

Weekly Current Affairs

February 2026 – Week 4

(23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 February 2026)

Exam Revision Notes

APPSC • AP DSC • AP TET • AP Police SI

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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

1. International Current Affairs

India Participated as Observer in 'Board of Peace for Gaza' Meeting

India participated as an observer in the first meeting of the Board of Peace for Gaza held in Washington D.C. India was represented by Namgya Khampa, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Washington D.C.

India's Stand on the Israel–Palestine Issue

- India reiterated its consistent position supporting a sovereign, independent and viable State of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders.
- India also supported the Gaza Peace Plan initiative, efforts under UNSC Resolution 2803.

U.S. Drops ALARA Principle from Radiation Safety Framework

Recently, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) removed the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle from its radiation protection regulations. ALARA has long been the operational cornerstone of global radiation safety, aimed at keeping radiation exposure as low as possible while balancing cost, feasibility, and societal needs.

India–Brazil TKDL Access Agreement

India and Brazil signed an agreement on 21 February 2026 for Brazil's National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) to access India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

About TKDL

- Established in 2001 by CSIR and the Ministry of AYUSH.
- It is a prior-art database of Indian traditional knowledge.
- The objective of this TKDL is to prevent biopiracy and wrongful patents on Indian traditional practices.

UN Launches Road Safety Financing Framework in Four Indian States

The United Nations has launched a road safety financing framework project in partnership with four Indian States – Rajasthan, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam. The initiative will be implemented under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in India.

Global Context

- The project aligns with the “Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030”, which aims to reduce global road deaths and injuries by at least 50% by 2030.

India Israel Relations Elevated to Special Strategic Partnership

- India and Israel upgraded their bilateral ties to a Special Strategic Partnership.
- Both countries signed multiple MoUs covering key areas such as artificial intelligence, agriculture, geophysical exploration, fintech, cyber security, fisheries, education, labour mobility, and cultural exchange.
- An agreement to enable cross-border remittances through UPI.
- The establishment of an India–Israel Innovation Centre for Agriculture and a Cyber Centre of Excellence in India.
- The visit also led to the decision to allow up to 50,000 Indian workers to be employed in Israel over the next five years through regulated channels.
- India-Israel Academic Cooperation Forum.
- India- Israel Parliamentary Friendship Group.

2. National Current Affairs

Bela Gram – India’s First Net-Zero Panchayat

Bela Gram in Bhandara district, Maharashtra (Vidarbha region) has been recognised as India’s first net-zero panchayat, highlighting the importance of local self-governments in climate action. The achievement was showcased during Mumbai Climate Week 2026.

Key Climate Initiatives in Bela Gram

- Plantation of 90,000+ trees during weddings and festivals
- Transition from traditional smoky chulhas to LPG
- Installation of solar panels in homes, anganwadis and panchayat buildings
- Doorstep waste segregation
- Elimination of single-use plastics

New Delhi Declaration at AI Impact Summit 2026

The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi on 18–19 February 2026, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, marking a major step in global cooperation on artificial intelligence. The declaration has been endorsed by 89 countries and international organisations, reflecting a broad global consensus on using AI for economic growth, social good, and inclusive development.

Hoysala era temples

Hoysala-era temples and basadis in Karnataka's Hassan, Mandya and Mysuru districts highlight the architectural and cultural brilliance of the Hoysala dynasty (11th–13th centuries). Built mainly with soapstone, these monuments are known for star-shaped platforms, richly sculpted walls, finely turned pillars and trikuta/dvikuta/ekakuta shrine layouts. Important sites include the Bucheshwara temple (Koravangala), Lakshminarasimha temple (Javagal), Lakshmidēvi temple (Doddagaddavalli) and the 12th-century Hulikere Kalyani stepwell, which reflects advanced Hoysala water architecture.

