



# Daily Current Affairs

11<sup>th</sup> February 2026



## BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

### Reserve Bank of India Introduces Reforms to Boost Cooperative Banks' Financial Stability, Governance, and Digital Capabilities

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in consultation with the **Government of India**, announced that **loans sanctioned by banks to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) w.e.f. January 19, 2026**, for **on-lending to cooperative societies** are eligible for classification as **priority sector lending (PSL)** under the respective categories.
- The **priority sector lending (PSL)** classification applies to **banks other than Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), and Local Area Banks (LABs)**.

RBI Rolls Out Measures to Strengthen Cooperative Banks' Financial Health, Governance and Digital Inclusion

Loans sanctioned by banks to NCDC for on-lending to cooperative societies eligible for classification as priority sector lending under the respective categories w.e.f. Jan. 19, 2026

Reforms include facilitating greater credit flow to cooperative societies through NCDC under revised Priority Sector Lending norms.

‘Sahakar Sarthi’ set up as a Shared Services Entity to deliver technological services to Rural Cooperative Banks

Press No. 10/2025-2026/116-Dates

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Government of India, has announced that loans sanctioned by banks to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) w.e.f. January 19, 2026, for on-lending to cooperative societies are eligible for classification as priority sector lending under the respective categories. These apply to banks other than Regional Rural Banks, Urban Cooperative Banks, Small Finance Banks and Local Area Banks. These loans are for purposes and activities as laid down in the Master Direction on Priority Sector Lending, 2015.

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), a statutory corporation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Cooperation, provides financial assistance to Cooperatives and contributes directly to accelerating the growth of cooperative movement.

#### Key Highlights :

- **NCDC** is a **statutory corporation** under the **Ministry of Cooperation** that provides financial assistance to **Cooperatives** and contributes directly to accelerating the growth of the **cooperative movement**.
- The **Government of India and RBI** have taken multiple measures to strengthen **cooperative banks** in terms of **financial health, governance, digital inclusion, deposit security, credit availability, and prudent regulation**.
- **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** have been allowed to **open new branches** to expand their operations.
- **Housing loan limits** for **UCBs** have been increased from **10% to 25%** of their total loans and advances.
- The **Banking Regulation Act** has been amended to increase the **terms of directors** of **Cooperative Banks** from **8 to 10 years**.
- **Licensing fees** for onboarding cooperative banks to **Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)** have been **reduced**.
- The **National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC)**, a **non-deposit taking NBFC**, has been set up as an **Umbrella Organization** for **UCBs**, providing **IT infrastructure and operational support**.
- A **Shared Services Entity (SSE)** named **Sahakar Sarthi** has been established to provide **technological services** to **Rural Cooperative Banks**.
- **Rural Cooperative Banks** have been included by **RBI** in the **Integrated Ombudsman Scheme** to enhance **grievance redressal**.
- **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** insures various types of deposits up to **₹5,00,000 per depositor per bank**, including **principal and interest**, for all **cooperative banks**.

#### Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** flagged deficiencies in **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** compliance at **HDFC Bank** and **ICICI Bank** during its **annual supervisory review**, mainly due to **misclassification of agricultural loans**.

## Historic Low: Gross NPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) Fall to 2.15% for Domestic Operations as of September 2025

- The **gross NPA ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** has continuously declined over the last eight financial years, reaching a **historic low of 2.15%** as on **30 September 2025**, lower than the 2010–11 level.

