

January - 28

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard and Japan Coast Guard conducted a joint Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) response drill in Mumbai.
- ❖ Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic became the first player to achieve 400 singles match wins at Grand Slam tournaments.
- ❖ Gujarat laid the foundation stone for India's first integrated private satellite manufacturing unit at Sanand (Khoraj), Gujarat.
- ❖ Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the ₹6,957-crore, 34.5 km Kaziranga Elevated Corridor on NH-715 in Assam.
  - It is designed to protect wildlife by allowing safe animal crossings beneath the road.

## TAMIL NADU NEWS

### Padma Awardees from TN



- ❖ 14 personalities from Tamil Nadu have been selected for the prestigious Padma Awards.
- ❖ Three of the 13 Padma Bhushan awardees are from the State.
- ❖ 11 out of the 113 Padma Shri recipients hail from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ None from the State was chosen for the Padma Vibhushan

- ❖ The Padma Awards are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day and are conferred by the President of India.

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Delhi Declaration 2026**

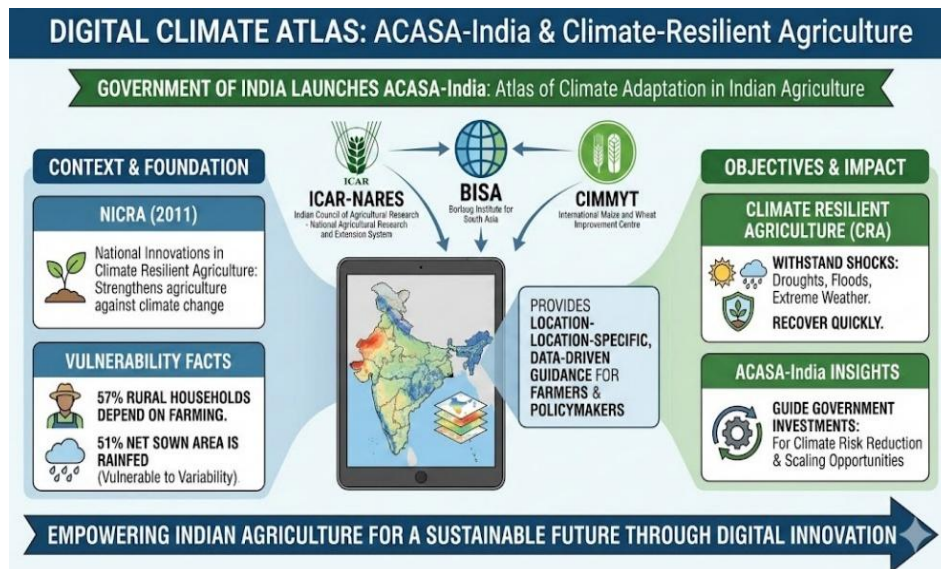
- ❖ The International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 concluded with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The declaration was unanimously adopted by 42 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from across the world.
- ❖ It is based on five pillars: purity of electoral rolls, conduct of elections, research and publications, use of technology, and training and capacity building.
- ❖ The conference also marked the launch of ECINET (Election Commission of India Network), ECI's one-stop digital platform for election-related information and services.



### **Digital Climate Atlas**

- ❖ The Government of India launched the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA-India) to help farmers plan for climate challenges.

- ❖ It was developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-led National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES) in collaboration with Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA) under the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT).
- ❖ The platform provides location-specific, data-driven guidance for climate-resilient agriculture.
- ❖ Insights from ACASA-India will help government agencies decide on future investments for climate risk reduction and scaling opportunities.
- ❖ The National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) was launched by ICAR in 2011 to strengthen Indian agriculture against climate change.
- ❖ Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) aims to help farming systems withstand shocks like droughts, floods, and extreme weather while recovering quickly.
- ❖ About 57% of rural households in India depend on farming, and 51% of net sown area is rainfed, making it vulnerable to climate variability.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

