

Date : 2026-02-09

Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

Finance Ministry presents Economic Survey 2025–26 in Parliament

The Finance Ministry presented the Economic Survey 2025–26 in Parliament ahead of the Union Budget, outlining India's macroeconomic performance and prospects. The survey highlighted resilient growth with an estimated GDP growth of about 7.4 per cent in 2025–26, driven by strong domestic demand, investment, and services. It emphasised robust fiscal consolidation, low inflation, healthy banking indicators, and reforms in infrastructure, innovation, and strategic sectors. The report also focused on challenges such as global uncertainties and the need for strategic resilience.

Government designates coking coal as critical mineral under MMDR law

The Government of India has officially designated coking coal as a critical mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act to strengthen mineral security and reduce import dependence for the steel industry. The change in the law is intended to expedite approvals, boost exploration and mining activities, and attract private investment by easing regulatory requirements. India currently meets about 95 per cent of its coking coal demand through imports, and the new status aims to enhance domestic production and supply-chain resilience.

NHRC seeks response from Rajasthan over Kalbelia burial rights issue

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a reported protest by the Kalbelia community in Barmer district, Rajasthan, over the absence of designated burial grounds for their deceased. The community, which follows burial traditions, allegedly lacks access to official burial sites and has resorted to protest by placing a body on a public road. The NHRC issued a notice to the Rajasthan government's chief secretary seeking a detailed response within two weeks on the issue of human rights and dignity.



India submits Meghalaya living root bridges dossier to UNESCO

India has formally submitted the nomination dossier for the Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya, known as Jingkieng Jri/Lyu Chrai Cultural Landscape, to UNESCO in Paris for inclusion in the World Heritage list for the 2026–27 evaluation cycle. The submission was handed over by India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UNESCO and is aimed at gaining global recognition of centuries-old indigenous heritage crafted by Khasi and Jaintia communities. The dossier highlights the bridges' cultural, ecological, sustainable engineering and community stewardship significance.

SAIL receives Great Place to Work certification for the third consecutive time

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the country's largest public sector steelmaker, has been awarded the Great Place to Work certification for the period from February 2026 to February 2027, marking the third year in a row it has earned this recognition. The certification reflects sustained employee trust, a positive organisational culture and inclusive work practices evaluated through comprehensive assessments. Leadership emphasised that the accolade highlights the company's commitment to continuous improvement in workplace environment, employee engagement and professional growth opportunities.

Nagaland village hosts orange festival celebrating local citrus farming

The fifth edition of the Rüsoma Orange Festival began on

January 30, 2026, at Rüsoma village near Kohima in Nagaland under the theme “Abundance of Rüsoma.” The two-day event highlights the village’s rich orange cultivation tradition, with about 470 of 570 households engaged in orange farming. Aimed at promoting rural welfare, entrepreneurship, horticulture and agri-tourism, the festival includes cultural presentations, games and stalls offering local food, orange saplings and produce while celebrating community spirit and agricultural heritage.

Gujarat launches Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana to boost rural development

The Government of Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, has launched the Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana to bridge the rural-urban divide and improve quality of life in villages across the state. In the first phase, 114 taluka-headquarter villages will be developed with modern infrastructure like better roads, sanitation, solar lighting, e-Gram digital services and enhanced water supply. Foundations were also laid for 2,666 Gram Panchayat buildings to improve local governance and access to government services. The scheme will expand to larger villages soon.



Bihar introduces grain dispensing machines to improve ration access

The Bihar government has approved installation of automated grain dispensing machines known as Annapurti Grain ATMs in Patna as part of a pilot initiative to streamline food grain distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS). These machines, capable of dispensing up to 50 kilograms of rice or wheat in minutes, aim to reduce waiting

times, enhance transparency and cut leakages in ration delivery. Beneficiaries use biometric or ID authentication to collect their entitled grains, with plans to expand the project beyond the pilot.

