

# Weekly Current Affairs

## February 2026 – Week 2

*(08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 February 2026)*

### Exam Revision Notes

*APPSC • AP DSC • AP TET • AP Police SI*

**ReadingRoomz**

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# LETTER TO ASPIRANTS

Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz!

Another week has passed, and with it, countless developments in the world of national, state, economy, science, and governance all of which matter for your APPSC journey. Preparing for Group-1, Group-2, DSC and SI exams is not just about reading facts; it is about developing a disciplined habit of daily learning, weekly revision, monthly revision, and smart practice.

Through this Weekly Current Affairs PDF, our goal is simple:

- To give you exam-oriented coverage of all important topics.
- To save your time with structured summaries & MCQs.
- To help you connect static GK with dynamic events.

How to use this PDF effectively:

1. Start with the Week-at-a-Glance section for a quick overview.
2. Read each topic carefully, highlight key facts.
3. Revise once again before attempting the consolidated MCQs & Answer Key.

Remember, consistency is your greatest weapon. Reading 5–10 pages daily is far better than cramming 100 pages before the exam.

We at ReadingRoomz believe that every aspirant has the potential to succeed if they combine hard work with the right material and smart strategy. Trust the process, keep revising, and never lose hope.

Wishing you success in your APPSC journey. Stay focused, stay motivated, and remember *every small step you take today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.*

With warm regards,

[sreekanth@readingroomz.com](mailto:sreekanth@readingroomz.com)

## About This Weekly Digest

This weekly current affairs compilation is a **revision digest** prepared from the daily current affairs published on ReadingRoomz during Week 2 of February 2026 (08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 February 2026). It is structured for **quick revision and MCQ-ready facts**.

**Note:** For complete topic-wise explanations, refer to our daily current affairs posts linked at the end.

### 1. International Current Affairs

#### India-US Interim Trade Agreement Framework

The United States and India announced a framework for an Interim Agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade.

#### Key Highlights of the Agreement

##### Tariff Reductions:

- India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits
- The US will apply a reciprocal tariff rate of 18% on originating goods from India including textile, apparel, leather, footwear, plastic, rubber, organic chemicals, home décor, artisanal products and certain machinery
- The US will remove reciprocal tariffs on generic pharmaceuticals, gems and diamonds, and aircraft parts

##### Products that are not importing from USA

- India's major grains like maize, wheat, rice, soybean, poultry products, milk, paneer, ethanol, tobacco and many vegetables have been completely safeguarded
- These products will not be imported from the US, protecting Indian farmers' interests

##### Export Benefits for India:

- Basmati rice and spices will gain special benefits with new opportunities in the 18% tariff markets

- Reduced duties on textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, plastics, rubber products, organic chemicals, home décor and handicrafts
- Zero duties on generic medicines, gems, jewelry and aircraft parts

### **Products that are importing from USA**

- India intends to purchase \$500 billion of US energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products and coking coal over the next 5 years
- Significant increase in trade in technology products including Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) and other goods used in data centers

### **PM Modi's Malaysia Visit: Thiruvalluvar Centre Announcement**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Indian diaspora in Kuala Lumpur during his two-day visit to Malaysia, his first foreign visit in 2026. Vice-President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan highlighted the address and welcomed the announcement of establishing a Thiruvalluvar Centre in Malaysia.

### **Key Announcements**

- Thiruvalluvar Centre: A new centre to be established in Malaysia to further strengthen shared cultural heritage, building on the existing Thiruvalluvar Chair at the University of Malaya
- Thiruvalluvar Scholarships: Announced to facilitate academic exchanges between India and Malaysia
- New Indian Consulate: India will open its first consulate in Malaysia soon
- UPI Integration: Plans to link India's UPI payment system with Malaysia

### **India-Malaysia Relations**

- Strategic Partnership: Relations were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim's visit to New Delhi in 2024
- Partnership Theme: IMPACT (India-Malaysia Partnership for Advancing Collective Transformation)
- Diaspora: Malaysia hosts the world's second-largest Indian-origin community with nearly 3 million people
- Cultural Connections: Over 500 schools in Malaysia teach children in Indian languages
- Historical Links: Connection to Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army) under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

### **About Thiruvalluvar**

- Ancient Tamil poet and philosopher

- Author of Thirukkural, a classical Tamil text consisting of 1,330 couplets organized into 133 chapters
- Thirukkural covers three main themes: Aram (virtue/ethics), Porul (wealth/politics) and Inbam (love)
- Considered one of the greatest works in Tamil literature and has been translated into numerous languages

## **International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA) Framework Agreement**

During PM Modi's visit to Malaysia, both countries signed the Framework Agreement on International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA), with Malaysia becoming a founding member of this conservation initiative.

