



January - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for the Mamallan reservoir on East Coast Road.
 - The reservoir is proposed as Chennai's sixth drinking water source and the first coastal freshwater reservoir in the State.
- ❖ TNWeSAFE Project of the Government of Tamil Nadu is going to organise the Global Woman Summit 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has released two books, 'Gen V Bano' and 'Mahatma', at India's first NAMO (Narendra Modi) Book Fest in New Delhi.
- ❖ Google has launched Translate Gemma, an artificial intelligence (AI) based open translation model built on Gemma 3 architecture, supporting 55 global languages, including high- and low-resource languages.
- ❖ Kerala recorded the highest personal four-wheeler electric vehicle (EV) adoption in 2025 among Indian states.
- ❖ Indian Army Major Swathi Shantha Kumar won the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Award 2025 for gender-inclusive peacekeeping.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Governor speech in TN Assembly 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi declined to read out his customary speech prepared by the State government on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly on January 20, and walked out of the House.
- ❖ This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Governor has exited the House during the opening session.
- ❖ But the house passed a resolution only the Government prepared text read out by Speaker M Appavu in Tamil would go on record.
- ❖ As per Article 176 of the Constitution, a special address by the Governor to State legislatures at the commencement of the first session after a General Election to the Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year.

- ❖ There is no scope for the Governor to include his personal comments or to remove parts of the speech prepared by the State government.



Kuppai Thiruvizha 2026



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government has announced a three-day statewide Kuppai Thiruvizha (garbage collection drive).
- ❖ The drive will be conducted across all local bodies in Tamil Nadu from 21 to 23 January 2026.
- ❖ The initiative is part of the Cleanliness Campaign (Thooymai Iyakkam) announced in 2025.

- ❖ Earlier, from June to December 2025, four phases of garbage collection were held in government offices, collecting 2,877 tonnes of waste.
- ❖ The collected waste was recycled and generated a revenue of ₹3.79 crore.
- ❖ In the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), 200 garbage collection centres have been set up for the drive.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's First Green Ammonia Project – Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The project is being developed at Kakinada, which is planned as a Green Hydrogen Valley.
- ❖ It is the world's largest green ammonia project under development.
- ❖ The project will produce 1.5 million tonnes of green ammonia per year from June 2027.
- ❖ It involves an investment of about ₹84,000 crore.
- ❖ Green ammonia is made using green hydrogen from renewable energy sources.



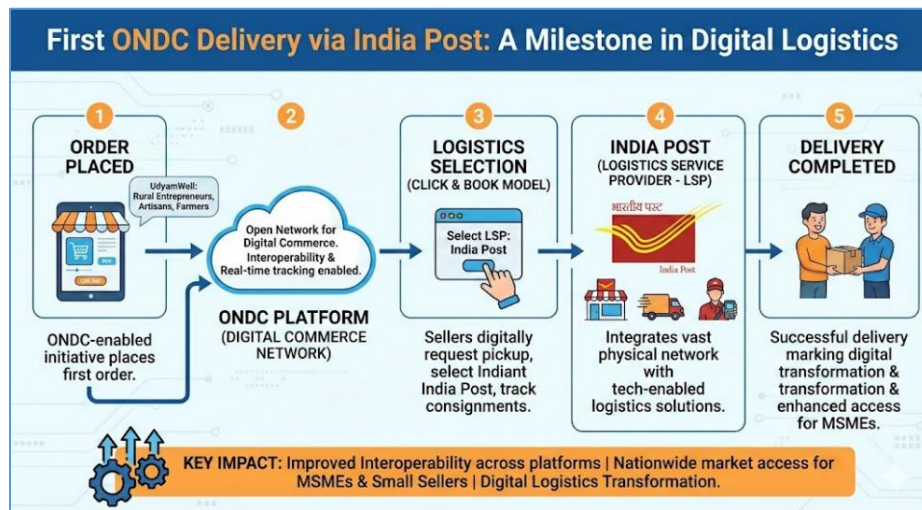
Strategic Trade Controls 2026

- ❖ The National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC) 2026 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference was organised by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

- ❖ It focused on India's Strategic Trade Control system, especially the SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) framework.
- ❖ SCOMET regulates the export of dual-use and sensitive items related to security and technology.
- ❖ The third edition of the Handbook on India's Strategic Trade Control System was released during the event.



