

1. Commissioning of Arnala class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) INS Anjadip (P73). The Indian Navy will formally commission INS Anjadip on 27 February 2026. **INS Anjadip (P73)** is the third ship of the Arnala class built by GRSE Kolkata. The ship, Anjadip, was named after her predecessor, a retired Arnala class corvette, which itself was a subclass of Soviet-origin Petya-class frigate. The name of the ships is inspired by the **Anjediva Island located off Karwar, Karnataka**, reflecting the island's strategic importance in the maritime domain of India.



- **Key Notes.**

- **Design & Builder:** Designed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, and built in partnership with L&T, with 8 ships by GRSE and 8 by Cochin Shipyard.
- The Arnala-class (ASW-SWC) are 16 new, indigenously built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft for the Indian Navy, with the first ship, INS Arnala (P68), launched in 2022 and commissioned in 2025. These 77.6-meter, 1490-tonne vessels are designed for coastal, anti-submarine, and low-intensity maritime operations.
- It uses the "**Abhay**" Sonar, which is indigenously developed by DRDO.

2. MSP for Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) Increased to ₹5,925 per quintal for the 2026-27.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute (TD-3 grade) at ₹5,925 per quintal for the 2026-27 marketing season. This policy aligns with the Budget 2018-19 commitment to set MSPs at least 1.5 times production cost, thereby protecting farmers from price volatility and encouraging sustainable cultivation of this eco-friendly fibre.
- This is a rise of ₹275/quintal compared to the 2025-26 MSP.
- The new MSP guarantees a return of ~61.8% over the all-India weighted average cost of production, consistent with the government's MSP principles.
- Jute is primarily grown in West Bengal, Bihar and Assam.

3. **India, GCC Sign Joint Statement on FTA, Launch Negotiations.** The signing of the Joint Statement on **February 24, 2026**, marks the formal launch of negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** between India and the six-nation **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**. The joint statement was signed Shri **Piyush Goyal** (Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, India) and **Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi** (Secretary General of the GCC) in New Delhi.



- **Key Notes.**

- The GCC Member States includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. The GCC was established in **1981** and is headquartered in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. It is a regional political and economic union.
- **Top Indian Exports to GCC:** Engineering goods, rice, textiles, machinery, and gems & jewelry.
- **Top Indian Imports from GCC:** Crude oil, LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas), petrochemicals, and precious metals (Gold).

- **Strategic & Economic Significance.**

- The GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc.
- **Trade Volume:** Bilateral trade reached \$178.56 billion in FY 2024-25 (roughly 15.42% of India's total global trade).
- **FDI Inflows:** Cumulative investment from the GCC into India exceeded \$31.14 billion (as of Sept 2025).
- **The "Living Bridge":** Approximately 10 million Indian nationals live and work in GCC countries, acting as a vital source of remittances and a bridge for cultural/economic ties.

4. **Union Cabinet Approves Renaming State of Kerala to Keralam.** On 24 Feb 26, the Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to rename the State of **Kerala** as "**Keralam**". Keralam is the Malayalam (native) name of the state. The change aligns the official English name with the local linguistic usage. The word Keralam has been derived from: '**Kera**' → Coconut tree and '**Alam**' → Land/region.

- **Key Notes.**

- Article 3 of the Indian Constitution empower Parliament to form new states and alter the areas, boundaries, or names of existing states.
- It is considered an Ordinary Bill and can be passed by a Simple Majority (more than 50% of members present and voting).
- Key Legislation: Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026

5. **Visit of PM to Israel.** At the invitation of the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will pay a State visit to Israel on **25-26 Feb 26. This will be the second visit of Prime Minister to Israel.**

During the visit, Prime Minister will meet Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu. The two leaders will review the significant progress made in India – Israel Strategic Partnership, and discuss further opportunities in various areas of cooperation, including **science and technology, innovation, defence and security, agriculture, water management, trade and economy, and people to people exchanges.** The Prime Minister will also call on H.E. Mr. Isaac Herzog, the President of Israel.

• **Key Notes.**

- Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
- Official Language: Hebrew
- President of Israel: Mr. Isaac Herzog
- Prime Minister: Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
- Currency: Israeli New Shekel (ILS)

6. **International Organisation, Ministers and Heads of Organisations in News on 24 Feb 26.**

• **International Organisation.**

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Establis hed</u>	<u>Total Mem bers</u>	<u>Head (Current/Mentioned)</u>	<u>HQ</u>	<u>Latest Member</u>
United Nations (UN)	1945	193	António Guterres (Sec-General)	New York, USA	South Sudan (193rd)
European Union (EU)	1993 *	27	Ursula von der Leyen (Commission Pres.)	Brussels, Belgium	Croatia (28th; now 27 after Brexit)
World Trade Organization (WTO)	1995	166	Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Director-General)	Geneva, Switzerland	Timor-Leste (166th)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	1944	190	Kristalina Georgieva (Managing Director)	Washington D.C., USA	Andorra (190th)
World Bank (IBRD)	1944	189	Ajay Banga (President)	Washington D.C., USA	Nauru (189th)