## **India-Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**

### **Key Announcements**

- India's first consulate to be opened in Malaysia
- Thiruvalluvar Centre: Dedicated centre at Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
- Cross-Border Payments: Agreement between NIPL (NPCI International) and PayNet SDN BHD

## **Malaysia-India Digital Council (MIDC) Formation**

The Leaders applauded the formalization of the Malaysia-India Digital Council (MIDC) during PM Modi's Malaysia visit, recognizing its potential as a key platform to advance digital cooperation between both nations.

## **India-Seychelles Joint Vision: SESEL Framework**

Seychelles President Dr. Patrick Herminie concluded his State Visit to India (February 5-10, 2026) with the announcement of a Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL). The visit coincided with the 50th year of Independence of Seychelles and 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

### **Special Economic Package – USD 175 Million**

- USD 125 million: Rupee-denominated Line of Credit
- USD 50 million: Grant assistance for development cooperation projects, capacity building, maritime security

## Tamil Brahmi Inscriptions Found in Egypt

A significant archaeological discovery has revealed nearly 30 inscriptions in Tamil Brahmi, Prakrit, and Sanskrit inside tombs at the Valley of the Kings, Egypt. The inscriptions date between the 1st and 3rd centuries C.E. The discovery was made during a 2024–25 study by Charlotte Schmid (French School of Asian Studies) and Ingo Strauch (University of Lausanne). The inscriptions were found across six tombs in the Theban Necropolis.

## 2. National Current Affairs

### National Pulses Revolution

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the nationwide Pulses Revolution from the Food Legumes Research Centre (FLRP) in Amlaha, Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh.

#### Key Announcements

- 1,000 Pulse Mills: To be established across the country with Government of India providing up to ₹25 lakh subsidy per mill. Of these, 55 will be established in different clusters of Madhya Pradesh.
- Cluster Model: Farming will be strengthened through cluster model organized by farmers.
- Seed Reforms: No seed will be released from Delhi; seeds will be released directly in different states among farmers
- Financial Support: Farmers joining clusters will receive seed kits and ₹10,000 assistance per hectare for model farming

#### Mission Objectives

- Make India self-reliant in pulses production
- Transform India from a pulses importer to a pulses exporter
- Increase productivity of masoor, chickpeas, urad, pigeon pea, moong through improved varieties
- Ensure farmers get fair prices through entire value chain support from seed to market
- Create local employment opportunities through pulse processing mills

#### Current Status of Pulses in India

- Madhya Pradesh is on top pulses producing State in the country
- Area under pulses cultivation is declining and needs to be increased

## Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy 2026

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy 2026, a comprehensive state policy framework to systematically expand and manage green spaces in urban areas, integrating climate action, biodiversity conservation and urban livability.

## Preservation of India's Cultural Heritage

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- Total Centrally Protected Monuments: 3,686
- Conservation Approach: Annual Conservation Plan based on monument needs
- Site Museums: 52 archaeological site museums across India

## JATAN Software for Digitization

- Purpose: Digitization of museum collections
- Collections Covered: Coins, paintings, manuscripts, philately, decorative art, archaeology, beads, anthropology, arms and armour, terracotta, porcelain, Central Asian antiquity, numismatics, epigraphy

## Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)

Seychelles' decision to become a full member of the Colombo Security Conclave marks a significant expansion of the multilateral security mechanism in the Indian Ocean Region.

## Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Expansion

India's commitment to help Seychelles build Digital Public Infrastructure highlights the growing role of DPI as a development cooperation tool.

## India's Digital Public Infrastructure Stack

- **Aadhaar:** Unique identity system
- **UPI (Unified Payments Interface):** Real-time payment system
- **DigiLocker:** Digital document storage
- **e-Sign:** Digital signature framework
- **CoWIN:** Vaccination management platform
- **BHIM:** Mobile payment app
- **ONDC:** Open Network for Digital Commerce

## **World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector**

The Government of India has launched the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector (WLGSP) to create decentralized storage infrastructure at the village level through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and other cooperative societies.