Supreme Court stresses menstrual health education as part of right to life

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that menstrual health and hygiene are integral to the constitutional right to life under Article 21, emphasising dignity, bodily autonomy and access to sanitation as essential rights. The judgment notes that lack of menstrual hygiene facilities and awareness undermines dignity, school attendance and equal participation in education. The Court called for male sensitisation, institutional reforms and accessible hygiene infrastructure, advocating open discussion in schools so that menstrual health ceases to be stigmatised.



Indian Railways accelerates deployment of Kavach 4.0 train protection system

Indian Railways has accelerated deployment of the Kavach Version 4.0 automatic train protection system, commissioning 472.3 route kilometres of the indigenous safety technology across three key sections including Vadodara–Virar, Tuglakabad–Palwal and Manpur–Sarmatanr. The system enhances operational safety by providing real-time tracking and automatic braking to prevent collisions, integrating GPS, radio communication and onboard hardware to support secure train operations. This rollout is the largest single-day expansion of Kavach 4.0 as part of efforts to modernise rail safety across high-density routes.

Union Budget 2026 presented with focus on growth, welfare and fiscal stability

The Union Budget for 2026–27 was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with a clear emphasis on sustained economic growth, stronger public infrastructure spending, and fiscal prudence. It prioritizes increased capital expenditure to boost infrastructure, support for manufacturing, technology adoption and welfare measures while maintaining fiscal stability. The fiscal deficit target is set around four point three percent of GDP and a disciplined approach to spending is outlined. Strategic interventions for sectors like MSMEs, healthcare, education and urban development were also announced.

Centre forms dedicated committee to address issues faced by Tamil Nadu farmers

The central government has constituted a high-level committee under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to review and strengthen Farmer Producer Organisations in Tamil Nadu. It follows consultations with farmers and stakeholders who raised operational, technical and market challenges during a recent visit by the Agriculture Minister to Erode. The panel, which includes representatives from NABARD, NAFED, SFAC, ICAR and civil society groups, will assess governance, marketing, value addition and support needs of FPOs and recommend actionable solutions within two months.

Supreme Court rules on validity of UGC Equity Regulations 2026

The Supreme Court of India has stayed the implementation of the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026 amid multiple legal challenges over clarity and constitutional validity. The apex court expressed concern that the regulations' definition of caste-based discrimination could be vague and prone to misuse, and that existing grievance mechanisms may not be inclusive. It directed that the 2012 equity rules remain in force and scheduled a detailed hearing for March 19, 2026.

India rolls out new Aadhaar mobile application for seamless public service access

The Government of India has officially launched a redesigned Aadhaar mobile application with improved features to enhance digital identity access. The updated app allows users to store and present Aadhaar digitally, verify identity through face authentication and QR codes, and manage multiple family profiles. It eliminates the need to carry or share physical Aadhaar cards and simplifies processes like updating address or mobile details online. Enhanced privacy controls, biometric locks and secure sharing options aim to boost convenience and digital inclusion.

Adampur Airport has been renamed as Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji Airport

On 2 February 2026, Narendra Modi renamed Adampur airport in Jalandhar as Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji Airport, honouring the Bhakti saint and fulfilling a long-standing demand in Punjab. Revamped under the UDAN scheme, the airport improves Doaba connectivity despite operational challenges. The Prime Minister also inaugurated a new civil terminal at Halwara Airport, boosting air infrastructure for Ludhiana and strengthening regional aviation and development.



CIAL will operate buses powered by hydrogen fuel

Cochin International Airport Ltd will become India's first airport to operate hydrogen-powered buses, supporting clean mobility and low-emission transport. Under an MoA with the Kerala Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster Foundation, three hydrogen fuel cell buses will be procured with funding capped at Rs. 2.90 crore per bus. Part of the National Green Hydrogen Mission, the project aims to cut emissions and strengthen Kerala's leadership in green

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energy adoption.



India aims to eliminate all dumpsites by 2026 under the DRAP initiative

India has launched the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme in November 2025 to eliminate legacy waste sites under the goal of *Lakshya: Zero Dumpsites* by October 2026. Built on a decade of progress under the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban, DRAP targets 214 high-impact dumpsites holding most remaining waste. Using biomining and a 5P framework, the programme aims to cut emissions, reclaim land, and support sustainable urban development.