Bust of C. Rajagopalachari Unveiled at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, unveiled the bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 23, 2026.
- Rajaji was the first and only Indian Governor-General of independent India (1948–1950).
- The bust has been installed, replacing the bust of Edwin Lutyens.

PRAHAAR – India's First National Counter-Terror Policy

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has released India's first-ever national anti-terror policy titled "PRAHAAR". It aims to create a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and respond to terrorism.

Nature of Threats Identified

- Terror threats exist across water, land and air.
- Increasing risks from:
 - Cyber-attacks by criminal hackers and hostile nation-states
 - Drones and advanced technologies
 - Dark web, encryption and crypto wallets for funding and communication
- Terror groups trying to use CBRNED materials: (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive, Digital).

Cabinet Approves Proposal to Rename Kerala as Keralam

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal to change the name of the State "Kerala" to "Keralam" (February 24, 2026).
- The move follows a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024 requesting the change.
- The name "Keralam" reflects the Malayalam linguistic and cultural identity, as states were reorganised on a linguistic basis in 1956.

Constitutional Procedure to alter a State's Name

- Article 3 of the Constitution empowers Parliament to alter the name of a State.
- Steps involved:
 1. The President refers the Bill to the State Legislature for its views.
 2. After receiving the State's opinion, the Bill is introduced in Parliament with the President's recommendation.
 3. Parliament passes the law to effect the name change.

Seva Sankalp Resolution

- The first Union Cabinet meeting was held at the new Prime Minister's Office – 'Seva Teerth' on 24 February 2026 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister.
- 'Seva Teerth' has been built at the site of temporary British-era barracks, symbolising the transition from colonial legacy to New India's governance model.
- The Cabinet adopted the Seva Sankalp Resolution, reaffirming its commitment to:
 - Citizen-centric governance
 - Constitutional values (justice, equality, dignity)
 - The vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047

President Inaugurates National Arogya Fair 2026 at Shegaon

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National Arogya Fair 2026 at Shegaon, Buldhana district, Maharashtra on 25 February 2026. She felicitated six senior Vaidyas for their outstanding contribution to AYUSH healthcare.

PMO Reviews Proposed CAFE-III Carbon Emission Norms 2027

- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) held a high-level meeting to review the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE-III) norms for passenger vehicles, proposed to be implemented from 2027.
- The meeting involved the Ministry of Power, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), and Ministry of Heavy Industries, but no final decision has been taken yet.

Supreme Court Bans NCERT Class 8 Textbook Over Content on Judiciary

- The Supreme Court ordered a blanket ban and immediate seizure of all physical and digital copies of a Class 8 Social Science textbook published by NCERT (February 2026) for portraying the judiciary in a negative manner through selective references to "corruption".
- The Court emphasised that while legitimate criticism of institutions is permissible, any deliberate attempt to scandalise or undermine the dignity of the judiciary may amount to criminal contempt.

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

Andhra Pradesh signs 7 MoUs at AI Summit

The Andhra Pradesh Government signed seven MoUs at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to strengthen quantum computing and artificial intelligence infrastructure and skilling. The agreements were signed with the aim of transforming the State into a global Quantum–AI Hub through the proposed Quantum Valley in Amaravati.

Key collaborations include:

1. UNICC – Establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Quantum & AI
2. IBM – Training 1 lakh youth in quantum, AI, and cybersecurity
3. NIELIT – Setting up a Quantum AI Deemed University
4. BharatGen–NexGen–IBM consortium – Creation of a state-level indigenous AI tech hub/stack
5. Calibo AI – AI Academies & AI Sandboxes in 50 higher education institutions
6. Vizer – Centre of Excellence in Amaravati
7. IIT Madras – AI Tutor for school students

Bandar-i-Mubarak

Masulipatnam (Machilipatnam) was referred to as ‘Bandar-i-Mubarak’ (Auspicious Port) in the records of the Golconda Sultanate during the 17th century, highlighting its special economic and strategic importance as a major maritime trade centre. However, after the Mughal conquest of Golconda, the port lost its exclusive status and became one among many ports in the vast Mughal Empire.