### Key Highlights :

- As of **September 2025**, gross NPA ratios were: **Public Sector Banks (PSBs) – 2.50%**, **Private Sector Banks (PVBs) – 1.73%**, and **Foreign Banks – 0.80%**, with PSBs showing a sharper decline since March 2018.
- The decline in NPAs followed the **Asset Quality Review (AQR)** initiated by **RBI in 2015** and the Government's **4R strategy: Recognition, Resolution, Recapitalisation, and Reforms**, which improved asset quality and banking sector stability.
- Reduction in **gross NPAs** has led to **lower provisioning, improved profitability**, and supported business growth in PSBs, reflecting stronger underwriting and balance sheets.
- Slippage ratio** (fresh NPAs as a percentage of standard advances) for **PSBs improved to 0.8%** as of September 2025, compared to **1.8% for PVBs**, indicating effective prevention and recovery measures.
- Early Warning Systems (EWS)** with **~80 triggers** and use of third-party data were implemented in PSBs to **proactively detect stressed accounts**, reducing slippage into NPAs.
- Credit culture reform** under **IBC 2016** shifted from **'Debtor in Possession'** to **'Creditor in Control'**, enabling efficient resolution; by March 2025, **30,000+ cases** involving **₹13.78 lakh crore** were settled pre-admission.
- Amendments in **SARFAESI Act (2002)** and **Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act** empowered RBI, enabled **ARC audits**, mandated **CERSAI registration**, and increased **DRT pecuniary jurisdiction** from **₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh**.
- PSBs** established **specialized stressed assets management verticals** and branches, deployed Business Correspondents, and adopted a **Feet-on-Street model** to improve NPA recoveries.
- Prudential Framework for Stressed Assets (RBI, 2019)** provides **early recognition**, reporting, and **time-bound resolution** of stressed assets, with incentives for early adoption of resolution plans.
- Recovery mechanisms** include **DRTs**, civil courts, **SARFAESI**, **NCLT under IBC**, negotiated settlements, and **sale of NPAs**, while IBC amendments aim to address **CIRP delays**.

### About Ministry of Finance:

- Cabinet Minister: Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
- Minister of State (MoS): Shri Pankaj Chaudhary

Gross NPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for domestic operations reach a historic low of 2.15% as of September, 2025

RBI's Asset Quality Review (AQR) in 2015, Government's 4R Strategy and other key reforms contribute to decline in Gross NPAs

Lower NPAs Boost Bank Profitability, Strengthen Balance Sheets and Credit Growth

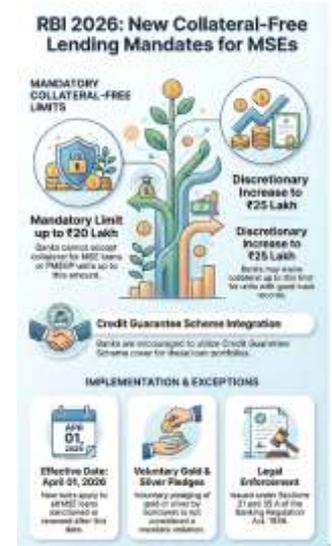
Source: RBI Report dated 10/09/2025

The gross NPA ratio (or gross NPAs) as a percentage of gross loans and advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for domestic operations has been continuously declining during the last eight financial years, and stood at 2.15% as on the end of September, 2025 (quarterly data) which is lower than 2010-11 level. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated the Asset Quality Review (AQR) in 2015, post which the Government initiated a strategy of strengthening NPAs consistently, resulting and generating robust loan recovery through close and effective loan and portfolio management, PSBs, and reforms in banks and financial institutions to address the problem of rising NPAs and going loan default. Enabled by these initiatives, a large drop in gross NPAs was achieved by PSBs. RBI has reported that the decline in gross NPAs of SCBs is not reflected by RBI as recently bank. However, as per the latest data available with RBI, as on 30-09-2025, for domestic operations, the gross NPA ratio of SCBs was 2.15%, PSBs was 2.50%, Private Sector Banks (PVBs) was 1.73% and Foreign Banks was 0.80%. PSBs have a higher decline in gross NPA ratio compared to PSBs and Foreign Banks since March, 2018.

The continuous decline in gross NPAs of SCBs, including PSBs, has led to reduced provisioning by them, which in turn has improved their profitability, thereby creating positive impacts on the business growth & other indicators. But the most significant as well as underlying factor responsible for PSBs supported by a strong balance sheet and

## Reserve Bank of India Increases Collateral-Free Loan Limit for micro, small and medium enterprises to ₹20 Lakh

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the **Lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) Sector (Amendment) Directions, 2026** on **9 February 2026**, under **Sections 21 and 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- **Collateral-free loan limit for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)** under the **Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)** administered by **KVIC** has been raised to **₹20 lakh**.
- **Banks** may further increase the **collateral-free loan limit to ₹25 lakh** under their **internal credit policies**, subject to borrower **performance and financial strength**.
- **Lenders** can avail coverage under the **Credit Guarantee Scheme** to **mitigate credit risk** wherever applicable.
- **Voluntary pledging of gold or silver** by borrowers for loans within the collateral-free limit will **not be treated as a violation** of the directive.
- The amended directions will **come into effect from 1 April 2026**.
- The changes have been incorporated into the **Master Direction on Lending to the MSME Sector**, last updated in **July 2025**.
- The revised framework aims to **strengthen last-mile credit delivery to MSEs**, which often face difficulties in furnishing collateral due to **limited asset ownership**.
- The amendments also **align MSME lending norms** with recent **regulatory changes** notified separately by the RBI.
- The move is part of **RBI's broader effort** to improve **institutional finance flow** to the **MSME sector**, which is a key contributor to **employment generation and economic growth**.