### **Pilot Project Details**

- Pilot District: Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh
- Location: Bahudeshiya Prathamik Krishi Saakh Sahakari Society Maryadit, Parswada village, Balaghat
- Capacity: 500 MT godown
- Status: Fully completed
- Inauguration: February 24, 2024 by Hon'ble Prime Minister

## **New Delhi Declaration and Bharat 6G Alliance**

The New Delhi Declaration was adopted at Bharat 6G Symposium 2025, with international bodies endorsing core principles for future 6G networks, treating 6G as a global public good.

### **Five Core Principles for 6G Networks**

- Trusted and secure
- Resilient and reliable
- Open and interoperable
- Inclusive and affordable
- Sustainable

### **Nine Signatory Bodies**

- Bharat 6G Alliance (India)
- 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (European Union)
- ATIS' NextG Alliance (North America)
- XG Mobile Promotion Forum (Japan)
- 6G Forum (South Korea)
- 6G Brasil
- 6G Flagship, University of Oulu (Finland)
- UK-India Future Networks Initiative
- UK Federated Telecoms Hubs

## **Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026**

Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the two-day Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on February 12, 2026, launching the Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence.

### **Key Launch: Bodhan AI Centre of Excellence**

- Established at IIT Madras
- Aims to develop Bharat EduAI Stack – open and interoperable architecture to build, integrate, and scale AI-powered learning solutions across India

### **Key Partnerships Announced**

- IIT Bombay – Columbia University: MoU to establish Centre of AI for Manufacturing at IIT Bombay
- IIM Lucknow: AI Programme launched
- IIM Jammu – AIT Bangkok: Institutional collaboration
- IIM Ranchi: “Teaching with AI” Initiative

### **Seva Teerth complex**

The PMO will shift from South Block to the newly constructed ‘Seva Teerth’ complex, which will also house the Cabinet Secretariat and National Security Council Secretariat. The historic North and South Blocks, designed by Herbert Baker and used by the Indian government since 1947, are being vacated. The Prime Minister signed important schemes on his first day office at Seva Theerth complex. These decisions touch every section of society: farmers, women, youth, and vulnerable citizens.

#### **1. PM RAHAT Scheme**

- The Prime Minister has approved the launch of the PM RAHAT scheme.
- Under this scheme, accident victims will get cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh, ensuring that no life is lost due to lack of immediate medical help.

#### **2. Doubling of target of Lakhpati Didis to 6 crore**

- The government has crossed the landmark of 3 crore Lakhpati Didis, more than a year ahead of the original March 2027 timeline.
- The Prime Minister has now set a new, ambitious target of 6 crore Lakhpati Didis by March 2029, doubling both scale and aspiration.

#### **3. Loan Target of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Doubled to ₹2 lakh crore**

- In a move aimed at strengthening India's entire agriculture value chain, the Prime Minister has announced the doubling of the loan target of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund from ₹1 lakh crore to ₹2 lakh crore.

#### **4. Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore**

- The PM has approved the Startup India FoF 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.

### **3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs**

#### **Paruveta Utsavam of Ahobilam**

Paruveta Utsavam, a 600 year old socio-religious tradition held at Ahobilam in Andhra Pradesh, continues to stand as a powerful symbol of social equality, communal harmony, and living heritage. The festival involves a 40-day procession in which the idol of Lord Narasimha is taken from Ahobilam through 33 surrounding villages, blessing every household irrespective of caste, creed, or religion.

- Deeply rooted in local folklore, the ritual reflects the mythological bond between Lord Narasimha and Chenchu Lakshmi, linking the deity with the indigenous Chenchu tribal community.
- The mock hunting ritual (Paruveta) begins during Kanuma, part of the Sankranti festivities, and culminates in the Kalyanotsavam (celestial wedding) on the Lord's return.
- The Union Ministry of Culture, through Sangeet Natak Akademi, is processing a proposal to present Paruveta Utsavam to UNESCO for inclusion in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

#### **First humanoid robot in Indian Railways – ASC Arjun**

Indian Railways has taken a significant step in AI-driven railway security with the successful deployment of Rail Robocop 'ASC Arjun' at Visakhapatnam Railway Station. Billed as the first humanoid robot of its kind in Indian Railways, the robocop assisted the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in apprehending two habitual offenders within two weeks of its launch. ASC Arjun uses AI-powered facial recognition technology to match live visuals with a pre-loaded database of known criminals.

