

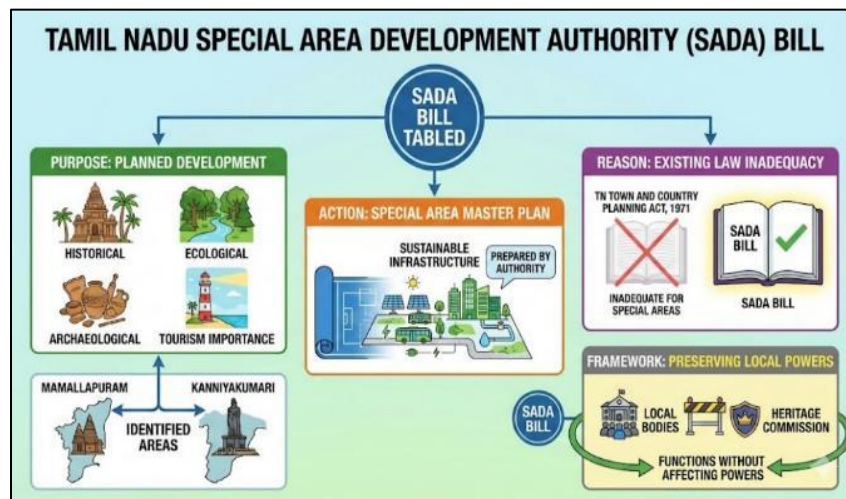
January - 26

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Delhi will introduce a single emergency number, 112, for police, fire, ambulance, and disaster services.
- ❖ Vidarbha cricket team won their first “Vijay Hazare Trophy” title by victory over two-time champions “Saurashtra”.
- ❖ Abu Dhabi was ranked the world’s safest city for the tenth consecutive year in 2026, topping the Numbeo Global Safety Index 2026.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Special Area Development Authority



- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government tabled a Bill in the State Assembly to create a Special Area Development Authority.
- ❖ The Bill aims to ensure the planned development of areas with historical, ecological, archaeological, or tourism importance.
- ❖ Areas such as Mamallapuram and Kanniyakumari have been identified for setting up the Special Area Development Authority.
- ❖ The proposed Authority will prepare a Special Area Master Plan for sustainable infrastructure development.
- ❖ The Bill states that existing laws like the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, are inadequate for such special areas.
- ❖ The new framework will function without affecting the powers of local bodies or the Heritage Commission.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Draft National Electricity Policy 2026

<b>POWER PLAY: WIRED FOR CHANGE</b>	
<b>Proposals in draft National Electricity Policy 2026</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Index-link automatic annual tariff revision</li><li>➤ Exemption of cross-subsidies and surcharges on manufacturing industry and railways</li><li>➤ Domestic manufacturing of cells and other components of battery energy storage system</li><li>➤ Integration of storage, and repurposing of older thermal units for grid support</li><li>➤ Adoption of advanced nuclear technologies,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>developing modular reactors and setting up small reactors</li><li>➤ Suitable compensation for land use to address right of way challenges</li><li>➤ Utilisation-based framework for allocation of transmission connectivity</li><li>➤ Measures to achieve single-digit AT&amp;C distribution losses</li><li>➤ Shared distribution networks to enhance competition and efficiency</li><li>➤ Robust cybersecurity framework</li></ul>

- ❖ The Ministry of Power released the Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026 for public consultation.
- ❖ The policy replaces the NEP 2005 and sets a roadmap to transform India's power sector by 2047.
- ❖ India has achieved universal household electrification by March 2021 and has operated a unified national grid since 2013.
- ❖ Targets include raising per capita electricity consumption to 2,000 kWh by 2030 and 4,000 kWh by 2047.
- ❖ India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.
- ❖ Key reforms: increase renewable energy, promote battery energy storage systems, reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, and modernise the power grid.
- ❖ Nuclear power capacity target is 100 GW by 2047, including small and modular reactors, with a focus on storage-based hydro and thermal integration.

### Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

- ❖ The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework.
- ❖ It is a strategic policy document to integrate quantum technologies into the Indian Armed Forces.

- ❖ The framework focuses on the Army, Navy and Air Force through joint and coordinated adoption.
- ❖ It covers four key areas: quantum communication, quantum computing, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices.
- ❖ It aims to align defence needs with the National Quantum Mission through a civil–military fusion approach.
- ❖ The policy provides a roadmap for secure communication, better sensing and future battlefield preparedness.



