

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2026

www.tnpscthervupettagam.com



**SHANKAR
IAS ACADEMY™**
Best Academy for Civil Services Exam Coaching
SINCE 2004

107/255, AL - Block, 4th Avenue,
Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600 040.
Phone - 044-26216435, 4353 3445, Mobile: 9444166435
www.shankariasacademy.com



CONTENTS

TNPSC BITS	16
TAMIL NADU	26
Tamil Nadu Pension Committee Report.....	26
University of Madras Amendment Bill	26
Madurai and Camberley - Twin Cities ties.....	27
Tamil Translation of From Volga to Ganga	27
Ancient Vaishnavite Memorial.....	27
Northeast monsoon 2025	27
Vehicle Registrations in 2025	29
PE-VC Investments in 2025	29
ECMS Jobs and Investment.....	30
Tamil Nadu's debt in 2025.....	30
Thamirabarani River Pollution Case	32
Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme	32
District Mineral Foundation Rules.....	32
Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) analysis.....	33
Siddha Day 2026	34
Music Writings of U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer	34
TAPS Scheme	35
Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil Scheme	36
NTB Regional Office - Erode	36
Olive Ridley Turtle Hatcheries	37
Tamil Nadu-UN Women Collaboration.....	37
SCADA-Based Reservoir Management	37
SOP on Public Meetings.....	38
Ungal Kanavai Sollungal Household Survey	38
Impact of Green Manuring.....	39
Chennai's Urban Mobility Transformation	39
Health Benefits of Fermented Rice.....	39
UNICEF-Tamil Nadu Partnership	40

Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–26.....	40
UagineTN 2026.....	40
Namma Arasu WhatsApp Chatbot	41
TAPS G.O 2026.....	41
Tamil Nadu Information Commission Expansion	41
TN State Indicator Framework 2.0.....	42
50 lakh MT of legacy waste	42
Active educational loan accounts	42
World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026	43
iTNT-XeedQ Quantum Deal	43
Tamil Nadu State Awards 2026.....	43
Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy 2026	44
Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy 2026.....	44
India's First Sovereign AI Park	45
opuram Construction at Pazhayarai Temple	45
Malaria Elimination in Tamil Nadu	46
Vulture Safe Zones in Tamil Nadu.....	46
Corporate Research Centre	47
Four promises of TN CM	47
Kondagai Inland Lake Climate Study.....	47
Ethylene Glycol issue.....	48
Social Justice Monitoring Committee	48
Literary award for 7 non-Hindi languages	48
Tamil Nadu's diaspora awards 2026	49
Green Schools Solar Energy Study.....	49
Tamil Nadu Translation Grants Catalogue	49
Hosur Airport Proposal.....	50
John Doe Suit	50
India's First Global Education Summit.....	50
Governor speech in TN Assembly 2026.....	51
Kuppai Thiruvizha 2026	51
End of Northeast Monsoon Season	51
Amended wind mills repowering policy.....	52
Young Ambassadors of Change Initiative	52

Global Tourism Summit 2026	53
Online Property Registration - Sprint 1	53
Special Area Development Authority	53
Tamil Nadu Water Resources Bill, 2026	54
Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme – Tamil Nadu	54
Social Security Pension Expansion	55
Restriction on Preferential Appointment	55
Padma Awardees from TN	55
Madras Hedgehog Study	56
India's Diabetes Epidemic Hotspot	56
Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – State Survey	56
Rules on Mining Minerals	57
Iron Age Burial Site – Kodaikanal	57
TNWESafe Project and HPV Vaccination Drive	57
UGC on Language Policy	58
Republic Day awards of Tamil Nadu 2026	58
Municipal Bonds – Coimbatore and Tirupur	59
NATIONAL	59
Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR)	59
Common Anti-Terrorism Squad Structure	59
National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025	60
Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme Guidelines 2025	60
Trademark Registrations 2024–25	61
8th Central Pay Commission	61
Road Safety Construction Standards	61
World's largest rice producer 2025	62
Ban on Oral Nimesulide	62
ECMS – Phase III	62
New Excise Duty and Cess	63
Nationwide VoWiFi Service	63
New Logo and Mascot “Sankhyiki”	63
Samiullah vs State of Bihar case	64
National Drug Use Survey 2025–26	64
50th PRAGATI Meeting	64

India's Investments in FY26.....	65
Deemed University Status for NCERT	65
National Digital Land Initiative - Land Stack	66
India's Global Rank in Pharmacovigilance	66
Adult Skill Assessment Survey 2026	66
Know Your Survey Guide	67
Farmer Suicides in India	67
Kalai-II hydropower project	68
Pension schemes in India	68
Networking Year for the Indian Army	69
National Environmental Standard Laboratory.....	69
National Solar Cell Calibration Facility.....	69
Live Events Development Cell.....	70
Battery Pack Aadhaar Number	70
India's Russian Oil Imports	71
Coke Trade Policy	71
Bhairav Drone Force.....	71
BHARATI for Agri Startups	72
Commercial Bio-Bitumen Production	72
Global Democracy Meet - IICDEM 2026	72
125 Years of DGMS.....	73
Census of India 2027 Schedule.....	73
Pesticides Management Bill, 2025	73
Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026.....	74
National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)	74
Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign.....	75
DLTT Plan	75
PANKHUDI Portal	75
India's Data Centre Capacity Growth in 2025.....	76
National Sports Board (NSB)	76
Shaksgam Valley issue	77
Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector	77
SHINE Scheme	78
Akasa Air.....	78

District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Initiative	78
Fertiliser Production in 2025	78
All India Major Port Cultural Meet.....	79
Zero-Fatalities Road Safety Program	79
BHASHINI Samudaye Workshop.....	79
DIME Digital Platform	80
Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act.....	80
Blue Food Security Summit.....	81
Solar-Powered MAPSS Surveillance Drone	81
New Pax Silica Member - India.....	81
151st Foundation Day of IMD.....	82
5th Foundation Day - CSIR-NIScPR.....	82
Indian Lighthouse Festival 2026	82
India's Clean Energy Record in 2025.....	83
National PNG Drive 2.0	83
NIRANTAR platform	83
ADMM-Plus Counter Terror Meet 2026	84
Inquiry Committee for Judge Removal.....	84
PM CARES Privacy Rights	85
Supreme Court on Unreserved Seats.....	85
Delivery Aggregators Reform Operations	86
NPS Reforms Committee – MS Sahoo.....	86
National Campaign for Women Entrepreneurship	86
India's Bioeconomy Growth.....	87
UGC Regulations 2026	87
Program for Tribal Healers	87
India's First Green Ammonia Project – Andhra Pradesh	88
Strategic Trade Controls 2026.....	88
First ONDC Delivery via India Post	88
Forest Conservation Guidelines 2026	89
Inspiring Innovators Skilling Initiative.....	89
India's Coal-Fired Generation	89
Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025	90
Rabi Crop Area 2025–26	90

Ocean Research Mission: Sagar Maitri-5	91
India's 2nd LNG Supplier – UAE.....	91
Environmental Protection Fund Rules 2026.....	91
India's First Policy for Critical Minerals	92
Steel Slag Technology	92
Atal Pension Yojana extension	93
National Legislative Index	93
All India Presiding Officers' Conference 2026 – Uttar Pradesh	93
Draft National Electricity Policy 2026.....	94
Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework	94
India's First Urban Climate Event	95
PM SVANidhi Credit Card	95
Fish Farming Project.....	95
India's rank in Cooperative Network	96
Delhi Declaration 2026	96
Digital Climate Atlas	96
77th Republic Day of India – Key Highlights	97
Granth Kutir	97
100 GW Hydro Pumped Storage	98
LR-AShM missile in the Republic Day parade	98
Carbon Credit Trading Scheme Expansion.....	98
RVC Parade on Republic Day 2026	99
India's Malaria Progress Report	99
India's Renewable Capacity	99
India's First National Income Surveys	100
INTERNATIONAL.....	100
2,200-Year-Old Chinese highway	100
New Currency Series – Syria.....	100
Guinea presidential election.....	101
New Crypto Law - Turkmenistan.....	101
Annual Nuclear List Exchange 2026	101
21st Member of the Eurozone - Bulgaria.....	102
EU's Climate Trade Measure.....	102
Bilateral Talks on Ganga Water Sharing.....	102



Non-permanent members of UNSC 2026	103
Global Governance Initiative	103
Monroe Doctrine	104
Global Minimum Tax Agreement.....	104
US Foreign Policy Shift	104
Orinoco Belt and Guiana Shield.....	105
BRICS Chairmanship	105
G7 Critical Minerals Talks	105
Weimar Triangle	106
International Renewable Energy Agency.....	106
New Constitution in Yemen.....	107
Russian Fossil Fuel Imports	107
India-Germany Diplomatic Relations	107
UN High Seas Treaty.....	108
Israel's withdrawal from UN Bodies	108
World's Oldest Flowing River - Finke River.....	108
China's Demographic Decline in 2025	109
Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative	109
'Board of Peace' for Gaza	109
USA's exit from WHO.....	110
Carney Doctrine	110
Global Future Councils Meetings	111
Fourth Industrial Revolution Centre in India	111
BRICS Plus Naval Exercise.....	111
80 Years of ECOSOC.....	112
EU Trade Bazooka	112
UPI in Japan.....	112
ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting	113
India-EU First Defense Partnership	113
Dollar Index Drop	113
ECONOMY.....	114
India's Economy Growth	114
RBI Report	114
Scale-Based Regulation for NBFCs	114

IIP growth – November 2025.....	115
Market Access Support Intervention	115
Financial Stability Report 2026	116
New Credit-Linked Schemes	116
Payments Regulatory Board	116
Delhi Financial Governance Reforms.....	117
India's Silver Import	117
India's Fish Production in FY 2024–25.....	117
Cryptocurrency KYC Rules.....	118
New FEMA Regulations on Foreign Guarantees.....	118
CPI Base Year - 2024	119
Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2026	119
Deflation in the Food Sector	119
India's Stock Market Expansion 2026	120
NSE Settlements in Co-location and Dark Fibre Cases	120
Upper Middle-Income Status – India	120
India's Electronics Exports 2025.....	121
Indian Pharma Exports 2025–26.....	121
Credit-to-Deposit Ratio in 2025	121
Demographic Transition in India.....	122
Narayan Ramachandran Committee	122
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	123
YJ-20 hypersonic anti-ship missile.....	123
Legionnaires' disease.....	123
World's First ITVISMA Gene Therapy.....	123
Oreshnik Missiles	123
Oral Drug for Thalassemia Anaemia.....	124
India's First AI Clinic	124
Automatic Weather Stations.....	124
Cetacean Morbillivirus in Arctic Waters.....	125
Supermoon in 2026.....	125
Portable Desalination System.....	125
Taimoor Missile.....	125
White Dwarf System	126



Mpemba Effect	126
Cosmic Dust Monitoring.....	126
ISO IEC 42001 Status - FSS.....	127
Starless Gas Cloud – Cloud 9	127
RRI Cold Atom Measurement Technique	127
Early ISS Return	128
Asteroid 2025 MN45.....	128
India's First Legged Mobile Manipulator - SCORP	128
OrbitAid's AyulSAT.....	129
PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission Anomaly	129
People-First AI Platform	129
China's EAST Fusion Reactor	130
Low Calorie Sugar Tagatose.....	130
Ultracold Atom Physics	130
Cattle Breeds - Karan Fries and Vrindavani	131
Voyager 1 Interstellar Mission.....	131
Intrinsically Disordered Proteins.....	132
Strongest Solar Radiation Storm	132
Earth Observation Satellite Constellation.....	132
Protein AI Tool.....	133
ASC ARJUN Humanoid Robot	133
Inflatable Space Habitat Mission	133
ENVIRONMENT	134
India's Rare Earth Reserves vs Production Gap	134
Kanger Valley National Park	134
Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary - ESZ	134
Legal Protection for Amazon Bees	135
Tiger Mortality 2025	135
First phase of the nation-wide tiger estimation exercise	136
Galaxy Frogs in Kerala	136
India's First Urban Night Safari	136
New Reed Snake Species	137
Beni Greenlet	137
Arctic Warming 2025	137

Satellite Tagging of Olive Ridley Turtles.....	138
New Reserve Forests in Tamil Nadu.....	138
New Katydid Species – Kashmir.....	138
MSTrIPES App	139
Smooth-coated otter in Adayar.....	139
Kashmir Markhor	139
Earth's Ocean Heat Content.....	140
Two New Frog Species - Arunachal Pradesh	140
Coconut Root Wilt Disease	140
Mugger crocodile population	140
World's First Mountain Ice Core Repository	141
Pufferfish Poisoning Case	141
Indian Skimmer Conservation Project	142
Giant Black Coral Discovery	142
First State-wide Raptor Assessment in Tamil Nadu	142
New Copepod Species	143
Brandt's Hedgehog Recorded in India for First Time	143
Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary - Rajasthan	143
Two New Rare Ant Fly Species.....	144
New Blind Caecilian Species	144
Second Nationwide Dolphin Survey	144
Rare Asiatic Wild Dog - Dhole	144
India's Second-Largest Gharial Habitat.....	145
Wild Animal Attacks in Tamil Nadu	145
REPORTS AND INDICATES	146
NCB Report 2025	146
Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2025	146
World Weather Attribution Annual Report 2025	146
Himalayan Climate Action.....	147
State Finances 2023-24.....	147
NITI Aayog report 2025	148
UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects Report 2026	148
UN DESA Report 2025	149
NITI Aayog Trade Report 2026	149

Bharat Climate Forum 2026	149
Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025	150
Responsible Nations Index 2026.....	150
Global Assessment Report 2025	151
Global Economic Prospects 2026.....	151
Export Preparedness Index 2024	151
Global Risks Report 2026	152
Berkeley Earth Report.....	152
Employment and Social Trends Report 2026.....	152
WHO Report on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages.....	153
NITI Aayog Report on MSME schemes	153
Global Water Bankruptcy Report 2026	154
Responsible Nations Index 2026.....	154
Numbeo Safety Index 2026.....	154
UNEP report 2026	155
Asia Manufacturing Index 2026	155
NITI Aayog report on Green Transition.....	156
E-Waste in India	156
Global Investment Trends Monitor	156
STATES	157
Zero FIR.....	157
AI-Based Grievance Redressal System	157
Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary - Tiger reserve	158
'VijAIpatha' labs	158
8th State Pay Commission	158
India's First Slum-Free City	158
ISO Cyber Security Certification	159
Proton Therapy	159
Sunrise Festival 2026.....	159
Indore Water Contamination Crisis	160
Organ Donations in 2025	160
Sex Ratio at Birth - Haryana.....	160
Right to Disconnect Bill 2025 - Kerala	161
Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project.....	161

Two Child Rule – Telangana.....	161
First Commercial Tropical Trout Farm	162
Musi Riverfront Development Project.....	162
Ethical Learning Initiative	162
PESA Rules for Gram Sabhas	163
Okra Production.....	163
Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology	163
India's First Bio-Happy District - Keyi Panyor	164
Spice Routes Network	164
Andhra Pradesh - Amaravati Capital	164
National Textiles Ministers Conference 2026	164
GI Tag - Nagauri Ashwagandha.....	165
Sagar Island Bridge Project.....	165
India's First Fully Paperless District Court.....	165
ICJS 2.0 National Rankings.....	166
Renaming of Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary.....	166
New Naval Base at Haldia, West Bengal.....	167
Puri's Drinkable Tap Water.....	167
Global Education Hub.....	167
Boda Tyohar 2025	168
India's richest civic body	168
Swachh Jal Abhiyan – Madhya Pradesh.....	168
Kathputli — Rajasthan's Traditional Puppet Art	168
Malayalam Language Bill 2025	169
Bhadrakali Inscription.....	169
Akka Pade Scheme	170
Prabhas Patan Inscriptions and Somnath Temple	170
Rajasthan's First Organic Panchayat	170
India's First CKD Registry.....	171
Aame Padhiba Aama Bhasare Scheme – Odisha.....	171
Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing Portal - Karnataka.....	171
Spituk Gustor Festival – Ladakh	172
Ponduru Khadi - GI Tag	172
India's First Solar-Powered ATM Van	172

Expansion of AI Labs - Uttar Pradesh	173
Indelible Ink	173
New Spaceport at Hope Island	173
Lambada Tribe	174
Guillain-Barré Syndrome	174
Jamma Bane Land Records	174
Ban on Tobacco Products	175
Bagurumba Dwhou 2026	175
State Microbe - Bacillus subtilis	176
Neolithic Relics in Lakkundi	176
Uniform Civil Code Ordinance, 2026	176
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS	177
Former Bangladesh PM - Khaleda Zia	177
Zohran Mamdani - New York	177
Mozhipor Thalapathi L. Ganesan	177
IFFCO Sahitya Samman 2025	178
Karnataka's Longest-Serving CM	178
Madhav Gadgil's demise	178
Non-Transferable Nobel Peace Prize	179
IREDA Excellence Award	179
83rd Golden Globe Awards 2026	179
Sunita Williams retirement	180
Padma Awards 2026	180
Padma Shri Award - Krishnan	181
Padma Shri Award - Vijay Kumar	181
Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026	181
Ashoka Chakra Award 2026	181
Padma Shri 2026 - A.E. Muthunayagam	182
Tamil Scholar D. Gnanasundaram demise	182
Ajit Pawar's demise	182
SPORTS	183
Khelo India Beach Games 2026	183
IMPORTANT DAYS	183
World Braille Day 2026 - January 04	183

National Bird Day 2026 - January 05.....	183
World Day of War Orphans 2026 – January 06	184
Earth's Rotation Day 2026 – January 08	184
World Hindi Day 2026 - January 10.....	184
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2026	184
National Youth Day/Yuva Diwas 2026 - January 12.....	185
National Road Safety Week 2026 – January 11/17	185
Army Day 2026 - January 15.....	185
National Startup Day 2026 - January 16.....	186
Global Interventional Radiology Day 2026 - January 16	186
Kokborok Day 2026 / Tripuri Language Day 2026 - January 19	186
National Disaster Response Force Raising Day 2026 – January 19.....	186
Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya Foundation Day – January 21.....	187
National Girl Child Day 2026 - January 24	187
International Day of Education 2026 - January 24	187
National Tourism Day 2026 - January 25	187
National Voters Day 2026 - January 25	188
International Customs Day 2026 - January 26	188
Martyrs' Day 2026 - January 30	188
Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh 2026 - January 26.....	189
International Day of Clean Energy 2026 – January 26	189
MISCELLANEOUS	189
Batadrava Than	189
Rohtasgarh Fort	190
Indian Standard for Electric Agricultural Tractors.....	190
Piprahwa relics.....	190
150th international convention of Theosophical Society.....	191
UN International Year 2026.....	191
Blue Cross of India – 60 Years of Animal Welfare	191
Somnath Temple - 1000 Years.....	192
Kushan Coins in Takshashila.....	192
International Year for Rangelands	193
Integrated Standardization Portal	193
Zehanpora Buddhist Complex in Kashmir.....	193

Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Corridor	194
BRICS 2026 Website and Logo.....	194
Genome Recovery from Woolly Rhinoceros	194
Henley Passport Index 2026.....	195
Lokpal Day 2026	195
Parakram Diwas 2026.....	195
Hydrogen Compressor Safety Assessment	196
World's Oldest Cave Artwork	196

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Smriti Mandhana has become the second India player and fourth player to go past 10,000 runs in women's internationals.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Rakesh Agarwal, an IPS officer, as the Interim Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ❖ Israel has announced that US President Donald Trump will be conferred Israel's highest civilian honour, the Israel Prize for Peace, following high-level bilateral talks in Florida.
- ❖ The Researchers at the National University of Defence Technology (NUDT), China, accelerated a maglev (magnetic levitation) test vehicle to 700 km/h in just two seconds.
 - The record-setting maglev is described as the fastest superconducting electric maglev system in the world so far.
- ❖ The DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.
- ❖ Indian chess players Koneru Humpy and Arjun Erigaisi won bronze medals at the FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) World Rapid Chess Championships 2025 was held in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ Divya Arul from Puducherry successfully summited Mount Elbrus (5,642 metres) in Russia, which is the highest peak in Europe.
- ❖ A rare Eastern Imperial Eagle (Aquila heliaca) was spotted in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) during the winter migratory season.
- ❖ DRDO carried out a salvo launch test of two indigenous Pralay missiles from the same launcher.
- ❖ The Ministry of Science and Technology has developed new open-source software, Path Gennie, for fast tracking of drug discovery.
- ❖ Amieyra Khoslla clinched the gold medal in the Youth Girls (Under-17) category at the 29th National Sport Climbing Championship 2025.
- ❖ The Indian women's hockey team signed off 2025 with a silver medal at the Women's Asia Cup.
- ❖ Chinese Army (PLA) fired off rockets near Taiwan and conducted military drills, as part of its "Justice Mission 2025".
- ❖ The Centenary celebrations of the Ol Chiki script of the Santhali Language were held at Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.
 - Pandit Raghunath Murmu is considered the father of Ol Chiki script.

- ❖ The Karnataka Strategic & Intelligence Unit, will integrate APIs from universities, colleges, training institutions, and government databases.
 - This unified dataset will be processed by an AI layer to identify the emerging opportunities, sectoral gaps, and regional workforce needs.
- ❖ The Indian Army has successfully carried out India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent.
 - The pioneering glaucoma procedure is marking a significant leap in the precision diagnosis and treatment of a leading cause of irreversible blindness.
- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan from Mumbai, an 18-year-old Indian mountaineer, reached the South Pole, becoming the youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole.
- ❖ The Institute of Kidney Diseases and Research Centre (IKDRC), Ahmedabad, in Gujarat completed 500 kidney transplants in 2025, becoming the only public sector hospital in India to achieve this milestone in a single year.
- ❖ Indian Railways successfully completed the final high-speed trial of the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train on the Kota–Nagda section, where the train achieved a maximum speed of 180 kmph.
- ❖ In November 2025, India's broadband subscriber base crossed 100 crore (1 billion) users, marking the first time the country reached this milestone and representing a more than six-fold increase since November 2015.
- ❖ Warren Buffett officially retired as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Berkshire Hathaway, and succeeded by Greg Abel, but Buffett continues as Chairman.
- ❖ The 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship began in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ Global Family Day, is observed every year on January 1 to promote peace and unity worldwide and emphasizes that all people are interconnected, regardless of nationality, borders, or ethnicity.
- ❖ Bharatanatyam dancer Urmila Satyanarayanan was conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi award.
- ❖ A three-day international Spice Routes Conference will be held in Kochi, Kerala, to strengthen cultural and heritage tourism and position Kerala as a global heritage destination.
- ❖ On January 3, 2026, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was taken into U.S. custody and indicted for drug trafficking, narco-terrorism, cocaine importation, and illegal weapons possession.
- ❖ International Mind–Body Wellness Day is observed every year on January 3 to create awareness about the link between mental health and physical health.

- ❖ Karnataka has recorded its first sighting of the Sandalwood Leopard, a rare pale reddish-pink morph of the Indian leopard, in Vijayanagara district.
 - This is only the second recorded sighting in India, with the earlier one was sighted at Rajasthan.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's first jallikattu event of 2026 will be held at Thatchankurichi village in Pudukottai district.
- ❖ Union Home Minister inaugurated an Integrated Command and Control Centre in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to integrate surveillance, communication, and coordination among multiple security and administrative agencies.
- ❖ The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) began a two-day national seminar titled 'Aeronautics 2047' in Bengaluru.
 - This event is marking 25 years of successful flight of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- ❖ The IITM Global Research Foundation was launched at IIT Madras to expand its global presence in research, education, innovation, and startups.
 - The initiative aims to position IIT Madras as a multinational university.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati has started steps to resume live radio programmes in the Thadou language from All India Radio (Akashvani) Imphal.
 - Thadou is a distinct Scheduled Tribe of Manipur, recognised under the Presidential Order of 1956.
- ❖ The 72nd National Volleyball Tournament is being held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ India has launched a new e-Production Investment Business Visa (e-B-4) for Chinese nationals, allowing them to stay in India for up to six months.
- ❖ Venezuela's National Assembly appointed Delcy Rodriguez as interim President.
- ❖ The first phase of the Bhogapuram International Greenfield Airport project in Andhra Pradesh has been officially launched.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has opened its first Braille library dedicated to visually impaired persons.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap, the first indigenously designed Pollution Control Vessel built by Goa Shipyard Limited, is also the largest ship in the ICG fleet and was commissioned in Goa.
- ❖ Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune.
 - He served as Union Minister of State for Railways and was a former President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).

- ❖ Fatima Abdulrahman Al Awadhi from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the youngest Arab to summit Mount Vinson in Antarctica.
- ❖ Scientists have created the first three-dimensional (3D) images of Mexico's Popocatépetl volcano to better understand its internal magma movement.
- ❖ Bengaluru was ranked the best city for women in India in 2025 with the highest City Inclusion Score of 53.29, based on social and industrial inclusion.
- ❖ Aavin has received the Dairy Titan Award for its leadership in promoting sustainability in the dairy sector and farmers' welfare.
- ❖ India is set to begin trial operations of its first hydrogen-powered train on the Jind to Sonipat route in Haryana.
- ❖ Rajasthan will host the Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference in Jaipur.
 - The agenda is based on the Three Sutras: People, Planet, and Progress and the Seven Chakras of the India Artificial Intelligence Mission.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The Third International Conference on Indian Languages was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 9th Apex-Level Meeting of the Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ A book on the life of President Droupadi Murmu was released by Lakshmamma, a woman sanitation worker who cleans the roads at Andhra University, in Visakhapatnam.
 - This book Titled, 'Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu', is authored by Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad.
- ❖ Chile has formally backed India's aspiration for permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- ❖ Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan has become the first village body in the State to be certified as fully organic.

- ❖ NLC India Limited (NLCIL) won the SKOCH Gold Award for financial performance for its financial management, operational efficiency, and value creation.
 - NLCIL is a Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal.
- ❖ The Public Investment Board has approved the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The project has an installed capacity of 1,720 MW and aims to support India's renewable energy targets and net-zero emissions by 2070.
- ❖ The Regional Office of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was inaugurated at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ India Post launched Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48, a premium express delivery options within the Speed Post suite to provide faster mail delivery.
- ❖ Italy has conferred the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia on Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo.
- ❖ Indian army officer from Bengaluru, Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, has won the UN Secretary General's Award 2025 for her project Equal Partners, Lasting Peace.
- ❖ The first deck has been launched on India's first-ever road bridge, being built over an active Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) underground tunnel.
 - The Teynampet–Saidapet flyover in Chennai is the world's first road bridge constructed above a running metro tunnel.
- ❖ The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), Japan, achieved the world's first 2 terabits per second (Tbit/s) free-space optical (FSO) communication.
 - The experiment used small optical terminals that can be mounted on satellites and High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS).
- ❖ The Indian Army has conducted Exercise "Sanjha Shakti" at Dighi Hills Range, Maharashtra, to strengthen civil–military coordination.
 - It is a Military–Civil Fusion exercise held under the Southern Command (Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa Area).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has launched Chennai Sangamam – Namma Ooru Thiruvizha 2026 in Chennai, to promote and celebrate Tamil Nadu's art and cultural heritage.
- ❖ U.S. aircraft has launched airstrikes on ISIS in Syria on January 10, 2026, in retaliation for a December 13 attack that killed two U.S. soldiers and a civilian.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has topped in implementing the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) system by generating 50,60,941 IDs for students as of January 7.

- This is 88.63 per cent coverage out of the 57,10,207 students in 57,045 schools across the state.
- ❖ The DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
 - MPATGM is a third-generation fire-and-forget missile which hit tanks from above in both day and night conditions.
- ❖ Virat Kohli regained the number one spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) One Day International (ODI) batter rankings.
 - With this innings, Kohli became the second-highest run-scorer in men's international cricket, behind Sachin Tendulkar.
- ❖ DRDO successfully conducted a long-duration ground test of an actively cooled full-scale scramjet combustor, which demonstrated sustained performance for over 12 minutes.
- ❖ D. B. Venkatesh Varma, a former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, was nominated to chair the UN Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters for the 2026–27 term.
- ❖ The Navi Mumbai International Airport will be named after D B Patil, a leader associated with farmers' and local rights movements in Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport in Nellore district.
 - The airport will be AP's 8th airport and aims to improve regional connectivity, industrial growth, and port-led logistics.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated a 'mani mandapam' built in memory of Immanuel Sekaran in Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) marked its 5th Foundation Day in January 2026.
- ❖ India is hosting the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi.
 - CSPOC was established in 1969 and includes Speakers and Presiding Officers from 53 Commonwealth countries.
- ❖ India observed the 10th Defence Forces Veterans' Day nationwide on 14 January 2026 to honour the service and sacrifice of ex-servicemen.
 - The day commemorates the retirement of Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa on 14 January 1953.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu police in the Southern districts arrested 598 individuals against whom non-bailable warrants (NBWs) had been pending for a long-time during Operation DragNet.

- ❖ 21-year-old Aaryan Varshney (of Delhi) became India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster at the Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia.
- ❖ The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) received the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026 at the Hong Kong Leadership Awards and CMO Asia Awards.
- ❖ Justice Revati Mohite Dere became the first woman Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
- ❖ The President of India appointed Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ❖ Union Home Minister inaugurated the 3rd International Kite Festival 2026 in Baansera Park, New Delhi.
- ❖ India has become the world's second-largest 5G subscriber base after China, with over 400 million 5G users.
- ❖ Mizoram Governor extended Governor's Rule in the Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) for six more months, citing continuing political uncertainty and administrative considerations.
 - The Governor assumed functions and powers of the CADC on July 7, 2025
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan became the first Indian to be inducted into Kenjutsu, an ancient Japanese samurai swordsmanship art.
 - Kenjutsu is a classical Japanese martial art focusing on discipline, precision, mental balance, and ethical conduct.
- ❖ Indian Railways has launched a One-Time Password (OTP) based ticketing system to strengthen passenger identity verification and curb illegal booking practices.
- ❖ The Department of Financial Services launched the Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
 - This policy offers cashless facilities, modern treatments and access to a wide network of hospitals.
- ❖ 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 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.
- ❖ The sixth ASEAN-India Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) was held virtually.
- ❖ China unveiled its most advanced ballistic missile submarine, the Type 096 Tang-Class.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting was held in Davos, Switzerland.
- ❖ The Global Democracy Conference (GDC) is going to be held in USA with a theme of Confronting Public Support for Anti-Democratic Leaders.
- ❖ Scientists have discovered a 5,200-year-old wooden boat beneath Lake Mendota in the United States, revealing details of early human life and advanced woodworking skills.
 - A total of 16 ancient dugout canoes were found, with the oldest dating back to around 3000 BC, indicating organised fishing activities.
- ❖ The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Zycubo for the treatment of children with Menkes disease.
 - Menkes disease is a rare X-linked genetic disorder that affects copper metabolism in the body.