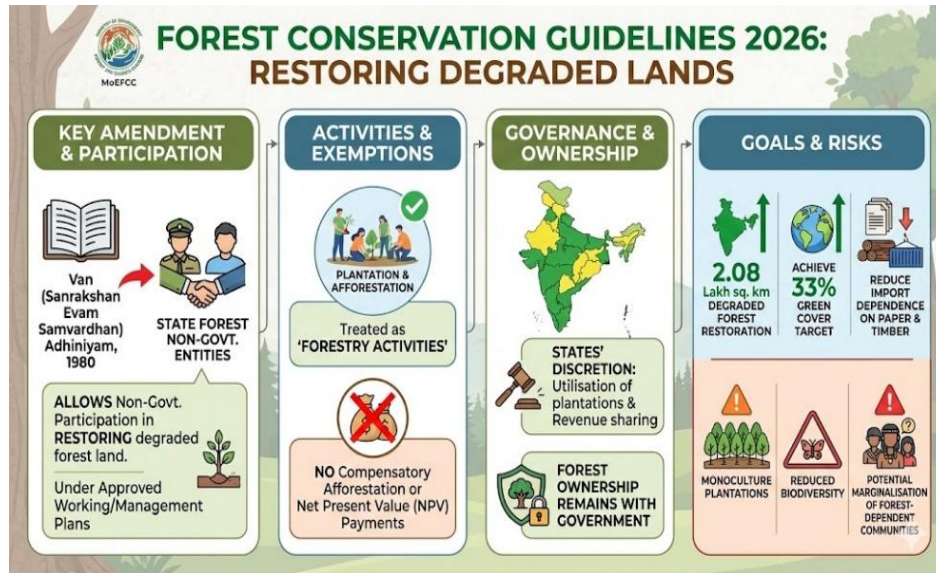
First ONDC Delivery via India Post



- ❖ The Department of Posts successfully delivered its first online order through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- ❖ India Post acted as a Logistics Service Provider (LSP) under ONDC, integrating its vast physical network with technology-enabled logistics solutions.

- ❖ The milestone order was placed by UdyamWell, an ONDC-enabled initiative supporting rural entrepreneurs, including artisans and farmers.
- ❖ The delivery followed the Click & Book model, where sellers can digitally request pickups, select India Post for logistics, and track consignments in real time.
- ❖ This integration improves interoperability across digital commerce platforms and enhances access for MSMEs and small sellers to nationwide markets.

Forest Conservation Guidelines 2026



- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) amended forest conservation guidelines under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ❖ It aims to allow non-government participation in restoring degraded forest land.
- ❖ Plantation and afforestation activities on forest land are now treated as “forestry activities” and do not require Compensatory Afforestation or Net Present Value (NPV) payments.
- ❖ The non-government entities can participate in restoration work under approved Working or Management Plans of State Forest Departments.
- ❖ States have discretion over the utilisation of plantations and revenue sharing, but forest ownership remains with the government.
- ❖ The amendment aims to restore about 2.08 lakh sq. km of degraded forest, achieve India’s 33% green cover target, and reduce import dependence on paper and timber.
- ❖ Risks include monoculture plantations, reduced biodiversity, and potential marginalisation of forest-dependent communities.

Inspiring Innovators Skilling Initiative

- ❖ The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India has marked the culmination of the 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan' skilling initiative in New Delhi.
- ❖ The programme was developed in collaboration with the Netflix Fund for Creative Equity and implemented with Graphiti Studios.
- ❖ It showcased eight Indian start-ups through short animated films highlighting social-impact innovation.
- ❖ The initiative bridged innovation and creative ecosystems by combining storytelling with practical skill development.