India has designated two additional wetlands as Ramsar sites ahead of World Wetlands Day

India added two new wetlands to the Ramsar list ahead of World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2026, strengthening its conservation efforts. The announcement was made by Bhupender Yadav. The new sites—Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand—enhance habitats for migratory birds and wildlife. With these inclusions, India's Ramsar sites rose to 98, reflecting major expansion since 2014 and reaffirming its commitment to global wetland conservation under the Ramsar Convention.

The United States and India have finalised a trade agreement, bringing tariffs down to 18%

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a trade deal with India after a call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying Washington will cut reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods from 25 % to 18 % immediately. Trump claimed India agreed to reduce its tariffs and non-tariff barriers on U.S. products and

to significantly increase purchases of American goods, including energy. He also linked the pact to India halting Russian oil buys. Official treaty text and legal status remain unclear.

The Ministry of Defence has conferred Miniratna Category-I status on Yantra India Limited

On 2 February 2026, the Defence Minister approved Miniratna Category-I status for Yantra India Limited, a defence PSU created after the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board. In four years, YIL has transformed into a profitable enterprise with rising sales and exports. The status grants greater financial autonomy, enabling faster investment and modernisation. The move supports defence reforms, indigenisation, and the Aatmanirbhar Bharat goal of strengthening India's self-reliant defence manufacturing ecosystem.

The NSO has announced a nationwide migration survey to update migration data

The National Statistics Office will conduct a nationwide Survey on Migration from July 2026 to June 2027 to generate updated data on population mobility. The survey will cover rural–urban, inter-state, seasonal and return migration, along with reasons and employment profiles of migrants. Its findings will support evidence-based policymaking in urban planning, housing, jobs and social protection. The exercise aims to update earlier estimates and reassess gender and labour-related migration patterns in post-pandemic India.

The Ministry of Statistics has updated the base year for the Consumer Price Index, shifting it to 2024

India's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has revised the Consumer Price Index base year from 2012 to 2024, reflecting post-pandemic consumption shifts. Based on HCES 2023–24, food weight drops sharply while housing weight nearly doubles. The new CPI expands the basket, adds online price data, and adopts COICOP 2018 for global comparability. Effective February 12, 2026, the change will influence inflation analysis, welfare indexation, and Reserve Bank of India monetary policy.

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Indian Railways has rolled out its first dual-fuel DEMU train powered by a combination of LNG and diesel in Ahmedabad

Indian Railways has launched India's first LNG–diesel dual-fuel DEMU train at Sabarmati, marking a major step toward green rail transport. The upgraded DEMU uses LNG to replace about 40% of diesel, reducing emissions and fuel costs. After successful 2,000 km trials, it entered regular service. The initiative improves energy efficiency, lowers pollution, and supports Indian Railways' long-term sustainability and net-zero goals.

Amit Shah unveils Bharat Taxi, India's first ride-hailing service built on a cooperative model

Bharat Taxi, launched on 5 February 2026, is India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform aimed at empowering drivers through ownership and fair earnings. Registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, it follows a zero-commission, surge-free model where drivers, called Sarathis, are stakeholders. The initiative promotes social security, inclusion, and transparency, offering insurance benefits and support systems. With rapid growth, it represents a citizen-centric alternative to aggregator-driven mobility platforms.

PLASTINDIA 2026 will kick off in New Delhi

PLASTINDIA 2026, beginning on 5 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, is a major global plastics exhibition showcasing innovation, sustainability, and manufacturing strength. Organised with government support, it aligns with the "Bharat Next" vision and focuses on self-reliance, exports, and employment. Featuring over 2,000 exhibitors, it will be a zero-waste event highlighting advanced technologies, start-ups, and the plastics sector's growing economic significance.

Goldman Sachs has revised India's CY26 GDP growth projection upward to 6.9%

Goldman Sachs upgraded India's CY26 GDP growth forecast from 6.7% to 6.9% in February 2026, reflecting improved trade conditions after the India–USA trade deal. The tariff reduction on Indian exports is expected to boost exports, investment sentiment, and capital expenditure recovery.