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new ginger species named Parakaempferia alba of Zingiberaceae family in the Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Punjab has inaugurated its first Dog Sanctuary in Ludhiana to manage stray dog populations humanely.
- ❖ India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives concluded the 17th edition of the Coast Guard exercise DOSTI-17, which was hosted by the Maldives.
- ❖ Veteran music composer Ilaiyaraaja was selected to receive the Padmapani Award at the 11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal has announced her retirement from competitive badminton in January 2026.
- ❖ The National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship was inaugurated in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has inaugurated a Special Veterinary Complex for community dogs in Ranipet district, focusing on villages and small towns.
 - It is the first facility of its kind in Tamil Nadu, meant exclusively for the community dogs.
- ❖ Yash Anil Rashiya, a 20-year-old Roll Ball athlete from Surat, won the gold medal at the 7th Roll Ball World Cup 2025 held in Dubai.
- ❖ Bakul Limbasiya, founder of Bhathwari Technologies, received the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) National Award for Productivity Leadership in 2026.
- ❖ Operation Trashi-I began in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir, as a joint operation by the Indian Army, Jammu & Kashmir Police (including Special Operations Group), and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
 - The aim is to eliminate terrorists, destroy their hideouts, and disrupt infiltration routes from the Jammu region to the Kashmir Valley.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Maruti Suzuki India Limited and the Gujarat Government have signed an investment agreement to set up a new mega car manufacturing plant at Khoraj, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025 was awarded to Mozambican rights activist Graca Machel.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Lieutenant K M Sudha became the first person from India's Northeast to win a gold medal at a National Cadet Corps (NCC) officers' training event.
- ❖ Simran Bala is the first woman from the Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir to become a CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) officer.
- ❖ Operation Megaburu, a large-scale anti-Maoist counter-insurgency operation conducted against the Communist Party of India Maoist in the Saranda forest area of West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand.
- ❖ International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on 27 January to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.
- ❖ Data Privacy Day is observed on 28 January to mark the signing of Convention 108.
 - It aims to raise awareness about data protection, privacy rights, and responsible handling of personal data in the digital era.
- ❖ NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has commissioned its full 300-Megawatt (MW) Barsingar Solar Power Project in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Microsoft launched the Maia 200 AI chip, offering 30% higher performance per dollar, and deployed it in U.S. data centres for Microsoft 365 Copilot and cloud AI services.
- ❖ Scotland replaced Bangladesh in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 after Bangladesh withdrew from the tournament.
- ❖ National Geographic Day was observed on 27 January to highlight geography, science, exploration, wildlife, and environmental conservation.
- ❖ Maharashtra has started India's first menopause clinics in government hospitals and urban health facilities.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Pension Committee Report

- ❖ A three-member Pension Committee submitted its final report to the Tamil Nadu government in Chennai.
- ❖ The committee was headed by Gagandeep Singh Bedi, and the other members were K.R. Shanmugam and Pratik Tayal.
- ❖ The committee studied the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), and the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) implemented for Central government employees from April 1, 2025.
- ❖ OPS covers employees who joined service before April 1, 2003, benefiting about 1.98 lakh employees and 6.94 lakh pensioners and family pensioners.
- ❖ CPS applies to those recruited after April 1, 2003, with a 10% employee contribution plus an equal government contribution.
- ❖ It covers around 6.24 lakh persons, including employees of local bodies, while the strength of pensioners under the given category is nearly 44,000.
- ❖ Under CPS, around ₹84,507 crore was accumulated as contributions with interest till March 2025.
- ❖ Pension-related spending in 2024–25 was about ₹42,509 crore (14.2% of total revenue receipts).

University of Madras Amendment Bill

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu University of Madras Amendment Bill was returned without presidential assent.
- ❖ The bill was passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in April 2022 and sent for approval.
- ❖ The bill aimed to give the Tamil Nadu state government the power to appoint the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the University of Madras.
- ❖ It proposed to amend the University of Madras Act by shifting this power from the Governor, who is the ex officio Chancellor, to the government.
- ❖ The Bill sought to replace the word, 'Chancellor', with the word, 'Government', in Section 11 of the Madras University Act, 1923.
- ❖ The bill was reserved for consideration due to concerns over conflict with UGC (University Grants Commission) regulations.
- ❖ After the bill was returned, the Tamil Nadu Assembly must reconsider the legislation.

Madurai and Camberley - Twin Cities ties

- ❖ Madurai is going to sign a Twin Cities Partnership with Camberley, a town in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The partnership is a long-term collaboration between cities in different countries.
- ❖ It aimed at promoting cooperation in education and research, culture and heritage, tourism, economic development, and urban governance and sustainability.
- ❖ Through this initiative, students from Tamil Nadu will gain access to U.K. universities, exchange programmes, and joint research opportunities.

Tamil Translation of From Volga to Ganga

- ❖ From Volga to Ganga is a famous book written by Rahul Sankrityayan (1893–1963), an Indian scholar and writer.
- ❖ The book has been translated into Tamil for the seventh time.
- ❖ The latest Tamil translation is done by A. Mangai, a theatre practitioner and English teacher, with the Tamil edition published by Seer Vasagar Vattam.
- ❖ The book narrates the history of human society from 6000 Before Common Era to 1942 Common Era in 20 chapters.

Ancient Vaishnavite Memorial

- ❖ An idol of Nathamunigal, the first Acharya of Sri Vaishnavism, was found near Gangaikonda Cholapuram around the year 2000.
- ❖ The discovery site is at Sorgapallam (also called Sembodai) in Ariyalur district.
- ❖ Earlier, an idol of Srinivasa Perumal with Sridevi and Bhooodevi was found half-buried under a tree at the same location.
- ❖ Two temples were later constructed at the site to house the idols of Srinivasa Perumal and Nathamunigal.
- ❖ The site is identified as the Thiruvarasu (memorial) of Nathamunigal, confirming his presence there during his final days.
- ❖ Nathamunigal lived in the 9th Century Common Era (CE).
- ❖ He is credited with compiling the 4,000 hymns of the Nalayira Divya Prabandham (Dravida Veda).

Northeast monsoon 2025

- ❖ Tamil Nadu experienced a normal northeast monsoon (October-December) in 2025, as against the forecast of above normal rainfall.

- ❖ It has almost touched the paddy coverage target during the long-term Samba-Thaladi-Pishanam cultivation season.
- ❖ Against the overall target of 33.9 lakh acres, the coverage was 33.8 lakh acres, of which around 13 lakh acres were in the Cauvery delta and the rest in the other parts of the State.
- ❖ The five-year-long average for coverage is 34.8 lakh acres.
- ❖ One of the reasons was the continuous water availability, as the State had received 58 cm of rain during March-September.
- ❖ In fact, in 2025, the summer rainfall was quite heavy: the State recorded 25 cm in March and April, almost double the normal amount.
- ❖ During the southwest monsoon, the rainfall was 33 cm, the expected amount.
- ❖ Though the northeast monsoon yielded only 43 cm against the anticipated 44 cm, and four districts alone (Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, and Ranipet) received excess rain, the fairly comfortable groundwater position in general and one more year of Cauvery water surplus in the delta in particular ensured that the major cultivation season went off without hassle.
- ❖ This season, around 14.8 lakh tonnes of paddy were procured against the normal 5 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ In the coming eight months, including the lean season, about 38 lakh tonnes more is expected to be procured.
- ❖ During 2024-25, the total quantity of food grains procured was about 48 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ Northeast monsoon is likely to end with slightly below-normal rain in T.N. after a six-year surplus trend.
- ❖ After maintaining a six-year streak of normal or surplus rainfall since 2019, Tamil Nadu is likely to record slightly below-normal rainfall during the Northeast monsoon this year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has so far recorded 42.7 cm, which is 3% lower than the seasonal average of 43.8 cm.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) considers deficit or surplus rainfall up to 19% as normal.
- ❖ According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), a trough in the Easterlies running over the southeast Bay of Bengal would influence mild rainfall, particularly over south Tamil Nadu and districts along the Western Ghats.
- ❖ IMD considers December 31 as the official end of the NE monsoon.
- ❖ The monsoon rainfall has spilt over into January in previous years.

- ❖ The absence of a Madden–Julian Oscillation, a large-scale eastward-moving band that plays a crucial part in enhancing cloud formation and rainfall, over the Indian Ocean during November and December, was the major reason behind the prolonged dry spell.
- ❖ Though an Equatorial Rossby wave, an atmospheric wave pattern that influences tropical weather patterns, aided rainfall through Cyclone Ditwah during early December, it was insufficient to revive widespread rainfall across the state.
- ❖ Chennai's five-year streak of surplus rainfall since 2020 has come to an end this year.

Vehicle Registrations in 2025

- ❖ Vehicle registrations in Tamil Nadu increased by 8.4% in 2025 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ A total of about 21.18 lakh vehicles were registered across 147 Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) and Unit Offices (UOs) in the State.
- ❖ More than 40% of registrations were concentrated in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Coimbatore, Madurai and Salem districts.
- ❖ Two-wheelers formed the largest share, with around 16.4 lakh registrations in 2025.
- ❖ Petrol vehicles dominated registrations, accounting for nearly 75% of the total vehicles registered.
- ❖ Electric vehicle registrations increased from 1.35 lakh in 2024 to 1.74 lakh in 2025, mainly driven by two-wheelers.

PE–VC Investments in 2025

- ❖ Private Equity and Venture Capital (PE–VC) firms invested \$3,513 million across 61 deals in Tamil Nadu-based companies during 2025.
- ❖ This represented a 20% increase in total investment value compared to the year 2024, as per Venture Intelligence data.
- ❖ In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2025, PE–VC investments declined sharply to \$421 million across 14 deals.
- ❖ The Q4 investment level was nearly 71% lower than the third quarter (Q3) investment of \$1,461 million.
- ❖ Angel investments in Tamil Nadu remained unchanged, with 46 deals recorded in both 2024 and 2025.
- ❖ At the national level, PE–VC firms invested about \$33 billion across 1,164 deals in Indian companies in 2025.

ECMS Jobs and Investment

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) approved 22 new projects under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) in the third tranche.
- ❖ These 22 projects are expected to create a total of 34,061 job opportunities across India.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu alone accounts for 23,451 jobs from three projects by Tata Electronics, Motherson, and Foxconn.
- ❖ Foxconn's Yuzhan Technology project in Tamil Nadu received the single largest approval under this tranche of ECMS.
- ❖ The total investment approved in the third tranche is ₹41,863 crore.
- ❖ Of this, ₹27,166 crore worth of enclosures investment comes only from Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu's debt in 2025

- ❖ In 2010, Uttar Pradesh had more than double the debt of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Today, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is higher than Uttar Pradesh's.
- ❖ As of 2025-26, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is estimated at 26.1% of gross state domestic product (GSDP), down from 26.4% in 2024-25 and 26.6% in 2023-24.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's debt ratio has been on a gradual downward path since its COVID-19 peak, though it remains above pre-Covid levels.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, by contrast, is estimated to end 2025-26 with outstanding liabilities of 29.4% of GSDP, also declining from 30.8% in 2024-25.
- ❖ U.P. remains more indebted than Tamil Nadu relative to the size of its economy, even though Tamil Nadu's absolute debt stock is now higher.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's economy, at ₹35.7 lakh crore GSDP in 2025-26, is significantly larger per capita than Uttar Pradesh's ₹30.8 lakh crore economy, despite U.P. having nearly three times the population.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu does spend a high share of its revenue receipts on interest payments, about 21% in 2025-26.
- ❖ That places it among the higher-interest-burden States.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's fiscal deficit is projected at 3% of GSDP in 2025-26, lower than the 3.3% revised estimate for 2024-25, and fully within the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) framework.

- ❖ Over the ten-year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22, Tamil Nadu's average real GDP growth has exceeded its average real effective interest rate by about 2.1 percentage points.
- ❖ while even in the more recent five-year window, which includes the Covid pandemic shock, the growth-interest differential remains positive at 1.3 percentage points
- ❖ when growth persistently exceeds the effective cost of borrowing, debt ratios stabilise or decline unless primary deficits are very large
- ❖ In this, Tamil Nadu's case have been below 2% of GSDP.
- ❖ Notably between 2020-21 and 2023-24, Tamil Nadu maintained real GSDP growth averaging above 7%, with services and manufacturing consistently expanding.
- ❖ The economy did not stagnate under debt rather it expanded through it.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's per capita GSDP in 2023-24 stood at ₹3.53 lakh, more than three times Uttar Pradesh's ₹1.07 lakh.
- ❖ This reflects decades of higher productivity, industrialisation, and human capital formation.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is far more urbanised, which matters because it correlates with higher tax capacity, better service delivery, and more diversified employment.
- ❖ Human development indicators reinforce this picture.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu consistently outperforms most States on literacy, health access, and demographic transition.
- ❖ These outcomes reduce long-term fiscal pressures by lowering dependency ratios and improving labour productivity.
- ❖ Where Tamil Nadu's story becomes most forward-looking is in investment and economic composition.
- ❖ In 2025-26, Tamil Nadu planned a 22% increase in capital outlays.
- ❖ Debt that finances future productivity is not the same as debt that merely fills revenue gaps. The composition of expenditure matters, and Tamil Nadu's capital-heavy budget tilt suggests an economy still investing its way forward.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu raises 75% of its revenue receipts from its own resources.
- ❖ 25% comes from its share in central taxes and via grants.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, by contrast, depends on the Centre for over half of its revenue receipts.
- ❖ This reflects stronger tax bases, higher compliance, and denser economic activity in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ States that industrialised early, invested in human development, and controlled population growth, now face tighter borrowing constraints and lower transfers, even as they continue to contribute disproportionately to national growth and tax collections.
- ❖ It is about what States did with their borrowing, what economies they built, and what futures they are financing.

Thamirabarani River Pollution Case

- ❖ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court appointed water conservationist Rajendra Singh as Commissioner to study pollution in the Thamirabarani River.
- ❖ The order was passed on January 3, 2026.
- ❖ Rajendra Singh is a Ramon Magsaysay Award recipient.
- ❖ Rajendra Singh, also known as the "Waterman of India" is a renowned Indian environmentalist and water conservationist.
- ❖ He has been directed to conduct a detailed study of the river's condition.
- ❖ He will submit suggestions for remedial measures to control pollution.

Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government introduced the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), which broadly follows the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).
- ❖ Under TAPS, the pension will be fixed at 50% of the pay drawn in the last month of service.
- ❖ The scheme includes Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG), with a maximum limit of ₹25 lakh.
- ❖ Family pension under TAPS will be 60% of the pension amount.
- ❖ Existing employees under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) are expected to shift to TAPS.
- ❖ The scheme will come into force after amendments are made to the pension rules.

District Mineral Foundation Rules

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu revised the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Rules.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu District Mineral Foundation Rules, 2025, replaced the earlier rules framed in 2017.
- ❖ The revision aims to improve the use of DMF funds for areas and communities affected by mining.

- ❖ Under the new rules, mining lease holders must pay the DMF contribution with interest for violations.
- ❖ At least 70 % of DMF funds must be spent on directly affected areas.
- ❖ The District Collector will be the head of the District Mineral Foundation Trust.

Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) analysis

- ❖ It is virtually a replica of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).
- ❖ It is also an improved version of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).
- ❖ Except for the monthly individual contribution and pension revision at the time of constitution of every pay commission, the proposed pension scheme follows the broad guidelines of the OPS.
- ❖ One of the key features of the OPS is death-cum-retirement gratuity (DCRG).
- ❖ For instance, in the event of death in harness of those whose length of service is 20 years or more, gratuity not exceeding ₹25 lakh will be paid.
- ❖ This aspect has been included in the TAPS.
- ❖ As in the case of the OPS, family pension will be equivalent to 60% of the pension.
- ❖ Inflation indexation will also be made.
- ❖ Pension under the TAPS will be based on 50% of the pay drawn in the last month of service whereas it is 50% of the average of the last 12 months' basic pay under the UPS.
- ❖ On death of the pensioner under the UPS, only the legally wedded spouse is eligible to receive the family payout, whereas the family — meaning legal heirs nominated by the pensioner — will be covered in the case of the TAPS.
- ❖ While in the UPS, a minimum assured payout is made if superannuation is after 10 years or more of qualifying service.
- ❖ Under the TAPS, it will be given regardless of the length of service.
- ❖ All the existing employees under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS), numbering approximately 6.24 lakh, are expected to migrate to the TAPS, even though they will be allowed to choose their pension scheme.
- ❖ The government has decided to invest pension funds with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) instead of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- ❖ Till now, the entire accrued amount under the CPS, which covers those who joined the government service on or after April 1, 2003, is invested in the Superannuation Fund of the LIC.

- ❖ Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) blamed the state government for not using the PFRDA to invest funds, as such a move would have yielded higher returns.
- ❖ A CAG report on State finances for 2023-24, tabled in the Assembly in October 2025, stated: “Previously, the State invested DCPS [Defined Contributory Pension Scheme or CPS] accumulations in both LIC and Treasury Bills, which yielded lower interest than the General Provident Fund rate.
- ❖ This issue was highlighted in previous SFAR [State Finances Audit Report] reports.
- ❖ Currently, the State is investing DCPS accumulations solely in LIC, with interest rates aligned with the General Provident Fund rate, currently set at 7.1%.”
- ❖ Projections have been made regarding the growth rate of State Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) at least for the next 15 years.
- ❖ Despite the increase in the value of allocation every year, the proportion of pension liability will stabilise around 21% to 22% of the SOTR.
- ❖ As per the CAG report for 2023-24, the share of pensions and other retirement benefits was 22.5%, as pensions amounted to ₹37,696.81 crore and the SOTR stood at ₹1,67,279 crore.

Siddha Day 2026

- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) celebrated the 9th Siddha Day.
- ❖ The event was held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai, with support from national and State Siddha institutions.
- ❖ Siddha Day is observed every year on 6 January to mark the birth anniversary of Sage Agathiyar.
- ❖ Sage Agathiyar is known as the father of the Siddha system of medicine.
- ❖ The 2026 theme was “Siddha for Global Health.”
- ❖ Siddha medicine originated in Tamil Nadu and is part of India’s traditional healthcare systems.

Music Writings of U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer

- ❖ The English translation of the writings of U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer on musicians and music was released by The Music Academy.
- ❖ U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer is known as Tamil Thatha (the grand old man of Tamil).
- ❖ The translation was done by Justice Prabha Sridevan.

- ❖ Justice Prabha Sridevan stated that the collection consists of 18 articles.
- ❖ The book includes three detailed writings on Ghanam Krishna Iyer, Gopalakrishna Bharathi, and Maha Vaidyanatha Sivan.
- ❖ Swaminatha Iyer himself learnt music from Gopalakrishna Bharathi, the author of Nandan Charithiram.

TAPS Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) is announced for state government employees and teachers.
- ❖ It will guarantee a pension equal to 50% of their last-drawn monthly salary.
- ❖ It comes after the 23-year struggle of government staff for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) since 2003.
- ❖ The employees will contribute 10% of their basic salary to the pension corpus, and the state will bear the rest.
- ❖ Under OPS, the government was bearing the entire pension fund contribution.
- ❖ The state government will fully bear the cost of implementing TAPS.
- ❖ It was expected to come into force on January 1, 2027
- ❖ The financial burden on the state is expected to go up steeply under TAPS, with a one-time contribution of Rs 13,000 crore to the pension fund and additional contributions of Rs 11,000 crore every year.
- ❖ The yearly contribution will also be revised periodically in line with the increase in salary.
- ❖ The pensioners will be eligible for Dearness Allowance (DA) hikes every six months on par with serving government employees.
- ❖ In the event of a pensioner's death, 60% of the last-drawn pension will be paid as a family pension to the nominated family members.
- ❖ Besides, gratuity up to Rs 25 lakh will be paid on retirement or in the event of death during service, based on the length of service.
- ❖ TAPS also ensures a minimum pension for all employees who retire without completing the qualifying service period for pension.
- ❖ Employees who joined service under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and retired without a pension before the implementation of TAPS will be provided a special compassionate pension.
- ❖ According to the 2025-26 state budget, the TN government is estimated to spend Rs 2,07,054 crore on committed expenditure, which is 62% of its estimated revenue receipts.

- ❖ This comprises spending on salaries (28% of the revenue receipts), pensions (14%) and interest payments (21%).
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has become the first state to restore the old pension scheme in order to provide an assured income to retired employees.
- ❖ West Bengal and Tripura were the only two states that did not immediately repeal the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) once the National Pension System (NPS) was implemented from 1 January 2004.
- ❖ Tripura scrapped OPS and implemented NPS in 2015.
- ❖ By 2005–06, almost every state in India had adopted NPS for their government employees except for West Bengal.
- ❖ The NPS was introduced by the NDA government at the Centre in 2004.
- ❖ The OPS has been re-implemented for their state government employees in the states of Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Jharkhand.
- ❖ Karnataka and Telangana are also planning to switch to OPS.

Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil Scheme

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government launched free laptop distribution under the 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' initiative in Sivaganga district on 5 January 2026.
- ❖ The scheme targets 20 lakh students across Tamil Nadu, to be covered in phases.
- ❖ In the first phase, 10 lakh students are being provided with laptops.
- ❖ It covers students from Government and Government-aided colleges, and eligible private college students under the 7.5% reservation and welfare schemes.
- ❖ Students from medical, engineering, arts and science, agriculture, law, polytechnic, nursing, and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) are included.

NTB Regional Office - Erode

- ❖ The Union government announced the setting up of a regional office of the National Turmeric Board (NTB) and an accredited turmeric testing laboratory in Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The NTB is headquartered in Nizamabad, Telangana, and functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) will establish the turmeric testing laboratory in Erode.
- ❖ ICAR will also work on developing new turmeric varieties with high curcumin content.

- ❖ The government plans to promote turmeric marketing through e-commerce platforms and support value addition, storage, and processing for better farmer income.

Olive Ridley Turtle Hatcheries

- ❖ Hatcheries for Olive Ridley sea turtle nesting have been set up in Chennai for the 2025–26 nesting season.
- ❖ A fully operational Olive Ridley hatchery has been established at Besant Nagar beach.
- ❖ New hatcheries are planned at Neelankarai, Kovalam, and Pulicat.
- ❖ The Olive Ridley nesting season along the Tamil Nadu coast starts in December and continues till April.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has begun night patrolling and nest monitoring to protect turtles and eggs.
- ❖ Around 50 hatcheries are planned initially this season, compared to 60 hatcheries set up in the previous nesting season.

Tamil Nadu-UN Women Collaboration

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UN Women in Chennai.
- ❖ The MoU aims to strengthen women's welfare, gender equality, and inclusive development in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It focuses on gender-responsive governance, planning, and budgeting aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ UN Women will provide technical support to the Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation.
- ❖ The Social Welfare and Women's Rights Department, Home, Prohibition and Excise Department, and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department will be involved.
- ❖ A tripartite cooperation agreement was also signed with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI), and UNICEF Office of Innovation (UNICEF-OoI).

SCADA-Based Reservoir Management

- ❖ A SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition)-based reservoir management system for Chennai reservoirs is ready for commissioning.

- ❖ The ₹32-crore project is implemented by the Water Resources Department (WRD) with World Bank support.
- ❖ The system allows the remote operation of reservoir shutters from a centralised monitoring centre in Chennai.
- ❖ Reservoirs at Chembarambakkam, Red Hills, and Poondi are fitted with sensors and automated rain gauges.
- ❖ The reservoirs together store about 11,175 million cubic feet (mcft), which is around 95% of their capacity.
- ❖ The system supports real-time monitoring of water inflow and outflow to manage floods and water supply.

SOP on Public Meetings

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has notified a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for regulating large public gatherings in the State.
- ❖ The SOP applies to public events where the expected crowd is more than 5,000 people.
- ❖ It was issued through a Government Order, following directions from the Madras High Court.
- ❖ District Collectors and Commissioners of Police will notify designated venues for public gatherings.
- ❖ The SOP sets rules for crowd capacity, police deployment, toilets, drinking water and emergency facilities.

Ungal Kanavai Sollungal Household Survey

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is launching a State-wide household survey called Ungal Kanavai Sollungal (Share Your Aspirations).
- ❖ The survey will be conducted for one month across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It will cover about 1.91 crore families through visits by 50,000 trained volunteers.
- ❖ The Families will give feedback on government schemes and list three priority aspirations.
- ❖ The details will be digitised using a mobile application, and each family will receive a unique tracking code.
- ❖ The survey will be implemented through the Mudhalvarin Mugavari department.

Impact of Green Manuring

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Government reviewed the impact of green manuring under the Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme promotes green manuring, where specific crops are grown and mixed into the soil to improve soil health.
- ❖ Green manure seeds were supplied to farmers across all districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Impact studies have showed an increase in soil nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.
- ❖ Fields using green manuring showed better soil structure and water-holding capacity, especially in paddy cultivation.
- ❖ The practice helped in reducing chemical fertiliser use and improving sustainable farming.

Chennai's Urban Mobility Transformation

- ❖ The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) has won appreciation from World Bank.
- ❖ The Chennai City Partnership (CCP) signed between the Tamil Nadu government and World Bank for creating a sustainable transport model by mirroring the public bus service getting reinvigorated through MTC.
- ❖ Through this plan, MTC would be able to unlock a higher level of passenger service by changing the service mix, improving fleet utilisation to 87%.
- ❖ MTC recently got the national award for being the “City with the best public transport system” in the Urban Mobility India conference.
- ❖ MTC has a fleet strength of 3,833 comprising low-floor diesel, air-conditioned, electric and small buses.

Health Benefits of Fermented Rice

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government is increasing public awareness about the health benefits of fermented rice after a five-year research study.
- ❖ The research was conducted by the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital (SMCH), Chennai.
- ❖ The study found that the fermented rice (Pazhaiya Soru) contains dietary fibre, resistant starch, protein, and micronutrients.
- ❖ It provides minerals such as iron, zinc, selenium, and B-complex vitamins.
- ❖ The food contains beneficial bacteria that support gut health.

- ❖ It helps in recovery from gastrointestinal disorders, including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

UNICEF-Tamil Nadu Partnership

- ❖ UNICEF has signed a landmark partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu as its first-ever sub-national government partner globally.
- ❖ “Sub-National Partner” means UNICEF is officially working with a state government (Tamil Nadu) instead of only the national government.
- ❖ The agreement aims to strengthen public sector innovation and scale evidence-based solutions for children and communities.
- ❖ UNICEF’s Office of Innovation will support technical capacity and innovation within Tamil Nadu’s public systems.
- ❖ This collaboration is the first of its kind between UNICEF Innovation and any sub-national government in the world.

Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–26

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has unveiled India’s first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy at UmagineTN 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ The policy is called Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025–2026 (TNDTSP).
- ❖ The iTNT Hub will act as the nodal implementing agency for the policy.
- ❖ The policy aims to support 100 deep tech start-ups and mobilise ₹100 crore in public and private investments.
- ❖ It targets 10 technology transfer or licensing deals from academic and Research and Development (R&D) institutions.
- ❖ The policy plans to train over 10,000 students and professionals in deep tech areas like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, robotics, and biotechnology.

UmagicneTN 2026

- ❖ UmagineTN 2026, the 4th edition of Tamil Nadu’s flagship global technology and innovation summit was held in Chennai.
- ❖ The event aims to bring innovators, investors, start-ups, and policymakers onto a single platform to drive technology-led growth in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The main theme focuses on frontier technologies such as AI, Blockchain, Quantum Technology, Cybersecurity, and AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics – Extended Reality).

- ❖ Key focus areas include Deep Tech start-up scaling, Digital Public Infrastructure, next-generation e-Governance, data economy, and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Namma Arasu WhatsApp Chatbot

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government launched the “Namma Arasu” WhatsApp chatbot to provide government services to citizens through WhatsApp.
- ❖ The chatbot was introduced at the UmagineTN 2026 event.
- ❖ Citizens can access the service by sending messages to +91 7845252525 on WhatsApp.
- ❖ It offers 51 government services from multiple departments.
- ❖ Services available include certificate downloads, utility and tax bill payments, welfare schemes, grievance filing, and more.

TAPS G.O 2026

- ❖ 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.

TN State Indicator Framework 2.0

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has released the State Indicator Framework (SIF) 2.0 to track progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.
- ❖ The framework reduces indicators from 314 to 244 across 17 SDGs and is monitored by 28 State departments.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's multidimensional poverty rate is 2.2%, compared to 33.76% in Bihar and 22.93% in Uttar Pradesh, as per NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The State has an under-five mortality rate of 13 per 1,000 live births and 99.98% institutional deliveries.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks second in the SDG India Index 2023–24 with a score of 78.
- ❖ SIF 2.0 is aligned with the UN Global Indicator Framework and India's National Indicator Framework (2025).

50 lakh MT of legacy waste

- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has cleared nearly 50 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste out of a total of 90 lakh metric tonnes through the bio mining process.
- ❖ The remaining waste was targeted to be cleared by February 2027
- ❖ The Perungudi dumpyard is using the bio mining tech from the Blue Planet Environmental Solutions.
- ❖ Biomining is the technique of extracting metals from ores and other solid materials, typically using micro-organisms like bacteria, archaea, fungi, or plants.

Active educational loan accounts

- ❖ The number of active educational loan accounts in lakh across India between FY16 and FY25.
- ❖ The number decreased from 27.4 lakh accounts to about 20.1 lakh in the period.
- ❖ The number drastically reduced from 9.1 lakh accounts to 3.1 lakh in the period in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ Between FY16 and FY20, about 30-35% of India's educational loans were garnered by students in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's students formed 15% of India's outstanding education loans in FY25, the highest share for any State.

World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026

- ❖ World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026 is being organised on 11–12 January 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ It is organised by the Tamil Nadu Government through the Department of Non-Resident Tamils Welfare to connect Non-Resident Tamils (NRTs) worldwide.
- ❖ The event aims to promote the Tamil language, culture, heritage, and global Tamil unity.
- ❖ It includes discussion sessions, exhibitions, and cultural programmes to highlight the Tamil diaspora's achievements.
- ❖ The theme of 2026 is "Thamizhaal Inaivom, Tharanil Uyarvom".

iTNT-XeedQ Quantum Deal

- ❖ iTNT Hub signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Germany-based XeedQ GmbH at Umagine 2026 to start quantum computing programmes in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In the first phase, students and startups will get remote access to a 4-qubit quantum computer developed by XeedQ.
- ❖ The program will be run by iTNT Hub, a public-private initiative supported by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The facility will be located at the iTNT Hub inside Anna University campus, Chennai.
- ❖ XeedQ GmbH will provide the quantum hardware, technical support, and learning assistance.
- ❖ In the second phase, Tamil Nadu may become the first Indian State to host a physical quantum computer for its innovation ecosystem.

Tamil Nadu State Awards 2026

- ❖ The Thiruvalluvar Award 2026 will be given to Dr. Sathiyavel Muruganar.
- ❖ The Kamarajar Award 2025 will be given to Idhayathulla.
- ❖ The Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award 2025 will be awarded to Nellai Jayantha, and the Pavendhar Bharathidasan Award 2025 will be given to poet Yugabharathi.

- ❖ The Thamizh Thenral Thiru. Vi. Ka. The Award 2025 will be given to the writer and former Chief Secretary Iraiyanbu.
- ❖ Scholar M.P. Sathiyavel Muruganar will receive the Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award for spreading the ideals of Thiruvalluvar.
- ❖ Advocate A. Arulmozhi has been named for the Thanthai Periyar Award for work towards social justice.
- ❖ M. Sinthanai Selvan will receive the Annal Ambedkar Award for work for Adi Dravidar (Scheduled Caste) and tribal communities.
- ❖ Duraimurugan, a senior DMK leader and Minister, will be given the Perarignar Anna Award.
- ❖ Each awardee will receive ₹5 lakh in cash and a one- sovereign gold medal, which will be presented by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy 2026

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has released the Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy, 2026, in Chennai.
- ❖ The policy aims to promote the recycling, resource efficiency, and investment in circular economy industries in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The policy provides special incentives for recycling units and technology enablers, in addition to incentives under the MSME Policy, 2021, and Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu (FaMe TN) Sponsorship Policy.
- ❖ Companies investing at least ₹20 crore and creating a minimum of 25 net new jobs are eligible for a capital subsidy of 10% of Eligible Fixed Assets (EFA), subject to a maximum of ₹3 crore.
- ❖ The capital subsidy will be disbursed over five years in equal annual instalments after the start of commercial operations.
- ❖ Eligible units will receive reimbursement of the employer's Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contribution for one year with a limit of 50 employees.
- ❖ They can get up to ₹10,000 per employee per month for Tamil Nadu-domiciled workers.
- ❖ The policy also provides skilling incentives and a payroll subsidy.

Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy 2026

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu released the Tamil Nadu Warehousing Policy, 2026, in Chennai.

- ❖ The policy aims to promote modern warehousing infrastructure and strengthen the supply chain and logistics in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The policy provides incentives to market participants, operators, and developers in the warehousing sector for a period of five years.
- ❖ Warehouses must be located in Tamil Nadu, and the developer or operator must have a registered office in the State to claim incentives.
- ❖ Greenfield warehouses starting operations during the policy period and brownfield expansions carried out during the period are eligible for incentives.
- ❖ The New warehouses can receive a green incentive of 25% of the cost of green initiatives, subject to a maximum of ₹2 crore.
- ❖ The policy also provides training subsidies and special incentives for warehouse development in Category C and Delta districts.