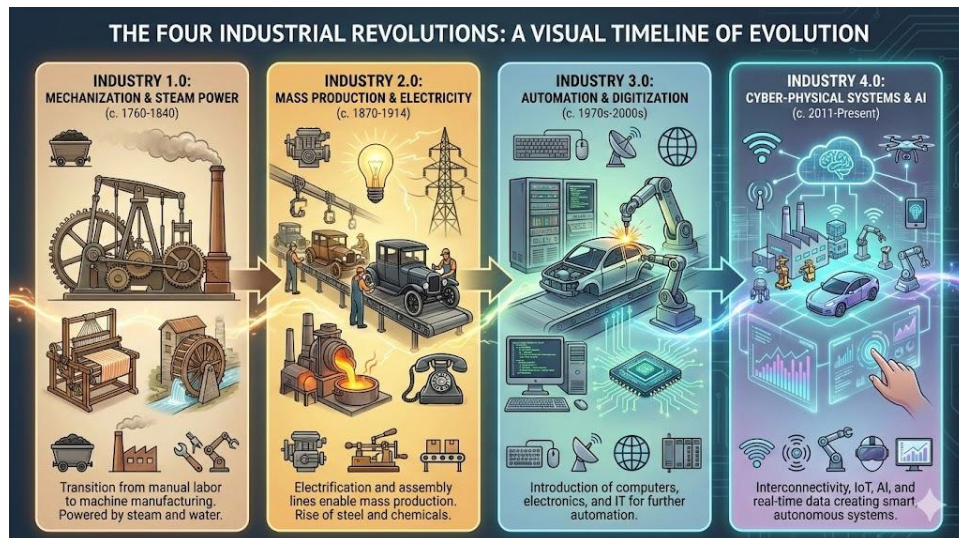
### Global Future Councils Meetings

- ❖ The UAE will host the Global Future Councils (GFCs) meetings for the next five years after signing a MoU with the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ❖ The GFCs are WEF's multistakeholder knowledge network, established in 2013, to provide insights on global challenges and future trends.
- ❖ The councils operate on invitation-only, two-year terms, bringing experts from multiple fields to give research-based advice.

- ❖ GFC outputs support policy-making and are integrated into WEF initiatives and the Davos agenda.
- ❖ The council aims to identify risks, emerging technologies, and opportunities to help governments build resilient and sustainable development models.



### Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre in India



- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) is setting up five new Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), including one in Andhra Pradesh, India.
- ❖ India already hosts two such centres in Mumbai and Telangana.
- ❖ These centres will focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation, energy transition, cyber resilience, and frontier technologies.

- ❖ The aim is to provide policy frameworks, pilot projects, and foster international cooperation for emerging technologies.
- ❖ The network collaborates with governments and industries to ensure the responsible and safe development of new technologies.
- ❖ Other new centres will be located in France, the United Kingdom (U.K.), and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

### BRICS Plus Naval Exercise

- ❖ India skipped the BRICS Plus naval exercise “Will for Peace 2026”, stating it is not an institutionalised BRICS activity.
- ❖ The BRICS Plus naval exercise is a host-led and non-institutionalised maritime drill conducted outside the formal BRICS framework.
- ❖ The exercise was hosted by South Africa off the coast of Simon’s Town near Cape Town.
- ❖ Participating navies included China, Russia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and South Africa, while India opted out.
- ❖ The theme focused on joint actions to ensure the safety of key shipping lanes and maritime economic activities.



### 80 Years of ECOSOC

- ❖ The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) commemorated its 80th anniversary on 23 January 2026.
- ❖ ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN.
- ❖ It was established in 1945 under the UN Charter and held its first meeting on 23 January 1946 in London.

- ❖ ECOSOC coordinates global economic, social, and environmental development policies.
- ❖ It reviews progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the High-Level Political Forum.
- ❖ ECOSOC provides consultative status to over 6,500 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to support inclusive development.