India’s First Quantum & AI University in Amaravati

The National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, signed an MoU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 20 February 2026 at the India AI Impact Summit to establish India’s first dedicated Quantum & Artificial Intelligence University campus in Amaravati.

Amended BharatNet Programme MoC Signed for Andhra Pradesh

A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed between Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), Department of Telecommunications, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the expedited rollout of the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP). Under this programme, ₹2,432 crore financial support was approved for Andhra Pradesh.

Objective of this Programme: Upgradation of 13,246 Gram Panchayats with future ready broadband connectivity.

About Amended BharatNet Programme

- Approved by the Union Cabinet on 4 August 2023.
- Aim:
 - Provide future-ready broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats and villages
 - Strengthen last-mile connectivity & 4G saturation
- Total outlay: ₹1.39 lakh crore (\$16.9 billion).

₹2,388 Crore Semiconductor OSAT Unit Approved in Visakhapatnam

- The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved a ₹2,388-crore semiconductor project by Advanced System in Package Technologies Pvt. Ltd. at Tarluvada (Visakhapatnam district).
- It will be an OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility and is expected to create about 1,000 direct jobs.
- First semiconductor manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh cleared under the India Semiconductor Mission framework.
- Approved under the A.P. Semiconductor and Display Fab Policy (4.0) 2024–29.

Other Major Cabinet Approvals

- 1,000 MW AI Data Centre Cluster by Adani Infra in Visakhapatnam & Anakapalli.
- 900 MW solar project in Kurnool (NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd.)

PM Lanka Boats Project launched in Andhra Pradesh

The Ramakrishna Mission has launched the 'PM Lanka Boats' project to restore the livelihoods of traditional fishing families in the Godavari belt of Andhra Pradesh whose boats and nets were damaged by Montha Cyclone. The initiative will support 300 vulnerable fishing families by providing boats and fishing nets worth ₹2.10 crore. In the first phase, equipment valued at ₹70 lakh will be distributed to 100 fishermen.

A.P. Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfers) (Amendment) Bill, 2026

The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly has passed the A.P. Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfers) (Amendment) Bill, 2026. This allows the government to lease assigned lands on a long-term basis for setting up renewable energy projects under the A.P. Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024.

This amends the 1977 Act, which earlier prohibited transfer of assigned lands given to landless poor.

The policy targets 160 GW renewable energy capacity and aims to attract ₹10 lakh crore investments, aligned with India's climate commitments. The land can be leased to

A.P. Rural Agriculture Power Limited (earlier A.P. Green Energy Corporation Ltd.) for solar and other clean energy projects.

Microbreweries to Promote Beach AP Tourism

The Andhra Pradesh government has amended the A.P. Brewery Rules, 2006 to promote beach tourism by allowing microbreweries in notified tourism areas. Earlier restricted to municipal corporation limits, microbreweries will now be permitted:

- Within a 5-km belt from municipal corporation limits
- In designated tourism centres
- In three-star and above hotels anywhere in the State

4. Economy Current Affairs

Sandalwood production

India, once the world's largest producer of sandalwood (*Santalum album*), has been overtaken by Australia, which now accounts for about 69% of global production, while India's share has declined to nearly 20%. The fall is attributed to restrictive forest laws, illegal harvesting (about 75% in Karnataka), lack of research, high security costs, long gestation period (15–20 years), and theft risks.

Sandalwood remains highly valuable due to its use in the perfume industry, Ayurveda, attar production, and its high essential oil content. Karnataka is the largest Sandalwood producer in India.

Minimum Support Price for Raw Jute (2026–27) Approved

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2026–27 marketing season.
- The MSP for TD-3 grade raw jute has been fixed at ₹5,925 per quintal.

