) has launched a conservation project under the National Mission for Clean Ganga at Dehradun.
- ❖ The project aims to protect the endangered Indian Skimmer and its nesting habitats in the Ganga Basin.
- ❖ It focuses on river sandbars, which are vital nesting sites for Indian Skimmers and other river birds.

- ❖ Threats such as sand mining, changing river flows, and human disturbance are being addressed through monitoring, habitat protection, and community involvement.
- ❖ Local people will be trained as 'Nest Guardians' and 'River Guardians' to protect nests, monitor birds, reduce threats, and assist in data collection.
- ❖ The project also supports other declining river birds like the Black-bellied Tern, River Tern, River Lapwing, Great Thick-knee, Little Tern, and Little Pratincole.
- ❖ India hosts nearly 90% of the world's Indian Skimmer population, making its conservation critical for the species' survival.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Global Risks Report 2026

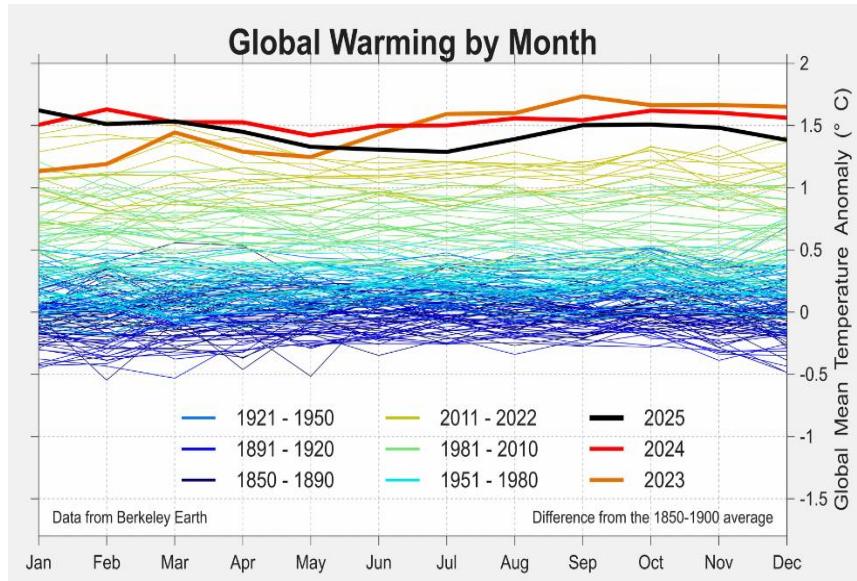


- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the Global Risks Report 2026.
- ❖ It identified cybersecurity as India's top risk and geoeconomic confrontation as the most severe global threat.
- ❖ Cybersecurity is India's biggest risk due to dependence on digital governance, fintech, and critical digital infrastructure.
- ❖ Geoeconomic confrontation means countries using trade restrictions, sanctions, investment controls, and technology bans for geopolitical interests.
- ❖ Other major risks for India include income and wealth inequality, weak public services, economic downturns, and state-based armed conflicts.

- ❖ Global risks in 2026 include armed conflicts, extreme weather, climate change, technological threats, and cyber insecurity.

Berkeley Earth Report

- ❖ Berkeley Earth's annual temperature report found that 2025 was the warmest La Niña year on record.
- ❖ La Niña is the cooler phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which usually lowers global temperatures.
- ❖ ENSO is a natural phenomenon caused by fluctuating ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, linked with atmospheric changes called the Southern Oscillation.
- ❖ During La Niña, trade winds strengthen, pushing warm water west and allowing cold water to rise in the eastern Pacific.
- ❖ In India, La Niña generally brings normal to above-normal monsoon rains, colder winters in northern regions, and higher risks of floods and cyclones in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The opposite phase, El Niño, weakens trade winds, warms the eastern Pacific, weakens monsoon rains, triggers droughts, and causes hotter summers.



Employment and Social Trends Report 2026

- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) released the Employment and Social Trends Report 2026.

- ❖ The global unemployment rate is projected to be 4.9% in 2026, which is around 186 million unemployed people.
- ❖ Beyond unemployment, the global jobs gap is expected to reach 408 million people who want work but cannot access it.
- ❖ Around 284 million workers worldwide earn less than 3 US dollars per day, living in extreme poverty.
- ❖ More than two billion workers remain in informal employment across the world.
- ❖ Youth unemployment is about 12.4%, and women make only two-fifths of global employment, with 24% lower participation than men.

**The global
unemployment
rate stood at 4.9%
in 2025**

and is projected to stay
at that level in 2026.

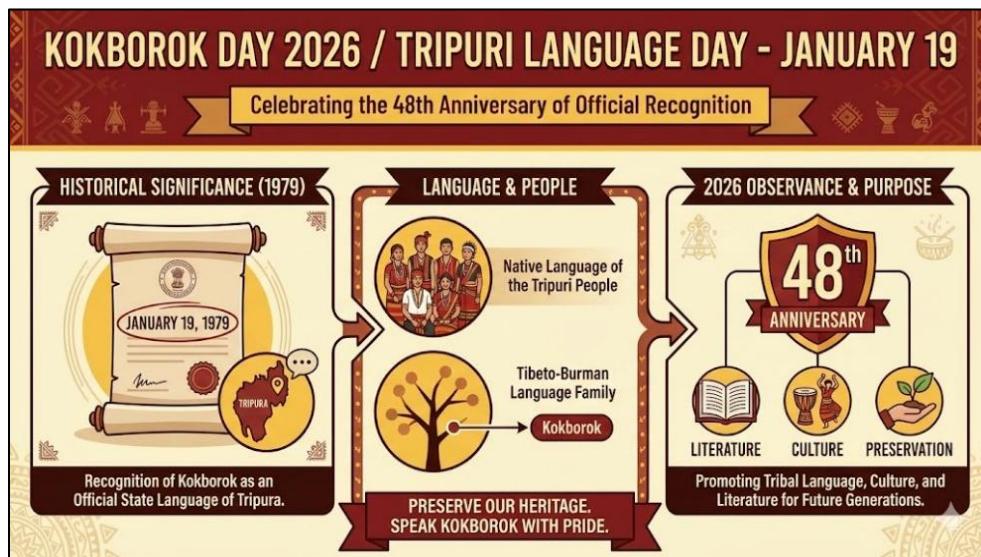
IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Interventional Radiology Day 2026 - January 16



- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about non-surgical treatment options and patient safety.
- ❖ The day commemorates the first successful angioplasty performed in 1964.
- ❖ The procedure was done by Dr. Charles Dotter, known as the Father of Interventional Radiology.
- ❖ Interventional Radiology (IR) uses image-guided, minimally invasive procedures.
- ❖ IR helps in treating vascular diseases, cancer, women's health, and pain conditions.

Kokborok Day 2026 / Tripuri Language Day 2026 - January 19



- ❖ The day marks the recognition of Kokborok as an official state language in 1979.
- ❖ Kokborok is the native language of the Tripuri people.
- ❖ It belongs to the Tibeto-Burman language family.
- ❖ The 2026 observance marked the 48th anniversary of official recognition.
- ❖ The day promotes the preservation of tribal language, culture, and literature.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Lokpal Day 2026

- ❖ Lokpal of India observed its Foundation Day on January 16, 2026.
- ❖ The day marks the coming into force of Section 3 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, on January 16, 2014.

- ❖ Lokpal of India is the apex anti-corruption body of the country.
- ❖ Lokpal has jurisdiction over corruption complaints against public functionaries.