- **Minister.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ministry / Role</u>	<u>Constituency</u>	<u>State</u>
Shivraj Singh Chouhan	Agriculture & Rural Development	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Information & Broadcasting; Railways	Rajya Sabha	Odisha
Piyush Goyal	Commerce and Industry	Mumbai North	Maharashtra
Jitendra Singh	Science & Technology (MoS I/C)	Udhampur	Jammu & Kashmir
Hardeep Singh Puri	Petroleum & Natural Gas	Rajya Sabha	Uttar Pradesh

- **Heads of organisations.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization / Body</u>	<u>Position</u>
Surya Kant	Supreme Court of India	Chief Justice of India
V. Narayanan	ISRO	Chairman
M. Nagaraju	Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance	Secretary

QUIZ for 24 Feb 26.

Q1. The "PRAHAAR" policy, recently unveiled by the Ministry of Home Affairs, is primarily associated with:

- A) Poverty Alleviation
- B) Counter-Terrorism Strategy
- C) Space Exploration
- D) Rural Healthcare Reform

Q2. Which of the following is NOT one of the "7 Pillars" mentioned in the PRAHAAR framework?

- A) Intelligence-Guided Prevention
- B) Capacity Building
- C) Compulsory Military Service
- D) Countering Radicalization

Q3. From which African nation is the batch of eight cheetahs scheduled to be translocated to India on February 28, 2026?

- A) Namibia
- B) South Africa
- C) Botswana
- D) Kenya

Q4. Who was the first India-born cheetah to reach adulthood and successfully breed in the wild in November 2025?

- A) Sasha
- B) Jwala
- C) Mukhi
- D) Gamini

Q5. The Madhya Pradesh government is planning to extend the "Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana" to farmers of which crop?

- A) Wheat
- B) Mustard
- C) Paddy
- D) Cotton

Q6. Which state assembly passed the "Farmers - Management of Irrigation Systems (Amendment) Bill, 2026" to remove the two-child norm?

- A) Telangana
- B) Karnataka
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Tamil Nadu

Q7. What is the primary reason cited by Southern Indian states for repealing the "two-child norm" in local governance?

- A) Increasing urban migration
- B) Sub-optimal fertility rates and an aging population
- C) Demand from international trade partners
- D) Shortage of agricultural labor

Q8. Under the revised India-France Tax Treaty (DTAA), what is the new dividend tax rate for French firms holding a stake of at least 10% in an Indian entity?

- A) 15%
- B) 10%
- C) 5%
- D) 0%

Q9. The recent amendment to the India-France DTAA was largely necessitated by a 2023 Supreme Court ruling regarding which clause?

- A) Sunset Clause
- B) Most Favored Nation (MFN) Clause
- C) Arbitration Clause
- D) Force Majeure Clause

Q10. What does the acronym "SIGHT" stand for in the context of the National Green Hydrogen Mission?

- A) Strategic Initiative for Green Hydrogen Technology
- B) Solar Infrastructure for Green Hydrogen Transition
- C) Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition
- D) Sustainable Integration of Green Hydrogen Transport

Q11. According to the SECI auctions, India's discovered price for Green Ammonia was significantly lower than the benchmarks of which global auction?

- A) H2Global (European Union)
- B) Green-N-Clean (USA)
- C) BlueSky (Japan)
- D) NetZero (Australia)

Q12. The Pesticides Management Bill 2025 aims to replace which of the following Acts?

- A) The Environment Protection Act, 1986
- B) The Insecticides Act, 1968
- C) The Fertilizers (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Order, 1985
- D) The Seeds Act, 1966

Q13. Under the Pesticides Management Bill 2025, generic pesticides are granted "Deemed Registration" if a decision is not made within:

- A) 6 months
- B) 12 months
- C) 18 months
- D) 24 months

Q14. What percentage of reservation has the Delhi Police announced for retired Agniveers in the recruitment of male constables?

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 20%
- D) 25%

Q15. The ₹590 crore fraud case involving IDFC First Bank and the Haryana government was characterized by which specific vulnerability?

- A) Blockchain encryption breach
- B) Traditional physical cheque forgery and internal collusion
- C) Global SWIFT code hacking
- D) Phishing attacks on retail customers

Answer Key:

1. **B (Counter-Terrorism Strategy)**
2. **C (Compulsory Military Service is not a pillar)**
3. **C (Botswana)**
4. **C (Mukhi)**
5. **B (Mustard)**
6. **C (Andhra Pradesh)**
7. **B (Sub-optimal fertility rates and an aging population)**
8. **C (5%)**
9. **B (Most Favoured Nation Clause)**
10. **C (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition)**
11. **A (H2Global)**
12. **B (The Insecticides Act, 1968)**
13. **C (18 months)**
14. **C (20%)**
15. **B (Traditional physical cheque forgery and internal collusion)**