Procurement Mechanism

- Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as the Central Nodal Agency for Price Support Operations.
- Any losses incurred by JCI will be reimbursed by the Central Government.

CBDC-Based Food Subsidy Pilot program launched

- The Government of India will launch a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based food subsidy distribution pilot in the Union Territory of Puducherry on 26 February 2026.
- The initiative will be implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) to strengthen digital public infrastructure and transparent subsidy delivery.

What is the Digital Rupee (CBDC)?

- It is a tokenised digital form of the Indian rupee issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Functions as programmable, secure, instant and traceable digital cash.

How the Pilot Works

- Food subsidy will be credited as CBDC tokens directly into beneficiaries' digital wallets.
- Tokens can be used only to purchase entitled foodgrains at Fair Price Shops (FPS) → ensures purpose-bound utilisation.
- Integrated with the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) ecosystem.

Implementing Agencies

- Government of Puducherry
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Public Financial Management System (PFMS)
- Canara Bank (designated banking partner)

U.S. Imposes 126% Countervailing Duty on Indian Solar Imports

- The United States has imposed a 126% countervailing duty (CVD) on solar cell imports from India after a preliminary investigation by the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- The probe concluded that subsidised Indian solar exports were hurting U.S. domestic manufacturers and violated WTO subsidy norms.
- Similar duties were also imposed on Indonesia and Laos.

Importance of U.S. Market

- The U.S. is the largest export destination for Indian solar components.
- India exported: \$1 billion worth photovoltaics in FY 2022–23 and \$1.94 billion in FY 2023–24

NSIC Upgraded to Schedule 'A' CPSE

- The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), under the Ministry of MSME, has been upgraded from Schedule 'B' to Schedule 'A' category CPSE through a government notification dated 26 February 2026.
- NSIC has been working for over seven decades for the promotion and development of MSMEs in India.

Income Mobility in India (2014–2025)

A study using CMIE's Consumer Pyramids Household Survey shows big changes in people's income levels between 2014 and 2025.

- The number of families whose income went down increased a lot from 14% in 2015 to 26.8% in 2025.
- The number of families remaining in the same income group reduced sharply.
- Some families moved upward, but this growth was slow and smaller than the number of people moving downward.
- This means economic insecurity is increasing.
- Rural areas were worst affected, nearly 29% of rural households became poorer compared to 2014.
- Social inequality still plays a major role: SCs, OBCs and Muslims had fewer chances to move up.
- **Factors that improved income growth chances:**
 - Better education
 - Living in urban areas
 - Lower inequality in the district

New GDP Base Year 2022-23

- MoSPI released a new GDP/National Accounts series with base year shifted to 2022–23, replacing the earlier 2011–12 base.
- The rebasing aims to capture structural changes, use new data sources, and improve methods, deflation strategy, coverage, and accuracy.
- MoSPI said 2022–23 was chosen as a "recent normal year" (post-COVID) with robust data availability across sectors.

6. Science & Technology

Indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine

Our country launched the indigenously manufactured Tetanus and Adult Diphtheria (Td) vaccine at the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. The vaccine has been included in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), which is the world's largest immunisation programme.

Proteins as Quantum Sensors Inside Living Cells

- Scientists recently found that fluorescent proteins can be engineered to act as quantum sensors inside living cells.
- These proteins can detect magnetic fields and radio waves by using the quantum behaviour of electrons.
- Traditionally, quantum sensors are made from solid materials like diamond, which are difficult to insert into cells.
- Since cells can naturally produce proteins using genetic instructions, these sensors can be genetically encoded and precisely positioned inside the body.

These studies enable nanoscale measurement of magnetic fields, temperature, electric fields, and chemical reactions inside living cells.

Nationwide Free HPV Vaccination Programme for Girls

The Union Health Ministry is set to roll out a nationwide free HPV vaccination programme targeting girls aged 14 years. The vaccination will be voluntary and free of cost, ensuring equitable access across all States and UTs.