#### **Amaravati Quantum Valley**

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone for Amaravati Quantum Valley on February 7, 2026.

## About the National Quantum Mission

- Budget Allocation: ₹6,000 crore
- Institutional Coverage: 43 institutions across 17 States and 2 Union Territories
- Four Thematic Hubs: Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing and Metrology, Quantum Materials and Devices
- Target: Develop quantum computers with up to 1,000 physical qubits within eight years
- Communication Network: Quantum Key Distribution across 2,000 kilometres

## Key Features

- India's First Integrated Quantum Ecosystem: Combining quantum computing hardware, software development, algorithm design and workforce training within a single campus
- Land Allocation: 50 acres in Uddandarayunipalem village, Thullur mandal
- India's First 133-Qubit Quantum Computer: To be operational by December 2026 through collaborations with IBM, TCS, and L&T

## India–AI Impact Summit 2026: Seven Chakras Framework

The India–AI Impact Summit 2026 is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from February 16-20, 2026, marking the first-ever global AI summit to be hosted in the Global South. The summit is guided by three foundational pillars (Sutras) and organized through seven interconnected thematic areas (Chakras).

## Global Investments in India's AI

- Microsoft: ₹1.5 lakh crore for data centres and AI training
- Amazon: ₹2.9 lakh crore for cloud infrastructure by 2030
- Google: ₹1.25 lakh crore for 1 GW AI hub in Visakhapatnam

## Green Triangle' Integrated Ecotourism Project in Visakhapatnam

The Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) is set to launch an ambitious 'Green Triangle' integrated ecotourism project in Visakhapatnam, aiming to connect the city's major green and eco-sensitive zones into a single, seamless tourism circuit.

## Integrated Green Corridor:

- Covers around 18,000 acres

- Links Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Kailasagiri Hill, and Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary

## Andhra Pradesh Budget Session 2026–27

The Andhra Pradesh Budget Session 2026–27 commenced in Amaravati with Governor S. Abdul Nazeer addressing the joint sitting of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. The Business Advisory Committee (BAC), chaired by Speaker Chintakayala Ayyanna Patrudu, finalized the session schedule.

### Andhra Pradesh Budget 2026–27: Step-by-Step Legislative Process

- Finance Minister: Payyavula Keshav
- Budget Presentation Date: February 14, 2026
- Agriculture Budget: Presented separately by Agriculture Minister K. Atchannaidu
- Session Duration: February 12 – March 7, 2026
- Motion of Thanks: February 12 & 13
- General Budget Discussion & Voting: February 17 & 18
- Demands for Grants: February 19 – March 2
- Supplementary Demands: March 4
- Appropriation Bill Passage: March 5
- Session Conclusion: March 7

## 4. Polity & Governance

### Parliament and Parliamentary Norms

#### Parliamentary Procedure – Adjournment Motion

An adjournment motion is a procedural device to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. It involves:

- Purpose: Set aside normal business of the House to discuss specific urgent matter
- Admissibility: Requires Speaker's/Chairman's approval
- Support Required: Support of at least 50 members in Lok Sabha
- Effect: If admitted, it leads to adjournment of business and immediate discussion

#### Key Parliamentary Conventions

- Government Accountability: Government must inform Parliament of major policy decisions

- Parliamentary Privilege: Parliament's right to discuss matters of public importance
- Question Hour: Mechanism for questioning government on its policies
- Debate and Discussion: Opportunity for thorough examination of policies before implementation

## **Joint Committee of Parliament on Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025**

A 31-member Joint Committee of Parliament has been constituted to examine the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, which proposes replacing multiple higher education regulators with a single umbrella body in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The committee is chaired by D. Purandeswari and has been granted an extension to submit its report by the end of the Monsoon Session. The panel includes 20 Lok Sabha members and 10 Rajya Sabha members.

## **5. Economy Current Affairs**

### **'Deep Tech' Start-ups in India**

The Central government has formally defined what constitutes a "deep tech" start-up in India through a gazette notification issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Until now a buzzword, deep tech is now officially described as a start-up that develops solutions based on new scientific or engineering knowledge rather than incremental or purely digital innovations.