The revision also signals optimism about India's external balance, foreign capital inflows, and overall macroeconomic stability, underlining the importance of stable global trade relations for sustaining high economic growth.



Karnataka launches an automatic property mutation system to fast-track land transactions

The Karnataka government has announced an automatic property mutation system to streamline land and property transactions. Under the reform, ownership details will be updated automatically after registration, removing the need for separate mutation applications and reducing delays. Integrated with digital land records like the Bhoomi portal, the initiative aims to improve transparency, curb disputes, and enhance ease of doing business. While implementation challenges remain, the reform marks a major step toward efficient, digitised land administration in Karnataka.

India contributes USD 35.18 million to the UN regular budget for 2026, earning a place on the Honour Roll

India paid USD 35.18 million to the United Nations Regular Budget for 2026 on 3 February, within the prescribed deadline, earning a place on the UN's honour roll. The timely payment underscores India's commitment to multilateralism and responsible global engagement. It supports uninterrupted UN operations and enhances India's credibility as a reliable member actively contributing to peacekeeping, development, and global governance initiatives.



International

Elon Musk has become the first individual in the world to amass a net worth of USD 800 billion

In February 2026, Elon Musk became the first person to surpass a net worth of USD 800 billion, driven mainly by the SpaceX-xAI merger. The deal created a combined entity valued at USD 1.25 trillion, sharply boosting Musk's wealth. SpaceX emerged as his most valuable asset, while Tesla remained a major contributor. The milestone highlights how AI, space technology, and strategic restructuring can generate unprecedented personal wealth.



Spain becomes the first European nation to prohibit social media use for children under 16

Spain has announced a nationwide ban on social media use for children under 16, becoming the first European country

to do so and the second globally after Australia. Announced by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, the move aims to address concerns over child safety, mental health, and online harm. The policy mandates strict age verification by platforms and is expected to influence wider global debates on digital regulation and child protection.

Walmart becomes the first retail company globally to achieve a USD 1 trillion market valuation

Walmart Inc. became the world's first retail company to reach a USD 1 trillion market capitalisation in January 2026, driven by strong stock performance and technology-led growth. Founded in 1962, Walmart Inc. has transformed into an omnichannel, AI-driven retailer. Heavy investment in artificial intelligence, logistics, and e-commerce boosted efficiency and sales, earning investor confidence. This milestone highlights how traditional retail can rival global tech giants through scale and innovation.



US Congress clears \$200 million in security assistance for Baltic states amid escalating tensions with Russia

The US Congress approved a USD 200 million security assistance package for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania under the FY2026 Defence Appropriations Act, reinforcing support for NATO's eastern flank amid rising Russian military activity. Signed into law on 3 February 2026, the funding sustains the Baltic Security Initiative and includes additional military financing for Estonia. The move underscores bipartisan US commitment to deterrence, regional stability, and allied security within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

Expert group submits report on comprehensive revision of Consumer Price Index

An expert group has submitted its comprehensive report on revising the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in India, recommending major methodological updates and a new CPI series with base year 2024. The report proposes adopting the updated international Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose framework, expanding the item basket and using the latest technologies for price data collection. The first inflation figures based on the revised CPI series are expected to be released in February 2026, reflecting more accurate consumption patterns and price changes.



World Nuclear Association publishes World Nuclear Outlook assessment

The World Nuclear Outlook Report 2025 by the World Nuclear Association assesses global nuclear energy trends and national capacity targets through 2050. It finds that if current government plans are realised, global nuclear capacity could reach about 1446 gigawatts electric, exceeding the goal endorsed for tripling nuclear generation by mid-century. The report reviews current reactor fleets, planned and under-construction projects, and advanced nuclear technologies, and highlights nuclear's role in energy security, reliable low-carbon generation, and meeting rising electricity demand.

Economic Survey 2025–26 calls for steps to raise women workforce participation

The Economic Survey 2025-26 highlights improvements in female labour force participation but stresses that women still face structural barriers limiting broader workforce engagement. It notes that participation has risen significantly in recent years, yet women are underrepresented in salaried and formal jobs due to constraints like inflexible work arrangements, limited mobility and caregiving responsibilities. The survey calls for multi-pronged policy actions including flexible work systems, improved safety, affordable transport, housing support and targeted skill development to enhance employment opportunities and economic inclusion for women.