- India will use Gardasil (quadrivalent HPV vaccine), which protects against:
- HPV types 16 & 18 → cause cervical cancer
- HPV types 6 & 11 → cause other HPV-related conditions.

7. Polity and Governance

Women's Reservation Act, 2023

- The Women's Reservation Act, 2023 (106th Constitutional Amendment) provides 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- However, its implementation is linked to two mandatory conditions:
 1. First Census conducted after 2026
 2. Delimitation based on that Census data
- Since the next Census is scheduled for 2027 and delimitation historically takes several years, implementation in the 2029 general elections is not possible.
- The earliest likely implementation is around the 2034 general election, unless a fresh constitutional amendment delinks reservation from delimitation.

Constitutional & Legal Provisions

- Article 82: Provides for readjustment of constituencies (delimitation) after every Census.
- The Delimitation Commission redraws parliamentary and Assembly constituencies.

- The Act applies only to directly elected Houses (Lok Sabha & State Assemblies), not to Rajya Sabha or Legislative Councils.

Did You Know?

The first Women's Reservation Bill was introduced on 12 September 1996. It was introduced by the H.D. Deve Gowda-led the United Front government. It was called the Constitution (81st Amendment) Bill, 1996. The Bill was sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee headed by Geeta Mukherjee. In 2010, it even cleared the Rajya Sabha, but not cleared in the Lok Sabha. Nearly 27 years later, in 2023 the bill was passed as the 106th Constitutional Amendment (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam).

8. Defence

Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2026

The 16th edition of Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is being conducted at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh) from 24 February to 16 March 2026. It is a joint Special Forces exercise between India and the United States aimed at enhancing military cooperation and interoperability.

Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN 2026

The 7th edition of Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) began at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia (Uttarakhand). The exercise is being conducted from 24 February to 9 March 2026.

Vayu Shakti-2026 Exercise

President Droupadi Murmu witnessed the 'Vayu Shakti-2026' exercise at the Pokhran Firing Range in Rajasthan on 27 February 2026. The exercise showcased the Indian Air Force's capability to carry out swift and precise strikes in simulated wartime conditions through an integrated operational scenario.

Commissioning of INS Anjadip

INS Anjadip, the fourth vessel of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 27 February 2026 at Chennai Port. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff.

Named after an island off the coast of Karwar, the 77-metre, 1,400-ton warship is specially designed for anti-submarine operations in shallow coastal waters.

09. Ranks and Reports

UNESCO Report: State of the Education Report for India 2025: “Bhasha Matters”

- Multilingual education improves:
 - Foundational literacy and numeracy
 - Learning outcomes
 - Confidence and retention
- Treats linguistic diversity as an asset, not a barrier.
- Recommends a National Mission for Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education.

10. Awards and Honours

79th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards

‘Boong’ film created history at the 79th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards. Boong, a Manipuri-language film directed by Lakshmipriya Devi, became the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award. It won in the Best Children and Family Film category.

BAFTA Awards 2026

The 79th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) were held in London at the Royal Festival Hall. “One Battle After Another”, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, won 6 awards, including Best Film, Best Director, Adapted Screenplay, Cinematography, Editing, Best Supporting Actor (Sean Penn)

11. Person in News

Netherlands’s Youngest Prime Minister

Rob Jetten was sworn in as the youngest-ever and first openly gay Prime Minister of the Netherlands by King Willem-Alexander in The Hague.

12. Important Days

International Mother Language Day – 21 February

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day (21 February), UNESCO emphasised the importance of Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) for inclusive and quality learning in India. Theme of International Mother Language Day 2026 is “Youth voices on multilingual education”.

India’s Linguistic Diversity

- India has 1,300+ mother tongues and 121 constitutionally recognised languages (according to Census 2011).
- Nearly 44% of children enter school with a language different from the medium of instruction (NCERT, 2022).