



Zoological Survey of India Discovers Two New Marine Worm Species | West Bengal | 06 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, in collaboration with international researchers, have discovered two new species of marine worms from the **neriidid** (polychaete) family along the West Bengal coast.

Key Points:

- **Location:** The species were identified in the coastal waters of **Digha** and **Bankiput** in the Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal.
- **Taxonomy:** Nereididae are a family of **marine polychaete worms**, commonly known as **ragworms or clam worms**.
- **The Two New Species:** Segmented worms are recognised by their long, slender bodies, distinct head with eyes and tentacles, and parapodia
 - **Namalycastis solenotognatha:**
 - **Etymology:** Named from the Greek words *solenotos* (channelled) and *gnatha* (jaw) due to unique canals in its jaw structure.
 - **Habitat:** Found in extreme, sulfide-rich, and organically enriched mudflats, often associated with decomposing mangrove wood.
 - **Nereis dhritiae:**
 - **Etymology:** Named in honour of **Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**, the first woman Director of the ZSI.
- **Habitat:** Typically dwells within wooden dock piles on sandy beaches that are submerged during high tide.
- **Resilience:** A significant finding is that these worms thrive in **highly polluted and human-impacted habitats**, making them potential **bioindicators** for monitoring coastal health.
- **Ecological Significance:** Nereidid worms are vital "bio-warriors" for coastal ecosystems as they aid in **nutrient cycling** and **sediment aeration**.
 - This discovery, recently published in the journal **Zootaxa**, underscores the hidden biodiversity of the northern Bay of Bengal despite heavy anthropogenic pressure.

Read More: [Zoological Survey of India](#)

Kalpetta Becomes India's First Fully Paperless District Court | National Current Affairs | 06 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **Kalpetta judicial district** in **Wayanad, Kerala** has become **India's first fully paperless district**

court.

Key Points

- **Historic Achievement:** Kalpetta has become the **first district court in India** to function completely without paper, transitioning to a fully digital judicial system.
- **Inauguration:** The paperless court system was **virtually inaugurated** by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant**.
- **Functioning:** All stages of court proceedings — including **pre-trial processes, recording of evidence, interlocutory orders, and final adjudications** — are now conducted electronically without the use of physical files.
 - The digital platform, known as the **District Court Case Management System (DCMS)**, was developed **in-house by the Kerala High Court's IT department** to ensure secure and efficient digital operations.
- **Technology:** The system integrates **AI-based judicial assistance tools** that help generate structured case summaries, assist with annotation, query case details, and support judges with faster access to digital records.
- **Benefits:** Going paperless is expected to **reduce litigation costs, eliminate delays in transferring files**, enhance **access to justice**, and contribute to **“green jurisprudence”** by lowering the environmental impact of judicial processes.
- **Model for Other Districts:** The initiative is being seen as a **model for other judicial districts** across India, with the potential to transform traditional court operations into **efficient digital systems** nationwide.

Read More: [District court, AI, Chief Justice of India](#)

Tamil Nadu Launches India's First Deep Tech Startup Policy | National Current Affairs | 06 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Tamil Nadu **unveiled India's first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy** at the **UImagineTN 2026** technology summit in **Chennai**.

Key Points

- **Policy Launch:** The **Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-26** was launched by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** at the **UImagineTN 2026** summit held in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.
 - Tamil Nadu became the **first Indian state to introduce a dedicated deep tech startup policy**.
- **Implementation:** The policy will be coordinated and facilitated by the **Tamil Nadu Technology (iTNT) Hub**, the nodal agency under the state government.
- **Investment & Startup Support:** The policy **targets support for 100 deep tech startups** and plans to **mobilise ₹100 crore** in public and private investment over the next five years to bridge the gap between research and market deployment.
 - The policy emphasises cutting-edge sectors such as **artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors, biotechnology, space technologies, and clean energy**, which typically involve advanced scientific research and long gestation periods.
- **Ecosystem Development:** It aims to **facilitate technology transfer from academic and research institutions to startups**, encourage patent creation, and strengthen infrastructure and capital support for innovation.

- **Government Support:** The policy includes provisions like a “**Government as Early Adopter**” programme to pilot and validate deep tech solutions in select government departments, aiding startups in proving their technologies.

Read More: [Startup](#), [AI](#), [Semiconductors](#), [Biotechnology](#), [Space technologies](#)

World Cancer Day 2026 | National Current Affairs | 06 Feb 2026

Why in News?

World Cancer Day was observed on **4 February 2026** to raise awareness about cancer, promote early detection, and encourage equitable access to cancer care worldwide.

Key Points

- **Theme:** The official theme for 2026 is “**United by Unique**”, part of a **three-year global campaign (2025-27)** that underscores that everyone’s cancer journey is different but equally deserving of care and dignity.
 - The theme stresses **person-centred care**, recognising individual experiences, needs and the importance of dignity in treatment and survivorship planning.
- **Purpose:** **Raise awareness** about cancer prevention, early detection and treatment.
 - **Encourage** timely screening and healthy lifestyles.
 - **Break** myths, stigma and fear associated with cancer.
 - **Support** patients, survivors and caregivers.
 - **Improve** access to equitable cancer care worldwide.
- **Participation:** Individuals, communities, health institutions and governments take part through **awareness campaigns, educational programmes and screening activities** to promote action against cancer.
 - Health experts emphasise that **early detection saves lives**, and many cancer cases could be **prevented** or better managed with timely screening and lifestyle interventions.
- **Preventable Causes:** According to WHO analyses, an estimated **4 in 10 new cancer cases can be prevented** through risk-reducing measures such as avoiding tobacco, unhealthy diets, alcohol and improving physical activity.
- **Equity and Access:** World Cancer Day calls for **equitable access to high-quality care**, especially in low- and middle-income countries where lack of resources and awareness leads to late diagnosis and poorer outcomes.

Read More: [World Cancer Day](#), [WHO](#)

Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 | National Current Affairs | 06 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The 25th edition of the Winter Olympic Games will officially begin from 6 February. Milano Cortina 2026

will mark the **first time that two cities will jointly host the Winter Olympics**, and it is the fourth time **Italy** will stage the Winter Games.

Key Points:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Held on 6 February 2026 at the iconic San Siro Stadium in Milan.
- **Closing Ceremony:** Scheduled for 22 February 2026 at the ancient Verona Arena.
- **Mascots: Tina and Milo**, two stoats whose names are inspired by the host cities (Tina for Cortina and Milo for Milano).
- **Theme:** Titled "**Armonia**" (**Harmony**), the show is produced by Balich Wonder Studio and features performances by **Mariah Carey**, **Andrea Bocelli**, and **Laura Pausini**.
- **India's Participation:** India is represented by a small but significant contingent at the 2026 Games, continuing its presence in global winter sports.
- **Athletes: Arif Mohammad Khan**, the veteran alpine skier, who previously represented India at the Beijing 2022 Winter Games, has qualified in the **Alpine Skiing** discipline.
 - **Stanzin Lundup:** Competing in **Cross-Country Skiing**. His participation was confirmed after a selection process that involved a Delhi High Court decision regarding the national quota.
- **India participated in the Winter Olympics:** While the Winter Olympic Games began in 1924, India made its debut in 1964.
 - Including the upcoming Milano Cortina Olympics, India has participated in 12 Winter Olympic editions, with 17 different athletes representing the country over the years.

Read More: [Winter Olympics](#)

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