## India's First Urban Climate Event

Mumbai is hosting India's first city-led climate action initiative  
Mumbai Climate Week 2026 (Feb 17–19).

UNICEF India and YuWaah, along with Project Mumbai,  
are engaging young people to ensure their lived experiences  
shape city-level climate policy and governance.



- ❖ Mumbai will host India's first city-led climate action initiative, Mumbai Climate Week 2026, from February 17 to 19.
- ❖ The aim is to promote citizen-driven climate solutions with a focus on children and youth, linking climate action to child rights.



- ❖ UNICEF India and YuWaah will engage young people in climate policy and action.
- ❖ Campus Climate Roadshows will be held from February 9 to 16 to mobilise college students and highlight e-waste management under Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).
- ❖ A Youth Green Innovation Challenge will allow innovators aged 16–24 to present solutions on food systems, urban resilience, and energy transition.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **‘Board of Peace’ for Gaza**



- ❖ India skipped the U.S. President Donald Trump-led “Board of Peace” charter announcement held in Davos.
- ❖ The Board of Peace is part of the Trump administration’s Phase 2 of the Gaza Peace Proposal.
- ❖ It is meant to oversee security, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction in the Gaza strip.
- ❖ The Board is required to report to the 15-member Security Council every six months on its progress.
- ❖ As a chairman, Trump serves as the final authority on the interpretation of the charter and holds veto power over key decisions, including membership removal and executive board actions.
- ❖ Member states would be limited to three-year terms unless they pay \$1 billion each to fund the board's activities and earn permanent membership.

### **USA's exit from WHO**

- ❖ The United States formally exited the World Health Organization (WHO) on 23 January 2026, leaving unpaid dues of about 260 million US dollars.
- ❖ The decision follows an executive order signed by President Donald Trump at the start of his second term.
- ❖ The US has halted all funding to the WHO and withdrawn its personnel from WHO offices and bodies.
- ❖ The US was the largest contributor to the WHO, providing nearly 1.3 billion US dollars during 2022–2023.
- ❖ Under a 1948 US Congressional resolution, a one-year notice and payment of dues are required to exit WHO.

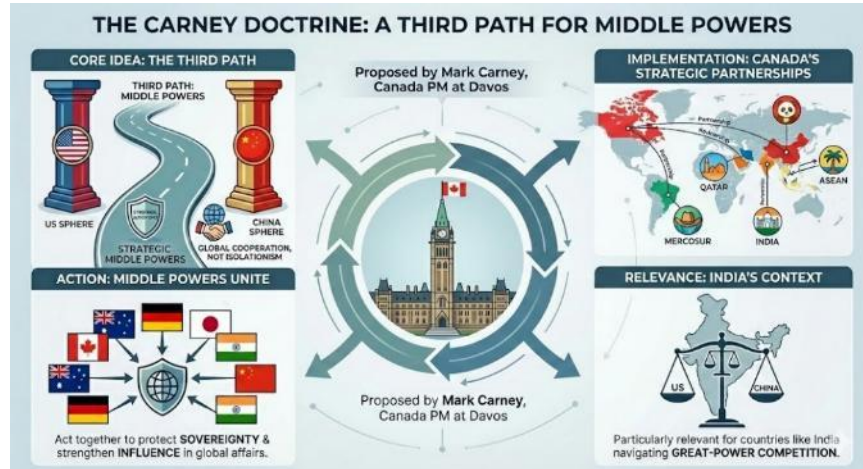
### **US exits from WHO – what's at stake?**

- US halts all funding to WHO
- American staff recalled from WHO offices worldwide
- US withdraws from leadership bodies and working groups
- WHO loses its biggest financial contributor

### **Carney Doctrine**

- ❖ The Carney Doctrine was proposed by Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney at the World Economic Forum, Davos.
- ❖ It suggests a “Third Path” for middle powers to avoid choosing sides in the U.S.-China rivalry.
- ❖ The approach promotes strategic autonomy while still encouraging global cooperation, not isolationism.
- ❖ Carney emphasized that middle powers must act together to protect sovereignty and strengthen their influence in global affairs.