## EU Trade Bazooka

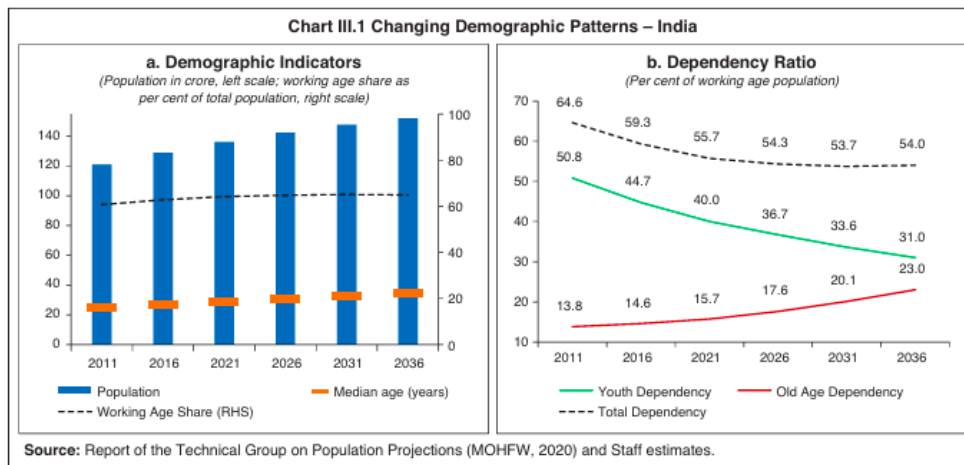


- ❖ The European Union (EU) is considering the use of its trade 'Bazooka' (Anti-Coercion Instrument – ACI) for the first time to counter United States (US) tariff threats linked to Greenland tensions.
- ❖ The Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI) is a legal tool that allows the EU to respond to economic pressure or coercive trade actions by other countries.
- ❖ The ACI was created by the European Commission in 2021 after China imposed trade restrictions on Lithuania over Taiwan-related ties.

- ❖ Under ACI, the EU can restrict imports and exports, block public procurement, limit foreign investment, and deny market access.
- ❖ Activating the ACI is a slow process and may take at least six months due to assessments and approvals.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### Demographic Transition in India



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025-26” highlights demographic transition in India.
- ❖ India’s median age is 28 years, with the working-age population at a historical peak.
- ❖ States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a high share of young population, creating growth opportunities.
- ❖ States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have ageing populations, a shrinking labour force, and rising pension and interest expenditures.
- ❖ Ageing states face higher debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratios and higher interest payment-to-revenue receipt ratios.
- ❖ RBI suggests investing in education, skilling, and healthcare for young states, and promoting flexible work, raising retirement ages in ageing states.

## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

### Rare Asiatic Wild Dog - Dhole

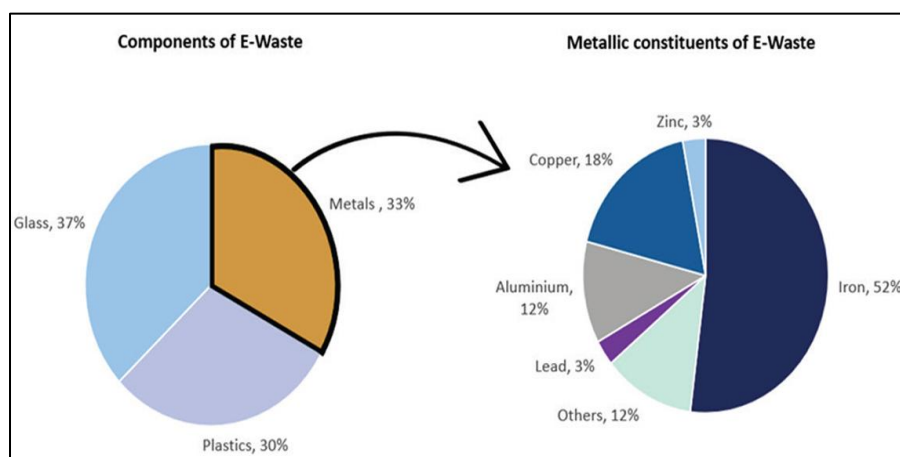
- ❖ A rare Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole) was spotted for the first time in Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ Dholes are highly social predators that hunt in packs of 14–20, feeding on deer, sambar, and chital.
- ❖ This is the sixth rare wildlife species recorded in Ratapani in 2026.
- ❖ The Dhole is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Previously, Dholes were mainly found in reserves such as Kanha, Bandhavgarh, and Pench, but now they are expanding to new forest landscapes like Ratapani.



## REPORTS AND INDICES

### E-Waste in India



- ❖ NITI Aayog and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) released a report on e-waste and lithium-ion battery recycling.

- ❖ The circular economy involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling products and materials.
- ❖ About 78% of India's e-waste is processed by the informal sector, recovering only 10-20% of materials.
- ❖ E-waste generation reached ~6.19 million metric tonnes in 2024 and may rise to 14 million metric tonnes by 2030.
- ❖ India's E-Waste Management Rules (EWMR), 2022 and Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR), 2022 mandate recycling, collection, and prohibit landfill disposal.
- ❖ Recommendations include expanding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), integrating battery recycling into the Indian Carbon Market, and improving consumer awareness and workforce skills.