## Reserve Bank of India Launches Financial Literacy Week 2026 Highlighting Importance of KYC Compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been observing **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** annually since **2016** to promote financial awareness among citizens.
- **FLW 2026** is being observed from **February 9 to 13, 2026** on the theme: **“KYC – Your First Step to Safe Banking / सुरक्षित बैंकिंग की ओर पहला कदम ”**.
- RBI Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** inaugurated **FLW 2026** and emphasized the **critical role of KYC** in ensuring safe, secure, and **inclusive banking**.
- **Banks and stakeholders** have been urged to **simplify and promote KYC and re-KYC compliance** among customers.
- The **Central KYC Records Registry (CKYCR)** was highlighted as a **key tool to simplify customer onboarding** and strengthen



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financial inclusion.

- **RBI Regional Offices**, including **Panaji**, coordinated with banks to support **nationwide campaigns** on financial inclusion schemes, including **re-KYC** for uninterrupted banking services.
- The campaign will raise awareness about the **benefits of KYC/CKYC**, precautions against **fraudulent KYC calls, messages, and links**, and caution the public against becoming **money mules**.
- **FLW 2026** includes **awareness and outreach programmes** across India, with stakeholders encouraged to actively **disseminate campaign messages** to promote a **secure financial ecosystem**.

### Reserve Bank of India Proposes Banks to Lend to REITs with Prudential Safeguards to Boost Real Estate Financing

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed banks to **lend directly to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** with **prudential safeguards** to deepen credit access for the real estate sector.

#### Key Highlights :

- Earlier, banks were barred from lending to REITs, though **lending to Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)** was permitted; existing InvIT norms will now be **harmonised** with REIT safeguards.
- **REITs and InvITs** were conceptualised in India to free up banks' funds in **completed and operational** real estate and infrastructure projects by **refinancing exposures** with pooled funds of institutions and retail investors.
- At present, there are **five listed REITs** in India – **Brookfield India Real Estate Trust, Embassy Office Parks REIT, Mindspace Business Parks REIT, Nexus Select Trust, and Knowledge Realty Trust**.
- **REITs** are investment vehicles that **own or operate income-generating real estate**, enabling investors to earn a share of income without directly purchasing properties.
- RBI's move will allow REITs to raise **long-term capital** at a **more efficient cost**, supporting their growth and potentially boosting **income for unitholders**.
- Previously, REITs raised funds through **bonds** subscribed by mutual funds, NBFCs, and others, mostly **short-term (3–5 years)**, creating a long-term funding challenge.
- With **bank lending**, REITs can **refinance short-term debt**, expand access to **longer-term competitive finance**, and maintain healthier balance sheets and stable growth.
- According to experts, REITs currently borrow via **commercial papers at 6.5%** and **non-convertible debentures (NCDs) at 7–8%**, but can borrow at **below 7.5%** through **lease rental discounting** of rent receivables.



## Reserve Bank of India Grants In-Principle Approval to Transcorp International for Centralized Payment Systems

- **Transcorp International Limited** received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to participate in **Centralized Payment Systems (CPS)**, marking a major development in its banking services infrastructure.
- Following the **RBI authorization**, **Transcorp** can hold and operate a **bank account at RBI** and be allotted its own **Indian Financial System Code (IFSC)**.
- The **CPS authorization**, usually granted to banks, allows **Transcorp** to develop and operate its payment ecosystem with **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** and **National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** capabilities, following RBI guidelines.
- Participation in **CPS** will enhance **payment ecosystem independence**, **operational efficiency**, and **regulatory compliance**, while enabling **secure and technology-driven payment solutions**.
- **Transcorp** reported **49% profitability growth** for the quarter and **67% growth** for the **9-month period** ending **December 31, 2025**, compared to the previous year.
- The company has **fully repaid** all **public Fixed Deposits (FDs)** under its **Public FD scheme**.



