

7. Short News

1. INS Anjadip

Commissioning- Formally commissioned into the Indian Navy at Chennai Port on February 27, 2026.

Project- The fourth of eight ships under the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project.

Role- Designed for detecting and neutralizing enemy submarines in littoral (coastal) waters.

Indigenous Content- Boasts over 80% indigenization, including the 'Abhay' Hull Mounted Sonar and advanced Combat Management Systems.

Naming- Named after Anjadip Island (near Karwar), which was historically claimed by Vasco da Gama for Portugal in 1498.

2. India's First Amorphous Metal Manufacturing Unit

Investment- Japan-based Proterial Ltd. (formerly Hitachi Metals) is investing approximately ₹1,350 crore (\$148 million).

Location- Being established at Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, in partnership with Shirdi Sai Electricals.

Technology- Produces amorphous electrical steel (Metglas), which has a non-crystalline atomic structure.

Efficiency- Reduces transformer core losses by 60–70% compared to traditional silicon steel.

Significance- Reduces India's 100% import dependency; supported under the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel.

3. Meningococcal Disease Advisory (Meghalaya)

Context- Health advisory issued in East Khasi Hills (February 2026) after two Agniveer trainees died at the Assam Regimental Centre in Shillong.

The Disease- A severe bacterial infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, leading to meningitis or bloodstream infection (meningococemia).

Transmission- Spreads through respiratory droplets and close contact; common in crowded settings like barracks.

Symptoms- Sudden high fever, stiff neck, severe headache, and a non-blanching purpuric rash.

Prevention- Prophylactic antibiotics for close contacts and vaccination.

4. Digital Food Currency Pilot (Puducherry)

Launch- Inaugurated on February 26, 2026, by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi.

Mechanism- Uses Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or e-Rupee (₹) to distribute PMGKAY food subsidies.

Programmability- Subsidies are credited as programmable digital tokens redeemable *only* for foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPS).

Integration- Built on the JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile) framework to eliminate leakages and middlemen.

5. Rajasthan Scraps Two-Child Norm

Decision- The Rajasthan Cabinet (February 2025/26) approved the removal of the two-child restriction for contesting local body and Panchayati Raj elections.

Original Rule- Introduced in 1995 as a population control measure.

Rationale- The state cited declining fertility rates (from 3.6 to 2.0) and the need to widen the pool of eligible candidates for grassroots democracy.

Legal Change- Requires amendments to the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act (1994) and the Municipalities Act (2009).

6. Japanese Macaque (Snow Monkey)

Unique Feature- The northernmost-living non-human primate; famous for bathing in hot springs to survive sub-zero temperatures.

Adaptation- Thick fur and a short tail help conserve heat.

Social Structure- Lives in large, gregarious troops with a strict matrilineal hierarchy.

Comparison-

1. Lion-tailed Macaque- Endemic to Western Ghats (Endangered).
2. Rhesus Macaque- Found in North India (Least Concern).
3. Crested Black Macaque- Found in Indonesia (Critically Endangered).

7. India-EU 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) Status

Agreement- India and the EU have agreed to grant each other MFN status for five years under their newly concluded Free Trade Agreement (January/February 2026).

WTO Principle- MFN requires a country to provide the same trade concessions to all members (no discrimination between trading partners).

Impact- Locks in preferential tariff terms, ensuring neither side gives better terms to other partners during the period.

8. National Science Day 2026

Date- February 28, commemorating the discovery of the Raman Effect (1928) by Sir C.V. Raman.

Theme for 2026- "Women in Science- Catalysing Viksit Bharat".

Raman Effect- The phenomenon where light changes its wavelength when passing through a transparent medium due to molecular interaction.

Discovery Impact- Raman became the first Asian scientist to win a Nobel Prize in science (Physics, 1930).