

The Hindu SimplEified

Daily Highlights & Updates | February 23, 2026





US Court Stops Trump's Extra Taxes

Sub-Red as Playfair Display Bold
But the trade war isn't over yet.

1

The Ruling: Supreme Court says NO to arbitrary tariff hikes. Inter

2

The Reaction: Trump pivots to a new law (Section 122). Inter

3

The Result: Temporary 15% tax on imports, effective immediately. Inter

Next Step:
Congress must
approve this
within 150 days.

How This Affects India

Heavy Industry



Steel & Aluminum exports to the US crashed in Dec 2025 due to high taxes.

Small Business

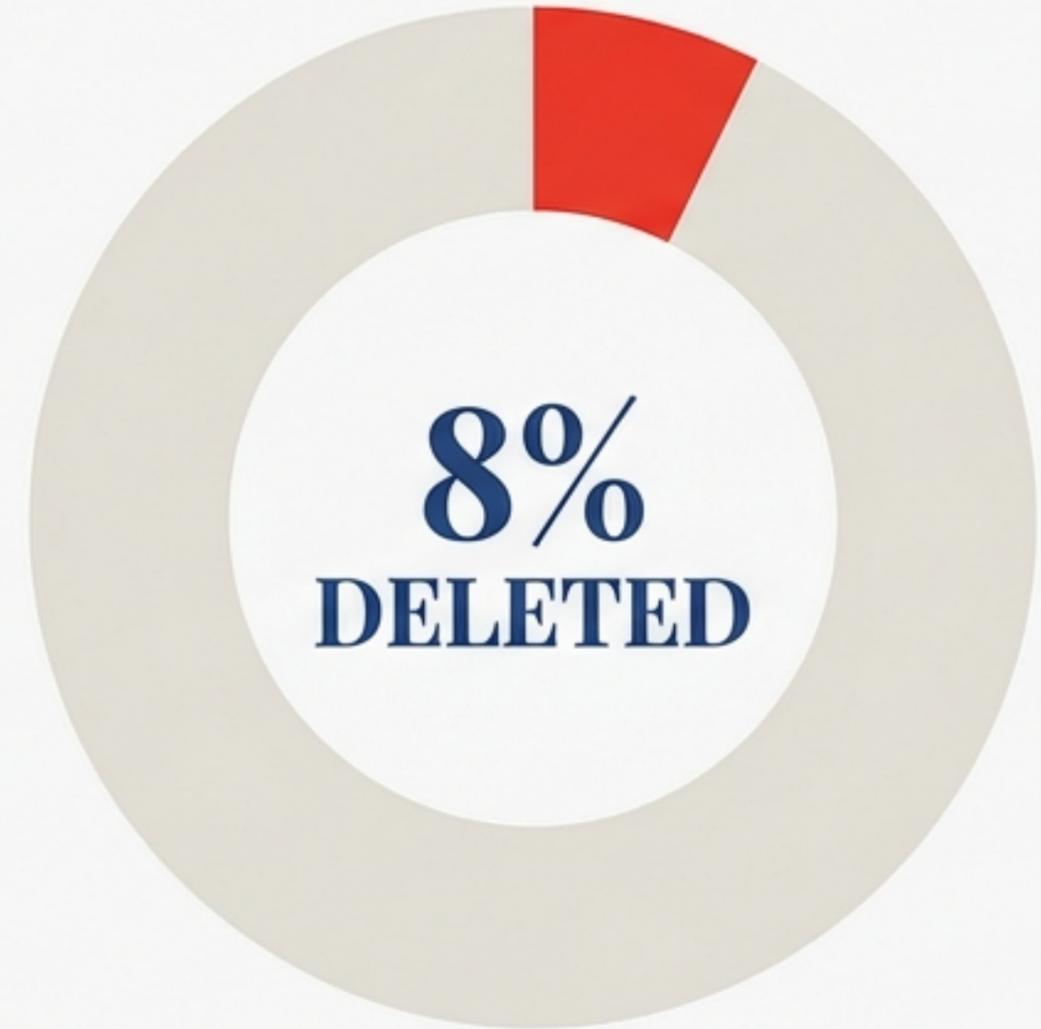


The 'De Minimis' Loophole Closed.