*Transcorp International Limited Receives RBI's In-Principle Approval for Centralized Payment Systems; Increases Profitability and Minimises Debt*

**Transcorp International Limited Receives RBI's In-Principle Approval for Centralized Payment Systems; Increases Profitability and Minimises Debt**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Official Two-Day Visit to Malaysia on February 7-8, 2026

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Malaysia** on a **two-day official trip** from **February 7-8, 2026**, at the invitation of **Malaysian PM Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim**.
- This was **PM Modi's third official visit** to Malaysia, reinforcing the longstanding **diplomatic and economic ties** between the two nations.

#### Key Highlights :

- During the visit, **PM Modi** and **PM Anwar Ibrahim** held restricted and delegation-level meetings, deepening the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP)** established in **2024**.
- Both leaders reviewed cooperation across sectors including **trade and investment**, **defense and security**, **digital economy**, **Artificial Intelligence (AI) & semiconductors**, **infrastructure development**, **clean energy**, **tourism**, **education**, **health**, and **maritime cooperation**.
- **PM Modi** attended the **10th India-Malaysia CEO Forum** in **Kuala Lumpur** to discuss **trade**, **investment**, and **economic cooperation**.
- **India and Malaysia** signed **11 MoUs** to boost bilateral cooperation in **AV co-production**, **disaster management**, **anti-corruption**, **UN peacekeeping**,



**semiconductors, wildlife conservation, social security, vocational education (TVET), security, and health.**

- An **MoU on academic collaboration in Ayurveda** was signed between **University of Cyberjaya (UoC)**, Selangor and **Institute of Training and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA)**, Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- **India** set up a **Consulate General in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (Malaysia)** to strengthen **diplomatic, commercial, and people-to-people ties.**
- **Thiruvalluvar Centre** was established at **Universiti Malaya** to promote **Tamil language, literature, and Indian culture** in Malaysia.
- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** and **PayNet Malaysia** agreed to link their payment systems (**UPI-PayNet**), enhancing **digital financial cooperation** and **cross-border remittances.**

### About Malaysia :

- Prime Minister : Anwar Ibrahim
- Capital : Kuala Lumpur
- Currency : Malaysian ringgit

### India and Bhutan Review Steps to Strengthen Power Sector Cooperation

- **India and Bhutan** reviewed and reaffirmed their long-standing partnership in the **power sector, focusing on hydropower, cross-border transmission, and future energy cooperation.**

### Key Highlights :

- **Indo-Bhutan hydropower cooperation** began in **1961**, followed by the **Agreement on Hydroelectric Power Cooperation in 2006.**
- Both countries discussed the **commercial optimization** of power output from the **Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW).**
- **Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project** is a **1020 MW run-of-the-river project** located in the **Wangdue Phodrang district** of Bhutan on the right bank of the **Punatsangchhu River.**
- The project is developed by the **Punatsangchhu II Hydroelectric Project Authority** under an **Inter-Government Agreement (IGA)** between the **Royal Government of Bhutan** and **Government of India.**
- The project is funded by **Government of India** with **30% grant and 70% loan** at **10% annual interest**, repayable in **30 equated semi-annual installments** starting one year after the mean date of operation.
- Bhutan's Minister of Energy, **Lyonpo Gem Tshering**, met India's Union Minister of Power, **Manohar Lal**, and MoS Power, **Shripad Naik**, to strengthen bilateral collaboration in the energy domain.

#### India and Bhutan to Strengthen Cooperation in the Power Sector

By Press Information Bureau | February 4, 2026

India and Bhutan reaffirmed their long-standing partnership in the power sector, with senior level talks held in New Delhi on February 3, 2026, focusing on ways to enhance cooperation in hydropower and transmission interconnection. The talks between Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Mr. Manohar Lal, and Bhutan's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Lyonpo Gem Tshering, reviewed progress on major hydro projects that form the backbone of their partnership. The focus was on the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW) and the early start of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project (220 MW), both crucial to the energy requirements and a reliable power supply in Bhutan and the region. These projects, which have their roots in cooperation since 1961 and were further strengthened by the 2006 agreement on hydropower cooperation, continue to be at the heart of their strategic energy partnership. Going beyond the project-level talks, India and Bhutan also considered planning for transmission infrastructure until 2040, with extensive consultations in progress to ensure smooth cross-border power supplies into the next decade. A major agenda item was facilitating power schedule approvals during the lean periods in Bhutan, to enable smooth energy flows and optimal utilization of hydropower resources. The ministers expressed appreciation for the deep friendship that exists between the two countries and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation to enhance energy security and help advance regional development and economic integration.