- ❖ Canada has implemented this doctrine through strategic partnerships with China, Qatar, India, ASEAN countries, and Mercosur.
- ❖ The doctrine is particularly relevant for countries like India navigating great-power competition.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### Earth Observation Satellite Constellation



- ❖ India's first private Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation is being developed by a Pixxel-led consortium, in partnership with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
- ❖ The consortium includes Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space.
- ❖ The project will follow a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and build a complete EO ecosystem from satellites to geospatial analytics.

- ❖ The constellation will have 12 satellites with very high-resolution optical, multispectral, hyperspectral, and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imaging capabilities.
- ❖ The satellites will support applications in agriculture, disaster management, climate studies, urban planning, water management, and national security, enhancing India's self-reliance in geospatial data.

## REPORTS AND INDICES

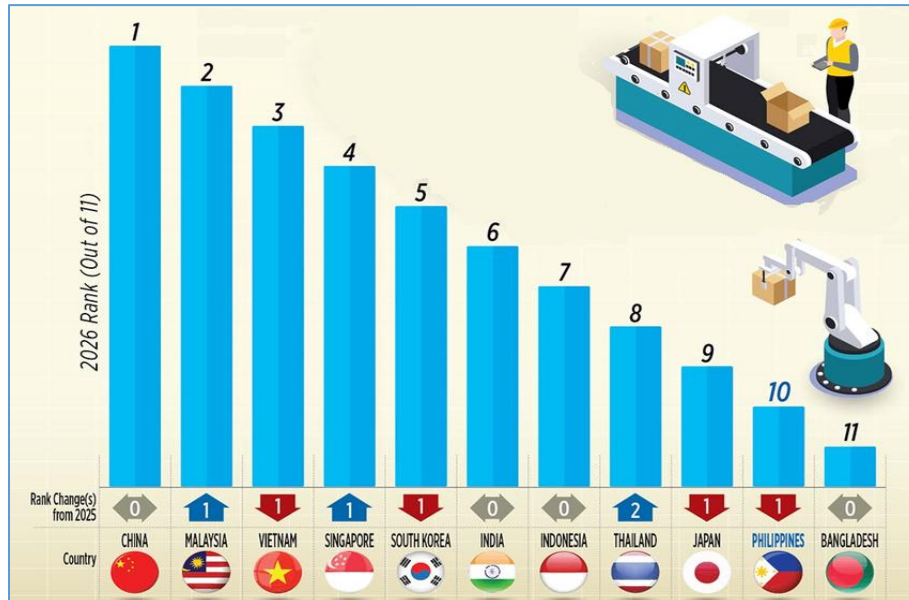
### UNEP report 2026



- ❖ The UN Environment Programme released the State of Finance for Nature 2026 report.
- ❖ It is highlighting global imbalance between nature-negative and nature-positive finance.
- ❖ In 2023, the nature-negative finance reached about 7.3 trillion dollars, while investment in nature-based solutions stood at around 220 billion dollars.
- ❖ Nearly 90 % of nature-based solutions finance comes from public sources, with private finance concentrated in fossil fuels and heavy industry.
- ❖ To meet Rio Convention targets, annual investment in nature-based solutions must rise to about 571 billion dollars by 2030.
- ❖ The report recommends redirecting capital away from harmful activities, reforming environmentally harmful subsidies, mandating nature-risk disclosures, and expanding blended finance.



## Asia Manufacturing Index 2026



- ❖ India has ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among 11 Asian economies in the Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026.
- ❖ AMI is released by Dezan Shira & Associates, a pan-Asian advisory firm from Hong Kong, and evaluates manufacturing competitiveness.
- ❖ The index covers 8 key pillars and 43 sub-parameters, including infrastructure, labour, market access, regulatory environment, and supply chain resilience.
- ❖ Malaysia ranked 2nd, followed by Vietnam in 3rd place, showing rising regional competition.

## NITI Aayog report on Green Transition



- ❖ NITI Aayog released reports outlining decarbonisation roadmaps for the cement, aluminium and MSME sectors.



- ❖ Decarbonisation refers to reducing or eliminating carbon dioxide emissions from economic activities.
- ❖ Cement contributes about 6 % and aluminium about 2.8 % to India's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) emitted around 135 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2022.
- ❖ The transition supports India's targets of reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 45 % by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2070.
- ❖ It also helps mitigate export risks arising from trade measures like the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

## STATES' NEWS

### Lambada Tribe



- ❖ The issue of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status of the Lambada community in Telangana has reached the Supreme Court again.
- ❖ Lambadas, also called Banjaras, are a tribal community found in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ They were traditionally nomadic traders who transported goods like grain and salt.
- ❖ They speak Gor Boli, also known as Lambadi, which is an Indo-Aryan language.
- ❖ Lambadas live in separate hamlets called Tandas, led by a village head known as Naik.
- ❖ They are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in some states, while classified as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in others.