India's First Sovereign AI Park

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu signed a MoU with Sarvam AI to set up India's first ₹10,000-crore Sovereign Artificial Intelligence (AI) Park.
- ❖ The project will be established as a full-stack AI district with compute the infrastructure, secure data systems, research labs, and innovation clusters.
- ❖ It will generate about 1,000 high-skilled deep-tech jobs in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The AI Park will include an Institute for AI in Governance to support public sector use of AI.
- ❖ Data, models, and computing will remain within the State's trust boundary to ensure a sovereign and secure AI ecosystem.
- ❖ Sarvam AI, selected under the IndiaAI Mission, will build foundational AI models for Indian languages, voice, and reasoning.

opuram Construction at Pazhayarai Temple

- ❖ The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department has started building a seven-tier gopuram at the Somanathar Temple in Pazhayarai near Kumbakonam.
- ❖ The National Institute of Technology (NIT) studied the soil and the existing temple structure before recommending the construction of a seven-tier gopuram instead of the earlier five-tier plan to match the broad foundation.
- ❖ The temple previously had a neglected east-facing gopuram, called the mottai gopuram (unfinished tower).
- ❖ Pazhayarai was an important Chola capital before moving to Thanjavur.

- ❖ A royal order by Uttama Chola was recorded from the Pazhayarai palace, highlighting its historical importance.
- ❖ The temple is one of the important Saivite temples, praised in verse by Appar, Sambandar, and Sundarar.
- ❖ It is also called Kara Koil because its mahamandapam (main hall) is designed like a chariot.
- ❖ As per K.A. Nilakanta Sastri notes, Pazhayarai had the Arulmolideva-Isvara Temple, with a palace that was the residence of Rajaraja Chola's sister Kundavai, and for some time, of Rajaraja himself.
- ❖ The construction is part of the Tamil Nadu government's programme to restore and repair 1,000-year-old temples, under which around 4,000 temples have already undergone kumbabishekam (ritual consecration).

Malaria Elimination in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is close to eliminating malaria, with 33 out of 38 districts reporting zero indigenous cases in the past three years.
- ❖ Chennai, Ramanathapuram, Thoothukudi, Chengalpattu, and Salem are the five districts still reporting cases, accounting for 37%-45% of the State's malaria cases.
- ❖ Malaria cases in Tamil Nadu have declined from 5,587 in 2015 to 321 in 2025. Cases in Chennai have reduced from 173 in 2023 to 121 in 2025.
- ❖ The Most reported cases in recent years have been imported rather than locally transmitted: 330 of 384 in 2023, 208 of 347 in 2024, and 203 of 321 in 2025.
- ❖ The Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine conducts surveillance through blood smear testing, monitoring fever cases at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Government Hospitals (GHs), and tracking migrant labourers.
- ❖ Annual Parasite Incidence has fallen below 1%, and there have been no malaria outbreaks in the past three years.

Vulture Safe Zones in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department informed the Madras High Court that the process to set up Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) has started.
- ❖ The first VSZ will be created around the Moyar River Valley in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.
- ❖ It is being done under the Vision Document for Vulture Conservation (VDVC) in Tamil Nadu 2025–2030.

- ❖ A field-level monitoring committee has been formed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden (PCCF-cum-CWC).
- ❖ The VSZs aim to stop the use of banned veterinary Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) like diclofenac that kill vultures.

Corporate Research Centre

- ❖ Coromandel International Limited signed a MoU with the IIT-Madras.
- ❖ The MoU is to set up a Corporate Research Centre at the IIT Madras Research Park.
- ❖ The announcement was made during the inauguration of the IIT Madras Global Research Foundation.
- ❖ The centre will support research in agriculture, sustainability, and advanced agri-technology.
- ❖ The partnership will use the research and innovation facilities of IIT Madras in India and abroad.

Four promises of TN CM

- ❖ On the occasion of Thiruvalluvar Day, TN Chief Minister MK Stalin, said four principles articulated by Thiruvalluvar are the very foundations of his governance and he would continue to uphold them in TN.
- ❖ They are courage, generosity, wisdom and energy.
- ❖ Also, he made following four promise that will continue in TN
 - Courage to fight against social injustice and divisive communal forces
 - Humanitarian schemes to uplift lives of poor,
 - Initiatives to foster intellectual capacity of younger generation and
 - Constructive efforts that promote industrial growth and advancement of women.
- ❖

Kondagai Inland Lake Climate Study

- ❖ A scientific study revealed a 4,500-year climate record from Kondagai inland lake in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The study was conducted by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeo sciences (BSIP) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❖ Researchers analysed lake sediments to reconstruct past monsoon patterns, rainfall, vegetation, and flood events.

- ❖ The findings identified major climatic phases like the 4.2 kilo-annum (ka) arid event and the 3.2 ka dry phase.
- ❖ The study supports water management, disaster risk planning, and lake conservation in Tamil Nadu.

Ethylene Glycol issue

- ❖ Tamil Nadu's Directorate of Drugs Control has issued a public notice warning against the purchase, sale and consumption of a specific batch of Almont-Kid Syrup.
- ❖ This move followed laboratory reports of adulteration with Ethylene glycol, a toxic substance.
- ❖ Ethylene glycol is a colourless, odourless and relatively non-volatile liquid.
- ❖ Adulteration with ethylene glycol is highly dangerous, as this chemical is toxic and can cause severe poisoning, including kidney failure and death.
- ❖ It has a low freezing and high boiling point and is a commonly used ingredient in antifreeze and de-icing solutions.

Social Justice Monitoring Committee

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government extended the tenure of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee by two more years.
- ❖ The committee monitors the implementation of affirmative action (reservation) in education and employment.
- ❖ It was originally constituted in December 2021.
- ❖ The committee received its first extension in November 2023 and a second extension in January 2026.
- ❖ It is headed by Suba Veerapandian, and members include Swaminathan Devadoss, Manushyaputhiran, Shanthi Ravindranath, and K. Karunanidhi.

Literary award for 7 non-Hindi languages

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced annual literary awards in 7 languages including Tamil, Bengali and Marathi.
- ❖ In the first phase, award will be given in the name of 'Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu'.
- ❖ It is for the best works in the languages of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali and Marathi.
- ❖ The award for each language carries Rs 5 lakh cash prize."

Tamil Nadu's diaspora awards 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister called upon the Tamil diaspora to never forget their Tamil identity and roots.
- ❖ Delegates, including Ministers from over 70 countries, took part in the celebrations organised in Chennai.
- ❖ During the event, following awards presented by CM:
- ❖ Tamil Mamani award to Dr. Annamalai, president, Periyar Ambedkar Thoughts Circle Australia.
- ❖ The Kaniyan Poongundranar awards to Mohamed Haniffa bin Abdullah (education), Saravanan Padmanabhan and Senthilkumar Ramalingam (community development), Gokilavani Prakashdevan (women), Ansari Wahid (trade), Thirumalaisamy Velavan (science and technology), Kabilan Dharmarajan (medicine).
- ❖ He also presented the Best Cultural Ambassador Award to Depa Rani alias Chaw Su Thu Zar.

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.

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.

India's First Global Education Summit

- ❖ 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.

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.

End of Northeast Monsoon Season

- ❖ The Northeast monsoon retreated from Tamil Nadu on 19 January 2026, as confirmed by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai.

- ❖ The NE monsoon was the main rainy season for Tamil Nadu and generally occurred from October to December every year.
- ❖ The withdrawal led to misty mornings and chilly nights, with minimum temperatures falling 2–3°C below normal in many places.
- ❖ On 20 January 2026, Tiruttani recorded the lowest plain-area temperature at 15.2°C, while Kodaikanal recorded 6°C among hill stations.
- ❖ Dry weather and clear skies are expected to continue till 22 January 2026, with cooler nights over Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- ❖ An upper air circulation over the Southeast Bay of Bengal is likely to bring light to moderate rainfall from 23 January, starting from coastal areas.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has recorded a winter rainfall surplus of 25.8 mm since 1 January 2026, with several districts reporting excess rain.

Amended wind mills repowering policy

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced an amended Repowering Policy for wind mills in the State.
- ❖ For the wind energy generators commissioned before April 1, 2016, its owners should mandatorily opt for repowering or refurbishment or life extension on completion of 20 years of operational life.
- ❖ In respect of wind energy generators commissioned on or after April 1, 2016, the requirement of undertaking repowering may be applied after the completion of 25 years of operational life.
- ❖ After the life period of 20 years and those with average generation for the last three financial years not less than 70 % of the rated generation certified by independent agency like NIWE are eligible for life extension.

Young Ambassadors of Change Initiative

- ❖ A government school in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu has launched the Young Ambassadors of Change initiative.
- ❖ The programme was introduced at the Government Aadi Dravidar Primary School, Kattur, to teach moral and civic values through daily practice.
- ❖ It focused on values such as honesty, kindness, respect, responsibility, discipline, and gratitude.
- ❖ Students learned through storytelling, reflection during morning assemblies, and simple value-based actions at school and home.

- ❖ Parents were involved through WhatsApp communication to reinforce values outside the classroom.
- ❖ The initiative followed a non-evaluative approach, with teachers observing behaviour change instead of giving marks.

Global Tourism Summit 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is organising the Tamil Nadu Global Tourism Summit 2026 in Mahabalipuram to promote tourism investment and growth in the state.
- ❖ The summit will be held as a global platform to showcase Tamil Nadu's tourism strengths.
- ❖ It will bring together policymakers, global investors, industry leaders, and developers.
- ❖ The aim is to attract new-age investments and increase tourist arrivals.
- ❖ Key focus areas include digital and travel technology, eco-tourism, heritage tourism, and blue economy tourism.
- ❖ The summit also focuses on youth opportunities through start-ups, skills, and employment in tourism.

Online Property Registration - Sprint 1

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched Sprint 1 to make the property registration fully digital.
- ❖ Sprint 1 was launched under the STAR 3.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration).
- ❖ It provides paperless registration for all 30 deed types without carrying physical documents.
- ❖ Presence less registration is available for 10 document types, including sale and lease deeds.
- ❖ Citizens can complete end-to-end registration online without visiting the Sub Registrar Office (SRO).
- ❖ The services are available through the TNREGINET portal and mobile application.

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.

Tamil Nadu Water Resources Bill, 2026

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Water Resources (Regulation, Management and Augmentation) Bill, 2026, on 24 January 2026.
- ❖ The Bill provides for the constitution of the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Management Authority (TNWRMA).
- ❖ The bill aims to regulate, manage, and augment all types of water resources in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Chief Secretary will be the Chairperson, and the Water Resources Secretary will be the Member Secretary of TNWRMA.
- ❖ The authority will prepare the State Water Policy and State Water Resources Management Plan.
- ❖ It empowers the authority to fix tariffs for commercial water use and impose penalties for unauthorised water extraction.

Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced that one lakh new houses will be built under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme.
- ❖ The houses will be built at a total cost of ₹3,500 crore.
- ❖ The scheme is a state housing programme implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It aims to provide permanent concrete houses to poor and homeless families in rural areas.
- ❖ Houses are provided with basic facilities such as drinking water, electricity, and sanitation.
- ❖ Work on two lakh houses under the scheme is already in progress across the State.

Social Security Pension Expansion

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced special marks for part-time teachers and an increase in pensions for several worker groups.
- ❖ Part-time teachers will get special marks based on experience in exams for permanent teacher recruitment, and a government order will be issued soon.
- ❖ The State government has already given part-time teachers a salary hike and the May month salary, which was earlier given only to regular teachers.
- ❖ An additional 1.80 lakh people will receive a monthly pension under the Ungaludan Stalin scheme from 4 February 2026.
- ❖ The pension for noon-meal organisers, anganwadi workers, and panchayat union clerks has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹3,400, with retirement benefits raised to ₹2 lakh.

Restriction on Preferential Appointment

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government introduced a Bill to restrict government servants from using preferential appointment benefits again.
- ❖ The amendment is related to the Tamil Nadu Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) Act, 2010.
- ❖ N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj Minister for Human Resources Management in Tamil Nadu, introduced this amendment in the assembly.
- ❖ Under the Act, 20 percent of the direct recruitment vacancies are reserved for candidates who studied in the Tamil medium.
- ❖ The Bill states that persons who already used PSTM preference and got a government job cannot use it again for the same pay level.
- ❖ Such candidates can use the preference only for posts with a higher level of pay.
- ❖ The change follows a Madras High Court ruling that serving government employees are not eligible for PSTM preference again.

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.

Madras Hedgehog Study

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has begun its first-ever study on the Madras Hedgehog in the Theri forests of Thoothukudi district.
- ❖ The Madras Hedgehog (*Paraechinus nudiventris*), locally called Mulleli, is a rare nocturnal mammal endemic to southern India.
- ❖ The study is led by the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) across Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Salem, and Kallakurichi districts.
- ❖ Radio telemetry will be used to track movement, habitat use, and threats such as urbanisation and pesticide exposure.
- ❖ The study aims to prepare a conservation action plan and support reclassification of the species from “Least Concern” to “Threatened” in the IUCN Red List.

India's Diabetes Epidemic Hotspot

- ❖ An Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study has reported a sharp rise in diabetes and prediabetes in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ India currently has about 101 million people living with diabetes and 136 million people with prediabetes.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, diabetes prevalence among people above 20 years increased from 11.1% during 2008–2010 to 22.7% in 2022–2023, showing a 104% rise.
- ❖ Prediabetes prevalence in the state rose from 12.2% to 24.8% in the same period, which is a 103% increase.
- ❖ At present, about 12 million people in Tamil Nadu have diabetes, and nearly 10 million more may develop it in the coming years.

Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam – State Survey

- ❖ A State-wide study found that the Tamil Nadu government's Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (MTM) scheme has improved access to diabetes and hypertension care, especially for women and rural people.
- ❖ The study was a State-wide cross-sectional household survey conducted in all 38 districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ About 80% of people were screened for diabetes and hypertension, mainly by MTM field workers at home.

- ❖ More than 95% of diagnosed patients were on treatment, but disease control was low.
- ❖ Women, rural residents, and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) had better coverage than urban areas.

Rules on Mining Minerals

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government amended the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, to regulate mining of sand and other minerals from government lands and tanks.
- ❖ Permission-holders must pay a refundable security deposit equal to two times the seigniorage fee, along with the application fee.
- ❖ District Collectors can cancel mining permission if conditions are violated and recover the difference in fees and restoration costs.
- ❖ Authorities will inspect compliance after expiry of permission or exhaustion of quantity and refund the security deposit accordingly.
- ❖ Excess mining or damage costs will be recovered under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890, if they exceed the security deposit.

Iron Age Burial Site – Kodaikanal

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) began excavation at an Iron Age burial site in Kamanur, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The project is part of a three-year excavation plan covering several sites in the Palani Hills.
- ❖ Archaeologists have identified cists, dolmens, urn burials, and pit burials in the region.
- ❖ This is the first ASI-led excavation in Kodaikanal; earlier excavations were conducted at Thandikudi in 2004 and 2006.

TNWESafe Project and HPV Vaccination Drive

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety (TNWESafe) Project and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme at a Tamil Nadu Global Women Summit 2026.
- ❖ The TNWESafe Project is financed by a World Bank loan to improve women's safety and employment.
- ❖ The HPV vaccination drive will begin in Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Perambalur, and Tiruvannamalai districts.

- ❖ The vaccination programme will benefit 3,38,649 girls above 14 years of age.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu became the first state in India to launch a state-wide free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme for 14-year-old girls to prevent cervical cancer.
- ❖ India's first indigenously developed, affordable quadrivalent vaccine, CERVAVAC, was developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

UGC on Language Policy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has opposed the UGC (University Grants Commission) circular on introducing a third language in higher education institutions.
- ❖ The State said the circular is against its long-followed two-language policy.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has followed the two-language formula of Tamil and English since 1968.
- ❖ The State rejected the three-language formula proposed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, leading to Centre-State differences.
- ❖ Earlier, in 2022, the Tamil Nadu Assembly opposed steps to promote Hindi in central institutions.

Republic Day awards of Tamil Nadu 2026

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026 was posthumously awarded to Peter Johnson.
- ❖ He died while saving two youngsters from drowning in Thamirabharani river last year.
- ❖ Three men belonging to the Fire and Rescue Services department — fireman driver V. Sankar, fireman S. Rameshkumar and fireman P. Suresh — also received the Anna Medal for Gallantry.
- ❖ They rescued three persons whose vehicle was caught in a flash flood in Dharmagiri.
- ❖ M. Kalimula of Tiruppur district received the Kottai Ameer Award.
- ❖ Farmer G. Veeramani received the Narayanasamy Naidu Paddy Productivity Award.
- ❖ Inspector P. Natarajan, sub-inspectors M. Sathianandan, S. Manikandan, K. Natarajan, and constable V.P. Kannan received the Gandhi Adigal police medals.

- ❖ Madurai city, Tiruppur city and Coimbatore district secured the top three positions in the Chief Minister's Trophies for the best police stations in the State.

Municipal Bonds – Coimbatore and Tirupur

- ❖ Coimbatore and Tiruppur Municipal Corporations raised funds through municipal bonds in January 2026.
- ❖ Coimbatore Municipal Corporation raised ₹150.85 crore, while Tiruppur Municipal Corporation raised ₹100 crore through bonds.
- ❖ Chennai Municipal Corporation has raised ₹205.59 crore through municipal bonds.
- ❖ The funds will be used for underground drainage and urban development projects.
- ❖ Indore was the first Municipal Corporation in India to raise funds through bonds for a solar energy project.

NATIONAL

Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR)

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has established a 24x7 Passenger Assistance Control Room (PACR) for aviation passengers.
- ❖ PACR ensures quick and timely resolution of passenger grievances related to flights, airports, and airlines.
- ❖ The control room is fully integrated with AirSewa, the national online passenger grievance platform.
- ❖ Issues such as flight delays, cancellations, refunds, and baggage problems are addressed as per the Passenger Charter.
- ❖ Since December 2025, PACR has successfully resolved over 13,000 complaints and managed 500+ passenger call interventions.

Common Anti-Terrorism Squad Structure

- ❖ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) highlighted the need for a uniform Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) structure across India at the Anti-Terrorism Conference-2025.

- ❖ NIA has prepared a common ATS framework and shared it with state police forces to improve coordination.
- ❖ An Updated Crime Manual, Organised Crime Network Database, and Lost and Recovered Weapon Database were also launched by NIA.
- ❖ The uniform ATS system aims to ensure standard procedures, faster response, and better investigation across all states.
- ❖ The initiative addresses modern terrorism, which is becoming technology-driven and trans-regional, using tools like artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transactions.

National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025

- ❖ Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications has released the National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025.
- ❖ It will assist the management and allocation of radio-frequency spectrum in India.
- ❖ It aims to ensure that India's spectrum management remains 'responsive, high-capacity, and harmonised with global standards.
- ❖ It will cover the allocation of radio-frequency spectrum to various radio-communication services from 8.3 kHz to 3000 GHz.
- ❖ The NFAP also includes the allocation of Ka, Q, and V bands for satellite-based services that are crucial for high-throughput Geo-Stationary Orbit (GSO) satellites and large non-GSO satellite constellations (LEO/MEO).

Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme Guidelines 2025

- ❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) notified guidelines for the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS) and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS).
- ❖ The two schemes have a combined outlay of ₹44,700 crore to strengthen India's domestic shipbuilding capacity and global competitiveness.
- ❖ Under SBFAS, financial assistance of 15%–25% per vessel will be given, based on vessel type, with a total corpus of ₹24,736 crore.
- ❖ SBFAS also introduces a Shipbreaking Credit Note, offering 40% of scrap value to ship owners scrapping vessels in Indian yards.
- ❖ The SbDS, with an outlay of ₹19,989 crore, focuses on modernising shipyards, greenfield shipbuilding clusters, and maritime research infrastructure.

- ❖ Both schemes will remain valid till 31 March 2036, with an in-principle extension planned up to 2047.

Trademark Registrations 2024–25

- ❖ India registered over 5.5 lakh domestic trademarks in Financial Year (FY) 2024–25, the highest ever in a single year.
- ❖ The information was announced by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The rise reflects the faster and digitised Intellectual Property (IP) registration processes in India.
- ❖ Online filing, quicker examination, and reduced pendency supported higher registrations.
- ❖ The highest number of filings came from the pharmaceutical, veterinary, and healthcare sectors.
- ❖ Trademark protection in India is governed by the Trade Marks Act, 1999, with 10-year validity, renewable indefinitely.

8th Central Pay Commission

- ❖ The 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) was notified in November 2025 by the Government of India.
- ❖ Its effective date is January 1, 2026, but salary revision will not start immediately.
- ❖ The Commission will review pay, allowances, and pensions of central government employees and pensioners.
- ❖ Actual implementation is expected after Cabinet approval, likely in late 2027 or early 2028.

Road Safety Construction Standards

- ❖ National Test House (NTH) signed an MoU with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- ❖ The collaboration aims to strengthen quality control, transparency, and safety in national highway projects.
- ❖ NTH will be empanelled as a recognized testing laboratory for NHAI and conduct tests on highway construction materials and allied works.
- ❖ Testing will be done at NTH's regional labs in Ghaziabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Jaipur, Guwahati, Bengaluru, and Varanasi.

- ❖ The MoU includes capacity-building programs, workshops, and technical guidance for NHAI officials, along with support for enhancing NHAI lab facilities.
- ❖ National Test House functions under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

World's largest rice producer 2025

- ❖ By overtaking China, India has reached number one in the world in terms of rice production.
- ❖ This is the first time India has overtaken China in rice production.
- ❖ India's rice production has reached 152 million metric tonnes, while China's output stands at 146 million metric tonnes.
- ❖ The country's share in total global rice production has crossed more than 28%.
- ❖ There are about 123,000 varieties of rice in the world, of which nearly 60,000 are found in India.
- ❖ In 2024–25, India exported agricultural produce worth a record Rs 450,840 crore, with rice accounting for the largest share of about 24%.

Ban on Oral Nimesulide

- ❖ The central government has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of oral formulations of nimesulide containing more than 100 mg.
- ❖ It is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) prescribed for pain, fever and inflammation.
- ❖ The ban has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ Section 26A empowers the Centre to restrict or prohibit drugs that pose a risk to patients.

ECMS – Phase III

- ❖ The Union Government has approved the third phase of the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).
- ❖ The scheme has been approved with a total financial outlay of ₹41,863 crore.
- ❖ ECMS aims to strengthen domestic electronics component manufacturing in India.
- ❖ Major companies such as Tata Electronics, Samsung Display, Dixon Electronics and BPL have received approvals under the scheme.

- ❖ The scheme seeks to reduce India's dependence on imported electronic components.
- ❖ It is expected to boost investment, employment generation and export capacity in the electronics sector.

New Excise Duty and Cess

- ❖ The Government of India has notified new excise duty and cess on tobacco and pan masala, effective from February 1, 2026.
- ❖ The earlier Compensation Cess on tobacco and pan masala has been withdrawn.
- ❖ An Additional Excise Duty will be levied on tobacco and tobacco products.
- ❖ A Health and National Security Cess will be imposed on pan masala.
- ❖ Cigarettes, tobacco, and pan masala will be taxed at 40 per cent under the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ❖ Bidis will continue to attract a lower GST rate of 18 per cent.

Nationwide VoWiFi Service

- ❖ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched a nationwide Voice over Wi-Fi (VoWiFi) service.
- ❖ VoWiFi allows users to make voice calls and send messages using a Wi-Fi network instead of mobile towers.
- ❖ The service works with the user's existing mobile number and phone dialler, without any extra application.
- ❖ It is based on IMS (IP Multimedia Subsystem) technology and supports smooth switching between Wi-Fi and mobile networks.
- ❖ VoWiFi helps people in rural areas and inside buildings where mobile signals are weak.
- ❖ The service is free of cost and is supported on most modern smartphones across all telecom circles in India.

New Logo and Mascot “Sankhyiki”

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched a new logo and mascot.
- ❖ The new logo is based on the theme “Data for Development”.
- ❖ The logo includes the Ashoka Chakra, Rupee (₹) symbol, and growth bars showing the role of statistics in development.

- ❖ MoSPI also introduced its mascot named “Sankhyiki” (meaning Statistics).
- ❖ The mascot will be used in surveys, awareness campaigns, and public programmes.
- ❖ This initiative is linked with the National Statistical Office (NSO) to improve public participation and trust in data.

Samiullah vs State of Bihar case

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled in Samiullah vs State of Bihar on property registration and mutation rules.
- ❖ The Court struck down the Bihar Registration Rules (2019) that made mutation proof compulsory for property registration.
- ❖ It held that the registration of a document is different from ownership or title of property.
- ❖ Questions of title and ownership can be decided only by civil courts, not by Sub-Registrars.
- ❖ Registration creates only a rebuttable presumption of ownership, not final proof.
- ❖ The judgment highlighted structural problems in land records due to poor surveys and a lack of record integration.

National Drug Use Survey 2025–26

- ❖ The Union government will conduct the National Drug Use Survey (NDUS) 2025–26 to study substance use patterns across India.
- ❖ The survey will cover nearly 20 lakh people through household surveys and respondent-driven sampling in all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ For the first time, the survey will document indigenous forms of substance use and their associated socio-economic and health concerns.
- ❖ The survey will include specific populations such as prison inmates, school students, and college students.
- ❖ It will examine the impact of initiatives like the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and study emerging trends in psychoactive substances.
- ❖ The survey is funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, will be completed by the end of 2026, and the report is expected to be published in 2027.

50th PRAGATI Meeting

- ❖ The 50th meeting of PRAGATI was held in New Delhi.

- ❖ PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is a technology-enabled platform launched by the Prime Minister in 2015.
- ❖ It aims to monitor infrastructure projects and public grievances in real time.
- ❖ During the meeting, five critical infrastructure projects across five states, with a cumulative cost of over ₹40,000 crore, were reviewed.
- ❖ PRAGATI has accelerated projects worth over ₹85 lakh crore, resolved around 94% of identified issues.
- ❖ It helped complete long-pending projects such as the Bogibeel Bridge, Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link, Navi Mumbai International Airport, Bhilai Steel Plant modernization, and Gadarwara and LARA Super Thermal Power Projects.
- ❖ The platform promotes cooperative federalism, bringing together the Central Government, State Governments, and Union Ministries, breaking silo-based functioning and improving accountability.
- ❖ PRAGATI also monitors PM SHRI (Prime Minister Schools for Rising India) schools to make them a national benchmark, and emphasizes reform, performance, and transformation in governance.

India's Investments in FY26

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh emerged as India's top investment destination in FY26 by securing 25.3% of total proposed investments in the first nine months.
- ❖ A Bank of Baroda report stated that Odisha ranked second with 13.1% and Maharashtra third with 12.8% of proposed investments.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra together accounted for 51.2% of total proposed investments in the country.
- ❖ Total investment announcements in FY26 increased by 11.5% year-on-year to ₹26.6 lakh crore.
- ❖ Telangana (9.5%), Gujarat (7.1%), and Tamil Nadu (4.9%) were other major contributors, while Uttar Pradesh (2.7%) and Karnataka (2.1%) had lower shares.
- ❖ The data shows that industrial investment activity is shifting towards eastern and southern India.

Deemed University Status for NCERT

- ❖ The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) may receive deemed-to-be-university status by the end of January 2026.
- ❖ The proposal is awaiting approval at an upcoming meeting of the University Grants Commission (UGC).

- ❖ NCERT is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education and prepares school curricula and textbooks.
- ❖ Deemed university status is granted under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.
- ❖ Institutions with deemed status can design courses and award their own degrees.

National Digital Land Initiative - Land Stack

- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) launched the 'Land Stack' as a first-of-its-kind national digital land governance initiative.
- ❖ The 'Land Stack' is an integrated, GIS-based (Geographic Information System) digital platform for land and property records.
- ❖ It was launched on a pilot basis in Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The initiative was introduced under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
- ❖ Along with this, the MoRD also launched the 'Glossary of Revenue Terms' (GoRT).
- ❖ The GoRT provides standard meanings of land revenue terms in vernacular languages, Hindi, English, and Roman scripts.
- ❖ These initiatives aim to improve transparency and accessibility in land record management.

India's Global Rank in Pharmacovigilance

- ❖ India ranked 8th globally in contributions to pharmacovigilance (drug safety monitoring) under the WHO.
- ❖ This marks a sharp improvement from 123rd rank a decade ago.
- ❖ The achievement was announced during the release of the Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 (10th edition) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 added 121 new monographs, taking the total to 3,340.
- ❖ Twenty blood component monographs were included for the first time, making India the first country to do so.
- ❖ The Indian Pharmacopoeia is officially recognised in 19 Global South countries.

Adult Skill Assessment Survey 2026

- ❖ India will conduct its first nationwide Adult Skill Assessment Survey in 2026.

- ❖ The survey will be conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) using the Comprehensive Modular Survey (CMS) framework.
- ❖ It is being carried out at the request of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ❖ The survey will cover persons aged 18 years and above and will be conducted over three months.
- ❖ Adult skills will be classified into basic, intermediate, and advanced levels.
- ❖ The survey aims to fill the data gap on actual skill levels, which is not covered by the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

Know Your Survey Guide

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released its first reader-friendly guide titled “Know Your Survey”.
- ❖ The guide has been published by the National Statistics Office (NSO).
- ❖ It explains the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) in simple and non-technical language.
- ❖ The publication describes the survey coverage, methodology, and quality assurance process.
- ❖ It also informs survey respondents about data collection procedures and confidentiality safeguards.

Farmer Suicides in India

- ❖ Maharashtra and Karnataka have the highest farmer suicide rates in India, about 2.5 times the national average.
- ❖ Between 1995 and 2023, 394,206 farmers and agricultural labourers died by suicide in India.
- ❖ Southern and western India account for around 72.5% of all farmer suicides.
- ❖ The rapid spread of Bt cotton and repeated crop failures increased financial stress for farmers.
- ❖ Agricultural labourers now account for more suicides than cultivators, especially in 2023.
- ❖ The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), crop insurance, and debt relief helped reduce suicides after 2010.
- ❖ In 2023, India recorded 10,786 farmer suicides, a 75% increase compared to 2022.

Kalai-II hydropower project

- ❖ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) has recommended the environmental clearance for the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Kalai-II hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project is planned on the Lohit River in the Anjaw district.
- ❖ The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was prepared by WAPCOS Limited.
- ❖ But the EIA did not mention the white-bellied heron found in the project area.
- ❖ The white-bellied heron is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.
- ❖ The species is legally protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Pension schemes in India

- ❖ The Old Pension Scheme (OPS) in India was abolished as part of pension reforms by the Union Government.
- ❖ Repealed from 1 January 2004, it had a defined-benefit (DB) pension of half the Last Pay Drawn (LPD) at the time of retirement, along with components like Dearness Allowances (DA), etc.
- ❖ OPS was an unfunded pension scheme financed on a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) basis in which current revenues of the government funded the pension benefit for its retired employees.
- ❖ The Old Pension Scheme was replaced by a restructured defined-contribution (DC) pension scheme called the National Pension System.
- ❖ The National Pension System (NPS) is a defined-contribution pension system in India, regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
- ❖ The NPS started with the decision of the Government of India to stop defined benefit pensions for all its employees who joined after 1 January 2004.
- ❖ NPS is a market-linked annuity product.
- ❖ The Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) was started in Tamil Nadu for those who joined service on or after April 1, 2003
- ❖ The contributory pension scheme is a retirement savings plan where both the employee and employer (or government/scheme provider) contribute funds regularly, often as a percentage of salary, into an individual account, with the final pension amount depending on total contributions and investment growth.
- ❖ As of January 2026, the Tamil Nadu government has transitioned from the standard Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) to the newly announced Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS).

- ❖ The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), introduced by the Government of India in 2024 as an optional pension scheme along with the National Pension System (NPS) for the Central government employees.
- ❖ UPS operates within the existing NPS architecture regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and applies to both serving and retired employees under specific conditions.