**Disclaimer:** This information has been collected through secondary research and ISEF is not responsible for any errors in the same.

- Discussions included **early commissioning** of the **Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW)** to enhance Bhutan's power generation capacity and **regional energy security**.
- Both sides reviewed the **future roadmap** for the **Sankosh Hydropower Project** and **cross-border transmission links up to 2040** to support growing power trade.

#### About Bhutan :

- Prime Minister : Tshering Tobgay
- Capital : Thimphu
- Currency : Ngultrum

#### External Affairs Minister Jaishankar Emphasizes Global Collaboration on Critical Minerals at First Ministerial

- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** highlighted the risks of **excessive concentration of critical minerals** and stressed the need to **de-risk global supply chains** through **structured international cooperation**.
- Addressing the **Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington DC**, he conveyed **India's support** for the **FORGE initiative** on critical minerals.
- **Dr. Jaishankar** outlined India's domestic efforts to build resilience, including the **National Critical Minerals Mission**, **Rare Earth Corridors**, and promotion of **responsible commerce**.
- India expressed support for the **FORGE (Forum on Resource, Geostrategic Engagement)** initiative, a global platform to strengthen **international cooperation** on critical minerals, chaired by **South Korea** until **June 2026**.
- **Donald Trump** launched **Project Vault**, a **strategic minerals reserve** initiative aimed at reducing **U.S. dependence** on foreign suppliers.
- **Project Vault** involves funding of about **USD 12 billion**, including **USD 10 billion** via a long-term loan from the **US EXIM Bank** and **USD 2 billion** from **private sector investments**.
- The inaugural **Critical Minerals Ministerial** hosted by the **United States** brought together delegations from **over 50 countries** to advance collaboration on **securing and diversifying** global critical mineral supply chains.
- Before the ministerial, **Dr. Jaishankar** held meetings with **global counterparts**, including **Canada, Singapore, Netherlands, Italy, Malaysia, Bahrain, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Israel, and Uzbekistan**.

EAM Jaishankar Highlights Need For Global Cooperation On Critical Minerals At Inaugural Ministerial



#### NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

##### Himachal Pradesh Launches 'Padhai with AI' Initiative

- **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched **'Padhai with AI'** at **Barthin in Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh**.
- The initiative focuses on **integrating Artificial Intelligence** into public education, especially for **competitive and government exam aspirants**.

- ‘**Padhai with AI**’ is a **district-level digital education programme** developed for students of **Bilaspur district**.
- The platform uses **AI-based tools** to provide **structured learning content, exam-oriented material, and personalised academic support**.
- The programme aims to **bridge learning gaps** for students who lack access to quality coaching, particularly in **rural and semi-urban areas**.
- The initiative ensures **equal access to education**, allowing students to learn **anytime and anywhere** through a fully digital ecosystem.
- **Continuous academic counselling** is a key feature, helping students improve subject understanding and adopt effective preparation strategies.
- The platform reduces **dependence on expensive private coaching institutes**, promoting inclusive education.
- The programme has been implemented by the **Bilaspur district administration** with institutional support from **NTPC**.
- **Deputy Commissioner Rahul Kumar** stated that the initiative brings **technology-driven education facilities directly to students**.
- The launch event was attended by **Rajesh Dharmani and senior officials**, highlighting collaboration between the **state government, district administration, and public sector organisations**.
- The initiative reflects the state government’s commitment to **modernising public education through innovation, technology, and inclusivity**.
- The use of **Artificial Intelligence in education** enables **personalised learning, adaptive content delivery, performance tracking, and data-driven guidance**.
- ‘**Padhai with AI**’ strengthens **AI-led education delivery** and supports **outcome-oriented, inclusive learning** aligned with future workforce needs.



## RECENT NEWS

- Himachal Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted an aerial survey and led a review meeting in Kangra, announcing a ₹1,500 crore central relief package.

## Alwar Becomes India’s First Fully Insured District Under ‘Insurance for All by 2047’

- **Alwar district of Rajasthan** became **India’s first district** to achieve **100% insurance coverage** under the ‘**Insurance for All by 2047**’ roadmap.
- The achievement aligns with the national vision of ‘**Secure India – Insured India**’ and focuses on **last-mile financial inclusion**.
- The initiative is a **joint effort of the Government of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** under the **Ministry of Finance**.