Leading investors fuel Juspay's journey to unicorn status in 2026

Indian fintech company Juspay, headquartered in Bengaluru, has achieved unicorn status in 2026 after securing a significant funding round led by WestBridge Capital. The investment round raised fifty million dollars, valuing the payments infrastructure company at approximately 1.2 billion dollars. This new capital infusion enhances liquidity for early investors and employees and supports Juspay's global expansion plans. The company provides end to end payment solutions and processes hundreds of millions of transactions daily, strengthening its position in digital payments markets.



India's factory output rises to highest level in two years during December 2025

India's industrial output surged by 7.8 percent year-on-year in December 2025, marking the fastest increase in over two years, official data show. The strong performance was driven by broad-based gains across manufacturing, mining and electricity sectors, reflecting intensifying economic activity and heightened factory production. Manufacturing recorded substantial growth, with key segments such as capital goods, consumer durables and intermediate goods showing strong momentum. Robust industrial expansion indicates strengthening demand and enhances economic momentum toward improved overall growth.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

Sixth National Crop Nutrition Summit to be hosted in 2026

The 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit & B2B Expo will be held on February 5–6, 2026, at the National Stock Exchange in Mumbai, organised by the Indian Micro-Fertilizers Manufacturers Association (IMMA). Under the theme “Converge, Collaborate and Co-create,” the two-day summit will bring together policymakers, scientists, industry leaders and startups to discuss policy, innovation and market development in the agri-input sector. Key agenda items include regulatory reforms, integration of specialty nutrients, business collaborations and strengthening India's position in global crop nutrition manufacturing.

Meghalaya organises its first government-backed spice festival in Mumbai

The Government of Meghalaya is hosting its first official Meghalaya Spice Festival in Mumbai, aimed at promoting the state's high-quality spice produce. Held from January 30 to February 1, 2026, the event showcases premium spices like ginger, turmeric and black pepper from small farmers and producer enterprises. It seeks to expand market access, build buyer linkages and boost commercial opportunities, including national and export markets. The festival also highlights organic produce and sustainable farming practices to attract wider interest.

Sarvesh Ranjan has been elevated to the post of Chief General Manager at Union Bank of India

Union Bank of India has promoted Sarvesh Ranjan as Chief General Manager with effect from February 1, 2026, following the retirement of Bhaskara Rao Kare on January 31, 2026. An engineering graduate with nearly 30 years of banking experience, Ranjan earlier served as General Manager handling reconciliation, transaction monitoring, and AML. His diverse exposure across banking functions and leadership training from global and national institutions strengthens the bank's leadership continuity.

The third edition of the Future Warfare Course has been launched in New Delhi

India launched the third edition of the Future Warfare Course on February 2, 2026, in New Delhi to prepare military leaders for technology-driven conflicts. Conducted under Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff with Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, the tri-services programme brings officers and industry experts together. Focusing on AI, cyber, space, geopolitics, and supply chains, the course supports the vision of Anil Chauhan to build integrated, future-ready Armed Forces.



IMMA will host the 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit in 2026

The Indian Micro-Fertilisers Manufacturers Association will host its 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit & B2B Expo on 5–6 February 2026 in Mumbai. Held under the theme *Converge, Collaborate & Co-create*, the event will unite policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, and startups to discuss agri-input reforms, micronutrients, biologicals, and precision nutrition. Inaugurated by Maharashtra Minister Jayakumar Rawal, the summit aims to strengthen India's

position as a global agri-input manufacturing and export hub.

IHMCL and NFSU have partnered to enhance the security of digital highway operations

Indian Highways Management Company Limited signed a three-year MoU with the National Forensic Sciences University to strengthen cybersecurity and data protection in national highway operations. The partnership focuses on cyber forensics, secure data handling, training and research to protect digital highway systems. With growing reliance on technologies like MLFF tolling and advanced traffic management, the agreement aims to prevent cyber threats, ensure data integrity and enhance the resilience of India's digital road infrastructure.