## STATES' NEWS

### State Microbe - *Bacillus subtilis*



- ❖ Kerala has officially declared *Bacillus subtilis* as its State Microbe and dedicated the Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM) to the public.
- ❖ Kerala is the first state in India to declare a State Microbe.
- ❖ *Bacillus subtilis* is a probiotic bacterium found in the human gut, environment, and fermented foods.
- ❖ It forms heat-resistant spores, is genetically competent, and serves as a model organism in microbiology and biotechnology.
- ❖ Its fully sequenced genome is used in industrial biotechnology and research.

- ❖ It supports gut health, strengthens the intestinal barrier, and inhibits harmful pathogens.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Padma Awards 2026**

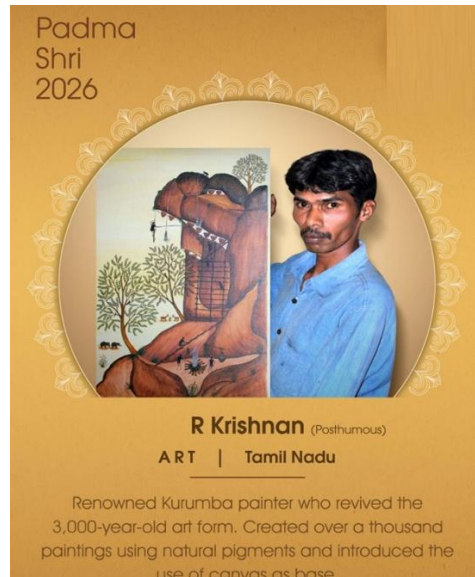


- ❖ The President of India approved the conferment of 131 Padma Awards on the occasion of Republic Day 2026.
- ❖ Padma Awards are among the highest civilian awards of India and are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- ❖ In 2026, the list includes 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.
- ❖ The awards recognise distinguished service in fields like art, public affairs, medicine, literature, science, sports, and social work.
- ❖ The list includes 19 women awardees, 6 foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, and 16 posthumous awards.
- ❖ N. Rajam and Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous) received Padma Vibhushan for contributions to art.
- ❖ Alka Yagnik, Mammootty, and Uday Kotak were awarded Padma Bhushan for achievements in art and trade.
- ❖ K. Vijay Kumar, R. Krishnan (Posthumous), and Harmanpreet Kaur Bhullar received Padma Shri for service in civil service, art, and sports.

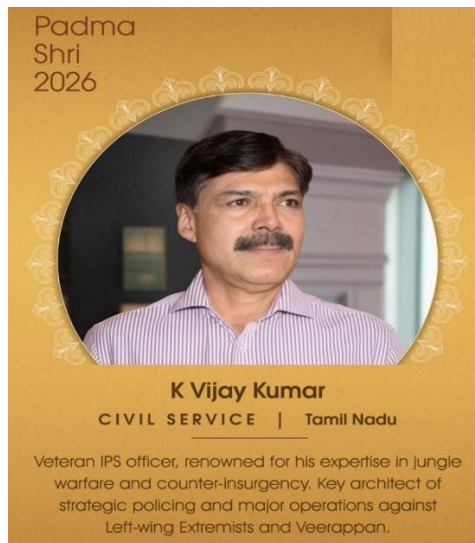
### **Padma Shri Award - Krishnan**

- ❖ Adivasi artist R. Krishnan (popularly known as 'Kitna') was posthumously awarded the Padma Shri.

- ❖ R. Krishnan belonged to the Alu Kurumba Adivasi community of the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He was known for cloth paintings inspired by ancient rock art sites, especially at Vellaricomбай in the Nilgiris.
- ❖ He used organic paints made from natural dyes and fibres in his artworks.
- ❖ He passed away in March 2025, and his work contributed to preserving Alu Kurumba art and culture.



### **Padma Shri Award - Vijay Kumar**



- ❖ Veteran police officer K. Vijay Kumar was awarded the Padma Shri for excellence in policing.

- ❖ He led the Special Task Force that neutralised forest brigand Veerappan in Operation Cocoon (2004).
- ❖ He served as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) after the 2010 Dantewada ambush.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### **National Voters Day 2026 - January 25**

- ❖ The day is to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- ❖ National Voters Day is celebrated every year in India to promote voter awareness and participation in elections.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950.
- ❖ National Voters Day was first celebrated on 25 January 2011.
- ❖ Theme for 2026 is “My India, My Vote”.