- Packages under \$800 (toys, textiles) are no longer duty-free.
- Big hit for small Indian exporters & e-commerce.

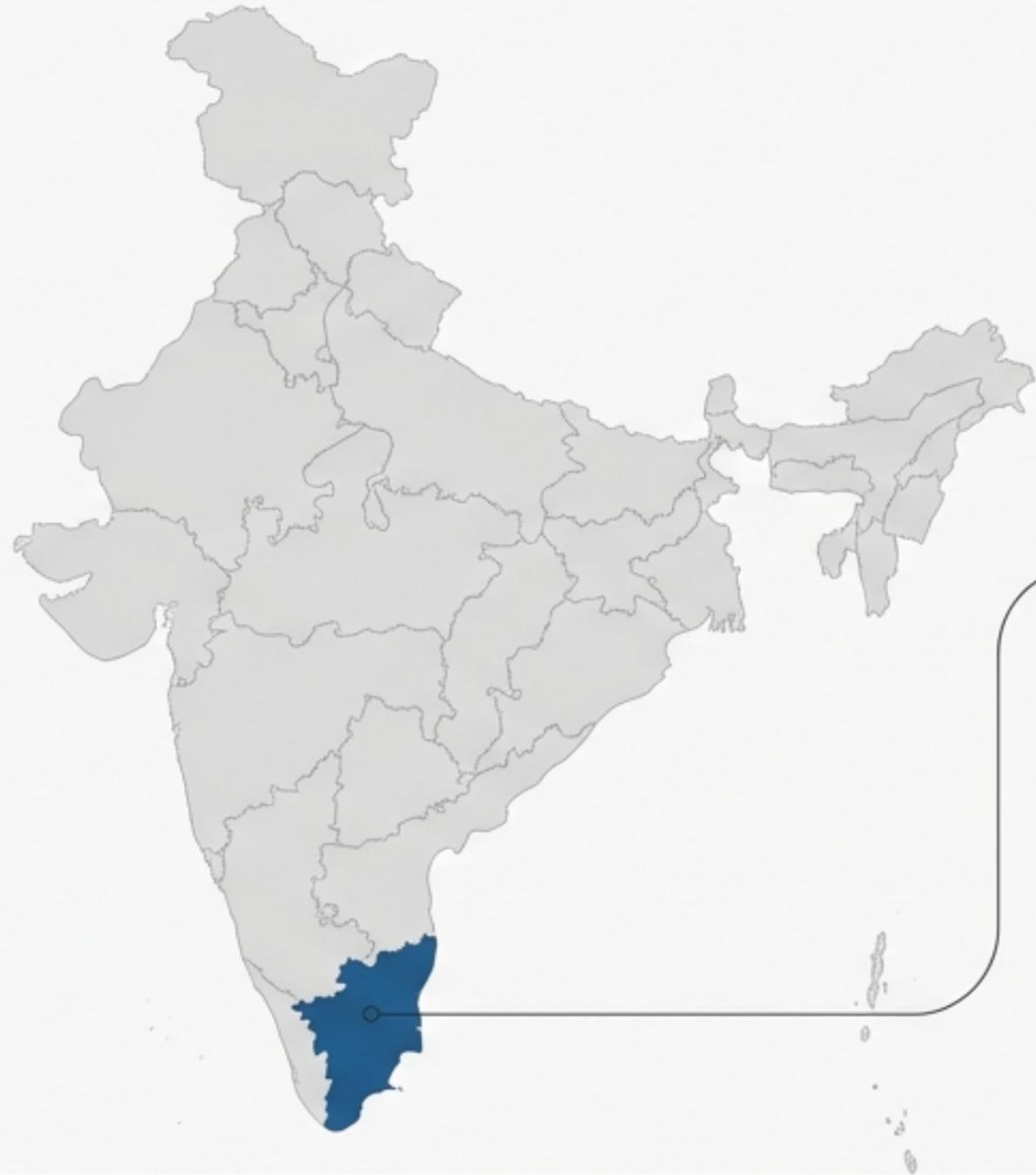
"The decision effectively renders recent trade deals... useless." — **Ajay Srivastava (GTRI)**

Voter List Updates: The Numbers



- Why? Routine cleanup (duplicates, deaths, shifts).
- Highest Deletions: Gujarat (13.4%)
- Lowest Deletions: Kerala (3.2%)

Rethinking Power: Center vs. States



The Argument for Recalibration

Source: Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin

- **The Problem:** Center has too much power = blurred accountability.
- **The Solution:** Right-sizing the Union.
- **The Goal:** States manage local governance; Center manages national issues.