World Government Summit 2026

The World Government Summit 2026, held in Dubai under the theme "Shaping Future Governments," convenes global leaders to address evolving governance challenges. With wide participation from heads of state, ministers, experts, and CEOs, the summit focuses on innovation, AI, sustainability, public finance, and international cooperation. IMF insights highlight economic resilience and AI-driven productivity optimism. Overall, the summit aims to drive inclusive, resilient, and future-ready governance models worldwide.



A change in leadership has taken place at Naval Armament

Shri Divakar Jayant, INAS, assumed charge as Director General of Naval Armament in February 2026, strengthening India's naval leadership. A 1991-batch officer with over 33 years of experience, he has served in key roles across naval armament depots and the Ministry of Defence. An IIT Delhi graduate, Jayant brings technical, administrative, and strategic expertise. His appointment supports India's naval modernisation, indigenous defence goals, and enhanced maritime combat readiness.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

James Webb Telescope data reveals detailed structure of dark matter

Scientists using data from NASA's James Webb Space Telescope have produced the most detailed and highest-resolution map of dark matter ever created, covering a sky patch nearly three times the size of the full moon. The map shows subtle structures of dark matter by tracing how it bends light from about 250 000 distant galaxies through gravitational lensing. This improved resolution helps visualise the cosmic web's filaments and halos, offering deeper insights into how dark matter shaped the universe's evolution over billions of years.

Indian observatory records rare blood red aurora in Ladakh's Hanle region

The Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle in Ladakh captured a rare blood-red aurora on the nights of 19 and 20 January, visible far from typical polar latitudes. The intense glow was caused by a strong geomagnetic storm triggered by a powerful coronal mass ejection from the Sun, which struck Earth's magnetic field and excited oxygen atoms high in the upper atmosphere. Such displays are unusual at Ladakh's latitude and reflect dynamic space weather interactions with Earth's magnetosphere.



ISRO confirms launch schedule for Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has affirmed that the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme is progressing with scheduled uncrewed tests ahead of the planned crewed mission in 2027. The first uncrewed G1 mission, carrying the humanoid robot Vyommित्रा to test systems, is expected by March 2026. Extensive ground testing, including over 8,000 validations, has been completed for structural and safety systems. The programme will conduct multiple uncrewed flights to qualify all systems before astronaut flights.



AlphaGenome introduced as advanced tool to forecast genetic mutation risks

Google DeepMind has launched AlphaGenome, a new

artificial intelligence tool designed to analyse DNA sequences and forecast how genetic mutations may impact gene regulation and human health. By processing large segments of the genome, including non-coding regions, AlphaGenome predicts functional consequences of variants that influence disease, development and tissue functions. It helps researchers identify potential disease-linked mutations more efficiently, supporting precision medicine and genomic research. Early applications include cancer and complex condition investigations, accelerating scientific discovery and therapeutic development.

The Army and ITBP conducted a joint exercise named Agni Pariksha in Arunachal Pradesh

Exercise Agni Pariksha, conducted in Arunachal Pradesh, is a joint training initiative of the Indian Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police aimed at enhancing battlefield coordination. The first-of-its-kind drill involved non-artillery troops in live artillery firing under expert supervision. By familiarising infantry and ITBP personnel with firepower integration, communication, and combat procedures, the exercise strengthened joint operational readiness in sensitive border regions.



Pilloo AI has been launched to provide voice-based accounting in local languages

On 2 February 2026, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched Pilloo AI, a voice-based billing and accounting app for small businesses. The tool lets users create invoices, record transactions, and generate reports by speaking in their native language, without accounting

expertise. Supporting multiple Indian languages and automated data extraction, it simplifies bookkeeping for MSMEs. Launched in Amaravati, the initiative advances digitalisation, transparency, and ease of doing business.

The 13th India–Kyrgyzstan Joint Military Exercise KHANJAR-XIII is set to be held in Assam

The Exercise KHANJAR-XIII will be held from 4–17 February 2026 at Misamari. This annual joint Special Forces exercise involves India’s Parachute Regiment (SF) and Kyrgyzstan’s Scorpion Brigade. Focused on counter-terrorism, urban warfare and UN-mandated operations, it enhances interoperability and tactical coordination. The drill underscores the deepening strategic partnership between India and Kyrgyzstan and their shared commitment to regional and global security.