#### **Highlights of the Definition:**

- A deep tech start-up must be primarily focused on research and development (R&D).
- It should own or be creating novel intellectual property (IP) and actively work towards its commercialisation.
- Such firms typically face long gestation periods, high capital and infrastructure needs, and significant scientific or technical uncertainty.
- Unlike regular start-ups (valid up to 10 years with ₹200 crore turnover), deep tech start-ups can retain start-up status for up to 20 years with a turnover ceiling of ₹300 crore.
- Companies must apply to DPIIT for certification as a deep tech start-up.
- deep tech firms are expected to benefit from funding under the ₹1 lakh crore Research and Development Innovation (RDI) Fund, managed by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

## **10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) Scheme Completed**

The Government of India has successfully completed the formation of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) under a central sector scheme. The initiative includes 21.96 lakh women farmers and aims to build a sustainable, income-oriented farming ecosystem.

### **What is a Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO)?**

An FPO is a legal entity formed by primary producers (farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, etc.) to improve their income through collective strength. FPOs are registered under the Companies Act and can be formed as Producer Companies, Cooperative Societies or other legal forms.

## **New CPI Series with Base Year 2024 Released**

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released a new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with 2024 as the base year.
- As per the new series, retail inflation for January 2026 is 2.75%.
- The CPI basket has been expanded to 358 items (earlier 299).
- Data is now collected from 1,465 rural markets, 1,395 urban markets, and 12 online marketplaces.

## **DAC clears ₹3.6 lakh crore defence acquisitions including 114 Rafale jets**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital procurement proposals worth ₹3.6 lakh crore.

## **6. Ranks & Reports**

### **Network Readiness Index 2025 – India Ranks 45th**

Our country improved its position by four slots to rank 45th in the Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2025, released on February 4, 2026. The report was prepared by the Portulans Institute, Washington DC, and maps network-based readiness of 127 economies.

#### **India's Performance Overview**

- Rank: 45th (improved from 49th in 2024)
- Income Group Ranking: 2nd among lower-middle-income countries

## Moody's Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.4% in FY27

Global credit rating agency Moody's Ratings has projected India's GDP growth at 6.4% in FY27, making it the fastest-growing economy among G-20 countries.

## 7. Science & Technology

### Avian Flu (H5N1) Detected in Chennai Crow Samples

The Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Tamil Nadu, has issued a public advisory after the H5N1 avian influenza virus was detected in samples collected from a dead crow in Chennai.

#### Key Points:

- Avian influenza (bird flu) is a viral disease that mainly spreads from infected birds to other birds.
- Human transmission is rare, but people handling sick or dead birds and those working in slaughterhouses face higher risk.

### Cyberchondria

Cyberchondria is a term used to describe excessive or repeated online searching for health-related information that leads to increased anxiety, fear, or distress about one's health, often without proper medical basis.

### ICMR Advances Kyasanur Forest Disease Vaccine Development

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), under the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is making steady progress in developing an improved vaccine against Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD). This initiative was undertaken at the request of the Karnataka government.

#### About Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)

- Also Known As: Monkey Fever
- Type: Tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever
- Causative Agent: Virus belonging to the family Flaviviridae
- Transmission: Through the bite of infected hard ticks (*Haemaphysalis spinigera*)
- Endemic Region: Western Ghats region, particularly in states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra

### Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS)

As part of Space Vision 2047, ISRO aims to establish the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's own space station for long-duration human habitation in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The station will provide a platform for microgravity research and scientific studies in various fields including life sciences and medicine.

### **Overall Configuration of BAS**

- Total Modules: Five modules planned
- First Module (BAS-01): To be launched by 2028

### **Nuclear Energy Mission – Roadmap to 100 GW by 2047**

The Union Government has drawn up a comprehensive roadmap for reaching 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047 as announced in the Nuclear Energy Mission. This ambitious target represents more than an 11-fold increase from the current capacity.

### **Current Nuclear Power Status (2026)**

- Operational Plants: 24 nuclear power plants (excluding RAPS-1)
- Total Capacity: 8,780 MW (8.78 GW)

### **ANEEL – Thorium-Based Nuclear Fuel**

NTPC and CCTE (Canadian company) are exploring the development and deployment of ANEEL, a thorium-based fuel for Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) reactors in India, subject to approval from respective governments in line with prevailing national laws.