ECONOMY NEWS

India's Stock Market Expansion 2026



- ❖ India is the world leader in the number of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) and ranks third globally by IPO value.

- ❖ An IPO is the process by which a private company sells shares to the public for the first time, raising equity capital and becoming publicly traded.
- ❖ In the first nine months of FY 2025–26, 311 IPOs raised ₹1.7 trillion.
- ❖ India's market capitalisation-to-GDP ratio rose from 69% in FY16 to over 130%, showing growing capital market strength.

NSE Settlements in Co-location and Dark Fibre Cases



- ❖ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received in-principal approval from SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) to settle co-location and dark fibre cases.
- ❖ Co-location allows brokers faster access to exchange data, and dark fibre refers to unused optical cables for private data transfer.
- ❖ Some brokers were accused of getting unfair speed advantages through these facilities.
- ❖ NSE had set aside ₹1,387.39 crore for settling these allegations.
- ❖ The approval could speed up NSE's IPO (Initial Public Offering) process, pending SEBI's final clearance.
- ❖ SEBI is also exploring the regulation of unlisted shares traded outside stock exchanges.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

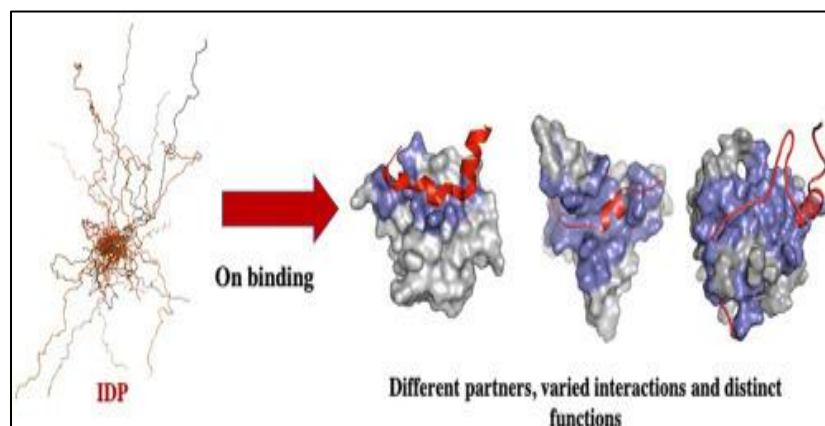
Voyager 1 Interstellar Mission

- ❖ NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft is expected to reach a distance of one light-day from Earth.

- ❖ Voyager 1 was launched in 1977 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- ❖ It became the first spacecraft to enter interstellar space after crossing the heliopause (boundary of the Sun's influence) in 2012.
- ❖ One light-day means radio signals take 24 hours to travel one way between Earth and Voyager 1.
- ❖ Voyager 1 is about 16 billion miles away from Earth and is the most distant human-made object.
- ❖ The spacecraft still has four working instruments to study cosmic rays, magnetic fields, and plasma waves.



Intrinsically Disordered Proteins



- ❖ Indian researchers have developed an open-source Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool named Disobind to predict interactions of Intrinsically Disordered Proteins.

- ❖ Intrinsically Disordered Proteins (IDPs) are proteins that do not have a fixed three-dimensional structure.
- ❖ These proteins remain flexible and can change their shape inside living cells.
- ❖ IDPs play an important role in cell signalling, gene regulation, and protein folding.
- ❖ They are involved in diseases such as cancer and neurodegenerative disorders.
- ❖ The Disobind tool uses protein language models to study and predict IDP interactions.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Giant Black Coral Discovery



- ❖ Scientists have discovered a 300–400-year-old giant black coral in the deep waters of Fiordland, New Zealand.
- ❖ It measures about 13 feet in height and 15 feet in width, making it the largest black coral recorded in New Zealand.
- ❖ Black corals grow extremely slowly, often only a few millimetres each year.
- ❖ The coral provides habitat and shelter for deep-sea marine species.
- ❖ It is legally protected under New Zealand's Wildlife Act.