DRDO has successfully carried out a demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology

India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully demonstrated Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology on February 3, 2026, off the Odisha coast. This air-breathing propulsion system enables missiles to sustain high speed and manoeuvrability over long ranges. The achievement places India among a select group of nations with SFDR capability and will strengthen the Indian Air Force by supporting next-generation long-range air-to-air missiles and advancing self-reliance in defence technology.

Sports

Devika Sihag clinched her first BWF Super 300 title at the Thailand Masters

India’s women’s badminton gained momentum as Devika Sihag won her maiden Thailand Masters title in 2026. The 20-year-old Haryana shuttler was leading convincingly when Goh Jin Wei retired injured in the final. The Super 300 victory marks Devika’s biggest career breakthrough, earning vital ranking points and highlighting India’s expanding depth and future promise in women’s singles badminton.



The Asian Rifle & Pistol Shooting Championships 2026 have commenced in the host city

The Asian Rifle and Pistol Shooting Championships 2026 began at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Ranges in New Delhi, featuring elite shooters from 17 Asian countries. The two-week event includes 10m, 25m, and 50m rifle and pistol competitions across men’s, women’s, junior, and youth categories. Hosting the championship highlights India’s world-class shooting infrastructure and its growing role as a hub for major international sporting events.

IOC elects Iran’s first-ever female member

The International Olympic Committee elected Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha as its first-ever female member from Iran on 4 February 2026 during the 145th IOC Session in Milan. She also became the youngest serving IOC member and only the third Iranian in IOC history. Her election marks a major milestone for gender inclusion, youth representation, and Iran’s engagement with global sports governance, reflecting the IOC’s broader push for diversity and equality.



Miscellaneous

Government launches PAIMANA web portal for public services

The Government of India's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the PAIMANA web portal — Project Assessment, Infrastructure Monitoring & Analytics for Nation-building. This digital platform provides real-time monitoring of central sector infrastructure projects valued above 150 crore rupees, replacing the older OCMS system. Integrated dashboards and analytics improve transparency, coordination and decision-making for ongoing projects across ministries. The portal tracks over a thousand major projects, supporting evidence-based governance and performance monitoring.



Bomb cyclone strikes northern United States causing intense winter conditions

A powerful winter storm is developing into a bomb cyclone off the U.S. East Coast, bringing heavy snow, hurricane-force winds, coastal flooding and frigid arctic air. The storm is forecast to deliver blizzard conditions, strong wind gusts up to 80 miles per hour and significant snow accumulations from the Carolinas to New England. Millions are under winter storm watches or warnings as utilities brace for power outages, hazardous travel and dangerously low wind chills across a broad region.



CCRAS and Central Sanskrit University launch programme to revive ancient manuscripts

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) partnered with Central Sanskrit University (CSU) to launch a dedicated programme aimed at preserving and reviving ancient manuscripts, particularly those related to Ayurveda and traditional knowledge systems. The initiative focuses on documentation, transcription and digitisation of rare palm-leaf and historical texts, ensuring scholarly access and long-term conservation. It includes training workshops for palaeography, script reading and manuscript handling, involving experts and researchers to enhance academic research and safeguard cultural heritage.

Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 bring new compliance changes from April 1

The Government of India has notified the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026, which will come into force on April 1, 2026, replacing the 2016 framework with stricter compliance requirements. The updated rules mandate four-stream segregation at source — wet, dry, sanitary and special care waste — and introduce extended responsibilities for bulk waste generators such as large complexes and institutions. They emphasise circular economy approaches, source segregation, decentralised processing, digital tracking and penalties for non-compliance under the polluter pays principle.



A new species of orchid has been identified in Kerala

A new orchid species discovered in Kanthalloor, a high-altitude region of Idukki district in Kerala, has drawn attention to India's rich but underexplored biodiversity. Located near the Western Ghats, the find highlights orchids as vital bio-indicators of ecosystem health. The discovery shows that even human-influenced landscapes can support rare plant life and underscores the need for continued research and conservation of vulnerable habitats facing climate and land-use pressures.