Networking Year for the Indian Army

- ❖ The Indian Army has declared the year 2026 as the Year of Networking & Data Centricity.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve digital integration and real-time data sharing in military operations.
- ❖ It focuses on treating data as an important operational asset for decision-making.
- ❖ The programme supports better coordination among soldiers, command centres, and defence systems.
- ❖ It builds on the earlier theme of 2024–25, which was observed as the Year of Technology Absorption.

National Environmental Standard Laboratory

- ❖ India has inaugurated the world's second National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NESL) at CSIR – National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.
- ❖ NESL is an apex national facility for testing, calibration, and certification of air pollution monitoring instruments under Indian climatic conditions.
- ❖ The laboratory aims to create India-specific standards and support pollution control programmes such as the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ NESL provides accurate and standardised environmental data by calibrating instruments for temperature, humidity, and dust conditions found in India.
- ❖ Only two countries, India and the United Kingdom (UK), have national-level environmental standard laboratories.

National Solar Cell Calibration Facility

- ❖ India inaugurated the world's fifth National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration at CSIR – National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.
- ❖ The facility provides high-precision calibration of solar cells to ensure accurate photovoltaic (PV) measurements.

- ❖ It uses a laser-based Differential Spectral Responsivity (DSR) system for calibration.
- ❖ The facility achieves a low measurement uncertainty of about 0.35%, meeting global standards.
- ❖ It was developed in collaboration with PTB (Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt), Germany.
- ❖ The facility reduces India's dependence on foreign solar calibration and supports the domestic solar industry.

Live Events Development Cell

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up the Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) to promote India's concert economy.
- ❖ The LEDC was constituted in July 2025 as a single-window facilitation system for live events.
- ❖ It aims to support the growth of concerts, live shows, and entertainment events across India.
- ❖ India's organised live events market was valued at ₹20,861 crore in 2024.
- ❖ The sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18%.
- ❖ Live events generate large-scale employment and support tourism and cultural activities.

Battery Pack Aadhaar Number

- ❖ The Ministry of Transport has proposed a unique Aadhaar-like identification system for electric vehicle (EV) batteries.
- ❖ Under the draft guidelines, each EV battery must be assigned a 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) by the producer or importer.
- ❖ The BPAN system will allow complete traceability of batteries from raw material extraction and manufacturing to usage, recycling, and final disposal.
- ❖ Producers and importers must also upload the battery's dynamic data on the official BPAN portal for tracking.
- ❖ If a battery is recycled or repurposed, a new BPAN will be issued by the same or a new producer.
- ❖ The system aims to improve recycling efficiency, regulatory compliance, and sustainability in the battery ecosystem.

India's Russian Oil Imports

- ❖ India's oil imports from Russia rose to a six-month high in November 2025, while imports from the US also increased.
- ❖ India imported 7.7 million tonnes of oil from Russia, accounting for 35.1% of total oil imports in November 2025.
- ❖ This was the highest level since May 2025 and was higher than imports in November 2024.
- ❖ In value terms, India imported \$3.7 billion worth of Russian oil in November 2025.
- ❖ Oil imports from the US rose to a seven-month high, making up about 12.6% of India's oil imports.
- ❖ Together, Russia and the US accounted for nearly half of India's total oil imports in November 2025.

Coke Trade Policy

- ❖ The Government of India has removed the import restrictions on low-ash metallurgical coke.
- ❖ The decision was notified by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ Low ash metallurgical coke refers to coke with an ash content of less than 18%.
- ❖ The relaxation also covers coke fines, coke breeze, and ultra-low phosphorous metallurgical coke.
- ❖ Metallurgical coke is an essential raw material for steel production, especially in blast furnaces.
- ❖ The move aims to ensure adequate supply and control input costs for the domestic steel industry.

Bhairav Drone Force

- ❖ The Indian Army created a new modern warfare force named Bhairav.
- ❖ The force has over 1 lakh trained drone operatives for surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strikes.
- ❖ 15 battalions have been raised, with plans to expand to 25 battalions across borders.
- ❖ Bhairav bridges the gap between Para Special Forces (SF) and regular infantry for tactical and operational missions.

- ❖ One battalion is deployed in the desert sector under Southern Command, mainly with troops from Rajasthan.
- ❖ The battalions will appear publicly at the Indian Army Day Parade on 15 January 2026 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

BHARATI for Agri Startups

- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched the BHARATI initiative.
- ❖ BHARATI stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- ❖ The programme supports agri-food and agri-tech startups and helps them reach global markets.
- ❖ APEDA will select the top 10 startups to showcase their products internationally.
- ❖ APEDA's agri-exports grew about 7% during April–November 2025–26, reaching \$18.6 billion.
- ❖ India's total agricultural exports are expected to cross \$30 billion in the 2025–26 fiscal year.
- ❖ The initiative was announced at Indus food 2026, a global food and beverages exhibition with participants from over 120 countries.
- ❖ APEDA functions under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Commercial Bio-Bitumen Production

- ❖ India became the first country in the world to produce bio-bitumen commercially for road construction.
- ❖ Bio-bitumen is produced from biomass and agricultural waste and serves as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based bitumen.
- ❖ Conventional bitumen is a black, viscous hydrocarbon derived from crude oil and acts as the binding material in roads.
- ❖ Bio-bitumen helps reduce fossil fuel dependence and addresses crop residue burning, a major source of air pollution in India.
- ❖ The technology was developed and commercialized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Global Democracy Meet - IICDEM 2026

- ❖ The Election Commission of India will host the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026 in New Delhi.

- ❖ The conference is organised by the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management under the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world.
- ❖ India will chair the Council of Member States of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in 2026.

125 Years of DGMS

- ❖ The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) marked its 125th Foundation Day in 7th January.
- ❖ DGMS was established in 1902 and works under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ❖ It is the statutory authority for the safety, health and welfare of workers in coal, metalliferous and oil mines.
- ❖ The headquarters of DGMS is located in Dhanbad, Jharkhand.
- ❖ DGMS enforces the Mines Act, 1952 and other mining safety rules.
- ❖ It aims to ensure safe and hazard-free working conditions in mines.

Census of India 2027 Schedule

- ❖ The first phase of Census 2027, called House Listing Operations, will be held from 1 April to 30 September 2026 in all States and Union Territories.
- ❖ During this phase, data on houses, facilities, family details and consumption patterns will be collected.
- ❖ A self-enumeration facility will be available 15 days before the start of house-to-house data collection.
- ❖ The second phase, called Population Enumeration, will be conducted in February 2027.
- ❖ Caste details will be collected during the Population Enumeration phase.
- ❖ This will be India's first digital Census and the 16th Census overall.

Pesticides Management Bill, 2025

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare released the Draft Pesticides Management Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The Bill will replace the Insecticides Act, 1968.

- ❖ It will regulate the manufacture, import, sale, storage, transport and use of pesticides in India.
- ❖ The Bill provides for a Central Pesticides Board and a Registration Committee to control pesticide approval.
- ❖ It makes licensing, labelling and digital registration of pesticides compulsory.
- ❖ It includes penalties for unsafe or illegal use of pesticides.

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.

National IED Data Management System (NIDMS)

- ❖ The union home minister has inaugurated the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS).
- ❖ The NIDMS is a national digital platform for storing and analysing Improvised Explosive Device (IED) data.
- ❖ It has been developed by the National Bomb Data Centre of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- ❖ The system will support post-blast investigations and forensic analysis.
- ❖ It will enable data sharing among the State Police, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and Central agencies.
- ❖ NSG works under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign

- ❖ The government launched the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign to reduce child marriage by 10% by 2026 and eliminate it nationwide by 2030.
- ❖ The initiative was started in November 2024 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❖ It focuses on eradicating child marriages, especially among girls and marginalized communities.
- ❖ Balod district in Chhattisgarh became the country's first child marriage-free district.
- ❖ Zero child marriages reported across 436 Gram Panchayats and 9 urban local bodies for two consecutive years.
- ❖ Surajpur district, also in Chhattisgarh, declared 75 village panchayats as Child Marriage-Free Panchayats in September 2025.

DLTT Plan

- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles launched the district-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative to promote inclusive and sustainable growth in India's textile sector.
- ❖ The plan aims to transform 100 high-potential districts into Global Export Champions and develop 100 Aspirational Districts into self-reliant hubs.
- ❖ Districts were selected using a data-driven scoring methodology based on export performance, MSME ecosystem, and workforce presence.
- ❖ Champion Districts focus on scaling and sophistication through Mega Common Facility Centres (CFCs), Industry 4.0 integration, and direct export market linkages.
- ❖ The Aspirational Districts focus on foundation-building with basic skilling, raw material banks, and promotion of micro-enterprises via Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperatives.
- ❖ The initiative emphasizes Purvodaya convergence in eastern and northeastern zones, supporting tribal development, connectivity, and Geographical Indication (GI) tagging of handicrafts.
- ❖ The program seeks to strengthen textile clusters and replicate successful models across districts through government-industry-academia collaboration.

PANKHUDI Portal

- ❖ Union Minister for Women and Child Development launched the PANKHUDI portal to improve ease of living for women and children in India.

- ❖ The portal is an integrated digital platform that enhances coordination, transparency, and stakeholder participation in women and child development initiatives.
- ❖ It covers key areas such as nutrition, health, early childhood care and education, child welfare, and women's safety and empowerment.
- ❖ The portal will strengthen services through over 14 lakh Anganwadi centres, 5,000 child care institutions, and nearly 800 One Stop Centres.

India's Data Centre Capacity Growth in 2025

- ❖ India's data centre addition capacity more than doubled in 2025, reaching 387 megawatts (MW) of information technology (IT) capacity, compared to 191 MW of IT in 2024.
- ❖ MW IT capacity refers to the electrical power available to support information technology infrastructure in data centres.
- ❖ Data centre absorption (demand) also grew to 427 MW IT in 2025 from 407 MW IT, marking a 5 % year-on-year increase.
- ❖ Mumbai and Chennai accounted for approximately 70 % of total absorption in 2025.
- ❖ By the end of 2025, India's operational data centre stock reached around 1,520 MW IT.
- ❖ The report projects that India's data centre capacity will triple to over 4,000 MW IT (4 gigawatts of IT capacity) by 2030, growing at a 23 % compound annual growth rate (CAGR), reflecting the country's increasing digital infrastructure needs.

National Sports Board (NSB)

- ❖ The National Sports Governance Act partially came into effect.
- ❖ It will set the ball rolling for the institution of an all-powerful National Sports Board (NSB) and a Tribunal to handle sporting disputes.
- ❖ The provisions being brought into effect relate to the establishment and governance framework of National Sports Bodies, including the
 - National Olympic Committee,
 - National Paralympic Committee,
 - National Sports Federations (NSFs) and
 - Regional Sports Federations.

- ❖ The NSB is proposed to be a three-member body.
- ❖ The NSB will have a chairperson and members appointed by the Central Government from among "persons of ability, integrity and standing who possess special knowledge or practical experience in the field of public administration, sports governance, sports law and other related fields.
- ❖ It will have the power to not just grant affiliation to the National Sports Federations (NSFs) and monitor their financial operations and penalise them for any wrongdoing once the Act becomes fully operational.
- ❖ It would be mandatory for the NSFs to take NSB affiliation to be eligible for government funding.
- ❖ The age cap for all members of the NSB has been fixed at 65 and all members will be eligible for re-appointment for one more term subject to the age limit.

Shaksgam Valley issue

- ❖ India has reaffirmed that the Shaksgam Valley is part of its territory and rejected the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route passing through the area.
- ❖ The 1963 China–Pakistan Boundary Agreement is illegal and not recognised by India.
- ❖ Shaksgam Valley lies north of the Siachen Glacier and forms part of the larger Kashmir region.
- ❖ CPEC is a major infrastructure corridor connecting China's Xinjiang region to Pakistan's Gwadar Port.

Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

- ❖ More than 35.68 crore animals have been issued Pashu Aadhaar under the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM).
- ❖ The Pashu Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique ear-tag number used to record vaccination, breeding, and treatment details of livestock.
- ❖ Over 17.3 lakh milk producers in 54 milk unions use the Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS) for digital milk payment and quality recording.
- ❖ Around 198 milk unions and 15 federations use the Internet-based Dairy Information System (i-DIS) for data-based monitoring and planning.
- ❖ The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has also introduced Geographical Information System (GIS)-based milk route optimisation to reduce transport cost and time.

SHINE Scheme

- ❖ The SHINE Scheme was launched on the 79th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in New Delhi.
- ❖ SHINE stands for Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women.
- ❖ It is a new scheme of BIS to place women at the centre of India's quality journey.
- ❖ The scheme provides training and awareness through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- ❖ It spreads knowledge about standards, safety and quality in households and communities.

Akasa Air

- ❖ Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, founded in 2020, has become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ IATA represents over 360 airlines worldwide and manages more than 80% of global air traffic.
- ❖ Akasa cleared the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) in December 2025.
- ❖ India now has five IATA member airlines: Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet.
- ❖ Akasa plans to operate 226 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft by 2030 and aims to become a globally competitive airline.

District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Initiative

- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles launched the District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) initiative at the National Textile Ministers Conference in Guwahati.
- ❖ The scheme aims to develop 100 Global Export Champion districts and 100 Aspirational districts in the textile sector.
- ❖ These Districts are selected using data on exports, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and workforce strength.
- ❖ Champion districts will get Industry 4.0 technology and Mega Common Facility Centres for advanced growth.
- ❖ Aspirational districts will receive skill training, Raw Material Banks, and support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Fertiliser Production in 2025

- ❖ India has produced 524.62 lakh tonnes of fertilisers in 2025, meeting nearly 73 percent of domestic demand.

- ❖ This includes urea, DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate), NPKs (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium), and SSP (Single Super Phosphate).
- ❖ Fertiliser production has steadily increased over five years, from 433.29 lakh tonnes in 2021 to 467.87 lakh tonnes in 2022.
- ❖ It was 507.93 lakh tonnes in 2023, 509.57 lakh tonnes in 2024, and reaching 524.62 lakh tonnes in 2025.

All India Major Port Cultural Meet

- ❖ The 25th All India Major Port Cultural Meet 2025–26 concluded at Paradip Port, Odisha.
- ❖ The event was organized by the Paradip Port Authority (PPA) in association with the Major Ports Sports Control Board.
- ❖ The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority was declared the Overall Champion, Mumbai Port Authority was the Runners-up, and Deendayal & Cochin Port Authorities were Joint Second Runners-up.
- ❖ The meet promotes cultural exchange, unity, and camaraderie among India's port employees and strengthens national integration in the maritime sector.

Zero-Fatalities Road Safety Program

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) launched a data-driven Zero-Fatalities Program in 100 high-risk districts across 15 states, including Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
- ❖ The program aims to reduce road accident deaths, which claimed nearly 89,000 lives in 2023-24, by 50% by 2030, using crash data, critical location mapping, and targeted enforcement.
- ❖ Key measures include low-cost road safety interventions, improved trauma care, ambulance response mapping, first responder training, and public awareness campaigns.
- ❖ District Collectors, Transport Ministers, and Members of Parliament from these districts will form accident prevention committees to oversee implementation.
- ❖ The initiative aligns with the Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety (2020) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

BHASHINI Samudaye Workshop

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organised the BHASHINI Samudaye workshop to strengthen India's Language Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem in New Delhi.

- ❖ It was organised by the Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD), MeitY, in collaboration with Wadhwani AI.
- ❖ The event has focused on strengthening the Language AI ecosystem under the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).
- ❖ It brought together language experts, academic institutions, civil society organisations, and data practitioners.
- ❖ Sessions covered platform expansion, participatory governance, and citizen data contribution through Bhasha Daan.
- ❖ An initiative called the Dataset Onboarding Supporting Team (DOST) was launched to improve multilingual datasets for public digital infrastructure.

DIME Digital Platform

- ❖ The Indian Army launched a new digital logistics platform called DIME.
- ❖ DIME stands for Depot Integration Management Edition.
- ❖ It is a pan-Indian Army digital platform launched to modernise and streamline logistics management.
- ❖ The platform provides near real-time visibility of logistics assets from unit level to Army Headquarters.
- ❖ DIME is jointly developed by the Indian Army and BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics).
- ❖ It integrates logistics data across depots and formations using standardised digital workflows.
- ❖ The platform aims to reduce paperwork by about 70 % and shorten the logistics cycle by nearly one-third.

Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India delivered a split verdict on the constitutional validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- ❖ Section 17A was introduced by the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.
- ❖ It requires prior approval of the competent authority before conducting any enquiry or investigation against a public servant for decisions taken in the discharge of official duties.
- ❖ The provision was challenged by the Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL).
- ❖ The Supreme Court Bench expressed divergent judicial views on the validity of Section 17A.

Blue Food Security Summit

- ❖ India participated in the Second Global Summit on “Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026” held in Eilat, Israel.
- ❖ The summit focused on food security, sustainable fisheries, and aquaculture innovations.
- ❖ The National Centre for Mariculture (NCM), Eilat, showcased broodstock development, hatchery technologies, and integrated multi-trophic aquaculture.
- ❖ India and Israel have signed a Joint Ministerial Declaration of Intent to enhance cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture, including technology exchange, sustainable fishing practices, capacity building, and trade.
- ❖ The summit has included the participation from global leaders, scientists, and policymakers in the field of blue food security.

Solar-Powered MAPSS Surveillance Drone

- ❖ The Indian Army signed a ₹168 crore contract for the Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS), India’s first solar-powered surveillance drone.
- ❖ MAPSS is developed by New Space Research & Technologies, Bengaluru, under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework of the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The drone uses solar energy, enabling long-endurance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) missions across sensitive borders.
- ❖ Operational advantages include monitoring movement, observing border activity, supporting communications in remote areas, and reduced detectability due to quiet electric propulsion.
- ❖ The MAPSS variant has completed trials in operational environments and builds on earlier high-altitude solar drone tests demonstrating endurance beyond 24 hours at 26,000 feet.

New Pax Silica Member - India

- ❖ India is set to become a full member of the Pax Silica initiative, led by the United States Department of State, as early as February 2026.
- ❖ Pax Silica is a multilateral initiative aimed at building a secure, trusted, and resilient global technology ecosystem, covering energy security, critical minerals, semiconductor manufacturing, and advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models.
- ❖ The initiative seeks to reduce coercive dependencies in global supply chains, preventing over-reliance on any single country for critical materials or technologies.

- ❖ Members include the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Israel, the UAE, Australia, Taiwan, the European Union, Canada, and OECD countries.
- ❖ The initiative enhances cooperation in advanced technologies, AI governance, and supply chain security among participating countries.

151st Foundation Day of IMD

- ❖ India marked the 151st Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on 15 January 2026.
- ❖ It deployed 200 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in major cities.
- ❖ Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) automatically record and transmit weather data with high accuracy and frequency.
- ❖ The new AWS were deployed in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Pune to improve urban and hyper-local weather forecasting.
- ❖ IMD works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is India's main agency for weather forecasting and seismology.
- ❖ Its forecast accuracy has improved significantly in recent years, strengthening disaster preparedness and early warning systems.

5th Foundation Day - CSIR-NIScPR

- ❖ The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) marked its 5th Foundation Day in January 2026.
- ❖ CSIR-NIScPR works in science communication, policy research, and validation of traditional knowledge.
- ❖ The institute highlighted the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for science communication in regional languages.
- ❖ The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) was noted as a globally recognised digital repository of India's traditional knowledge.
- ❖ The SVASTIK web portal was launched to share scientifically validated traditional knowledge in multiple Indian and foreign languages.

Indian Lighthouse Festival 2026

- ❖ The 3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival was inaugurated at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ The festival aims to develop historic lighthouses as tourism hubs to boost local economies.

- ❖ Plans include Andhra Pradesh's first Lighthouse Museum in Visakhapatnam and four new lighthouses in the riverine areas of Assam.
- ❖ Lighthouse tourism supports coastal community empowerment, cultural heritage, and sustainable tourism.

India's Clean Energy Record in 2025

- ❖ India recorded a record increase in clean (Non-Fossil Fuel) energy capacity in 2025.
- ❖ India's non-fossil fuel installed capacity rose to 266.78 Gigawatt (GW) in 2025.
- ❖ It is a 22.6% increase from 217.62 GW in 2024.
- ❖ A total of 49.12 GW of new non-fossil energy capacity was added during the year.
- ❖ Solar power capacity increased to 135.81 GW, and wind power capacity reached 54.51 GW in 2025.
- ❖ Bioenergy stood at 11.61 GW, small hydro power at 5.16 GW, and large hydro power at 50.91 GW.

National PNG Drive 2.0

- ❖ GAIL India Limited has partnered with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for the National PNG Drive 2.0 initiative.
- ❖ The initiative runs under the #NonStopZindagi campaign from 1 January to 31 March 2026.
- ❖ It aims to promote the adoption of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) across India.
- ❖ It promotes the use of PNG and CNG as cleaner, safer and cost-efficient fuels for households, businesses and transportation.
- ❖ The drive supports wider goals to increase the share of natural gas in India's energy mix and strengthen the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network nationwide.
- ❖ GAIL's participation adds to a pan-India campaign with industry partners and outreach activities to boost fuel adoption.

NIRANTAR platform

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched the NIRANTAR platform.
- ❖ NIRANTAR is a digital dashboard to improve coordination among MoEFCC institutions like the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution

Control Boards (SPCBs), Forest Survey of India (FSI), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

- ❖ The platform enables real-time monitoring of environmental clearances, forest fire alerts, and wildlife trafficking data.
- ❖ It integrates climate and environmental data from multiple research bodies under one window for policy-making.
- ❖ NIRANTAR expands on earlier initiatives like PARIVESH and enhances inter-agency collaboration.
- ❖ The platform supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 13 (Climate Action) and 15 (Life on Land) through data-driven conservation.

ADMM-Plus Counter Terror Meet 2026

- ❖ The 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts Working Group on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ India and Malaysia jointly co-chair the 16th Experts Working Group under the ADMM-Plus framework.
- ❖ The meeting is part of the 2024–2027 three-year cycle of Experts Working Groups focusing on counter-terrorism cooperation.
- ❖ These Discussions cover information sharing, operational coordination, capacity building, and best practices to address terrorist threats in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ Table Top Exercise planning was held on 14 January 2026.
- ❖ Malaysia will host the exercise later in 2026, and India will conduct a Field Training Exercise in 2027.
- ❖ ADMM-Plus serves as a platform for practical defence cooperation in areas like maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, peacekeeping, military medicine, mine action, and cyber security.

Inquiry Committee for Judge Removal

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the Lok Sabha Speaker's formation of an Inquiry Committee to investigate the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma.
- ❖ Rejection of a motion in one House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) does not prevent the other House from forming an inquiry committee.
- ❖ Articles 124 (Supreme Court judges) and 218 (High Court judges) deal with the removal of judges.
- ❖ Judges can be removed only for proven misbehaviour or incapacity.

- ❖ The Inquiry Committee comprises a Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice, and a distinguished jurist, and is formed by the Speaker or Chairman after admission of the motion.
- ❖ The motion requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament, and removal is executed by the President of India.
- ❖ No judge of the higher judiciary has been successfully removed so far.

PM CARES Privacy Rights

- ❖ The Delhi High Court observed that the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES Fund) has a right to privacy under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- ❖ The bench noted that privacy protections may extend to juristic or government-linked entities.
- ❖ This observation came during an appeal against a single-judge ruling that had set aside the Central Information Commission (CIC) order on disclosure of PM CARES tax exemptions.
- ❖ The Income Tax Department had challenged the CIC order, which sought details of donors, contributions, tax exemptions, and expenditures of the fund.
- ❖ The court will continue hearing the appeal on February 10, 2026, and no information will be disclosed until a final decision.

Supreme Court on Unreserved Seats

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that unreserved (general) category seats are open to all candidates based on merit.
- ❖ Candidates from SCs, STs, and OBCs who qualify on general standards must be counted in unreserved seats.
- ❖ The Court clarified that unreserved seats are a merit-based open category, not a separate quota for the general category.
- ❖ The ruling explained the concept of merit-induced shift (selection without availing reservation benefits).
- ❖ The judgment arose from a 2013 Airports Authority of India (AAI) recruitment case.
- ❖ The decision is based on Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution (equality and equal opportunity).

Delivery Aggregators Reform Operations

- ❖ Major delivery platforms like Blinkit, Zepto, Zomato, and Swiggy agreed to remove the 10-minute delivery deadline.
- ❖ The decision followed government intervention to ensure safety and better working conditions for gig workers.
- ❖ Blinkit has already removed the 10-minute promise from its branding; others will follow soon.
- ❖ The move prioritizes delivery personnel's safety and dignity, and it reflects the government's focus on humane and sustainable e-commerce practices.

NPS Reforms Committee – MS Sahoo

- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has formed a high-level Committee to design a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS).
- ❖ The committee has 15 members and is chaired by MS Sahoo, former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- ❖ Its goal is to create market-based, legally enforceable guidelines for retirement income under NPS.
- ❖ NPS is a contributory, market-linked pension scheme launched in 2004, with contributions from employees (10%) and the government (14%).
- ❖ NPS Vatsalya Scheme 2025 provides long-term pension savings for minors, with partial withdrawals allowed for education and medical purposes.
- ❖ The initiative aims to ensure income certainty after retirement and promote financial security.

National Campaign for Women Entrepreneurship

- ❖ The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) has launched a National Campaign on Entrepreneurship to expand non-farm livelihood opportunities for rural women.
- ❖ The campaign aims to create three crore Lakhpatti Didis, women earning ₹1 lakh or more annually.
- ❖ Community Resource Persons will be trained to identify viable enterprises, mentor women entrepreneurs, and provide long-term support.
- ❖ The program will train 50,000 community resource persons and provide entrepreneurship development training to 50 lakh self-help group members.

- ❖ The initiative is expected to strengthen local economies, promote financial inclusion, and build a self-reliant rural non-farm economy led by women.

India's Bioeconomy Growth

- ❖ India's bioeconomy reached USD 166 billion in 2024, as announced during the inauguration of a Biosafety Level-4 (BSL-4) biocontainment facility in Gujarat.
- ❖ India's bioeconomy includes biotechnology, biopharmaceuticals, bio-agriculture, bio-industrial products, bio-energy, and health sciences.
- ❖ The sector grew from USD 10 billion in 2014 to about USD 165.7 billion by 2026, showing nearly 16-fold growth.
- ❖ The largest share is Bio-Industrial (47%), followed by Bio-Pharma (35%), Bio-Research and Information Technology (9%), and Bio-Agriculture (8%).
- ❖ The number of biotechnology start-ups increased from 50 in 2014 to over 11,000 in 2026.
- ❖ New BSL-4 laboratories, including the Gujarat facility, strengthen India's capacity for high-risk pathogen research and public health preparedness.

UGC Regulations 2026

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) notified new regulations in January 2026 to prevent caste-based discrimination in higher education institutions.
- ❖ The regulations are titled University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026.
- ❖ The rules cover Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) under caste-based discrimination.
- ❖ All higher education institutions must establish Equal Opportunity Centres (EOC) and Equity Committees with mandatory social representation.
- ❖ The UGC will create a national-level monitoring committee to oversee the implementation of the regulations.
- ❖ Institutions failing to comply may face loss of UGC recognition, schemes, or approval to offer degree programmes.

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.

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 Evar 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.

India’s Coal-Fired Generation

- ❖ India’s coal-fired power generation declined year-on-year in 2025 for the first time in about 50 years.

- ❖ Electricity from coal fell by nearly 3 % in 2025 compared with 2024.
- ❖ This drop is only the second full-year annual decline in at least half a century, the first being in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The decline was mainly due to record growth in clean energy (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear) meeting more of India's electricity demand.
- ❖ Milder weather and slower demand growth also contributed to the reduced coal generation.
- ❖ This change reflects a broader shift in India's electricity mix toward non-fossil sources.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025

- ❖ The Union Government notified the second round of mandatory emission-intensity reduction targets under the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity (GEI) Target (Amendment) Rules, 2025.
- ❖ These rules are issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❖ They came into force on 9 October 2025 and support India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
- ❖ Petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, textiles and secondary aluminium sectors are covered in the second round.
- ❖ Targets are based on emission intensity measured as tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e) per unit of output.
- ❖ Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) issues carbon credits, while the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) enforces compliance.
- ❖ The rules aim to cut emission intensity by about 3–7% by 2026–27 compared to the 2023–24 baseline.

Rabi Crop Area 2025–26

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare released data on rabi crop area coverage as of 16 January 2026.
- ❖ Total rabi crop area reached 652.33 lakh hectare, which is 20.88 lakh hectare higher than the same period last year.
- ❖ Wheat area increased by 6.13 lakh hectares, showing strong sowing progress.
- ❖ Pulse area rose by 3.82 lakh hectare, with gram recording the highest rise of 4.66 lakh hectare.

- ❖ Oilseeds coverage increased by 3.53 lakh hectare, mainly due to rapeseed and mustard.
- ❖ Shri Anna and coarse cereals area increased by 2.79 lakh hectare, supported by maize and barley.

Ocean Research Mission: Sagar Maitri-5

- ❖ INS Sagardhwani, India's oceanographic research vessel, was flagged off from Kochi for the Sagar Maitri-5 initiative.
- ❖ INS Sagardhwani was commissioned in July 1994 and collects oceanographic and acoustic data for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Sagar Maitri-5 stands for Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative, promoting ocean research cooperation.
- ❖ The program involves eight Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries, including Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen scientific collaboration, socio-economic cooperation, and joint oceanographic studies with the Maldives.

India's 2nd LNG Supplier – UAE

- ❖ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a long-term agreement for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply.
- ❖ Under this deal, the UAE will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes of LNG per year to India.
- ❖ This makes the UAE India's second-largest LNG supplier after Qatar.
- ❖ LNG is a cleaner fossil fuel used for power generation, industry, and cooking gas.
- ❖ The agreement strengthens energy security and diversifies India's energy sources.
- ❖ The countries also plan to expand cooperation in trade, defence, food security, and nuclear energy.

Environmental Protection Fund Rules 2026

- ❖ The Union Government notified detailed rules 2026 for the utilisation and administration of the Environmental (Protection) Fund.
- ❖ The fund is provided under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❖ It was strengthened through the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which decriminalised offences but retained monetary penalties.

- ❖ The fund uses penalties collected for pollution control, environmental restoration, and monitoring.
- ❖ It is administered by the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).
- ❖ The fund supports pollution mitigation, clean technology, research, and capacity building.

India's First Policy for Critical Minerals

- ❖ The Government of India announced the first comprehensive tailings policy.
- ❖ Tailings are waste materials left after minerals are extracted from ore.
- ❖ The policy allows recovery of critical and strategic minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements from mine waste, tailings ponds, slags, and industrial residues.
- ❖ Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), and Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD) will explore and assess these materials.
- ❖ Many companion minerals, including selenium, tellurium, molybdenum, germanium, and silver, are present alongside primary ores.
- ❖ The policy aims to reduce import dependence, enhance self-reliance, and support green technologies like batteries, solar panels, and wind turbines.

Steel Slag Technology

- ❖ Union Minister Jitendra Singh proposed using steel slag for road construction in hilly and Himalayan regions.
- ❖ Steel slag is an industrial by-product from steel manufacturing, reused for stronger and more durable roads.
- ❖ The technology improves road strength, water resistance, and reduces repair time.
- ❖ Special focus is on the Himalayan states where landslides and heavy rains damage roads.
- ❖ ECOFIX, a ready-to-use pothole repair mix using steel slag, was developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute with Technology Development Board support.
- ❖ A slag processing facility with a capacity of 2 lakh tonnes per year is planned for 2027 to support commercial use and sustainable roads.

Atal Pension Yojana extension

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) until the financial year 2030–31.
- ❖ APY is a government-backed pension scheme for unorganised sector workers, including labourers, vendors, and domestic helpers.
- ❖ The scheme was launched on May 9, 2015, and provides a fixed monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after the age of 60.
- ❖ The government will continue funding awareness programs, training, and gap support to make the scheme sustainable.
- ❖ As of January 19, 2026, more than 8.66 crore people have subscribed to the scheme.
- ❖ APY helps workers save regularly, ensures income security in old age, and promotes financial inclusion.