## Guillain-Barré Syndrome

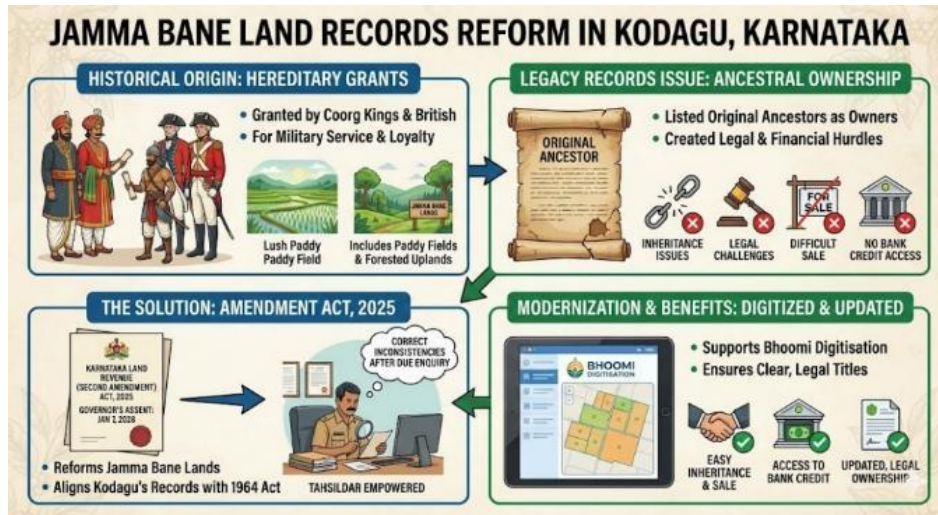
- ❖ A Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) outbreak has been reported in Manasa town, Neemuch district, Madhya Pradesh recently.
- ❖ GBS is a rare neurological disorder in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nervous system (the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord).
- ❖ GBS often begins with weakness, tingling, or numbness in the feet and legs that can spread to the arms and face, and it can progress to muscle weakness or paralysis.
- ❖ The state government has initiated a detection and treatment drive with special wards, control rooms, and screenings by health teams, ASHA workers, and Anganwadi staff.
- ❖ Authorities are covering treatment costs, conducting door-to-door screenings to identify new cases early, and investigating the outbreak's source.



## Jamma Bane Land Records

- ❖ Karnataka amended its land revenue law to reform Jamma Bane lands in Kodagu district.
- ❖ The amendment, Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Act, 2025, received the Governor's assent on January 7, 2026.
- ❖ Jamma Bane lands are hereditary holdings granted by Coorg kings and later by the British, often for military service, including paddy fields and forested uplands.
- ❖ Legacy records listed original ancestors as owners, creating legal issues in land mutation, inheritance, sale, and bank credit access.
- ❖ The amendment empowers Tahsildars to correct inconsistencies in the Record of Rights after due enquiry.

- ❖ It aligns Kodagu's records with the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 and supports Bhoomi digitisation for updated, legal land ownership.



## Ban on Tobacco Products



- ❖ The Odisha government announced a complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and all tobacco and nicotine products on 23 January 2026.
- ❖ The ban covers the manufacture, sale, storage, transport, and distribution of both packaged and unpackaged products.
- ❖ The ban applies to all chewable products containing tobacco or nicotine, sold in any form or name.



- ❖ The move ensures full compliance with the Supreme Court's nationwide ban on gutkha and pan masala.
- ❖ Higher Goods and Services Tax (GST) and excise duties on tobacco products will come into effect from 1 February 2026.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Parakram Diwas 2026



- ❖ Parakram Diwas (Day of Courage) 2026 was observed on 23 January to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ❖ Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born on 23 January 1897 in Cuttack, Odisha.
- ❖ He was the leader of the Indian National Army (INA) and gave the slogan "Delhi Chalo".
- ❖ He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1938 and 1939.
- ❖ The Government of India officially announced Parakram Diwas on 19 January 2021.