### **About ANEEL**

- **Type:** Thorium-based nuclear fuel
- **Target Reactors:** PHWR (Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors)
- **Collaboration:** NTPC (India) and CCTE (Canada)

### **Our Country's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme**

India has a well-articulated three-stage nuclear power programme designed to achieve long-term energy security through optimal utilization of limited uranium resources and abundant thorium reserves.

### **Stage 1: Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs)**

- Fuel: Natural Uranium

- Technology: Indigenous PHWR technology
- Product: Plutonium-239 (from U-238 in spent fuel)
- Current Status: Operational – Most of India’s current nuclear plants
- Purpose: Generate electricity and produce Plutonium for Stage 2

### **Stage 2: Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs)**

- Fuel: Plutonium-239 (from Stage 1) mixed with Uranium-238
- Technology: Fast Breeder Reactor technology
- Special Feature: “Breeds” more fissile material (Pu-239) than it consumes
- Product: Uranium-233 (from Thorium-232 blanket)
- Current Status: PFBR (500 MWe) under commissioning at Kalpakkam by BHAVINI
- Purpose: Generate electricity, breed more Plutonium, and produce U-233 for Stage 3

### **Stage 3: Thorium-Based Reactors**

- Fuel: Thorium-232 with Uranium-233 (from Stage 2)
- Technology: Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) and Molten Salt Reactors
- Advantage: Thorium is 3-4 times more abundant in India than uranium
- Current Status: R&D phase – Molten salt demonstration reactor under development
- Purpose: Self-sustaining long-term energy security using abundant domestic thorium

## **Quorum Sensing**

Renowned molecular biologist Prof. Bonnie Bassler of Princeton University delivered a lecture at IISc Bengaluru, highlighting that bacteria communicate through a chemical language, a process known as quorum sensing. She described bacteria as “multilingual” organisms capable of coordinating collective behaviour.

## **ARIES Research on Solar Storms – ‘Magnetic Cage’ Discovery**

Scientists from Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, discovered that the Sun’s global magnetic field acts like a ‘magnetic cage’ controlling explosive solar eruptions, while rapid build-up of magnetic twist provides the key to unlocking it.

### **What are Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)?**

- **Definition:** Explosive solar eruptions that release massive amounts of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun’s corona

## 8. Environment

### New Dragonfly Species Discovered in Kerala

Researchers have discovered a new species of dragonfly in Kerala and named it *Lyriothemis keralensis*, highlighting the State's rich biodiversity. The species was recorded from Varapetty near Kothamangalam in Ernakulam district, where it inhabits vegetated pools and irrigation canals within shaded rubber and pineapple plantations.

## 9. Defence

### INS Sudarshini Concludes Lokayan 26 Port Call at Oman

The Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini successfully concluded her first port call at Salalah, Oman, on February 5, 2026, as part of the ambitious ten-month trans-oceanic voyage Lokayan 26.

## 10. Awards and Honours

### India Designated Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026, Germany

India has been designated as the Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026, the world's leading trade fair for organic products, being held from February 10-13, 2026 at Nuremberg, Germany. This marks the second time India has received this prestigious designation, the previous occasion being 14 years ago (2012).

#### About BIOFACH

- Status: World's largest and most influential exhibition dedicated exclusively to organic food and agriculture
- Location: Nuremberg, Germany

## 11. Important Days

### World Radio Day 2026 – 13 February

World Radio Day is observed annually on February 13 to commemorate the establishment of United Nations Radio in 1946. The theme of World Radio Day 2026: "Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice."

The first community radio station was inaugurated on 01 February 20204 by former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani. Ram Singh Bouddh from Uttar Pradesh known as the “Radio Man of India” owning the world's largest collection of 1257 radios.

### **Unani Day 2026 – February 11**

The Unani Day is observed on 11 February annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan. He was a pioneer Unani Physician, Educationist and Founder of Ayurvedic and Unani Tibbia College, Delhi.

## **12. Person in News**

### **Tarique Rahman New Prime Minister of Bangladesh**

Mr. Tarique Rahman sworn in as new Prime Minister of Bangladesh after a decisive victory in the Parliamentary elections. India shares longest land boundary with Bangladesh (4,096 km). Maitree Setu, Akhaura-Agartala rail link are the two main ongoing projects between India and Bangladesh.

### **Barbados New Prime Minister – Mia Mottley**

Mia Amor Mottley won the Prime Minister elections and became third consecutive Prime Minister of Barbados.

#### **About Barbados**

- Capital: Bridgetown
- Currency: Barbadian dollar