Alwar: In a significant milestone, Alwar has become the first district in the country to achieve 100% insurance coverage under the Centre's Insurance for All by 2047 roadmap, an achievement in line with the vision of a 'Secure India-Insured India' at the grassroots level. The roadmap is a joint initiative of the Govt of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance.

- The **Insurance for All by 2047** roadmap aims to ensure **universal insurance coverage** by the **100th year of India's Independence**, covering **life, health, and general insurance**, with emphasis on **affordability, accessibility, and inclusion**.
- Alwar achieved saturation through **systematic door-to-door surveys**, especially in **rural areas**, to identify uninsured individuals.
- Authorities identified **1,367 uninsured persons above the age of 10** across **nine villages** and ensured their **enrolment into formal insurance schemes**.
- This targeted approach ensured **zero exclusion** and demonstrated the effectiveness of **grassroots-level administrative execution**.
- The **nine villages** declared fully insured are **Bhulla Ka Bas, Bichpuri, Palankheda, Antapada, Hanumanta, Kalyanpura, Morodkhurd, Kodalka, and Lalpur**.
- Insurance policies were formally distributed during a programme **chaired by the district administration**, marking the completion of the saturation drive.
- A **non-governmental organisation (NGO)** played a crucial role by **funding insurance premiums for all eligible adults**, removing financial barriers.
- Insurance policies were issued by **United India Insurance Company Limited**, a **public sector general insurance company**.
- Officials emphasized that **early insurance coverage** promotes **dignity, security, and self-reliance**, particularly among **youth**.
- District-level insurance saturation strengthens **financial inclusion**, reduces **household vulnerability to shocks**, and encourages participation in **formal financial systems**.
- Alwar's achievement provides a **replicable district-level model** for implementing national social security and insurance goals across India.

### RECENT NEWS

- Rajasthan is set to add a major attraction to its wildlife tourism with a new biological park coming up in Alwar. Planned in the scenic Kati Ghati area, this park will combine wildlife conservation, animal care and tourism in one place.

### About Rajasthan:

- Capital: Jaipur
- Governor: Haribhau Bagade
- Chief Minister: Bajan Lal Sharma
- National Parks: Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), Desert National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuary, Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

### Black Swan Summit India 2026 Launched in Bhubaneswar

- **Black Swan Summit India 2026** was inaugurated in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- The **two-day summit** is **co-organised by the Odisha**

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES BLACK SWAN SUMMIT, INDIA AT BHUBANESWAR

INDIA'S FINTECH STORY SHOULD BE REMEMBERED NOT ONLY AS A TALE OF TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO AS THAT OF GENDER JUSTICE: PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU

ENSURE THAT TECHNOLOGY BECOMES A TOOL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSION: PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU TO ENTREPRENEURS AND INNOVATORS

Photo: OIC, 01 FEB 2026 03:59 PM by PIB Delhi

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, graced the Black Swan Summit, India, inaugurated by the Government of Odisha in collaboration with Global Finance and Technology Forum, at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, today (February 6, 2026).



### **Government and the Global Finance and Technology Network under the BharatNetra Initiative.**

- **President Droupadi Murmu** addressed the summit, giving it **national importance**.
- The summit focuses on **regulated digital finance, fintech, artificial intelligence, digital public infrastructure, and job creation**.
- The primary objective is to **position Odisha as a hub for regulated digital finance and sustainable employment generation**.
- Discussions centre on **balancing innovation with regulation** to ensure **trust, financial inclusion, and long-term job creation** in the digital economy.
- President Murmu highlighted that **technology is advancing faster than systems and skills can adapt**.
- She warned about risks such as **cybercrime, misinformation, deepfakes, and overdependence on digital tools**.
- She emphasised that **technology must serve society**, not undermine social trust.
- The President stressed that **fintech alone does not guarantee inclusion**.
- Large sections in **tribal, rural, and remote areas lack digital skills**.
- She called for **large-scale skilling and digital literacy** to ensure technology becomes a driver of **employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth**.
- Innovators were urged to design solutions that **bridge digital divides**, not widen them.
- Odisha's **economic strength** was highlighted by **Chief Secretary Anu Garg**.
- Odisha has emerged as a **\$112 billion economy** with strong fiscal fundamentals.
- **Nearly 69% of the population is of working age**, and the state has maintained **two decades of revenue surplus**, making it fiscally robust.
- Odisha's long-term vision includes:
  - **10 million jobs by 2027**
  - **Becoming a \$500 billion economy by 2036**
  - **Reaching \$1.5 trillion by 2047**
- The state is also focusing on **urbanisation, disaster resilience, women's workforce participation, healthcare, and skill development**.
- The **Black Swan Summit** is a **global policy platform** that examines high-impact economic and technological disruptions known as **"black swan" events**.
- It brings together **governments, regulators, industry leaders, and global institutions** to design **future-ready solutions** for finance, jobs, and digital growth, especially in **emerging economies**.