An Indian-origin scientist has been awarded the Crafoord Prize 2026

Indian-origin atmospheric scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan received the Crafoord Prize, often called the Nobel of Geosciences, for transforming global understanding of climate change. His research proved that

gases beyond carbon dioxide—such as CFCs, methane, and nitrous oxide—significantly drive global warming. His findings influenced landmark policies like the Montreal Protocol. Beyond science, he has advised global leaders and highlighted climate justice, emphasising evidence-based policy and ethical responsibility to protect vulnerable populations and the planet.

Kabak Yano from Arunachal Pradesh has scaled the highest peak in the Western Hemisphere

Indian mountaineer Kabak Yano successfully summited Mount Aconcagua, the highest peak in South America and the Western Hemisphere, rising to 22,831 feet. The achievement marks a major milestone in her ambitious Seven Summits expedition. Battling extreme altitude and harsh weather, her climb showcased exceptional endurance and resolve. The feat has drawn widespread praise and inspired young athletes, while placing Arunachal Pradesh prominently on the global adventure sports map.

The Assam government has approved a heritage grant for the Darrang kings of the Koch dynasty

On 2 February 2026, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a Rs. 50 crore grant to preserve the heritage of the Darrang kings of the Koch dynasty during Mahabir Chilarai Divas in Darrang. The fund will restore royal sites, monuments and cultural landmarks linked to Koch rulers. The initiative aims to honour indigenous history, strengthen cultural identity, and develop these heritage assets into centres of tourism and pride for Assam.

World Cancer Day 2026

World Cancer Day, observed annually on February 4, is a global initiative to raise awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. Led by the Union for International Cancer Control, it unites governments, health bodies, and communities to reduce preventable cancer-related deaths. Established in 2000 following the Charter of Paris Against Cancer, the day promotes equity in care. The 2026 theme, "United by Unique," highlights patient-centred, inclusive cancer care worldwide.



PNB has introduced the LUXURA Metal Credit Card, powered by the VISA Infinite platform

Punjab National Bank launched the LUXURA Metal Credit Card on the VISA Infinite platform, strengthening its premium banking portfolio. Designed for affluent and aspirational customers, the card offers global acceptance, zero forex markup, unlimited lounge access, strong reward rates, and lifestyle privileges across travel, dining, and hospitality. With dual availability on RuPay and Visa, a metal design, concierge services, and competitive fees, LUXURA positions PNB strongly in India's growing premium credit card market.

Tripura Gramin Bank has introduced India's first co-branded RuPay credit card issued by a Regional Rural Bank (RRB)

Tripura Gramin Bank marked its Golden Jubilee by launching India's first Regional Rural Bank co-branded RuPay credit card in partnership with Punjab National Bank. Introduced in February 2026 at Agartala, the card integrates rural customers into the digital payments ecosystem through RuPay, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India. This milestone highlights RRB modernisation, strengthens financial inclusion, and expands access to modern credit facilities in rural and semi-urban India.

Andhra Pradesh plans to establish a dedicated industrial park aimed at promoting and supporting women

entrepreneurs

Andhra Pradesh plans a 30-acre exclusive industrial park for women to promote women-led enterprises and employment. The Government of Andhra Pradesh signed an MoU with the FICCI Ladies Organisation to provide mentoring, training, and market linkages. Infrastructure will be developed by Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation. Aligned with N. Chandrababu Naidu's "One Family, One Entrepreneur" vision, the park is part of 175 planned MSME parks to strengthen women's economic empowerment.

Bhutan's Queen Mother receives the 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma Soldier of Humanity Award 2025

Gyalum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Queen Mother of Bhutan, received the 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025 in February 2026 at Bodoland University, Assam. The honour recognises her lifelong humanitarian leadership, especially through the Tarayana Foundation's work in rural development, women's empowerment, healthcare, education, and cultural preservation. The award underscores shared humanitarian values and strengthens India-Bhutan relations rooted in compassion, inclusivity, and social service.