Green Light for Great Nicobar?

Status: **CLEARED** by National Green Tribunal.

The Plan: A massive cargo hub & airport.

The Risk: **Destruction** of turtle nesting grounds, coral colonies, and ancient forests.

The Dilemma: Strategic gain vs. **Ecological loss**.



Around the World



Venezuela

Freedom for 379. Political prisoners granted amnesty and released following government change.



Ukraine / Russia

Drone Strikes. Ukraine hits missile factory deep inside Russia.

Boris Johnson urges allies to send troops for non-combat roles.

The Future of AI: Glass Box, Not Black Box

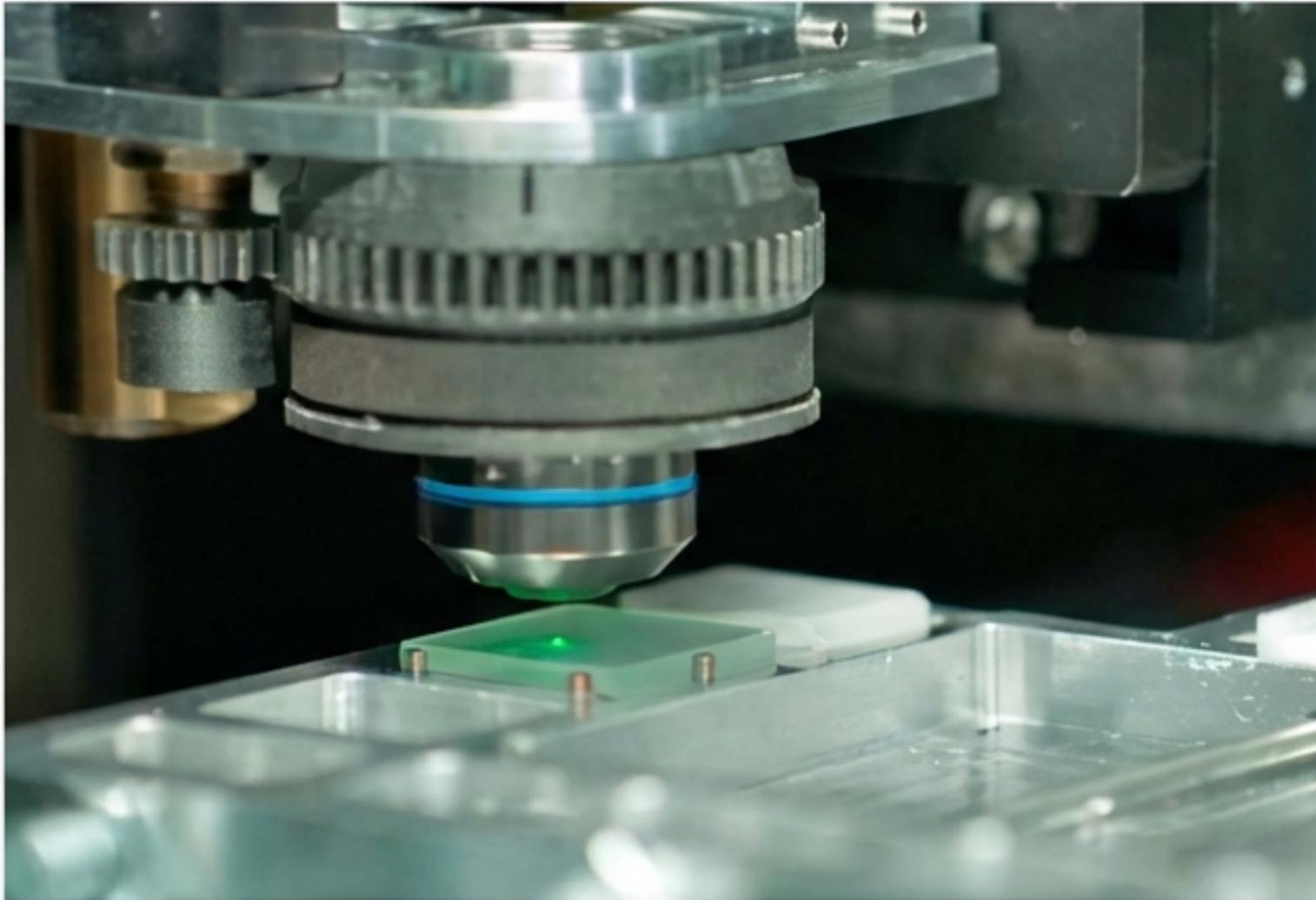


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AI must be a tool for humans, not a replacement. We need a 'Glass Box'—transparency to see how it works.

— Prime Minister of Bhutan (New Delhi Declaration) **Signed by 85+ Countries.**

Science Snippet: Storing Data for 10,000 Years



Data Card

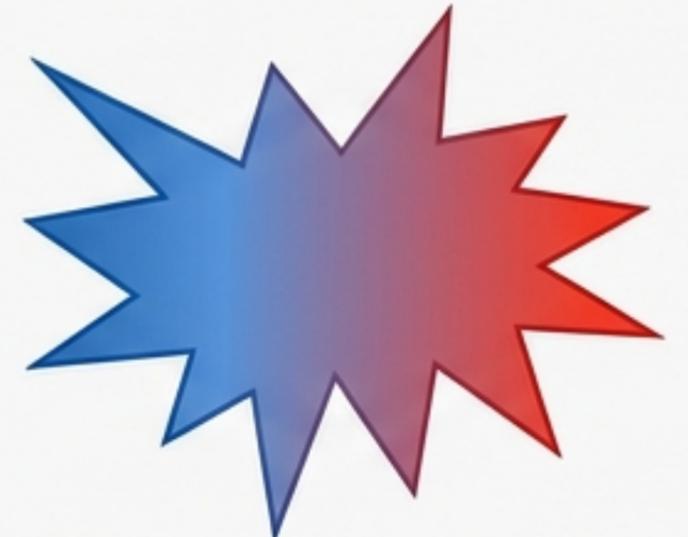
- ▶ **Material:** 2mm thick glass plate
- ▶ **Capacity:** 4.8 TB (Terabytes) per square
- ▶ **Lifespan:** 10,000 Years
- ▶ **Method:** 3D laser pixels in layers

Microsoft Research breakthrough—unlike hard drives, this lasts for millennia.

Do Chickens Know Shapes?



Bouba



Kiki

- ▶ **The Experiment:** Baby chicks heard soft sounds ('Bouba') and sharp sounds ('Kiki').
- ▶ **The Result:** They matched the sounds to the shapes **correctly!**
- ▶ **Takeaway:** Sound-shape association might be **hard-wired** in the brain, not learned.

This suggests an innate connection between auditory and visual processing, not just a human trait.

T20 World Cup: India vs. South Africa



Match Preview

- **The Stakes:** Super Eight Clash.
- **The Story:** South Africa seeks revenge for 2024 final. India defends winning streak.
- **India's Strategy:** Bat smart overs 7-15. Explode last 5 overs (Target: 60-70 runs).

“Toss is overrated.” —
Suryakumar Yadav

The 1-Minute Recap

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Trade: US Court blocks Trump's tariff; he counters with a 15% tax. |
| 2 | National: 8% of voters removed from Indian electoral rolls (Routine cleanup). |
| 3 | Environment: Great Nicobar port project gets green light. |
| 4 | Tech: World agrees on "Human-Centric AI" & transparency. |
| 5 | Sports: India faces South Africa in crucial T20 match. |

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Stay curious. See you tomorrow.

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