REPORTS AND INDICES

WHO Report on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

- ❖ The WHO has released the global reports showing that taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages and alcoholic drinks remain low in many countries.

- ❖ At least 116 countries tax sugary drinks, but the tax typically makes up a small share of the retail price, averaging about 6–7%.
- ❖ Many high-sugar products like 100 % fruit juices, sweetened milks, and ready-to-drink teas/coffees often escape taxation.
- ❖ Alcohol taxes are levied in about 167 countries, but prices remain low or unchanged in many places because taxes are not adjusted for inflation or income growth.
- ❖ The reports link low tax levels to rising consumption of unhealthy beverages, which contributes to obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and injuries.
- ❖ Higher and better-designed taxes can help reduce harmful consumption, improve public health, and generate revenue for health services.



NITI Aayog Report on MSME schemes

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report in January 2026 proposing the convergence of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) schemes to improve efficiency and reduce duplication.
- ❖ The report has analysed 18 central MSME schemes and suggested unified digital access, cluster development, skill programme alignment, and marketing support integration.
- ❖ MSMEs contribute around 29–30% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employ over 28.7 crore people.
- ❖ About 45–46% of India's exports come from MSMEs, with over 6.3 crore units across the country, half in rural areas.

- ❖ Key recommendations include a centralised AI-enabled portal, merged cluster schemes, skill programme rationalisation, and an integrated marketing and innovation support system.
- ❖ The goal is to make scheme delivery simpler, faster, and more effective for MSMEs and rural entrepreneurs.

NITI lays out road map for greater efficiency in MSME sector

Proposes convergence of schemes with overlapping objectives

Convergence of info & process needed for smooth implementation



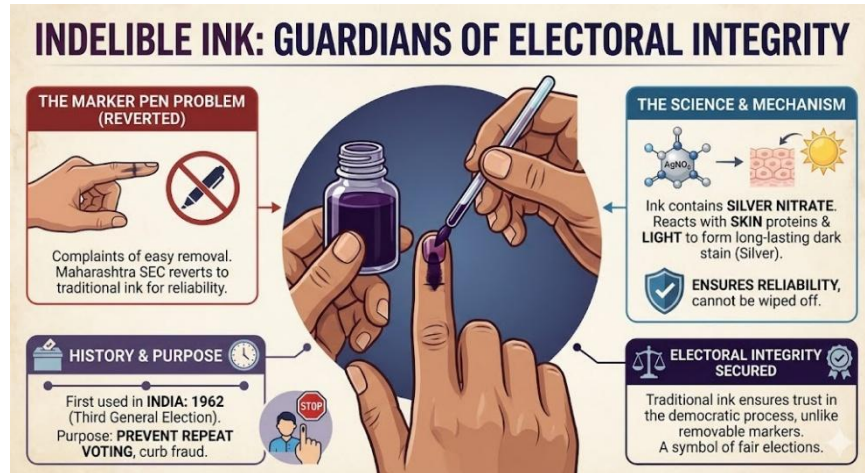
Proposes setting up centralised portal for greater access to info

SAYS FLAGSHIP SCHEMES SHOULD BE KEPT AS IT IS TO PREVENT DILUTION OF IMPACT

STATES' NEWS

Indelible Ink

- ❖ Maharashtra's State Election Commission has decided to revert to traditional indelible ink for zilla parishad and panchayat samiti elections after complaints that marker-pen ink could be wiped off.
- ❖ Indelible ink is applied to a voter's finger after voting to prevent repeat voting.
- ❖ India started using it in 1962 (Third General Election) to curb electoral fraud.
- ❖ The ink contains silver nitrate, reacting with skin and light to produce a long-lasting dark stain.
- ❖ Traditional ink ensures reliability and electoral integrity, unlike marker pens, which may be removable.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Disaster Response Force Raising Day 2026 – January 19

- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was raised on 19 January 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ NDRF functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ The main aim of NDRF is to ensure quick and specialised disaster response in emergency situations.
- ❖ The force handles search, rescue, evacuation, and relief operations during natural and human-made disasters across the country.