National Legislative Index

- ❖ The National Legislative Index (NLI) was announced by Lok Sabha Speaker at the 86th All India Presiding Officers Conference.
- ❖ It is a performance evaluation system to measure and compare the work of Parliament and State Legislatures.
- ❖ The NLI uses objective indicators like the number of sittings, legislative output, committee work, and use of House time.
- ❖ The aim is to improve efficiency, accountability, and quality of debates in legislatures.
- ❖ It allows the comparison across states and Parliament to encourage healthy competition and better lawmaking.

All India Presiding Officers' Conference 2026 – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC) was held in Lucknow.
- ❖ The conference is the highest national forum for presiding officers of Parliament and all State and Union Territory legislatures.
- ❖ It aims to enhance legislative efficiency, accountability, transparency, and deliberation quality, and to foster best practices among Parliament and State Legislatures.
- ❖ Around 36 presiding officers from 24 States and UTs attended, making it the largest AIPOC to date.

- ❖ Six key resolutions were adopted, including ensuring at least 30 sittings per year in state legislatures and creating a National Legislative Index to compare and improve legislative performance.
- ❖ The theme was “Strong Legislature-Prosperous Nation”.

Draft National Electricity Policy 2026

- ❖ 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 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.

PM SVANidhi Credit Card

- ❖ The SVANidhi Credit Card, a UPI-linked RuPay credit card introduced under the restructured scheme.
- ❖ It is designed as an interest-free, revolving credit facility to help vendors manage day-to-day liquidity needs while encouraging digital payments.
- ❖ This Card would provide immediate access to credit to the street vendors in order to meet any emergent business and personal requirements.
- ❖ The card is available to beneficiaries who have repaid their second tranche loan on time.
- ❖ The revised loan structure allows borrowing of up to Rs 15,000 in the first tranche, Rs 25,000 in the second, and Rs 50,000 in the third.

Fish Farming Project

- ❖ India has started its first open-sea marine fish farming project in the Andaman Sea.
- ❖ The project is located near North Bay, Sri Vijaya Puram, in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
- ❖ The project uses indigenously designed open-sea cages for marine finfish farming and deep-water seaweed cultivation.
- ❖ It aims to create coastal livelihoods, strengthen marine food security, and support India's Blue Economy vision.
- ❖ The pilot project will test technical feasibility and provide a model for future public-private partnership (PPP) scale-ups.

India's rank in Cooperative Network

- ❖ India emerged as a global cooperative powerhouse, with over 8.5 lakh registered cooperatives as of 2025.
- ❖ The country accounts for 27% of all cooperatives worldwide and covers nearly 32 crore members, mostly in rural areas.
- ❖ Cooperatives provide credit access to farmers, integrate small producers into markets (like Amul), and support food security and sustainable livelihoods.
- ❖ Key initiatives include digitalization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), creation of national cooperative bodies, and White Revolution 2.0 for milk production.
- ❖ India's cooperatives now have a global presence, with exports worth over ₹5,500 crore and digital reforms improving transparency and efficiency.

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.

77th Republic Day of India – Key Highlights

- ❖ Flight Lieutenant Akshita Dhankar made history by unfurling the national flag alongside President Droupadi Murmu during the 77th Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2026 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Chief Guests were Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, and Antonio Costa, President of the European Council.
- ❖ Ursula von der Leyen is the first President of the European Commission to attend India's Republic Day celebrations as Chief Guest.
- ❖ The central theme of the Republic Day parade was 'Vande Mataram'.
- ❖ For the first time, a Bactrian camel (two-humped camel) was included in the parade, highlighting India's desert and border security forces.
- ❖ Republic Day marks the adoption of the Constitution of India, which came into force on 26 January 1950.

Granth Kutir

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated Granth Kutir, a book house, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ❖ Granth Kutir has a collection of about 2,300 books in 11 classical Indian languages, including Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali.
- ❖ The collection covers subjects such as epics, philosophy, linguistics, history, governance, science, devotional literature, and the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Around 50 manuscripts are part of the collection, written on palm leaf, paper, bark, and cloth.
- ❖ The aim is to raise awareness about India's cultural, literary, and intellectual heritage.

100 GW Hydro Pumped Storage

- ❖ India is planning 100 gigawatts of hydro pumped storage by 2047.
- ❖ Hydro pumped storage uses extra electricity to pump water uphill and generate power during peak demand.
- ❖ It will help manage electricity supply and support renewable energy like solar and wind.
- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has identified 120 potential sites for these projects.
- ❖ About 22 GW of projects are already under development, and 50–60 GW are shortlisted for phased rollout.

LR-AShM missile in the Republic Day parade

- ❖ DRDO showcased the LR-AShM hypersonic glide missile system for the first time at the 77th Republic Day parade.
- ❖ The LR-AShM (Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile) is an indigenously developed hypersonic glide missile.
- ❖ It is designed mainly for coastal defence operations of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It is capable of striking high-value enemy naval targets with high precision.

Carbon Credit Trading Scheme Expansion

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity targets for 208 additional high-emitting units.
- ❖ The notification brought four new sectors, namely Petroleum Refineries, Petrochemicals, Textiles and Secondary Aluminium, under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme.
- ❖ With this inclusion, the total number of obligated entities under the scheme increased to 490.
- ❖ Earlier, Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity targets were notified in October 2025 for the Aluminium, Cement, Chlor Alkali and Pulp and Paper sectors.
- ❖ The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) was notified in 2023 to operationalise the Indian Carbon Market.
- ❖ The scheme allows industries achieving excess emission reductions to earn Carbon Credit Certificates for trading.

RVC Parade on Republic Day 2026

- ❖ The Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) of the Indian Army made a debut at the Republic Day Parade 2026.
- ❖ For the first time in its 247-year history, the RVC contingent was led by a woman officer.
- ❖ Captain Harshita Raghav was inducted into the RVC in 2023 leading the contingent.
- ❖ The RVC is responsible for breeding, training, and maintaining Army animals such as horses, mules, camels, and dogs.
- ❖ The corps was originally set up as the Stud Department in Bengal in 1779 and formally named RVC in 1960.
- ❖ The RVC supports military operations, logistics, reconnaissance, combat support, and disaster relief across India.

India's Malaria Progress Report

- ❖ India reduced malaria cases by nearly 80% between 2015 and 2023 and is on track to meet its 2030 elimination target.
- ❖ India aims to eliminate malaria by 2030 under the National Framework for Malaria Elimination.
- ❖ By 2023, 34 States and Union Territories had an Annual Parasite Incidence (API) below 1 per 1,000 population, except Tripura (5.69) and Mizoram (14.23).
- ❖ By 2025, 160 districts in 23 States/UTs reported zero indigenous malaria cases between 2022 and 2024.

India's Renewable Capacity

- ❖ India is reaching 50% of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, five years ahead of the 2030 target.
- ❖ As of June 30, 2025, India's total installed power capacity is 484.82 gigawatts (GW).
- ❖ Out of this, 242.8 GW comes from non-fossil fuel sources, including 8.78 GW nuclear, 49.38 GW hydroelectric, and 184.62 GW renewable energy.
- ❖ Renewable energy sources include 5.10 GW of small hydropower, 51.67 GW of wind power, 11.59 GW of bioenergy, and 116.25 GW of solar power.
- ❖ This achievement is part of India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

India's First National Income Surveys

- ❖ The National Statistics Office (NSO) is preparing India's first-ever nationwide surveys on household income and corporate services.
- ❖ The surveys include the National Household Income Survey (NHIS) and the Annual Survey of Incorporated Service Sector Enterprises (ASISSE).
- ❖ Both surveys will start fieldwork in April 2026 and will be conducted using a fully digital mode.
- ❖ NHIS collects data on household income distribution, living conditions, returns to labour, capital and land, supporting policy planning and economic analysis.
- ❖ ASISSE focuses on incorporated service sector enterprises, capturing Gross Value Added, capital formation, employment, and emoluments, using the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) framework.

INTERNATIONAL

2,200-Year-Old Chinese highway

- ❖ Archaeologists in China have unearthed a 2,200-year-old Qin Straight Road, a 900 km highway built by Emperor Qin Shi Huang.
- ❖ The road runs from Xianyang to Jiuyuan and was constructed between 212 BC and 207 BC under the supervision of General Meng Tian.
- ❖ It was designed for rapid troop movements against Xiongnu nomads and featured rammed earth, filled valleys, and straight trenches, creating a level path 40–60 meters wide.
- ❖ Excavations in Yulin, Shaanxi, revealed a 13-km stretch, showing compacted roadbeds, reinforced slopes, and evidence of heavy use.
- ❖ A nearby relay station contained Qin-to-Han ceramics, confirming its long-term strategic and commercial importance.
- ❖ The highway is considered “the ancestor of the world’s highways”, second only to the Great Wall in scale and defence function.

New Currency Series – Syria

- ❖ Syria's interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa unveiled the country's new banknotes.
- ❖ They removed images of ousted leader Bashar al-Assad and his father Hafez al-Assad.

- ❖ The new currency, which enters circulation on 1 January, features denominations of 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 Syrian pounds following the removal of two zeros from existing notes.
- ❖ By 2023, the exchange rate of Syrian pound had fallen to 15,000 pounds per dollar.

Guinea presidential election

- ❖ Guinea coup leader Mamady Doumbouya has been elected president.
- ❖ This is the country's first election since a military takeover in 2021.
- ❖ He seized power from President Alpha Condé in 2021.
- ❖ Guinea holds the world's largest bauxite reserves and the vast untapped iron ore deposit at Simandou.

New Crypto Law - Turkmenistan

- ❖ Turkmenistan formally legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchange operations.
- ❖ The law classifies cryptocurrencies as virtual assets governed under civil law.
- ❖ Digital currencies are not recognised as legal tender, currency, or securities in the country.
- ❖ Cryptocurrency exchanges will require licenses and operate under the supervision of Turkmenistan's central bank.
- ❖ The legislation aims to regulate crypto activities while maintaining strict state control over the economy.

Annual Nuclear List Exchange 2026

- ❖ India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear installations on January 1, 2026.
- ❖ The exchange was carried out under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities.
- ❖ The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988, and came into force on January 27, 1991.
- ❖ Both countries exchange these lists every year on January 1 as a confidence-building measure.
- ❖ The exchange was conducted through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad.

- ❖ India and Pakistan also exchanged lists of prisoners under the Consular Access Agreement of 2008.

21st Member of the Eurozone - Bulgaria

- ❖ Bulgaria officially adopted the euro, becoming the 21st member of the Eurozone.
- ❖ Bulgaria replaced its national currency, the lev, which had been in use since the late 19th century.
- ❖ The move comes nearly 20 years after Bulgaria joined the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Euro adoption aims to boost trade, improve price transparency, and attract foreign investment.
- ❖ The Eurozone is the group of EU countries that use the euro (€) as their common currency.
- ❖ With Bulgaria's entry, the euro is now used by more than 350 million people across Europe.

EU's Climate Trade Measure

- ❖ The European Union (EU) has started the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- ❖ CBAM imposes a carbon tax on imports of steel, aluminium, cement, chemicals, paper, glass, fertilisers, and power-sector goods.
- ❖ Indian exports of steel, iron, and aluminium are affected due to high carbon emissions in production.
- ❖ Most Indian steel is made by the Blast Furnace–Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF–BOF) route, which produces high emissions.
- ❖ Cleaner steel production uses the Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) route, which recycles steel scrap.
- ❖ CBAM may increase costs for Indian exporters and affect Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) the most.

Bilateral Talks on Ganga Water Sharing

- ❖ India and Bangladesh started talks to renew the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty, which will expire in December 2026.
- ❖ The treaty was originally signed in 1996 to share dry-season flows of the Ganga at the Farakka Barrage.

- ❖ Officials are taking joint water measurements in the Ganga and Padma rivers every 10 days until May 31.
- ❖ The Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission coordinates water-sharing matters between the two countries.
- ❖ India and Bangladesh share 54 transboundary rivers, and the Farakka Barrage was built in 1975.
- ❖ Talks aim to balance domestic water needs with regional cooperation amid growing water stress.

Non-permanent members of UNSC 2026

- ❖ Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia and Liberia have begun two-year terms as non-permanent members.
- ❖ They replacing Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia, whose terms ended last month.
- ❖ The election process for non-permanent seats on the UNSC involves regional groups nominating candidates.
- ❖ There are four regional groups.
- ❖ UNSC comprises 5 permanent (P5) and 10 non-permanent members.
- ❖ Out of the 10 non-permanent members, five are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term.

Global Governance Initiative

- ❖ China has reiterated its Global Governance Initiative (GGI) as the core of its four global initiatives.
- ❖ The GGI is China's proposal to reform the existing global governance system.
- ❖ It aims to make global governance more inclusive, representative, and people-centred.
- ❖ The GGI calls for greater participation of developing countries in international decision-making.
- ❖ It supports the reform of international institutions and cooperation on climate change, trade, finance, and artificial intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The initiative seeks to ensure that the benefits of globalisation reach all countries and people.

Monroe Doctrine

- ❖ US President Donald Trump invoked the Monroe Doctrine to justify a US military operation in Venezuela.
- ❖ The doctrine continues to affect modern geopolitics and international relations.
- ❖ The Monroe Doctrine was announced in 1823 by US President James Monroe.
- ❖ It stated that European countries should not interfere in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere.
- ❖ In return, the US declared that it would not interfere in European political matters.
- ❖ The doctrine aimed to protect newly independent Latin American countries from European colonisation.

Global Minimum Tax Agreement

- ❖ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and G20 countries agreed on a global minimum tax package.
- ❖ The tax targets the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) by the multinational enterprises.
- ❖ Pillar One reallocates taxing rights to countries where profits are earned.
- ❖ Pillar Two sets a global minimum corporate tax of 15% to prevent tax competition.
- ❖ The package includes simplification measures, safe harbours, and substance-based tax incentives.
- ❖ India is a member of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, launched in 2016 with 147 countries.

US Foreign Policy Shift

- ❖ The United States announced its withdrawal from 66 international organisations under the Trump administration.
- ❖ This includes 31 United Nations bodies and 35 non-United Nations organisations.
- ❖ The United States will leave the Paris Agreement again, and this will take effect on January 27, 2026.
- ❖ The United States is also planning to withdraw from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the main global climate treaty.
- ❖ The exit includes major bodies like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Renewable Energy Agency, and International Solar Alliance.

- ❖ The United States will remain a member of the United Nations Security Council, the World Food Programme, and the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Orinoco Belt and Guiana Shield

- ❖ The USA has focused on Venezuela's mineral-rich Orinoco Belt and Guiana Shield.
- ❖ The Orinoco Belt in Venezuela holds the world's largest extra-heavy crude oil reserves.
- ❖ It is located in the Orinoco River Basin across Guárico, Anzoátegui, Monagas, Delta Amacuro, and Bolívar states.
- ❖ The Guiana Shield is an ancient Precambrian geological region spread across Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Brazil, and Colombia.
- ❖ It has large tropical forests, fresh water resources, and mineral deposits like gold, bauxite, diamonds, and iron ore.
- ❖ It includes famous features such as Angel Falls, Mount Roraima, and Pico da Neblina.

BRICS Chairmanship

- ❖ Brazil has handed over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) presidency to India for 2026.
- ❖ India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.
- ❖ India's chairmanship focuses on four pillars: Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Environmental Sustainability.
- ❖ India aims to reform global governance without replacing international institutions like the IMF and the World Bank.
- ❖ India represents the concerns of the Global South and promotes a multipolar world order.
- ❖ BRICS includes approximately 49.5% of the global population, 40% of global GDP, and 26% of global trade.

G7 Critical Minerals Talks

- ❖ The United States (US) invited India and Australia to join the G7 finance ministers' talks on critical minerals in Washington in January 2026.
- ❖ The meeting is being held to secure supply chains of critical minerals needed for defence, technology, and clean energy.

- ❖ The Group of Seven (G7) includes the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Australia has large reserves of rare earths and lithium, and it signed an agreement with the US in October 2025 on mineral cooperation.
- ❖ China controls 47% to 87% of the global refining of key minerals like lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper, and rare earths.
- ❖ The talks aim to reduce dependence on China and diversify global mineral supply chains.

Weimar Triangle

- ❖ India's External Affairs Minister participated in India's first-ever engagement with the Weimar Triangle, along with France, Germany, and Poland.
- ❖ The Weimar Triangle is a regional political grouping of France, Germany, and Poland.
- ❖ It was formed on 29 August 1991 through a joint declaration issued in Weimar, Germany.
- ❖ One of its objectives is to involve France in the reconciliation between Germany and Poland.
- ❖ Another objective is to strengthen political dialogue and cooperation among the three countries.
- ❖ It also supports Poland's integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).

International Renewable Energy Agency

- ❖ India's Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy has attended the 16th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ IRENA is an intergovernmental organization established in 2009 to promote the use of renewable energy worldwide.
- ❖ It supports countries in shifting to a sustainable energy future by sharing policy, technology and financial knowledge.
- ❖ IRENA headquarters Abu Dhabi, UAE and has 170 members (169 countries and the European Union (EU)); India is a founding member.
- ❖ IRENA is an official observer of the United Nations (UN).

New Constitution in Yemen

- ❖ Yemen's Southern Transitional Council (STC), a coalition of separatist groups, announced a new constitution for the "State of South Arabia".
- ❖ They aiming for independence from northern Yemen.
- ❖ The STC, formed in 2017 under Aidarous Qassem al-Zubaidi.
- ❖ It initially joined Yemen's government via the Riyadh Agreement but later recaptured Aden and asserted self-rule in 2020.
- ❖ In December 2025, the STC launched "Operation Promising Future," taking control of Hadramout and Al-Mahra Governorates.
- ❖ This region holds 80% of Yemen's oil reserves.
- ❖ Saudi-led strikes soon recaptured lost territories, and Mr. al-Zubaidi was removed from the Presidential Council and fled to the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The STC continues to pursue autonomy for southern Yemen but faces challenges in achieving a two-state reality due to regional and domestic opposition.

Russian Fossil Fuel Imports

- ❖ India has slipped to the third position among buyers of Russian fossil fuels in December 2025, as crude oil imports from Russia declined.
- ❖ India's imports of Russian hydrocarbons fell to €2.3 billion in December 2025, from €3.3 billion in November 2025.
- ❖ This placed India below Türkiye (€2.6 billion), while China remained the largest buyer, accounting for 48% of export revenues among top importers.
- ❖ Crude oil formed 78% (€1.8 billion) of India's Russian energy imports; coal (€424 million) and oil products (€82 million) formed the rest.
- ❖ Russia supplied about 25% of India's total crude oil imports in December, down from 35% in November 2025.
- ❖ The decline was due to US sanctions, the G7-led price cap policy, and reduced purchases by private and state-owned Indian refiners.
- ❖ The data was highlighted by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

India-Germany Diplomatic Relations

- ❖ India and Germany are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2026.
- ❖ Diplomatic relations between India and Germany were established in 1951.
- ❖ Both countries completed 25 years of Strategic Partnership in 2025.

- ❖ India and Germany cooperate in areas like trade, investment, technology, climate action, and global governance.

UN High Seas Treaty

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) High Seas Treaty will officially come into force on 18 January 2026.
- ❖ The treaty is called the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
- ❖ It aims to protect marine life in international waters, covering more than two-thirds of the world's oceans and about 10 million species.
- ❖ 148 countries have signed the treaty since its adoption in June 2023; 81 countries have fully ratified it in their national laws.
- ❖ Countries that ratified include Palau, Cuba, the Maldives, China, Germany, Japan, France, and Brazil.
- ❖ The treaty sets binding rules for conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing, protected areas, and scientific research in the high seas.

Israel's withdrawal from UN Bodies

- ❖ Israel announced its withdrawal from seven United Nations (UN) agencies and affiliated bodies in January 2026.
- ❖ The agencies include UN Women, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UN Alliance of Civilisations, UN Energy, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
- ❖ The decision follows a review after the United States exited 66 international organisations.
- ❖ Israel cited alleged political bias against Israel and bureaucratic inefficiency as reasons for its withdrawal.
- ❖ Israel had previously cut ties with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict in 2024.
- ❖ Countries can withdraw from UN agencies without leaving the UN itself.

World's Oldest Flowing River - Finke River

- ❖ The Finke River has been recognised as the world's oldest flowing river based on geological evidence.

- ❖ It is believed to be 300–400 million years old, older than the age of dinosaurs.
- ❖ The river flows through the Northern Territory and South Australia in central Australia.
- ❖ It is also known as Larapinta by the Arrernte people.
- ❖ The river cuts through the MacDonnell Ranges due to a geological process called antecedence (river existed before mountain uplift).
- ❖ Despite being intermittent, it remains part of the same ancient river system.

China's Demographic Decline in 2025

- ❖ China's population declined again in 2025 despite new birth incentive policies.
- ❖ China's population fell by about 3 million in 2025, marking the fourth straight year of decline.
- ❖ Births dropped to a record low of 7.92 million in 2025.
- ❖ The birth rate fell to 5.63 births per 1,000 people, the lowest ever recorded.
- ❖ China's fertility rate is estimated to be around 1, below the replacement level of 2.1.
- ❖ The decline continues despite cash incentives and policy changes to encourage childbirth.

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

- ❖ Spain has joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by handing over the Declaration of Accession to India's External Affairs Minister.
- ❖ IPOI is a voluntary, non-treaty framework for maritime cooperation, launched by India in 2019 under the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.
- ❖ The aim is to promote a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- ❖ It focuses on practical cooperation in maritime security, ecology, resources, disaster management, science & technology, trade, and connectivity.
- ❖ Countries can voluntarily lead individual thematic pillars, and the initiative takes a non-military, non-bloc approach.

'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.

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.

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.

UPI in Japan

- ❖ India's digital payment system, called UPI (Unified Payments Interface), will start in Japan in 2026.
- ❖ It will be tested first with Indian tourists so they can pay directly from their Indian bank accounts.
- ❖ The project is a partnership between Japan's NTT Data and India's National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ❖ UPI is already operational in eight countries, including Bhutan, Singapore, Nepal, the UAE, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Mauritius, and France.

- ❖ UPI was started in India in 2016 and is the world's biggest real-time payment system.

ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting

- ❖ The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers' Meeting was held virtually.
- ❖ The theme of the event is "Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence."
- ❖ The aim is to strengthen ASEAN-India regional cooperation in the digital sector.
- ❖ The ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan 2026 was approved, focusing on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capacity building and telecom solutions.

India-EU First Defense Partnership

- ❖ India and the European Union (EU) signed their first comprehensive Security and Defence Partnership.
- ❖ The agreement was signed during the 77th Republic Day celebrations in India.
- ❖ It covers maritime security, defence industry, cyber threats, counter-terrorism, and defence technology.
- ❖ Alongside, both sides started negotiations on a Security of Information Agreement (SOIA) for sharing classified material.
- ❖ The partnership includes a strategic roadmap, "Towards 2030: India-EU Joint Comprehensive Strategic Agenda".
- ❖ The roadmap focuses on prosperity, technology, security, connectivity, and people-to-people ties.

Dollar Index Drop

- ❖ The U.S. dollar fell to its lowest level in four years recently
- ❖ The U.S. Dollar Index, which measures the dollar against major global currencies, fell 1.4% to 95.77 its lowest since February 2022.
- ❖ The decline is linked to trade tensions, domestic political uncertainty, and concerns over the independence of the Federal Reserve.
- ❖ Trump announced plans to raise tariffs on South Korean and Canadian imports.
- ❖ The Japanese yen strengthened to 152 per dollar, while the euro rose above \$1.20.

ECONOMY

India's Economy Growth

- ❖ India became the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, overtaking Japan, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$4.18 trillion.
- ❖ Official projections indicate India will surpass Germany and become the third-largest economy by 2030, reaching an estimated GDP of \$7.3 trillion.
- ❖ Real GDP growth reached 8.2% in the second quarter of FY 2025–26, marking a six-quarter high, supported by strong industrial output and services sector expansion.
- ❖ Domestic demand, especially private consumption, has remained a key driver of growth, aided by declining unemployment and stable financial conditions.
- ❖ Policy reforms, including Income Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalisation, supportive monetary conditions, and government capital expenditure, have strengthened economic momentum.
- ❖ India aims to achieve high middle-income status by 2047, with a favourable macroeconomic environment described as a “goldilocks period” of high growth and low inflation.

RBI Report

- ❖ The RBI released the Trends and Progress of Banking in India 2023–24 report, highlighting emerging risks in the banking sector.
- ❖ Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) declined to a 13-year low of 2.7% in March 2024 and further to 2.5% by September 2024.
- ❖ Banks have recorded higher profitability, with Return on Assets (RoA) at 1.4% and Return on Equity (RoE) at 14.6% in Financial Year (FY) 2023–24.
- ❖ The RBI flagged concerns over the rising share of unsecured loans, which accounted for 25.3% of total credit in Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) by March 2024.
- ❖ Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) showed strong credit growth with improved asset quality and a healthy Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR).
- ❖ The report also noted risks from dark patterns in digital lending and high employee attrition in banks, affecting operational stability.

Scale-Based Regulation for NBFCs

- ❖ The RBI has started a review of the Scale-Based Regulation (SBR) framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

- ❖ The SBR framework was introduced in 2022 to regulate NBFCs based on their size, risk, and systemic importance.
- ❖ Under SBR, NBFCs are classified into Base Layer, Middle Layer, Upper Layer, and Top Layer.
- ❖ The review aims to address rising systemic risks and growing links between banks and NBFCs.
- ❖ NBFC credit now accounts for nearly 15% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- ❖ The review seeks to ensure financial stability and effective supervision of NBFCs.

IIP growth – November 2025

- ❖ Growth in the Index of Industrial Production surged to a 25-month high of 6.7% in November 2025.
- ❖ IIP's growth in November 2025 was last outpaced by the 11.9% seen in October 2023.
- ❖ IIP growth averaged 3.6% during October-November 2025, lower than the 4.3% expansion seen in the July-September 2025 quarter.
- ❖ The infrastructure and construction sector grew at 12.1% in November 2025, the fastest since October 2023.
- ❖ Both consumer durables and consumer non-durables sectors witnessed a rebound in growth in November 2025, growing 10.3% and 7.3%, respectively.

Market Access Support Intervention

- ❖ The Government of India has launched the Market Access Support (MAS) Intervention to help Indian exporters enter global markets.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- ❖ It mainly supports Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and first-time exporters.
- ❖ MAS provides financial and institutional support for trade fairs, exhibitions and Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs).
- ❖ The programme is implemented under the NIRYAT DISHA sub-scheme.
- ❖ It aims to promote export diversification and improve the global competitiveness of Indian exports.

Financial Stability Report 2026

- ❖ The RBI released its Financial Stability Report (FSR) on January 2, 2026.
- ❖ FSR is a biannual publication issued in June and December, with inputs from the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) sub-committee.
- ❖ The report noted that India's sovereign debt is sustainable, supported by an S&P rating upgrade to 'BBB'.
- ❖ Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) maintain strong capital buffers, and the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio declined to 2.2% by September 2025.
- ❖ Lending in the fintech sector grew by 36.1%, while foreign-currency stablecoins could affect India's monetary policy.
- ❖ The report highlighted depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar due to trade and capital flow factors.

New Credit-Linked Schemes

- ❖ The Government of India launched two pilot schemes under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- ❖ These schemes are part of Niryat Protsahan, the financial support pillar of EPM.
- ❖ Interest Subvention Scheme gives 2.75% interest support on rupee export credit for selected exporters.
- ❖ The Collateral Support Scheme provides credit guarantees up to ₹10 crore through the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- ❖ EPM started in November 2025, runs for six years, and has a budget of ₹25,060 crore.
- ❖ It aims to make exporting cheaper, support MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises), boost jobs, and improve India's global export competitiveness.

Payments Regulatory Board

- ❖ The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The PRB is a statutory body through which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates and supervises payment and settlement systems in India.
- ❖ It was established under Section 3 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- ❖ It replacing the earlier Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).

- ❖ The PRB became operational from 9 May 2025, after amendments were notified by the Government of India.
- ❖ Key functions include authorisation of payment systems (UPI, cards, wallets, RTGS), setting technical and security standards, risk management, policy direction, and supervision and enforcement.
- ❖ The PRB strengthens digital payments governance, enhances consumer trust, and ensures systemic stability in India's payment ecosystem.

Delhi Financial Governance Reforms

- ❖ The Delhi Government signed a historic MoU with the RBI.
- ❖ This brings Delhi under the RBI's full banking, cash, and debt management framework for the first time.
- ❖ Under the MoU, RBI will act as Delhi's banker, debt manager, and financial agent.
- ❖ The framework allows market borrowings through State Development Loans, automatic investment of surplus cash, and access to low-cost liquidity facilities.
- ❖ The Professional cash management practices will improve efficiency and reduce borrowing costs.
- ❖ The initiative strengthens fiscal discipline, transparency, and long-term financial sustainability in Delhi's governance.

India's Silver Import

- ❖ India imported \$6.4 billion of refined silver in 2024, making it the world's largest consumer of finished silver.
- ❖ In FY25, India exported only \$478.4 million of silver products while importing \$4.83 billion.
- ❖ China dominates global silver processing, importing \$5.6 billion of silver ores and concentrates and exporting high-value silver products.
- ❖ Silver is critical for industry and energy transition, used in electronics, solar panels, electric vehicles, medical devices, and batteries.

India's Fish Production in FY 2024-25

- ❖ India's Fish production has increased to 197.75 lakh tonnes in FY 2024-25.
- ❖ It was 95.79 lakh tonnes in FY 2013-14 and increased 106%.
- ❖ Average aquaculture productivity has increased to 4.77 tonnes per hectare.

- ❖ India exported 16.98 Lakh tons of seafood worth Rs ₹62,408 crore during 2023-24.
- ❖ India's seafood exports touched an all-time high in value during the financial year 2024-25 to Rs 62,408 crore.
- ❖ India exports over 350 seafood products to 130 countries, with aquaculture contributing 62% of export value.

Cryptocurrency KYC Rules

- ❖ India has introduced stricter Know Your Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) rules for cryptocurrency users.
- ❖ The rules are issued by the Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-India) under the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Users must complete identity verification through live selfies, geo-tagging, and bank account validation.
- ❖ Cryptocurrency accounts are required to be linked with the Permanent Account Number (PAN) and a secondary ID.
- ❖ Mixers, tumblers, and privacy tokens that hide transaction trails have been banned.
- ❖ The new measures aim to prevent money laundering, terror financing and ensure that all crypto transactions are traceable.

New FEMA Regulations on Foreign Guarantees

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the Foreign Exchange Management (Guarantees) Regulations, 2026.
- ❖ The regulations provide a regulatory framework for guarantees involving persons resident outside India.
- ❖ They are issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- ❖ Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD-I) banks are required to comply with the new regulations while issuing, modifying, or invoking guarantees related to non-residents.
- ❖ The regulations mandate mandatory reporting of all guarantee-related transactions by AD-I banks in a prescribed format.
- ❖ Several earlier Authorised Persons (Directions Series) circulars related to guarantees have been superseded.
- ❖ The requirement of quarterly reporting on guarantees for Trade Credit has been discontinued from the quarter ending March 2026.

CPI Base Year - 2024

- ❖ India ended the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with 2012 as the base year and will start a new CPI series with 2024 as the base year.
- ❖ The National Statistical Office (NSO) released the final CPI data for December 2025 under the 2012 base year.
- ❖ The new CPI series with 2024 as the base year will be implemented from next month.
- ❖ Under the 2012 base, headline inflation was highest at 11.16% in November 2013.
- ❖ The lowest inflation under this series was 0.25% in October 2025.
- ❖ The base year change helps reflect current consumption patterns and price levels more accurately.

Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2026

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will implement the Reserve Bank - Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026 from July 1, 2026.
- ❖ The scheme provides a cost-effective and fast grievance redress mechanism for complaints against entities regulated by the RBI.
- ❖ RBI may appoint Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman officers, usually for a period of three years.
- ❖ A Centralised Receipt and Processing Centre (CRPC) will handle complaints from all over India.
- ❖ Ombudsman can resolve complaints of any monetary amount and award compensation up to ₹30 lakh.
- ❖ The Complainants or regulated entities can appeal the decisions to the Appellate Authority within 30 days, and each entity must appoint a Principal Nodal Officer to coordinate with RBI.

Deflation in the Food Sector

- ❖ India's food prices slipped into deflation (-0.2%) in 2025 for the first time since 2014, contributing to a 12-year low retail inflation of 2.2%.
- ❖ Deflation is a persistent fall in the general price level, which increases the purchasing power of money.
- ❖ Major causes include weak demand, oversupply due to high productivity, and tight credit or high interest rates.

- ❖ It can trigger a deflationary spiral, causing delayed purchases, reduced business profits, higher unemployment, and increased real debt burden.
- ❖ Policy measures to tackle deflation include expansionary monetary policy (lowering repo rate, quantitative easing, injecting liquidity via Open Market Operations – OMOs) and expansionary fiscal policy (increasing public spending, cutting taxes).
- ❖ Deflation differs from disinflation, which is a slower rise in prices rather than an actual fall.

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-principle 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.

Upper Middle-Income Status – India

- ❖ India is projected to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and the third largest economy by 2028.
- ❖ The World Bank classifies low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income and high-income countries by their per capita Gross National Income (GNI) in US dollar.

- ❖ The threshold for upper-middle income country is per capita GNI of around \$4,500.
- ❖ As of 2024 data, only 26 countries remain low-income, 50 are middle-income, 54 are upper-middle income, and 87 are high-income.
- ❖ India moved from lower-middle income category in 2007, when its per capita GNI jumped from \$90 in 1961 to \$910 in 2007.

India's Electronics Exports 2025

- ❖ India's electronics exports crossed \$47 billion (₹4.15 trillion) in 2025, driven by the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for smartphone exports.
- ❖ Total exports in 2025 grew 37% from \$34.93 billion in 2024.
- ❖ Smartphones under the PLI scheme contributed nearly \$30 billion, about two-thirds of total exports.
- ❖ Major exports also included photovoltaic cells, routers, networking equipment, charger adapters, electronic components, sub-assemblies, and printed circuit board assemblies (PCBAs).
- ❖ Growth to the next target of \$55 billion depends on policy clarity, tariff stability, and global demand.

Indian Pharma Exports 2025–26

- ❖ Brazil and Nigeria have emerged as major destinations for Indian pharmaceutical exports in 2025–26.
- ❖ India's pharmaceutical exports rose by 6.5%, reaching \$20.48 billion from April to November 2025–26.
- ❖ Nigeria contributed nearly \$179 million (14% of growth), while Brazil added about \$100 million.
- ❖ The US remains the largest market, accounting for 31% of total pharma exports.
- ❖ Indian pharma products, mainly generic medicines, are exported to over 200 countries.
- ❖ Growth reflects rising global demand, public procurement expansion, and broader access to affordable Indian medicines.

Credit-to-Deposit Ratio in 2025

- ❖ Indian banks' credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio reached a record 81.75% in 2025, showing strong lending demand.
- ❖ The CD ratio measures loans given by banks compared to deposits collected.

- ❖ A ratio of 81.75% means banks lend ₹81.75 for every ₹100 deposited.
- ❖ Bank credit grew 11.4% in 2025, while deposits increased only 10.1%.
- ❖ Deposit growth slowed due to lower interest rates after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) policy cuts.
- ❖ A high CD ratio indicates liquidity pressure and reliance on alternative funding sources like bonds.

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.

Narayan Ramachandran Committee

- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has formed a committee to modernise National Pension System investment rules.
- ❖ The committee is named Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG).
- ❖ Narayan Ramachandran has been appointed as the chairperson of the committee.
- ❖ The committee is expected to submit its recommendations within 9 months.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the NPS investment framework and align it with global pension practices.
- ❖ The committee will review existing asset classes, suggest optimal allocation, improve risk management and governance, and integrate sustainability measures.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

YJ-20 hypersonic anti-ship missile

- ❖ China unveiled the YJ-20 hypersonic anti-ship missile, which was launched from a Type 055 large destroyer.
- ❖ YJ-20 is also called Eagle Strike-20.
- ❖ The missile is designed to attack high-value naval assets like aircraft carriers at long ranges.

Legionnaires' disease

- ❖ A Legionnaires' disease outbreak has prompted a health alert in Australia.
- ❖ It is a severe form of pneumonia caused by breathing in water droplets contaminated with Legionella bacteria.
- ❖ It does not spread from person to person.
- ❖ The disease was named after a 1976 outbreak at an American Legion convention in the United States.

World's First ITVISMA Gene Therapy

- ❖ Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Khalifa Medical City became the first hospital in the world to administer ITVISMA gene therapy.
- ❖ The therapy was given to a patient suffering from Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).
- ❖ ITVISMA is a one-time gene therapy developed by Novartis.
- ❖ It works by replacing the defective SMN1 (Survival Motor Neuron 1) gene, enabling the body to produce the SMN (Survival Motor Neuron) protein.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) approved ITVISMA, becoming the second country after the United States of America (USA) to approve it.

Oreshnik Missiles

- ❖ Russia deployed the nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system in Belarus.
- ❖ The Oreshnik is an intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of 500–5,500 km.
- ❖ The missile can reach speeds of up to Mach 10.
- ❖ This deployment comes during ongoing Russia–Ukraine peace talks facilitated by the United States.

Oral Drug for Thalassemia Anaemia

- ❖ The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first oral pill for treating anaemia in adult thalassemia patients.
- ❖ The approved drug is Mitapivat.
- ❖ It is approved for both transfusion-dependent and non-transfusion-dependent alpha- and beta-thalassemia.
- ❖ Mitapivat works as a pyruvate kinase activator, improving red blood cell survival and increasing haemoglobin levels.
- ❖ The drug reduces dependence on regular blood transfusions.

India's First AI Clinic

- ❖ India's first government hospital-based Artificial Intelligence (AI) clinic was launched at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida.
- ❖ The clinic was inaugurated online by the Additional Director General of Health Services, Government of India.
- ❖ It has been set up under the GIMS Centre for Medical Innovation.
- ❖ The clinic provides a real clinical setting to test and use AI-based healthcare solutions.
- ❖ It focuses on areas such as medical imaging and clinical decision support systems.

Automatic Weather Stations

- ❖ India has developed indigenously made Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) using 3D-printing technology under Mission Mausam.
- ❖ The project is led by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ The first batch of these AWS will be deployed in Delhi from February 2026.
- ❖ Mission Mausam is a ₹2,000 crore national programme to strengthen weather observation infrastructure.
- ❖ These stations automatically record temperature, wind speed, humidity, and rainfall and send data in real time.
- ❖ The new AWS are solar-powered and fully manufactured in India under the Make in India initiative.

Cetacean Morbillivirus in Arctic Waters

- ❖ Scientists have detected cetacean morbillivirus in Arctic waters for the first time.
- ❖ Cetacean morbillivirus is a highly infectious virus that affects whales, dolphins, porpoises, and pilot whales.
- ❖ The virus attacks the respiratory, immune, and nervous systems of marine mammals.
- ❖ It was earlier reported in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, and Pacific Ocean regions.
- ❖ The detection indicates new disease risks in the Arctic, linked to changing whale migration patterns.

Supermoon in 2026

- ❖ The Wolf Supermoon appeared in the sky on January 3, 2026, marking the first full Moon of the year.
- ❖ It is called a supermoon because the Moon was at its closest point to Earth, known as perigee.
- ❖ The Moon appeared larger and brighter than usual due to its shorter distance from Earth.
- ❖ January's full Moon is traditionally known as the Wolf Moon.
- ❖ The Wolf Supermoon is the first of 13 full Moons expected in the year 2026.
- ❖ Such a sequence makes 2026 a rare year with more than the usual 12 full Moons.

Portable Desalination System

- ❖ The DRDO has developed a portable desalination system to provide drinking water to soldiers in remote and water-scarce areas.
- ❖ The system is called SWaDeS (Sea Water Desalination System).
- ❖ It has been developed by the Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur, under DRDO.
- ❖ The system can be operated in manual mode as well as engine-driven mode.
- ❖ It can purify seawater and saline inland water into potable drinking water.
- ❖ The system is designed for use in coastal regions, high-altitude areas, and isolated military posts.

Taimoor Missile

- ❖ Pakistan Air Force has successfully conducted a flight test of the Taimoor air-launched cruise missile with a range of 600 kilometres.

- ❖ Taimoor is an indigenously developed missile system designed to strengthen Pakistan's defence capability.
- ❖ The missile is capable of striking both land and sea targets with high accuracy.
- ❖ The missile follows a low-altitude flight path, which helps it evade enemy air defence systems.

White Dwarf System

- ❖ NASA has, for the first time, studied the internal structure of a white dwarf system in detail.
- ❖ The study was carried out using the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer, which is known as IXPE.
- ❖ The observations focused on EX Hydrae, which is a white dwarf binary system located about two hundred light years away in the Hydra constellation.
- ❖ EX Hydrae emits strong X-rays because it pulls gas from a nearby companion star.
- ❖ IXPE measured the polarisation of X-rays to understand the structure of superheated gas near the white dwarf.

Mpemba Effect

- ❖ Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) used supercomputers to simulate ice formation and confirm the Mpemba Effect.
- ❖ The Mpemba Effect is a phenomenon where hot water can freeze faster than cold water under certain conditions.
- ❖ Aristotle mentioned this effect in his book *Meteorologica*.
- ❖ Tanzanian student Erasto Mpemba brought attention to this phenomenon in 1969.
- ❖ Microbubbles in hot water, faster evaporation, and convection can make hot water cool faster.
- ❖ The effect is not limited to water; it can occur in other liquids during liquid-to-solid transitions.

Cosmic Dust Monitoring

- ❖ ISRO reported that cosmic dust hits Earth's atmosphere every 16 minutes.
- ❖ This was detected using the Dust Experiment DEX, which is India's first indigenous cosmic dust detector.

- ❖ DEX was launched on January 1, 2024, on the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite XPoSat mission.
- ❖ The particles detected are Interplanetary Dust Particles that mainly come from comets and asteroids.
- ❖ These particles form a thin meteor layer in Earth's atmosphere.
- ❖ The data support satellite safety and space environment studies.

ISO IEC 42001 Status - FSS

- ❖ Financial Software and Systems has become the first payments company in India, the Middle East, Asia Pacific, and South Africa to get ISO IEC 42001 Certification Lead status.
- ❖ ISO IEC 42001 is a global standard for artificial intelligence management systems.
- ❖ The certification confirms that FSS follows a structured and organisation-wide system for managing artificial intelligence.
- ❖ Artificial intelligence at FSS is used for fraud detection, transaction monitoring, dispute handling, and automation.
- ❖ The standard focuses on fairness, transparency, accountability, and risk control in artificial intelligence use.
- ❖ The certification was assessed and approved by TUV SUD.

Starless Gas Cloud – Cloud 9

- ❖ NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has discovered a starless gas cloud called Cloud 9 near the galaxy Messier 94.
- ❖ Cloud 9 is located about 14 million light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ It is a Reionisation-Limited HI Cloud (RELHIC), made mainly of neutral hydrogen and dark matter.
- ❖ The cloud has no stars and is called a “failed galaxy”.
- ❖ It contains hydrogen equal to one million times the Sun's mass and is surrounded by a dark matter halo of about five billion solar masses.

RRI Cold Atom Measurement Technique

- ❖ Raman Research Institute (RRI) has developed a new technique to measure cold atoms without disturbing them.
- ❖ The new method is called Raman Driven Spin Noise Spectroscopy (RDSNS).

- ❖ It measures the density of cold atoms in real time without changing their quantum state.
- ❖ The technique increases the signal strength by nearly one million times.
- ❖ It was tested on potassium atoms kept in a Magneto-Optical Trap (MOT).

Early ISS Return

- ❖ NASA has brought four astronauts back early from the International Space Station (ISS) due to a medical concern affecting one crew member.
- ❖ The Crew-11 mission was launched in August 2025 aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft for a planned six-month stay.
- ❖ Astronauts returning include two Americans, one Japanese from JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), and one Russian cosmonaut.
- ❖ One American astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts will remain on the ISS to maintain essential operations and safety.
- ❖ This is the first early return in the ISS's 25-year continuous human presence history.

Asteroid 2025 MN45

- ❖ The asteroid 2025 MN45 is the fastest-spinning asteroid of its size ever observed.
- ❖ It measures about 710 metres (2,300 feet) in diameter and rotates once every 113 seconds.
- ❖ The asteroid is located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- ❖ It was discovered using data from the Vera C. Rubin Observatory's LSST (Legacy Survey of Space and Time) Camera.
- ❖ The extreme rotation suggests that 2025 MN45 has solid internal strength, unlike most "rubble pile" asteroids.

India's First Legged Mobile Manipulator - SCORP

- ❖ SCORP was developed by xTerra Robotics, which is incubated at the IIT Kanpur.
- ❖ A legged mobile manipulator is a robot that combines walking legs with a robotic arm.
- ❖ SCORP can move on stairs, rubble, slopes, and uneven surfaces and also pick and handle objects.
- ❖ It is designed for use in industrial inspection, disaster response, defence, and hazardous environments.

OrbitAid's AyulSAT

- ❖ Chennai-based OrbitAid Aerospace launched AyulSAT onboard ISRO's PSLV-C62 to demonstrate in-orbit satellite refuelling.
- ❖ AyulSAT is a 25-kg tanker satellite designed to transfer fuel, power and data in space.
- ❖ It uses SIDRP (Standard Interface for Docking and Refuelling Port) for future satellite-to-satellite refuelling.
- ❖ The mission will support satellite life-extension and reduce space debris.
- ❖ It will act as a target for a chaser satellite to perform real docking and refuelling by end-2026.
- ❖ The project supports India's Debris-Free Space Mission 2030.

PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission Anomaly

- ❖ The ISRO reported a technical anomaly in the PS3 (third stage) of the PSLV-C62 rocket during the EOS-N1 mission.
- ❖ The launch took place from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ EOS-N1 is an Earth Observation Satellite, and the mission was carried out by New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- ❖ The rocket showed deviations in roll rate and flight path during the third stage.
- ❖ ISRO is analysing the mission data, and the mission has not yet been declared a success or failure.

People-First AI Platform

- ❖ Reliance Jio will launch a people-first artificial intelligence (AI) platform built in India, for India, and the world.
- ❖ The platform will enable citizens to access AI services in their own language on personal devices.
- ❖ India's largest AI-ready data centre is being built at Jamnagar, Gujarat, to support the platform.
- ❖ The core goal is to provide affordable and inclusive AI access to citizens nationwide.
- ❖ The platform is part of Reliance's broader ₹7 lakh crore investment plan in Gujarat, focusing on technology, digital services, and clean energy.

China's EAST Fusion Reactor

- ❖ China's EAST (Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak) fusion reactor surpassed the Greenwald density limit, a key barrier in nuclear fusion research.
- ❖ Nuclear fusion produces energy by fusing hydrogen nuclei into helium, similar to the Sun's process.
- ❖ The Greenwald density limit defines the maximum plasma density a tokamak reactor can safely sustain.
- ❖ China's EAST reactor achieved a plasma density about 65% higher than the Greenwald limit.
- ❖ A tokamak is a doughnut-shaped magnetic device used to confine superheated plasma.
- ❖ The breakthrough was enabled using Electron Cyclotron Resonance Heating (ECRH) and lithium-coated tungsten walls.
- ❖ The achievement has implications for ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), a global fusion project with India as a partner.

Low Calorie Sugar Tagatose

- ❖ Scientists have developed an efficient large-scale method to produce tagatose, a healthier alternative to regular sugar and artificial sweeteners.
- ❖ Tagatose is a low-calorie natural sugar that does not cause sharp spikes in insulin levels.
- ❖ Tagatose is about 92% as sweet as sucrose but contains only one-third of the calories.
- ❖ It has a minimal impact on blood glucose, making it suitable for people with diabetes or insulin sensitivity.
- ❖ A newly discovered enzyme from slime Mold—galactose-1-phosphate-selective phosphatase—was used in the process.
- ❖ The new method achieved up to 95% production yield, far higher than existing techniques.
- ❖ Tagatose occurs naturally in small amounts in fruits and dairy products.
- ❖ It is tooth-friendly, may reduce harmful oral bacteria, and can withstand baking temperatures.

Ultracold Atom Physics

- ❖ India has a strong presence in cold- and ultracold-atom physics.
- ❖ Ultracold atoms are cooled near absolute zero (-273.15°C), where quantum effects dominate.

- ❖ Atoms can form Bose-Einstein Condensates, behaving like a single “super-atom”.
- ❖ Laser cooling slows atoms using photon momentum.
- ❖ Applications include atomic clocks, GPS systems, quantum sensors, quantum simulators, and quantum computers.

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.

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.

Strongest Solar Radiation Storm

- ❖ The Sun released its most powerful solar radiation storm in over two decades, reaching Earth in January 2026.
- ❖ Scientists classified it as a Level-4 storm, triggered by an X-class solar flare and a coronal mass ejection (CME).
- ❖ The storm caused bright auroras across Europe and temporary GPS disruptions.
- ❖ Solar radiation storms occur when highly energetic charged particles from the Sun reach Earth, affecting satellites, aviation, and astronauts.

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.

Protein AI Tool

- ❖ The Scientists at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru, developed a deep-learning tool called Disobind.
- ❖ Disobind predicts how intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs) bind to their partners, even though these proteins do not have a stable 3D structure.
- ❖ It uses protein language models, trained on millions of protein sequences, without needing prior structural information.
- ❖ Disobind performed better than other tools like AlphaFold-Multimer and can be used alongside them for higher accuracy.
- ❖ The tool can help in disease research and drug discovery, including studies on immune signalling, cancer, and neurodegeneration.

ASC ARJUN Humanoid Robot

- ❖ ASC ARJUN is a humanoid robot designed for advanced research and industrial applications.
- ❖ It can perform tasks that require human-like movements and decision-making.
- ❖ The robot is equipped with sensors, actuators, and artificial intelligence (AI) for autonomous operation.
- ❖ It can assist in dangerous or repetitive tasks, reducing human risk.
- ❖ ASC stands for Advanced Systems and Controls, the organization behind the robot.
- ❖ The development of ARJUN aims to enhance robotics research and automation capabilities in India.

Inflatable Space Habitat Mission

- ❖ Indian startup Akashlabdhi is preparing to launch the country's first inflatable space habitat, named AntarikshHAB.
- ❖ The project is incubated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- ❖ AntarikshHAB allows a compact module to be launched and inflated in orbit, increasing usable living space from 70 cubic metres initially to 300 cubic metres in final configuration.
- ❖ Tests include pressure, leak, thermal cycling, impact, and deployment trials, reaching Technology Readiness Level 6, meaning system validation in a relevant environment.
- ❖ The mission is planned for July 2026 aboard a vehicle by Spanish firm PLD Space, including controlled de-orbit and atmospheric re-entry tests.

ENVIRONMENT

India's Rare Earth Reserves vs Production Gap

- ❖ India ranks 3rd globally in rare earth reserves with about 6.9 million tonnes of Rare Earth Oxide (REO).
- ❖ India holds nearly 6–7% of global rare earth reserves, but contributes less than 1% of global production.
- ❖ In 2024, India produced only 2,900 tonnes, ranking 7th in the world in rare earth production.
- ❖ Most Indian reserves are in monazite-rich coastal sands, which also contain thorium (a radioactive element).
- ❖ Mining is regulated strictly due to radioactivity and was mainly handled by Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) earlier.
- ❖ India has very limited processing and refining facilities, which slows down large-scale production.

Kanger Valley National Park

- ❖ Kanger Valley National Park is a protected forest area located near Jagdalpur in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government has intensified efforts to include the park in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- ❖ Once approved, it will become the first site from Chhattisgarh to receive UNESCO World Heritage status.
- ❖ The park covers an area of about 200 square kilometres and lies in the Eastern Ghats–Central Indian highlands region.
- ❖ It is well known for the Tirathgarh Waterfall, limestone caves, dense forests, and rich biodiversity.

Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary - ESZ

- ❖ The Government of India has declared the Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh, as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
- ❖ The notification was issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ❖ The announcement was made by the Minister of State (MoS) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFCC).
- ❖ The sanctuary covers an area of about 1,084 hectares.

- ❖ It supports the resident birds and migratory birds from Central Asia and Tibet, mainly during the winter season.
- ❖ An Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) is a regulated buffer area around protected regions to control activities and protect biodiversity and natural habitats.

Legal Protection for Amazon Bees

- ❖ Amazonian stingless bees became the first insects in the world to receive legal rights.
- ❖ Peruvian municipalities passed a landmark ordinance recognising their right to exist and flourish.
- ❖ The law recognises their right to exist and flourish in nature.
- ❖ Stingless bees are important pollinators in tropical forests, especially the Amazon rainforest.
- ❖ Peru is home to more than 170 species of stingless bees.
- ❖ The decision aims to protect biodiversity (the variety of living organisms) and forest ecosystems.

Tiger Mortality 2025

- ❖ India recorded the deaths of 166 tigers in 2025, according to the latest data released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- ❖ This number is 40 higher than the 126 tiger deaths reported in 2024.
- ❖ It represents the highest annual tiger mortality since the launch of Project Tiger in 1973.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of tiger deaths in the country, with 55 fatalities recorded during the year.
- ❖ Other States that reported significant tiger deaths include Maharashtra with 38 deaths, Kerala with 13 deaths, and Assam with 12 deaths.
- ❖ Among the total tiger deaths in 2025, 31 were cubs, highlighting the increased vulnerability of young tigers.
- ❖ Experts have identified territorial conflicts arising from space constraints as a major reason for the rising number of tiger deaths.
- ❖ Despite the losses, India continues to host nearly 75% of the world's tiger population, which increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022.

First phase of the nation-wide tiger estimation exercise

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has announced that the first phase of the All-India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026 will begin.
- ❖ It is part of the world's largest wildlife monitoring exercise.
- ❖ AITE is conducted once every four years by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❖ It aims to assess tigers, co-predators such as leopards, wild dogs and hyenas.
- ❖ It also aims to estimate the mega herbivore prey base, including gaur, sambar deer, spotted deer, and barking deer.
- ❖ It also includes detailed habitat assessment through sign surveys, line transects, camera trapping exercises and genetic sampling.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to five tiger reserves — Kalakad Mundanthurai, Anamalai, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam, and Srivilliputhur-Megamalai.
- ❖ The State's tiger population has increased from 264 in 2018 to 306 in 2022.
- ❖ The exercise would cover all tiger reserves, other tiger habitats, and private estates with significant carnivore presence.
- ❖ Frontline staff, volunteers, and technology such as camera traps and the M-STripes monitoring system would be deployed.

Galaxy Frogs in Kerala

- ❖ Seven of the world's rarest galaxy frogs (*Melanobatrachus indicus*) in Kerala's Western Ghats have vanished and are presumed dead.
- ❖ These frogs are tiny amphibians found only in Kerala's Western Ghats.
- ❖ Researchers discovered the seven frogs under rotten logs in March 2020.
- ❖ Between June 2020 and April 2021, photographers disturbed their habitat, overturning logs and using high-powered flashes.
- ❖ When researchers returned in 2021–2022, all seven frogs had disappeared.
- ❖ The species is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), threatened by habitat loss, landslides, and photo tourism.

India's First Urban Night Safari

- ❖ Lucknow is set to get India's first urban night safari at the Kukrail Forest Area on the northern outskirts of the city.
- ❖ The night safari will be a controlled nocturnal wildlife viewing experience within the city limits of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ It is inspired by the Singapore night safari model and aims to offer after-dark observation of wildlife.
- ❖ The project will include nocturnal safari routes with restricted movement and low-impact lighting to minimise disturbance to animals.
- ❖ The development will also enhance facilities at existing crocodile, gharial, and turtle conservation hubs within Kukrail Forest.
- ❖ Infrastructure will include eco-friendly trails, bamboo huts, nature walks, and guided educational programs to promote eco-tourism and conservation awareness.

New Reed Snake Species

- ❖ A new non-venomous reed snake named *Calamaria mizoramensis* was discovered in Mizoram.
- ❖ The species belongs to the genus *Calamaria*, which currently has 69 recognized species worldwide.
- ❖ *Calamaria mizoramensis* is nocturnal and semi-fossorial, inhabiting humid forested hills at altitudes ranging from 670 to 1,295 metres above sea level.

Beni Greenlet

- ❖ For over sixty years, a small olive-green bird in Bolivia's Beni savannas was misclassified, but new research confirmed it as a distinct species.
- ❖ Its scientific name is *Hylophilus moxensis*, and it belongs to the family *Muscicapidae*.
- ❖ It lives in tropical moist lowland forests of northern Bolivia, mostly in forest canopies and edges.
- ❖ It faces threats from habitat loss, altered rainfall, human activities, and river or floodplain changes, and has not yet been assessed by the IUCN Red List.

Arctic Warming 2025

- ❖ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released the Arctic Report Card 2025.
- ❖ It showing that the Arctic region is warming much faster than the rest of the planet.
- ❖ The Arctic surface air temperatures were the highest on record from October 2024 to September 2025 since 1900.
- ❖ The last ten years are the warmest decade ever recorded in the Arctic.

- ❖ Atlantification, which is the inflow of warm water and organisms from lower latitudes, is causing sea ice to melt and affecting ocean circulation.
- ❖ The Rivers in Arctic Alaska have turned orange because thawing permafrost has released iron into the water, affecting fish and local water supplies.
- ❖ The greening of the Arctic has increased tundra vegetation since the late 1990s, impacting landscapes, wildlife, and permafrost conditions.
- ❖ The Northern Sea Route along Russia's Arctic coast is becoming increasingly usable for shipping as sea ice melts.

Satellite Tagging of Olive Ridley Turtles

- ❖ Satellite tagging of sea turtles began on Chennai beaches as a first-of-its-kind initiative in the city.
- ❖ Two Olive Ridley Sea turtles, which came ashore to nest, were satellite-tagged and released back into the sea.
- ❖ The two-year project 2025–2027 uses satellite telemetry to study turtle movement and nesting.
- ❖ The project is carried out by the Wildlife Institute of India WII and the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Vandalur.
- ❖ The study will cover the Chennai coast and the Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ A total of 10 turtles will be satellite-tagged, and 1,000 turtles will be flipper-tagged.

New Reserve Forests in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government notified 100 forest blocks as Reserved Forests during 2021–2025.
- ❖ This brought about 13,495 hectares under legal forest protection in the State.
- ❖ The notifications were issued under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.
- ❖ The new reserve forests are located across 10 districts, including Dindigul, the Nilgiris, and Theni.
- ❖ Dindigul district has the highest number, with 37 new reserve forest blocks.
- ❖ Kallakurichi district has the largest area added, with about 4,118 hectares.

New Katydid Species – Kashmir

- ❖ Three new meadow katydid species were discovered in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The species belongs to the genus Conocephalus.

- ❖ The new species are named Conocephalus usmanii, Conocephalus nagariensis, and Conocephalus ganderbali.
- ❖ The insects were found in meadows, bushes, and forests of the Kashmir Valley.

MSTrIPES App

- ❖ The MSTrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) app is being used for the All-India Tiger Estimation Survey 2026 in Anamalai Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ The Forest staff will enter real-time data using GPS-enabled devices instead of manual recording.
- ❖ The survey will cover tigers, prey animals, vegetation, and transect distance from January 8 to 14, 2026.
- ❖ Anamalai Tiger Reserve covers 1,108 square kilometres in Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The All-India Tiger Estimation is conducted once every four years.

Smooth-coated otter in Adayar

- ❖ A rare sighting of an otter was recently recorded in the Adyar River.
- ❖ They found in freshwater-rich areas such as rivers, wetlands, lakes, swamps, and rice paddies.
- ❖ They are listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
- ❖ India is home to 3 types of otters out of the 13 species of otters found worldwide.

Kashmir Markhor

- ❖ The Kashmir markhor (*Capra falconeri cashmeriensis*), India's rarest wild goat, is facing local extinction with only 200–300 individuals left.
- ❖ It is a subspecies of Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) and shares the overall species status of Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The species is endemic to Jammu & Kashmir, mainly in Kazinag National Park, Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary, Tattakuti Wildlife Sanctuary, and Khara Gali Conservation Reserve.
- ❖ Kashmir markhor is an ecological indicator, prey for snow leopards, leopards, and wolves, and helps maintain mountain vegetation and soil health.
- ❖ The name “markhor” comes from Persian, meaning “snake-killer”, reflecting ancient folklore.

Earth's Ocean Heat Content

- ❖ Earth's ocean heat content (OHC) has set a new record in 2025 by absorbing an additional ~23 zettajoules (ZJ) of heat.
- ❖ It marking the ninth consecutive year of record-breaking warmth.
- ❖ Oceans absorbed nearly 90% of excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases, with global average sea surface temperatures ~0.5°C above the 1981–2010 average.
- ❖ Impacts include increased ocean stratification, marine heat waves, intense storms, coral bleaching, and threats to marine life and ocean productivity.
- ❖ The study highlights the oceans as the primary buffer of global warming and the urgent need for climate mitigation measures.

Two New Frog Species - Arunachal Pradesh

- ❖ Scientists discovered two new frog species in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The two species belong to the genus *Leptobrachium* under the family Megophryidae.
- ❖ The research was led by Professor S. D. Biju of Delhi University, also known as the Frogman of India.
- ❖ The newly identified frogs are Soman's Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium soman*) and Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (*Leptobrachium mechuka*).

Coconut Root Wilt Disease

- ❖ Coconut Root Wilt Disease is spreading rapidly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, affecting lakhs of coconut palms.
- ❖ It is a non-fatal disease caused by a phytoplasma (a phloem-limited pathogen) that weakens palms and reduces yield.
- ❖ The disease spreads through sap-sucking insect vectors such as *Stephanitis typica* and *Proutista moesta*.
- ❖ Key symptoms include weak, droopy leaves, yellowing from leaf tips, curling of leaflets, poor flowering, premature nut fall, and slow weakening of trees.

Mugger crocodile population

- ❖ The latest crocodile census showed an increase in crocodile numbers in Simlipal National Park, Odisha.
- ❖ The total crocodile population increased from 81 in 2025 to 84 in 2026.
- ❖ The Deo River recorded the highest number with 60 crocodiles.

- ❖ The park is located in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, in the Eastern Ghats, and covers about 2,750 square kilometres.
- ❖ The park has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.
- ❖ Major rivers like Budhabalanga and Deo flow through the park and support crocodile habitats.
- ❖ The rise in crocodile numbers is linked to releases from the Ramtirtha Mugger Crocodile Breeding Centre.

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.

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.

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.

First State-wide Raptor Assessment in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu scheduled its first State-wide raptor assessment on January 31 and February 1, 2026.
- ❖ The assessment was conducted under the Tamil Nadu Raptor Research Foundation initiative by the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC).
- ❖ The survey covered both diurnal (day-active) and nocturnal (night-active) raptors across more than 50 forest divisions.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu hosted over 65 raptor species belonging to the orders Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, and Strigiformes.
- ❖ The assessment aimed to study raptor distribution, identify threats, and support future conservation planning.

New Copepod Species

- ❖ Scientists discovered a new tiny crustacean species in the Kavaratti lagoon of Lakshadweep.
- ❖ The species belongs to the family Laophontidae under the class Copepoda.
- ❖ It has been named Indiaphonte bijoyi to honour India and the scientist S. Bijoy Nandan.
- ❖ The organism is very small, less than 1 millimetre, and is part of the meiofauna (tiny invertebrates living in sediments).
- ❖ Harpacticoid copepods like this help in nutrient cycling and act as indicators of marine environmental changes.

Brandt's Hedgehog Recorded in India for First Time

- ❖ Brandt's hedgehog (Paraechinus hypomelas) has been discovered in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It was first sighted in 2024 in the Rajouri-Poonch region and confirmed through DNA analysis and morphometric studies.
- ❖ The species was previously known in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and parts of Central Asia.
- ❖ The discovery suggests possible range expansion due to climate change, habitat connectivity, and food availability.
- ❖ It was found in ecotone zones between forests and agricultural fields and feeds on rodents.

Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary - Rajasthan

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change declared Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).
- ❖ The ESZ covers 0–1 km around the sanctuary in the Aravalli mountain range to protect fragile ecosystems.
- ❖ The ESZ status helps control unplanned development, mining, and industrial expansion, ensuring balanced conservation and human activity.
- ❖ Local communities will benefit from sustainable livelihood initiatives like organic farming, agroforestry, and eco-friendly practices.
- ❖ Eco-Sensitive Zones act as transition zones around protected areas to preserve biodiversity without hampering daily life.

Two New Rare Ant Fly Species

- ❖ Scientists have discovered two new extremely rare species of ant flies in Delhi and the Western Ghats.
- ❖ The species are named Metadon ghorpadei and Metadon reemeri.
- ❖ They belong to the subfamily Microdontinae (family: Syrphidae).
- ❖ Metadon Ghorpadei was found in the northern ridge forest of Delhi.
- ❖ Metadon reemeri was discovered in the Siruvani hills of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.

New Blind Caecilian Species

- ❖ The Indian scientists have discovered a new blind caecilian species named Gegeneophis valmiki in the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra.
- ❖ The species was first collected in 2017 on the Valmiki Plateau in Satara district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Blind caecilians are limbless subterranean amphibians that spend most of their life underground and are often mistaken for earthworms.
- ❖ The species is named after the historic Maharshi Valmiki Mandir near the discovery site.

Second Nationwide Dolphin Survey

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched India's second pan-India dolphin population survey from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The survey is part of Project Dolphin, coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, with state forest departments and conservation partners including WWF India, Aaranyak, and the Wildlife Trust of India.
- ❖ The survey covers the Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Gandak, Ghaghara, Kosi, Mahananda, Brahmaputra, Sundarbans, Odisha, and the Indus River systems.
- ❖ For the first time, it includes estimation of the Irrawaddy Dolphin in the Sundarbans and Odisha, along with Ganges River Dolphins and Indus River Dolphins, assessing habitat quality and threats.
- ❖ The first nationwide survey (2021–2023) estimated around 6,327 riverine dolphins, with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar having the highest numbers.

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.

India's Second-Largest Gharial Habitat

- ❖ The Gandak River in Bihar has become India's second-largest habitat for gharials, after the Chambal River.
- ❖ The Gandak River flows along the India–Nepal border through West Champaran district, Bihar.
- ❖ Adult gharial numbers increased from 54 in 2015 to over 400 in 2025; the total population, including juveniles, crossed 1,000.
- ❖ Around 944 gharials were released into a 326-kilometre stretch of the river between 2015 and 2025.
- ❖ The river passes through the Valmiki Tiger Reserve, providing ideal conditions for aquatic life.
- ❖ India's first gharial captive breeding programme started in 1975 at Tikarpada, Odisha.

Wild Animal Attacks in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Wild animal attacks caused 685 human deaths in Tamil Nadu during the last 10 years (2015–2025).
- ❖ The data was released by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.
- ❖ Most deaths were caused by wild elephants (522), followed by gaur, wild boar, deer, and bear.
- ❖ The highest number of deaths due to elephant attacks was reported in 2019 (62 deaths).
- ❖ Conflict is severe in the Western Ghats and parts of the Eastern Ghats districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Habitat loss, lack of food and water, and expansion of human settlements are key reasons for the conflict.

REPORTS AND INDICATES

NCB Report 2025

- ❖ The Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) India – National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) released the “Carbon Uptake by Concrete” report during the 63rd Foundation Day of NCB on 26 December 2025.
- ❖ The report assesses carbon dioxide (CO₂) absorption by concrete through carbonation under Indian climatic and construction conditions.
- ❖ The report states that the cement sector contributes nearly 7% of total anthropogenic CO₂ emissions and is classified as a hard-to-abate industry.
- ❖ It recommends improving data quality and refining estimation methods to better account for carbon uptake by concrete.

Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2025

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti has released the Dynamic Groundwater Resource Assessment Report 2025 to evaluate India’s groundwater status.
- ❖ The Annual groundwater recharge increased marginally to 448.52 billion Cubic Meters (BCM), while annual extraction was 247.22 BCM.
- ❖ The Stage of Groundwater Extraction is 60.63%, showing the proportion of extracted water to total available resources.
- ❖ Out of 6,746 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas), 73.4% are Safe, 10.5% Semi-critical, 3.05% Critical, and 11.1% Over-exploited.
- ❖ Over-exploited units are mainly in North West India (Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh), West India (Rajasthan, Gujarat), and South India (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh).
- ❖ 1.8% of units are Saline, where groundwater is unsuitable for drinking or irrigation without treatment.

World Weather Attribution Annual Report 2025

- ❖ Although 2025 did not surpass the global temperature record set in 2024, it will rank among the hottest years ever recorded.
- ❖ Since 2015, Heatwaves have become significantly more intense, with some events nearly 10 times more likely
- ❖ WWA identified 157 extreme weather events in 2025 that met its humanitarian impact criteria.
- ❖ Floods and heatwaves were the most frequent, with 49 events each, followed by storms, wildfires and droughts.

Himalayan Climate Action

- ❖ The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has released a report on climate funding for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region.
- ❖ The HKH region includes India, China, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan.
- ❖ India requires about USD 102 billion per year for climate change adaptation and mitigation in this region.
- ❖ Total funding needed for all HKH countries is USD 768.68 billion per year, based on the First Determination Report of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 2020.
- ❖ China needs around USD 605 billion per year, Pakistan USD 40.12 billion, and Bangladesh and Nepal USD 8.95 billion each.
- ❖ The region faces risks like glacial melting, biodiversity loss, and extreme weather events, which threaten ecosystems, livelihoods, and water resources for billions.
- ❖ The HKH region is crucial for freshwater supply, biodiversity, natural resources, and sustaining downstream populations and industries.
- ❖ Uneven funding distribution highlights that smaller HKH countries face critical financial gaps relative to their GDPs, making them highly vulnerable to climate change impacts.

State Finances 2023-24

- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India released the second edition of the 'State Finances 2023-24' report.
- ❖ The report presents an overview of the finances of all 28 States for the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ Public debt of States stood at ₹67.87 lakh crore, about 23% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- ❖ The Eighteen States have exceeded the fiscal deficit benchmark of 3% of GSDP recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
- ❖ Revenue expenditure on salaries, pensions, and interest consumed around 60% of total revenue expenditure.
- ❖ Dependence on Union tax devolution rose from ~21% in 2014-15 to ~30% in 2023-24.
- ❖ Capital expenditure remained low at about 16% of revenue expenditure, while revenue spending dominated at 83%.

NITI Aayog report 2025

- ❖ NITI Aayog has prepared the report “A Comprehensive Framework to Promote Affordable Housing” with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ It suggested reintroducing a 100% tax exemption for developers of approved affordable housing projects.
- ❖ The loan limit under the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Scheme for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH) has been proposed to double to ₹40 lakh.
- ❖ Tax exemptions on capital gains and rental income from Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are proposed to lower funding costs.
- ❖ National Housing Bank (NHB) may issue tax-free bonds for concessional funding for economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income group (LIG) buyers.
- ❖ Stamp duty, registration fees, and change of land use charges may be exempted for affordable housing projects, including those under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0.

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.

NITI Aayog Trade Report 2026

- ❖ NITI Aayog released the 5th edition of "Trade Watch Quarterly" for Quarter I of FY 2025-26 (April-June 2025) on January 6, 2026.
- ❖ It highlights technology-intensive exports, services-led growth, and changes in import structure.
- ❖ The thematic focus of this edition is India's automotive exports.
- ❖ The report analyses vehicles, auto components, global demand, and value-chain integration.
- ❖ It suggests policy measures to improve export competitiveness and market share in the global auto sector.

Bharat Climate Forum 2026

- ❖ The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has released the report "India's PV Manufacturing & Its Strategic Inflection Points" at the Bharat Climate Forum 2026.
- ❖ The report studies India's solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing chain from polysilicon to wafers, cells and modules.
- ❖ China holds a major global share with 98% of wafers, 92% of polysilicon, 91.8% of cells and 84.6% of modules.
- ❖ India has about 120 GW per year module manufacturing capacity, but very low upstream capacity.
- ❖ India's solar module capacity is expected to cross 280 GW per year by 2030, while cell capacity may rise to about 171 GW per year.

- ❖ The report supports the National Cleantech Manufacturing Implementation Plan to build a strong domestic solar industry.

Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025

- ❖ The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has released the Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2025.
- ❖ 71.7% of India's groundwater meets BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) limits, while 28.3% of samples exceed one or more quality parameters.
- ❖ Nitrate is the most widespread pollutant, with about 20% of samples crossing the safe limit of 45 mg/L, mainly due to fertilizers, sewage and animal waste.
- ❖ Uranium contamination above the safe limit of 30 ppb (parts per billion) was found in 6.71% (pre-monsoon) and 7.91% (post-monsoon) samples, with Punjab reporting the highest levels.
- ❖ Fluoride contamination (8.05% samples) is mainly geogenic (naturally occurring).
- ❖ Rajasthan recorded the highest fluoride levels, while Delhi showed high lead contamination.
- ❖ About 94.30% of groundwater samples are excellent for irrigation use, showing overall suitability for agriculture.

Responsible Nations Index 2026

- ❖ The World Intellectual Foundation (WIF) will launch the Responsible Nations Index (RNI).
- ❖ It is India's first globally anchored index to evaluate countries.
- ❖ The RNI measures responsible governance, sustainability, and global responsibility instead of economic or military power.
- ❖ It is developed in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai, and Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.
- ❖ The index covers 154 countries using transparent and globally sourced data.
- ❖ RNI has three dimensions: Internal Responsibility (citizen well-being, dignity, justice), Environmental Responsibility (climate action, natural resource management), and External Responsibility (peace, multilateral cooperation, global stability).
- ❖ It provides a value-based framework for assessing countries on ethical governance and sustainable development.

Global Assessment Report 2025

- ❖ According to the 2025 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR 2025), global wildfires caused about USD 106 billion in total economic losses.
- ❖ A wildfire is any unplanned and uncontrolled vegetation fire that may harm social, economic, or environmental values.
- ❖ Environmental impacts include CO2 emissions, biodiversity loss, and climate feedback loops.
- ❖ Human impacts include respiratory and cardiovascular disorders and the displacement of communities.
- ❖ Wildfire risks are increasing due to climate change, land-use changes, human activities, and fuel availability.

Global Economic Prospects 2026

- ❖ The World Bank released the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report, published twice yearly to assess global growth.
- ❖ India's growth forecast for fiscal year 2025-26 was revised up to 7.2%, from 6.3% projected in June 2025.
- ❖ Growth drivers in India include strong local demand, rising private consumption, tax reforms, and increasing rural household incomes.
- ❖ Global trade growth is expected to slow from 3.4% in 2025 to 2.2% in 2026.
- ❖ Government debt in emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) has reached a 55-year high of nearly 70% of GDP.

Export Preparedness Index 2024

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 to assess the export readiness of Indian States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) is a composite index that measures export infrastructure, business ecosystem, policy support, and export performance.
- ❖ EPI 2024 is the fourth edition of the index and was first launched in August 2020.
- ❖ The index is based on 4 pillars, 13 sub-pillars, and 70 indicators using official government data.
- ❖ States and Union Territories are classified as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers based on performance.
- ❖ Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat ranked among the top large states, while Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir led among smaller states and Union Territories.

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.

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.

Global Water Bankruptcy Report 2026

- ❖ The United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) says the world has entered a Global Water Bankruptcy era.
- ❖ Water Bankruptcy means humans are using more water than can be safely replenished, causing long-term damage to rivers, lakes, aquifers, wetlands, soils, and glaciers.
- ❖ This is different from water stress (high demand, mostly reversible) and water crisis (temporary shock, fixable with emergency measures).
- ❖ Causes include slow depletion of water, infrastructure-driven overshoot like big dams, ecological liquidation of wetlands and forests, and climate-amplified overshoot.
- ❖ The report warns that many water systems may be irreversibly damaged, affecting ecosystems, food security, and livelihoods.

Responsible Nations Index 2026

- ❖ The Responsible Nations Index (RNI) 2026 was launched to assess how nations act responsibly towards citizens, the environment, and the global community.
- ❖ The index was formally launched in New Delhi by former President Ram Nath Kovind under the aegis of the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF).
- ❖ Singapore ranked first among 154 countries in the index.
- ❖ India secured the 16th position, ahead of the United States and China.
- ❖ The index shifts focus from conventional power measures to ethical governance and responsibility.

Numbeo Safety Index 2026

- ❖ The Numbeo Safety Index 2026 rankings were released, covering 304 cities worldwide.
- ❖ Qingdao in China was ranked as the safest city in the world.
- ❖ Mangaluru in Karnataka emerged as the safest city in India.
- ❖ The index measures perceived safety and crime levels based on survey responses, including violent crime, property crime, and safety while walking alone at night.

- ❖ The top five safest cities in India are Mangaluru (74.4), Ahmedabad (68.5), Jaipur (65.3), Coimbatore (62.0), and Thiruvananthapuram (61.0).
- ❖ Overall, India ranked 70th globally among countries, with an average safety score of 55.8, which falls in the moderate safety category.
- ❖ Large metropolitan areas such as Delhi, Noida, and Gurugram ranked among the least safe cities in India.
- ❖ The safest countries globally in 2026 include the UAE (86.0), Qatar (84.8), and Andorra (84.8). Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, and Haiti were among the least safe countries.

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 6th 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.

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.

Global Investment Trends Monitor

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the report Global Investment Trends Monitor for 2024.
- ❖ Global foreign direct investment (FDI) rose 14% in 2025 to \$1.6 trillion.

- ❖ More than \$140 billion of the increase in global FDI came from higher flows through global financial centres.
- ❖ FDI flows to developed economies jumped 43% to \$728 billion in 2025.
- ❖ The European Union recorded a 56% increase.
- ❖ But flows to developing economies declined by 2% to \$877 billion, accounting for 55% of global FDI.
- ❖ UNCTAD is a UN body established in 1964 with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

STATES

Zero FIR

- ❖ A 19-year-old migrant worker, Juyel Rana, from Suti in Murshidabad district, West Bengal, was killed in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- ❖ The West Bengal Police registered a Zero FIR at Suti police station, even though the crime occurred in another state.
- ❖ Zero FIR allows an FIR to be filed at any police station, regardless of the place of crime, and is first given the serial number “0”.
- ❖ After registration, the Zero FIR is transferred to the concerned police station in Odisha for further investigation.
- ❖ This provision helps in fast police action and avoids delay due to jurisdiction limits.

AI-Based Grievance Redressal System

- ❖ The Delhi government has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to develop an AI-based grievance redressal system.
- ❖ The system is called the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS).
- ❖ IGMS will integrate multiple grievance portals into one unified dashboard.
- ❖ It will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to analyse and track complaints.
- ❖ The system aims to enable faster resolution, better coordination, and greater transparency in public services.
- ❖ IIT Kanpur will support system integration, cybersecurity checks, and long-term maintenance.

Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary - Tiger reserve

- ❖ The Bihar government has approved a revised proposal to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary into the state's second tiger reserve.
- ❖ Once approved, this will be Bihar's second tiger reserve after Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) of West Champaran district.
- ❖ Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ The proposal must be approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

'VijAIpatha' labs

- ❖ 'VijAIpatha', a pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI) education initiative, is launched in Karnataka.
- ❖ It aimed at equipping government school students with future-ready skills in AI, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), robotics, coding and digital innovation.
- ❖ As part of the pilot project, five world-class AI, STEM and Robotics laboratories are being set up in government schools in Hosapete taluk.

8th State Pay Commission

- ❖ Assam has become the first state in India to constitute the 8th State Pay Commission on 1 January 2026.
- ❖ Subhas Das, former Chief Secretary of Assam, was appointed as the Chairman of the commission.
- ❖ The 8th State Pay Commission is formed ahead of the expiry of the 7th Pay Commission on 1 January 2026.
- ❖ The commission will revise the salaries, allowances, and pensions of state government employees.
- ❖ Pay Commission recommendations require approval of the state government before implementation.

India's First Slum-Free City

- ❖ Surat is set to become India's first fully slum-free city through planned urban development and housing programmes.
- ❖ The Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) has focused on in-situ redevelopment by replacing slums with permanent residential buildings.

- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has played a major role in providing affordable houses to eligible families.
- ❖ Thousands of families from economically weaker sections have been shifted to permanent homes with basic civic facilities.
- ❖ Surat is a major textile and diamond-processing hub in Gujarat and attracts a large migrant population every year.

ISO Cyber Security Certification

- ❖ Tripura State Load Dispatch Centre (SLDC) has received ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification.
- ❖ It is the first Load Dispatch Centre in Northeast India to receive this cybersecurity certification.
- ❖ The centre functions under Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL).
- ❖ ISO/IEC 27001:2022 is an international standard for Information Security Management Systems (ISMS).
- ❖ The certification strengthens cyber cybersecurity of power grid control systems and data networks.
- ❖ It improves the protection of critical electricity infrastructure and national grid stability.

Proton Therapy

- ❖ Assam will procure a proton therapy machine for cancer treatment.
- ❖ Assam will become the first state in India to offer proton therapy in the public health system.
- ❖ The estimated cost of the proton therapy machine is ₹500 crore.
- ❖ Proton therapy is an advanced form of radiotherapy that uses proton beams instead of X-rays.
- ❖ Currently, proton therapy facilities in India are available only in private hospitals.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve advanced cancer care and reduce patient travel outside the Northeast region.

Sunrise Festival 2026

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh hosted its first-ever New Year Sunrise Festival at Dong village in Anjaw district in 2026.

- ❖ The festival is based on the theme “First to Rise, First to Celebrate”, marking India’s earliest sunrise.
- ❖ Dong village is India’s easternmost village and the first place in the country to witness sunrise every year.
- ❖ A key event was “Alo Prabhat – Dance of the Dawn”, performed by the Meyor and Mishmi tribes.

Indore Water Contamination Crisis

- ❖ The contamination occurred due to polluted drinking water supplied through municipal pipelines in the Bhagirathpura area of Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The contaminated water caused an outbreak of vomiting and diarrhoeal illness among residents.
- ❖ Six people have died, and more than 200 people were hospitalised, according to district officials.
- ❖ The district administration confirmed that the water supply was the source of infection.
- ❖ Chlorination of pipelines and tube wells was carried out to control the contamination.

Organ Donations in 2025

- ❖ Karnataka recorded its highest-ever number of organ donors, with 198 donations in 2025.
- ❖ The data was recorded by Jeevasarthakathe, the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) of Karnataka.
- ❖ Karnataka ranked third in India in organ donations, after Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- ❖ Kidneys and corneas were the most commonly donated organs in the state.
- ❖ The number of organ donors increased from 162 in 2024 and 178 in 2023.

Sex Ratio at Birth - Haryana

- ❖ Haryana recorded a Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) of 923 in 2025, which is the highest in the last five years.
- ❖ The SRB increased from 910 in 2024 to 923 in 2025.
- ❖ A total of 5,19,691 births were registered in Haryana in 2025.
- ❖ Panchkula district recorded the highest SRB in the State at 971.

- ❖ The improvement followed strict enforcement of the PC-PNDT Act (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act).

Right to Disconnect Bill 2025 - Kerala

- ❖ Kerala has introduced the Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 to protect private sector employees from work communication after office hours.
- ❖ The Bill allows employees to ignore work-related calls, emails, messages, and virtual meetings beyond official working time.
- ❖ Employees cannot be penalised or disciplined for disconnecting after work hours.
- ❖ If passed, Kerala will become the first Indian State to enact such a law.
- ❖ Similar laws already exist in countries like France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Belgium.

Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project

- ❖ The Bhoramdev Corridor Development Project was launched at Bhoramdev Dham in Kabirdham district, Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The project is being implemented under the Central Government's Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0.
- ❖ The estimated cost of the project is ₹146 crore.
- ❖ The Bhoramdev Temple, often called the "Khajuraho of Chhattisgarh," is known for its ancient stone architecture, intricate carvings, and religious significance.
- ❖ The project aims to enhance pilgrimage infrastructure, improve accessibility and visitor experience, and preserve the cultural and architectural legacy of the site.

Two Child Rule – Telangana

- ❖ The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed a Bill abolishing the two-child norm for contesting local body elections.
- ❖ The earlier law, enacted in 1994, disqualified candidates who had more than two children.
- ❖ The new law is titled the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ This Bill replaces the earlier Ordinance issued on the same subject.
- ❖ The Bill was introduced by the Minister for Panchayat Raj, Danasari Anasuya Seethakka.
- ❖ The amendment allows all eligible citizens, irrespective of the number of children, to contest Panchayat Raj elections.

First Commercial Tropical Trout Farm

- ❖ India has launched its first commercial tropical Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) based rainbow trout farm in Telangana.
- ❖ The Smart Green Aquaculture Farm and Research Institute was inaugurated in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The project is located at Kandukur Mandal in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana.
- ❖ It enables year-round farming of rainbow trout, a fish traditionally grown only in cold Himalayan regions.
- ❖ RAS uses controlled water circulation to maintain suitable conditions for fish growth.
- ❖ The initiative supports technology-driven aquaculture and skill development in the fisheries sector.

Musi Riverfront Development Project

- ❖ The Musi Riverfront Development project is planned to rejuvenate the Musi River in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The project focuses on ecological restoration, urban renewal, and the creation of public spaces along the river.
- ❖ The development spans a wide stretch of the river, with master planning for multiple phases, including detailed project reports (DPRs) in progress.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given an in-principal approval for a ₹4,100 crore loan to support parts of the project.

Ethical Learning Initiative

- ❖ The Assam Governor has inaugurated a value-based education programme called Sanskaar Shaala.
- ❖ It is designed for children aged 4 to 14 years to promote moral values and ethical behaviour.
- ❖ The programme aims to teach Indian cultural traditions, discipline, and social responsibility at an early age.
- ❖ It is intended to complement formal school education by focusing on character building.
- ❖ The programme was launched at the Lohia Lions Auditorium in Guwahati.
- ❖ The initiative highlights the importance of values alongside academic learning.

PESA Rules for Gram Sabhas

- ❖ The Jharkhand Cabinet approved rules under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996, to empower Gram Sabhas in the State.
- ❖ The rules give Gram Sabhas authority over minor forest produce, local area development plans, and water resource management in rural areas.
- ❖ The rules apply to Fifth Schedule areas, which have a high tribal population.
- ❖ Gram Sabhas will be notified and delimited by the district administration.
- ❖ The rules do not affect Panchayati Raj elections under the Jharkhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2001.
- ❖ 13 districts are fully under Fifth Schedule areas, while some blocks in two other districts are partially notified as scheduled areas.
- ❖ The rules were approved after extensive consultations with departments and stakeholders and will come into effect after formal notification.

Okra Production

- ❖ Gujarat is the leading okra producer in India, with cultivation spread across 93,955 hectares in 2023–24, producing 11.68 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ The Saurashtra–Kutch region contributed 15% of the area and 13% of total okra production.
- ❖ In 2024–25, okra was grown on 14,000 hectares in 12 districts of Saurashtra and Kutch, yielding 1.5 lakh tonnes.
- ❖ Gujarat contributed 7.66% to India's total vegetable production in 2024–25.
- ❖ Horticulture in Gujarat is growing due to better productivity, improved farming practices, and supportive government policies.

Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology

- ❖ The Tripura government identified 10 river sites to generate about 185 megawatts of power using hydrokinetic turbine technology.
- ❖ Hydrokinetic technology produces electricity from the kinetic energy of flowing water, such as rivers and canals.
- ❖ These turbines work without dams or water storage and are placed directly in the river stream.
- ❖ Power is generated when flowing water rotates the turbine blades, which convert motion into electricity.
- ❖ The technology causes minimal environmental impact and does not lead to land submergence.

India's First Bio-Happy District - Keyi Panyor

- ❖ Keyi Panyor district in Arunachal Pradesh is set to become India's first Bio-Happy District.
- ❖ The project is being implemented by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in collaboration with the district administration.
- ❖ Bio-Happiness is a concept coined by Dr M.S. Swaminathan, a renowned agricultural scientist.
- ❖ It focuses on human well-being through the conservation and use of biodiversity.
- ❖ The project will study livelihoods, agro-biodiversity, and ecological health of the district.

Spice Routes Network

- ❖ Kerala launched the International Spice Routes Heritage Network.
- ❖ The initiative aims to revive historic spice trade routes connecting Kerala with global markets.
- ❖ The launch has happened during the three-day International Spice Routes Conference in Kochi.
- ❖ The Muziris Heritage Project introduced 33 heritage trails called "Spice Journeys" across Kerala.
- ❖ The network promotes research, heritage preservation, museum development, and archival documentation.
- ❖ Spices from Kerala historically influenced trade, taxes, and cultural exchanges across Europe, West Asia, and East Africa.

Andhra Pradesh - Amaravati Capital

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has approved Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Amaravati officially became the state capital on June 2, 2024.
- ❖ Legal safeguards are being provided to strengthen Amaravati's status as the capital.
- ❖ Central institutions allotted under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, will establish offices in Amaravati.

National Textiles Ministers Conference 2026

- ❖ The Conference was held in Guwahati, organised by the Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with the Government of Assam.

- ❖ The Conference aims to strengthen India's textile sector, boost exports, generate employment, promote sustainable growth, preserve heritage textiles, and make India a global textile hub by 2030.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is "India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation".
- ❖ It focuses on boosting exports, generating employment, preserving handlooms and handicrafts, promoting technical and new-age fibres, and ensuring sustainability.
- ❖ Flagship initiatives such as PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks and integrated value-chain development will be highlighted.
- ❖ A dedicated conclave will explore the North-Eastern Region's textile potential, including Eri, Muga, and Mulberry silk, women-led enterprises, and improved market access.

GI Tag - Nagauri Ashwagandha

- ❖ The Government of India has given the GI tag to Nagauri Ashwagandha from Nagaur district in Rajasthan.
- ❖ This is Rajasthan's second agricultural product to get a GI tag after Sojat Mehendi.
- ❖ Nagauri Ashwagandha grows well in the dry climate and sandy soil of Nagaur.
- ❖ It is known for its long and thick roots with high medicinal value.

Sagar Island Bridge Project

- ❖ West Bengal has started a 5 km long bridge over the Muriganga River to connect Sagar Island with the mainland.
- ❖ The bridge will connect Lot 8 in Kakdwip with Kachuberia on Sagar Island.
- ❖ The total project cost is ₹1,670 crore.
- ❖ Sagar Island is the largest island in the Sundarbans delta.
- ❖ The island hosts the annual Gangasagar Mela during Makar Sankranti.

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.

New Naval Base at Haldia, West Bengal

- ❖ The Indian Navy is set to establish a new base in West Bengal's Haldia, about 100 kilometres from Kolkata.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen India's maritime presence in the northern Bay of Bengal region amid increasing Chinese naval presence and evolving regional security situations pertaining to Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- ❖ India's existing naval commands are the Western Naval Command in Mumbai (Maharashtra), the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and the Southern Naval Command for training in Kochi (Kerala).
- ❖ It has key base in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Haldia is located on the Hooghly River near the Haldi River.

Puri's Drinkable Tap Water

- ❖ Puri in Odisha officially became India's first city where tap water is safe to drink directly, without boiling or filtering.
- ❖ Puri's achievement complies with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the highest certifying body on food and water certification under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- ❖ The mission is a part of the Centre's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2015 mission for safe water access.
- ❖ In 2017, Odisha became the first and only state in India to roll out a pioneering 'Drink from Tap' initiative.
- ❖ By the end of 2025 Puri, with a population 3 lakhs, was already the first city to provide drinkable tap water that too 24x7.
- ❖ In 1908, Jersey City of USA became the first city in the world to continuously disinfect its water supply.

Global Education Hub

- ❖ Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, ranked fifth in India for attracting international students.
- ❖ Initiatives like Global Faculty Programmes, Global Immersion Programmes, and India Trek promote academic exchange and global engagement.
- ❖ Odisha ranks among the top ten states in India for attracting foreign students, ahead of West Bengal, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.

Boda Tyohar 2025

- ❖ The month-long festival "Boda Tyohar", was commenced in Nahan, Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It is also called "Magho ko Tyohar".
- ❖ The festival is a part of the primitive traits and distinct culture of the Hati tribe.
- ❖ It is also celebrated in the Jaunsar Babar tribal belt of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This festival symbolises the importance of women in Hati culture.
- ❖ Hati community was declared a Scheduled Tribe in August 2023.
- ❖ Though Polyandry is illegal under Indian law, the Himachal Pradesh revenue law has upheld the Hatti tribe's tradition of Jodidara.

India's richest civic body

- ❖ The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is one of the largest spending authorities in the country.
- ❖ For FY 2025–26, the BMC has proposed a budget of Rs 74,427 crore, its highest ever.
- ❖ Its Capital expenditure alone accounts for about Rs 43,162 crore.
- ❖ Bengaluru's BBMP operates on roughly Rs 19,900 crore only.
- ❖ Goa's total budget for 2025–26: Rs 28,162 crore.

Swachh Jal Abhiyan – Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government launched Swachh Jal Abhiyan after a water contamination incident in Indore raised serious public health concerns.
- ❖ The campaign aims to ensure safe and clean drinking water across the state.
- ❖ The mission uses robotic technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to detect leakages and sewage–drinking water line intersections.
- ❖ The program includes regular water quality testing and cleaning of treatment plants and storage tanks.
- ❖ Citizens can report issues through 'Jal Sunwai' (water grievance hearings) for quick resolution.

Kathputli — Rajasthan's Traditional Puppet Art

- ❖ Kathputli, meaning wooden doll (kath = wood, putli = doll), is one of Rajasthan's oldest folk-art forms.

- ❖ Around 250 families in Kathputli Nagar, Jaipur, make and preserve these puppets, sewing bright costumes and painting expressive faces.
- ❖ Puppets are used by travelling performers to narrate tales of Rajput kings, warriors, folk heroes, and moral stories.
- ❖ Performances feature strings, folk music, and rhythmic narration, reflecting Rajasthan's culture and social identity.
- ❖ Kathputlis are showcased in local homes, cultural fairs, and stages worldwide, keeping the tradition alive.

Malayalam Language Bill 2025

- ❖ The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, making Malayalam the sole official language of the State.
- ❖ The Bill mandates the use of Malayalam in government administration, education, judiciary, public communication, commerce, and digital platforms.
- ❖ All government schools must teach Malayalam as the first language up to Class 10.
- ❖ Also, provisions exist for linguistic minority students to study their mother tongue.
- ❖ Bills, ordinances, and court judgments will be introduced or translated into Malayalam, and official correspondence will primarily use the language.
- ❖ Digital tools and software will support Malayalam in information technology and e-governance, and a Malayalam Language Development Directorate will oversee implementation.
- ❖ The Bill has faced opposition from Karnataka over concerns for Kannada-speaking minorities, while Kerala maintains it protects minority rights under Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

Bhadrakali Inscription

- ❖ The Bhadrakali Inscription is highlighted as an important 12th-century epigraphic record linked to the history of the Somnath Temple.
- ❖ The Bhadrakali Inscription is located at Prabhas Patan, Gujarat, on the wall of the Bhadrakali Temple.
- ❖ It was carved in 1169 CE, corresponding to Valabhi Samvat 850 and Vikram Samvat 1255.
- ❖ The inscription provides historical details about the construction and reconstruction of the Somnath Temple across different periods.

- ❖ It records patronage by the Solanki dynasty, especially during the reign of King Kumarapala.
- ❖ The inscription is a eulogy of Param Pashupata Acharya Shriman Bhavabrihaspati, the spiritual preceptor of the Solanki ruler.

Akka Pade Scheme

- ❖ The Akka Pade scheme was launched in the Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka to enhance the safety of women and children.
- ❖ Akka Pade is a special safety initiative jointly implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and the Police Department.
- ❖ Each Akka Pade team consists of five women Home Guards trained to assist women and children in distress.
- ❖ Deployment areas include schools, colleges, bus and railway stations, hostels, tourist places, and religious locations.

Prabhas Patan Inscriptions and Somnath Temple

- ❖ Prabhas Patan is located in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat, near the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Prabhas Patan contains inscriptions, copper plates, and memorial stones linked to the history of the Somnath Temple.
- ❖ These epigraphic records show the long religious importance of Somnath and royal patronage in the region.
- ❖ The Bhadrakali inscription, dated 1169 CE, records the construction of the Somnath Temple during the rule of Solanki king Kumarapala.
- ❖ The inscription states that Somnath Mahadev was rebuilt in all four yugas—Satya, Treta, Dvapara, and Kali.
- ❖ Artefacts related to these inscriptions are preserved in the Prabhas Patan Museum near the Sun Temple complex.

Rajasthan's First Organic Panchayat

- ❖ Bamanwas Kankar gram panchayat in Rajasthan became the State's first fully organic panchayat.
- ❖ The panchayat is located in Kotputli-Behrur district and comprises seven hamlets.
- ❖ All farming is now chemical-free, using organic fertilisers, mulching, crop rotation, and biological pest control.

- ❖ Livestock is raised following ecological and health-conscious practices.
- ❖ The panchayat publicly pledged to maintain chemical-free farming on January 2, 2026.
- ❖ The initiative aims to inspire replication across 300 panchayats in Rajasthan by the end of 2026.

India's First CKD Registry

- ❖ Odisha will become the first Indian state to launch a comprehensive chronic kidney disease (CKD) registry by March 31, 2026.
- ❖ The registry will generate reliable data on CKD prevalence and aid evidence-based policymaking.
- ❖ The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is developing dedicated software for the registry.
- ❖ The registry will cover CKD cases from primary health centres to medical colleges, filling gaps in existing data.
- ❖ CKD prevalence in Odisha is around 14% among people above 15 years; 60% of cases are linked to diabetes and hypertension.
- ❖ Odisha reported 19,888 CKD cases and 4,718 deaths over the last three years.

Aame Padhiba Aama Bhasare Scheme – Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha government launched the 'Aame Padhiba Aama Bhasare' scheme to provide early childhood education in the mother tongue.
- ❖ The scheme is a five-year initiative for children aged 3–6 years.
- ❖ It will be implemented first in Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri districts.
- ❖ Teaching will be done in tribal languages like Munda, Kui, Saura, Kuvi, Gondi and Koya.
- ❖ Anganwadi workers will receive language-specific training and learning materials.
- ❖ The scheme aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Article 350A of the Constitution (instruction in mother tongue at the primary level).

Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing Portal - Karnataka

- ❖ Karnataka launched the Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing Portal to promote products made by women entrepreneurs through an online platform.
- ❖ It is a state government initiative implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development.

- ❖ The portal provides a government-supported e-commerce marketplace for women-led enterprises.
- ❖ It helps women, especially rural women and artisans, sell products beyond local markets.
- ❖ The initiative supports women entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and income generation in Karnataka.

Spituk Gustor Festival – Ladakh

- ❖ The Spituk Gustor Festival is being observed at Spituk Monastery near Leh, Ladakh.
- ❖ It is a cultural festival celebrating peace and prosperity.
- ❖ The festival is held at Spituk Monastery, located about 8 km from Leh.
- ❖ It also commemorates the Gelukpa Order of Tibetan Buddhism, founded by Je Tsongkhapa (1357–1419).
- ❖ The festival concludes with the burning of an evil effigy, symbolising the victory of good over evil.

Ponduru Khadi - GI Tag

- ❖ Ponduru Khadi originates from Ponduru village in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is a traditional hand-woven cotton fabric that has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ Ponduru Khadi is locally known as “Patnulu”.
- ❖ The fabric is woven entirely by hand using locally grown Hill cotton, Punasa cotton, and red cotton.
- ❖ A distinctive feature is the use of the jawbone of the Valuga fish for cleaning cotton.

India's First Solar-Powered ATM Van

- ❖ Tripura Gramin Bank became the first Regional Rural Bank (Gramin Bank) in India to introduce a solar-powered ATM van.
- ❖ The solar-powered ATM van provides banking services in remote areas with limited electricity.
- ❖ The initiative won the SKOCH Group Silver Award for excellence in governance, innovation, and public service delivery.
- ❖ Solar-powered ATMs help provide sustainable and off-grid banking solutions.

Expansion of AI Labs - Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ IndiaAI and Uttar Pradesh Development Systems Corporation Limited (UPDESCO), Lucknow, signed an MoU to strengthen the Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ UPDESCO is the State Nodal Agency for implementing the initiative.
- ❖ 65 Data and AI Labs are planned across Uttar Pradesh; two labs are operational in Lucknow and Gorakhpur, and one in Pilibhit by an industry partner.
- ❖ The labs will have AI-ready computing resources, software, datasets, and learning modules.
- ❖ Students will get hands-on training, project-based learning, and AI skill development.
- ❖ The program aims to bridge the AI skills gap and promote AI innovation and digital inclusion.

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.

New Spaceport at Hope Island

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister announced a new spaceport at Hope Island.
- ❖ The spaceport will mainly support private launch missions under the Space City initiative.
- ❖ It is part of India's growing space infrastructure alongside Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) and Kulasekharapattinam Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) complex.
- ❖ The facility will focus on small and medium-lift launch vehicles for commercial and private missions.
- ❖ Hope Island is located off the coast of Kakinada in the Bay of Bengal, near the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.

- ❖ Its location helps in efficient eastward rocket launches and supports India's private space sector growth.

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.

Bagurumba Dwhou 2026

- ❖ The Prime Minister attended the Bagurumba Dwhou 2026 cultural programme in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ Bagurumba Dwhou is a mass cultural performance of the traditional Bagurumba dance of the Bodo community.
- ❖ It is called the “butterfly dance” because the movements are graceful, inspired by butterflies, birds, leaves, and flowers.
- ❖ Bodo women wear colorful handwoven Dokhna, Jwmgra (Fasra), and Aronai while performing in groups.
- ❖ The dance is accompanied by male musicians playing traditional instruments like Sifung (bamboo flute), Kham (drum), Serja, and Tharkha.
- ❖ In 2026, over 10,000 Bodo artists performed together, symbolising peace, fertility, joy, and collective harmony, and connecting with festivals like Bwisagu (Bodo New Year).

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.

Neolithic Relics in Lakkundi

- ❖ Recent excavations at Kote Veerabhadreshwar Temple in Lakkundi village, Gadag district, Karnataka, have uncovered Neolithic-era artefacts.
- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) finds include a broken gray clay pot, a stone axe, cowrie shells, a cross-shaped pedestal, and a stone pedestal carved with a Jina figure.
- ❖ Lakkundi, historically called Lokkigundi, was an important centre from the 10th–13th centuries under the Kalyana Chalukyas and Hoysalas.
- ❖ The discoveries show continuous human occupation from prehistoric to early medieval times.

Uniform Civil Code Ordinance, 2026

- ❖ The Uttarakhand government has implemented the Uniform Civil Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, to improve transparency, digital registration, and women's empowerment.
- ❖ The ordinance was promulgated under Article 213 of the Constitution of India, giving it immediate legal effect.
- ❖ It introduces procedural, administrative, and penal reforms to the existing UCC Act, 2024, to remove ambiguities and align with new criminal laws.
- ❖ The amendments strengthen digital marriage registration, registration-related powers, and the appellate mechanism.
- ❖ Since the original UCC implementation, over five lakh marriages have been registered online within one year.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Former Bangladesh PM - Khaleda Zia

- ❖ Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, passed away recently.
- ❖ Zia is the first female prime minister of Bangladesh and held three-time as prime minister.
- ❖ In 1991, she went on to introduce the parliamentary form of government and the caretaker government system in Bangladesh to oversee a free and fair election.

Zohran Mamdani - New York

- ❖ Incoming Mayor Zohran Mamdani will take his oath of office on a centuries-old Quran.
- ❖ It will mark the first time a Mayor of New York City has used Islam's holy text to be sworn in.
- ❖ He is a 34-year-old and from the Democratic party and also the city's youngest mayor in generations.
- ❖ He'll be the first Muslim, first South Asian and first African-born person to hold that position.
- ❖ Most of his predecessors were sworn in on a Bible.
- ❖ Although the oath to uphold the federal, state and city constitutions does not require the use of any religious text.
- ❖ Mamdani was born in Kampala, Uganda, the son of filmmaker Mira Nair and Mahmood Mamdani, an academic and author.
- ❖ He became an American citizen in 2018.

Mozhipor Thalapathi L. Ganesan

- ❖ Senior Dravidian leader and DMK high-level action committee member L Ganesan passed away recently.
- ❖ He served as parliamentary secretary when M. Karunanidhi was Chief Minister in 1989.
- ❖ He was a key figure of the 1965 anti-Hindi agitation.
- ❖ He was first elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from the Orathanadu constituency in 1967.
- ❖ He also served as a member of the Legislative Council and was elected to the Lok Sabha from Tiruchirappalli in 2004.

- ❖ During the Emergency, he was imprisoned for his political activities.
- ❖ He is the only politician in Tamil Nadu politics since independence represented in Lok Sabha (M.P.), Rajya Sabha (M.P.), Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly (M.L.A.) and Tamil Nadu Legislative Council (M.L.C.).

IFFCO Sahitya Samman 2025

- ❖ The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) conferred the IFFCO Sahitya Samman 2025 on Hindi writer Maitreyi Pushpa.
- ❖ The award recognises her contribution to Hindi literature, especially writings related to rural life.
- ❖ The IFFCO Young Literary Award 2025 was given to Ankita Jain.
- ❖ The IFFCO Sahitya Samman was instituted in 2011.
- ❖ The award includes a citation, memento, and a cash prize of ₹11 lakh.

Karnataka's Longest-Serving CM

- ❖ Siddaramaiah became the longest-serving CM of Karnataka on January 7, 2026, by surpassing the tenure of D. Devaraj Urs.
- ❖ He is a Congress leader and a prominent AHINDA leader representing minorities, backward classes and Dalits.
- ❖ D. Devaraj Urs served as Chief Minister for seven years and 239 days across two terms.
- ❖ Siddaramaiah earlier served a full term as Chief Minister from 2013 to 2018 and has been in office again since May 2023.
- ❖ His welfare initiatives, branded as Bhagya schemes and later as five guarantees, are regarded as a major pro-poor policy intervention.
- ❖ The guarantee schemes are considered the fourth passive socio-political revolution in Karnataka after land reforms, reservation and decentralisation.
- ❖ Siddaramaiah also holds the Finance portfolio and has presented a record sixteen State Budgets.
- ❖ The 2025–26 Karnataka Budget crossed the four lakh crore rupees mark for the first time.

Madhav Gadgil's demise

- ❖ Renowned Indian ecologist Madhav Gadgil passed away.
- ❖ Madhav Gadgil (1942–2026) has played a key role in ecological research in the Western Ghats, especially the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).

- ❖ He authored the concept document for the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India's first Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme of UNESCO.
- ❖ He established the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.
- ❖ He was the Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), which submitted its report in 2011.
- ❖ His work helped highlight the biodiversity importance and conservation needs of the Western Ghats.

Non-Transferable Nobel Peace Prize

- ❖ Machado won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her work promoting democratic rights and peaceful transition in Venezuela.
- ❖ Recently Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado offered to give her prize to former US President Donald Trump.
- ❖ But the Norwegian Nobel Committee said that, the Nobel Peace Prize cannot be shared, transferred, or revoked.
- ❖ The Nobel Committee clarified that once a prize is announced, the decision is final and permanent under the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation.
- ❖ Prize money, however, may be used at the recipient's discretion, but the title remains non-transferable.

IREDA Excellence Award

- ❖ IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited) got an 'Excellent' MoU rating for the fifth consecutive year.
- ❖ IREDA scored 96.42 out of 100 for the Financial Year (FY) 2024–25 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ❖ The MoU is used to evaluate the performance of government enterprises every year.
- ❖ IREDA is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) that finances renewable energy projects in India.
- ❖ IREDA had received a 'Fair' rating in FY 2019–20 before improving its performance.

83rd Golden Globe Awards 2026

- ❖ The 83rd Annual Golden Globe Awards were held in California, USA, recognizing excellence in films and television released in 2025.
- ❖ The awards are presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA).

- ❖ The Best Podcast category was introduced, and Amy Poehler won for Good Hang with Amy Poehler.
- ❖ The film One Battle After Another won four awards, and the TV series Adolescence also won four awards.
- ❖ Best Actor (Drama) went to Wagner Moura for The Secret Agent, and Best Actress (Drama) was Jessie Buckley for Hamnet.
- ❖ No Indian film was nominated.

Sunita Williams retirement

- ❖ Sunita Williams retired from NASA on 27th December 2025.
- ❖ She worked for 27 years and completed three space missions aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Williams spent a total of 608 days in space, including nine spacewalks lasting 62 hours and 6 minutes.
- ❖ She was the first person to run a marathon in space and also commanded Expedition 33 on the ISS.
- ❖ Williams participated in NASA training programs like NEEMO and helped prepare astronauts for Moon missions.

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 Vellaricombai 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.

Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026

- ❖ The Anna Medal for Gallantry 2026 was posthumously awarded to Peter Johnson during the 77th Republic Day celebrations (26 January 2026) in Chennai.
- ❖ He died while saving two youngsters from drowning in the Thamirabarani River in Kanniyakumari district in June 2025.
- ❖ Three Fire and Rescue Services personnel, V. Sankar, S. Rameshkumar, and P. Suresh, were also honoured for rescuing people during flash floods.
- ❖ The Anna Medal for Gallantry carries a ₹1 lakh cash award, a medal worth ₹9,000, and a certificate.

Ashoka Chakra Award 2026

- ❖ Indian Air Force Group Captain and astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla was awarded the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, on Republic Day 2026.
- ❖ The award recognises his bravery and courage during the Axiom Mission 4 to the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Shukla served as the primary mission pilot, ensuring safety and success during critical orbital operations.

- ❖ He became the first Indian to set foot on the ISS since Rakesh Sharma in 1984, marking India's return to human spaceflight.
- ❖ The Ax-4 mission included international crew members and focused on scientific experiments, technology demonstrations, and collaboration.

Padma Shri 2026 - A.E. Muthunayagam

- ❖ Veteran space scientist Dr A. E. Muthunayagam has been awarded the Padma Shri in 2026 for his contributions to India's space programme.
- ❖ Dr A. E. Muthunayagam is known as the pioneer of India's liquid rocket propulsion programme.
- ❖ He was born on January 11, 1939, in Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ He played a key role in developing the Vikas engine used in PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle).
- ❖ He was the founding Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of ISRO.

Tamil Scholar D. GnanaSundaram demise

- ❖ D. GnanaSundaram served as Deputy Director of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.
- ❖ He devoted his life to the study of classical Tamil and Vaishnava traditions.
- ❖ He contributed scholarly works on the Ramayana, Kamba Ramayanam, and Divya Prabandham.
- ❖ He received the Ilakkiya Mamani Award (2024) from the Tamil Nadu Government.

Ajit Pawar's demise

- ❖ A Bombardier Learjet 45 crash at Baramati, Maharashtra, on January 28, 2026 led to the death of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.
- ❖ In 1991, he was first elected as a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from the Baramati constituency, which he represented for eight terms.
- ❖ In 2023, he made a split within the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) by aligning with the BJP-led coalition.
- ❖ In February 2024, the Election Commission of India acknowledged Ajit Pawar's faction as the official NCP.
- ❖ The same year, he was sworn in as Maharashtra's deputy chief minister for a sixth time.

SPORTS

Khelo India Beach Games 2026

- ❖ Karnataka emerged as the overall champion of the Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2026.
- ❖ It was held at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- ❖ The mascot of the Games was 'Pearl', a lively dolphin.
- ❖ Karnataka topped with 3 gold, 2 silver, and 6 bronze medals.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu secured 2nd place with 3 gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze medals.
- ❖ Manipur finished 3rd with 3 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze medals.
- ❖ Karnataka dominated Open Water Swimming with Ashmita Chandra and Dhrupad Ramakrishna winning gold.
- ❖ In Sepak Takraw, Manipur won women's gold and Tamil Nadu won men's gold.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh won three gold medals in Pencak Silat.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Braille Day 2026 - January 04

- ❖ The aim is to promote awareness about Braille and the rights of visually impaired persons.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in the year 2019.
- ❖ The day is observed because it marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille.
- ❖ Louis Braille invented the Braille system used for reading and writing by touch.

National Bird Day 2026 - January 05

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about bird conservation and the protection of bird habitats.
- ❖ The day was established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition to oppose the exploitation of birds, especially in the pet trade.
- ❖ The National Bird of India is the Indian Peacock, scientifically called *Pavo cristatus*, was officially adopted on February 1, 1963.
- ❖ The peacock is protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The Indian Peacock is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List.

World Day of War Orphans 2026 – January 06

- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness about children who have lost their parents due to war and armed conflicts.
- ❖ It was first observed in 2002 and initiated by SOS Enfants en Détresse (France).
- ❖ It highlights the physical, social, and psychological challenges faced by war orphans.
- ❖ It calls for protection, care, rehabilitation, and long-term support for war-affected children.

Earth's Rotation Day 2026 – January 08

- ❖ Earth's Rotation Day is observed on January 8, 2026, marking 175 years of Léon Foucault's pendulum demonstration (1851).
- ❖ The day remembers Léon Foucault, a French physicist, who experimentally proved that the Earth rotates on its axis.
- ❖ He used Foucault's Pendulum, a long-suspended lead ball, to show Earth's rotation through its changing swing direction.
- ❖ The Earth completes one full rotation in about 24 hours, which creates day and night.
- ❖ This discovery helped improve scientific understanding of astronomy, weather patterns, and ocean currents.

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.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2026

- ❖ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is observed every year on 9 January by the Government of India.

- ❖ It marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915.
- ❖ The day honours the Indian diaspora living in more than 200 countries.
- ❖ India has the world's largest diaspora, with about 35 million overseas Indians.
- ❖ The Indian diaspora sends more than USD 120 billion to India every year as remittances.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is given on this day to recognise outstanding overseas Indians.

National Youth Day/Yuva Diwas 2026 - January 12

- ❖ It aims to inspire the youth with the ideas of Swami Vivekananda and promote nation-building.
- ❖ It was officially declared and first observed in 1984 by the Government of India.
- ❖ It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ❖ The day aims to promote youth leadership, discipline, and national service among young people.

National Road Safety Week 2026 – January 11/17

- ❖ The day aims to promote road safety awareness and reduce road accidents and deaths.
- ❖ It was first introduced in 1989 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- ❖ It is observed to encourage safe driving, pedestrian safety, and better road infrastructure.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha” (Road Safety, Life Safety).

Army Day 2026 - January 15

- ❖ It marks the day in 1949 when the Indian Army came under full Indian leadership after independence.
- ❖ On this day, Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- ❖ He took charge from General Sir F. R. R. Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief.
- ❖ The day honours the service and sacrifices of Indian Army soldiers in protecting national security.

National Startup Day 2026 - January 16

- ❖ It was observed on 16 January 2026 to mark 10 years of the Startup India Initiative.
- ❖ The initiative was launched in 2016 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in India.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ❖ India has more than 2,00,000 DPIIT-recognised startups across various sectors.
- ❖ The day was officially declared in 2022 to recognise the role of startups in economic growth.

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.

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.

Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya Foundation Day – January 21

- ❖ Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya are observing their Foundation Day on 21 January 2026, completing 54 years of statehood.
- ❖ These three states became full-fledged states on 21 January 1972 under the North Eastern Areas Reorganisation Act, 1971.
- ❖ Before statehood, Tripura and Manipur were Union Territories, and Meghalaya was part of Assam.
- ❖ The Act reorganised the North-Eastern region to provide administrative autonomy and legislative powers.
- ❖ The Foundation Day marks the states' journey in self-governance, cultural identity and regional development.

National Girl Child Day 2026 - January 24

- ❖ The day aims to promote the rights, education, health, and empowerment of girls.
- ❖ The day was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).
- ❖ On this day in 1966, Indira Gandhi became India's first woman Prime Minister.
- ❖ The day highlights issues like gender discrimination, child sex ratio, and access to education.

International Day of Education 2026 - January 24

- ❖ It is observed to recognise education as a basic human right.
- ❖ The day aims to promote inclusive, equitable, and quality education and lifelong learning for all.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2018.
- ❖ The first observance took place in 2019 at the global level.
- ❖ The theme is “The power of youth in co-creating education”.

National Tourism Day 2026 - January 25

- ❖ It is observed to highlight the importance of the tourism sector.
- ❖ The day aims to promote economic growth, cultural exchange, employment, and sustainable tourism.

- ❖ The day focuses on encouraging responsible and inclusive tourism practices.
- ❖ Tourism supports sectors like transport, hospitality, handicrafts, and local livelihoods.

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”.

International Customs Day 2026 - January 26

- ❖ The day marks the first session of the Customs Cooperation Council (1953), which later became the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- ❖ The WCO has 183 member countries, and its headquarters is in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ Customs authorities facilitate international trade, collect revenue, ensure border security, and prevent smuggling and illegal trafficking.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Customs protecting society through vigilance and commitment.”

Martyrs' Day 2026 - January 30

- ❖ Martyrs' Day is also known as Shaheed Diwas or Sarvodaya Day.
- ❖ 30 January 2026 marks the 78th death anniversary of MK Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.
- ❖ Martyrs' Day was officially declared in 1949 to honour MK Gandhi and other freedom fighters.
- ❖ Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January 1948 in New Delhi, by Nathuram Godse.
- ❖ Other Martyrs' Days in India include 23 March (Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev), 19 May (Bhasha Shahid Divas – Language Martyrs of the Bengali Movement), and 19 November (birth anniversary of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi).

Statehood Day of Himachal Pradesh 2026 - January 26

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became a Chief Commissioner's Province on 15 April 1948.
- ❖ On 26 January 1950, it became a Part C State after the Indian Constitution came into effect.
- ❖ In 1956, the Part A, B, and C classification was abolished, and Himachal Pradesh became a Union Territory.
- ❖ On 1 November 1966, hill areas from Punjab (Kangra, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti) were merged into Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ It achieved full statehood on 25 January 1971, becoming India's 18th state under the State of Himachal Pradesh Act, 1970.
- ❖ The name "Himachal Pradesh" means "Lap of Snow", and it shares borders with Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and China.

International Day of Clean Energy 2026 – January 26

- ❖ It was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2023.
- ❖ The day marks the founding of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in 2009.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy for the benefit of people and the planet.
- ❖ Clean energy includes renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Batadrava Than

- ❖ The Batadrava Than Redevelopment Project was inaugurated recently
- ❖ Batadrava Than is one of the most important religious sites in Assam and holds deep cultural value as the birthplace of Shankaradeva.
- ❖ Sankaradeva (1449–1568) was a renowned reformer, poet, and social thinker.
- ❖ He founded the first-ever Kirtan Ghar (Sattriya) to preach and propagate 'Ek Saran Naam Dharma' (the neo-Vaishnavite faith).
- ❖ He rescued the people of Assam from regressive medieval practices like human sacrifice.
- ❖ He created a classical dance form known as both the Sankari dance and the Satriya dance.

- ❖ The Sangeet Nātak Akādemī of India recognised it as a classical dance form in 2000.

Rohtasgarh Fort

- ❖ Rohtasgarh Fort, also called Rohtas Fort, is located on the banks of the Sone River in Bihar.
- ❖ It is one of the largest forts in India and the world, spread over about 26 miles.
- ❖ The fort is situated on a hill around 1500 metres high with massive defensive walls.
- ❖ It was built by Raja Harishchandra of the Solar dynasty and named after his son Rohitashva.

Indian Standard for Electric Agricultural Tractors

- ❖ The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, released IS 19262:2025 – Electric Agricultural Tractors: Test Code in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Standard (IS) was developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ❖ It aims to ensure the safety, reliability, and performance of electric agricultural tractors through uniform testing protocols.
- ❖ IS 19262:2025 specifies tests for PTO power, drawbar power, belts and pulleys performance, vibration measurement, and inspection of components and assemblies.
- ❖ The standard builds on IS 5994:2022 – Agricultural Tractors: Test Code and relevant automotive standards, adapted for electric tractors.
- ❖ Electric tractors use battery-powered electric motors instead of diesel engines, offering reduced emissions, lower operating costs, quieter operation, and less maintenance.

Piprahwa relics

- ❖ The exposition of the sacred Piprahwa Relics was hosted in Delhi.
- ❖ They are believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Lord Buddha.
- ❖ The Piprahwa relics were discovered in 1898 by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé in Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ most of the relics were handed over to British colonial authorities and placed in the Indian Museum in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in 1899.

- ❖ However, under the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878, Peppe was allowed to retain about one-fifth portion of the findings.
- ❖ In the years that followed, parts of the relics were gifted to Buddhist-majority countries like Thailand, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ In 2025, Indian government negotiated a deal that secured the relics' permanent return to India after 127 Years.

150th international convention of Theosophical Society

- ❖ The 150th international convention, celebrated under the theme of 'One World, One life - The spirit of new humanity', at the Adyar.
- ❖ The Theosophical Society was started by Madame H.P. Blavatsky and Colonel H.S. Olcott in New York in 1875.
- ❖ The Theosophical Society moved to Adyar, Madras on December 19, 1882.
- ❖ Dr. Annie Besant entered the society in 1889, she became the president in 1903.

UN International Year 2026

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness and advocate for the value of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism.
- ❖ 2026 also declared as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026).
- ❖ It will raise awareness and promote actions to close the gender gaps and improve women's livelihoods worldwide.
- ❖ UN also declared 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY), to promote and recognize volunteerism as a significant force for sustainable development.

Blue Cross of India – 60 Years of Animal Welfare

- ❖ Captain V. Sundaram rescued two stranded puppies in 1959 in T. Nagar, Madras.
- ❖ He and his wife, Usha Sundaram, built makeshift kennels at home for injured and abandoned animals.
- ❖ The organization started as Animal Aid Association and was registered as Blue Cross of India (BCI) in 1964.
- ❖ BCI's founding members included Sundaram, his family, and early supporters like Daivasigamony.

- ❖ BCI began the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme for street dogs in 1964.
- ❖ The World Health Organization endorsed the ABC with Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ABC-AR) in 1990.
- ❖ The Corporation of Chennai stopped culling street dogs in 1996 and adopted the ABC programme.
- ❖ The Government of India made ABC mandatory nationwide in 2001 under the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules.
- ❖ BCI provides shelters, veterinary care, adoption drives, and treats injured or rabies-suspected animals.

Somnath Temple - 1000 Years

- ❖ Prime Minister published an article titled “Somnath: 1,000 years of unbroken faith”.
- ❖ The year 2026 marks 1,000 years since the first recorded attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026 AD by Mahmud of Ghazni.
- ❖ The Somnath Temple is located at Prabhas Patan near Veraval in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is traditionally regarded as the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ After the 1026 AD attack, the temple was destroyed and rebuilt multiple times over nearly a millennium, symbolising resilience and continuity of faith.
- ❖ The temple was reconstructed in the Chaulukya (Solanki) period and later restored again under Maratha patronage in the 18th century.
- ❖ Following India’s independence, the present structure was rebuilt in the Chalukyan architectural style, with reconstruction initiated in 1951.
- ❖ Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a key role in the modern reconstruction, viewing Somnath as a symbol of national resurgence.

Kushan Coins in Takshashila

- ❖ Pakistani archaeologists have discovered rare coins and decorative stones at a UNESCO-listed site near Takshashila.
- ❖ The findings were made at the ancient Bhir Mound, an important archaeological site of early urban settlement.
- ❖ Decorative stones identified as lapis lazuli date back to the 6th century BC.
- ❖ Bronze coins found at the site belong to the Kushan dynasty and date to the 2nd century AD.
- ❖ The coins bear the image of Emperor Vasudeva, a ruler of the Kushan period.

International Year for Rangelands

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- ❖ The focus is on grasslands and savannahs, which are important for carbon sequestration, biodiversity, and climate resilience.
- ❖ Grasslands face threats from agriculture, plantations, invasive species, fossil fuel extraction, and fire suppression policies.
- ❖ Indigenous practices like controlled burning and grazing help maintain ecosystem health, but are often overlooked.
- ❖ Global and Indian policies aim to integrate grasslands into climate plans and the Paris Agreement's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- ❖ Recognising grasslands as carbon sinks can support both climate mitigation and pastoral livelihoods.

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.

Zehanpora Buddhist Complex in Kashmir

- ❖ The 2,000-year-old Zehanpora Buddhist stupa complex in Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir, has been scientifically excavated.
- ❖ The site dates to the Kushan period (1st–3rd century CE) and spreads over 10 acres.
- ❖ It includes the multiple stupas, apsidal chaityas (prayer halls), viharas (monk residences), urban settlements, and artefacts.

- ❖ Zehanpora lies along the ancient Silk Route linking Kashmir with Gandhara (Afghanistan–Pakistan region).
- ❖ Buddhism in Kashmir began under Emperor Ashoka (3rd century BCE) and flourished during Kushan rule under Kanishka and Huvishka.

Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Corridor

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) created four Guinness World Records during the construction of the Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada Economic Corridor (NH-544G) near Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ NHAI laid longest continuous bituminous concrete (BC) laying of 9.63 km on a three-lane stretch and for laying the highest quantity of BC (10,655 metric tonnes) in 24 hours.
- ❖ Two more records were set for the continuous laying of 57,500 metric tonnes of BC and for paving a 52 km long three-lane stretch without interruption.
- ❖ This 343 km, six-lane corridor access-controlled highway connecting Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

BRICS 2026 Website and Logo

- ❖ India's BRICS Presidency 2026 official website and logo launched recently.
- ❖ India will assume the BRICS chairship in 2026, coinciding with the grouping's 20th anniversary.
- ❖ Theme: Building for resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability.
- ❖ BRICS is a platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing economies.
- ❖ The logo represents unity in diversity, blending tradition and modernity with the colours of all member countries.
- ❖ The website will provide information on meetings, initiatives, and outcomes during India's chairship.

Genome Recovery from Woolly Rhinoceros

- ❖ Scientists recovered the genome of a woolly rhinoceros from undigested meat found in the stomach of an Ice Age grey wolf puppy.
- ❖ The wolf puppy lived about 14,400 years ago and was found preserved in permafrost near Tumat village, northeastern Siberia.

- ❖ The study showed that the woolly rhinoceros population remained genetically healthy until near extinction.
- ❖ Researchers found no signs of inbreeding, indicating a rapid population collapse.
- ❖ The extinction is linked mainly to climate warming at the end of the Ice Age, according to the study.

Henley Passport Index 2026

- ❖ India is ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026.
- ❖ Indian passport holders can access 55 countries without a prior visa (visa-free, visa-on-arrival, or e-visa).
- ❖ India shares the 80th rank with Nigeria and Algeria.
- ❖ This Index ranks passports based on travel freedom using International Air Transport Association (IATA) data.
- ❖ Singapore holds the strongest passport, with access to 192 countries, while Afghanistan has the weakest, with access to 24 countries.

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.

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.



Hydrogen Compressor Safety Assessment

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) conducted India's first full-system safety assessment of a hydrogen compressor-dispenser.
- ❖ The assessment was done at National Thermal Power Corporation Limited in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Hydrogen compressors are essential for compressing and supplying hydrogen at high pressures for hydrogen fuel stations.
- ❖ The system was tested under Gas Group IIC conditions, representing highly explosive industrial environments.
- ❖ Detailed inspection included flameproof devices, safety interlocks, alarms, and pressure relief systems.

World's Oldest Cave Artwork

- ❖ Researchers reported the world's oldest known cave artwork discovered in Indonesia.
- ❖ The artwork is a red hand stencil found in limestone caves of Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- ❖ Scientific dating using uranium-series analysis showed the handprint is about 67,800 years old.
- ❖ It predates the oldest known European cave art by nearly 30,000 years.