### **RECENT NEWS**

- The Odisha State Health Department has announced a strict ban on gutkha, pan masala, and all products containing tobacco or nicotine. This new notification aims to prevent misuse of these products and ensure public health safety.

### **About Odisha:**

- Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Capital: Bhubaneswar

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- National Parks: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary

### Qualcomm Launches 2 nm Semiconductor Chip in India

- **Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched a **2 nanometre (nm) semiconductor chip** designed by **Qualcomm** in **Bengaluru**.
- The launch highlights **India's growing strength in advanced semiconductor design** and its rising role in the **global chip engineering ecosystem**.
- The Minister stated that with the onset of the **5th Industrial Revolution**, India must emerge as a **global hub for deep technology innovation**.
- **2 nm technology** represents the cutting edge of semiconductor design, offering **higher performance, lower power consumption**, and enabling advanced applications in **artificial intelligence, telecommunications, and high-performance computing**.
- The launch reinforces that **India is no longer limited to back-end IT services** but is becoming a key contributor to **high-end semiconductor engineering and design** in global value chains.
- Under the **India Semiconductor Mission**, India initially focused on **28 nm technology**, which meets nearly **75% of current requirements** in sectors such as **automotive, telecom, power management, and strategic applications**.
- At present, **10 semiconductor units are under construction**, with **four units already in pilot production**, undergoing **validation and customer qualification**.
- Since **2022**, around **315 universities** across India have been provided access to advanced **Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools** from global leaders such as **Synopsys, Cadence, and Siemens**.
- Students from even remote institutions are now involved in **chip design, tape-outs, and real-world validation**, strengthening India's long-term **semiconductor talent pipeline**.
- The government plans to roll out **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 (ISM 2.0)** with a sharper focus on:
  - **Design companies and startups** that can take products from concept to market
  - Building the **entire semiconductor ecosystem**, including equipment, chemicals, gases, testing, and validation
  - **Advanced skill development** through strong **industry-academia partnerships**



- The Minister emphasised that leadership in the **5th Industrial Revolution** requires **close coordination between government, industry, and academia**, continuous **upskilling and reskilling**, and **industry-driven curricula**.
- The **2 nm chip launch** reflects India's integrated approach towards **future-ready growth and deep tech leadership**.

### MOUS AND AGREEMENT

#### AAI Partners with Bharat Taxi to Launch Surge-Free Airport Cab Services

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Taxi** to improve **last-mile connectivity** at select airports.
  - The MoU was exchanged by **AAI Chairman Vipin Kumar**.
  - The initiative aims to provide **regulated, transparent, and passenger-friendly taxi services** at **AAI-managed airports**.
  - **Bharat Taxi** is **India's first driver-owned cooperative taxi service**, operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd**.
  - Unlike app-based aggregators, Bharat Taxi follows a **no-surge pricing model**, ensuring **fixed and predictable fares** for passengers.
  - The platform is promoted by the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** and supported by cooperative institutions.
  - Under the plan, services will be introduced at airports in **Rajkot, Vadodara, Surat, Bhuj, Pune, Aurangabad, Varanasi, Kanpur, Prayagraj, and Agra**.
  - Most of the covered airports are in **regional and tier-2 cities**, improving connectivity where transport options are limited.
  - The partnership ensures **transparent pricing, regulated operations, and improved safety** within airport premises.
  - The initiative reduces fare disputes and enhances **passenger trust**, especially for **elderly passengers and first-time flyers**.
  - The model empowers drivers by making them **direct stakeholders** instead of commission-based workers.
  - It provides **income stability, ownership, and social security** to drivers.
  - The initiative supports national goals such as **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Sahakar se Samridhi, and Viksit Bharat 2047**.



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative ride-hailing platform, to introduce regulated and passenger-friendly cab services at several of its airports. This MoU forms part of Bharat Taxi's broader expansion strategy following its formal launch earlier this month by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as India's first cooperative-based taxi service.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Anutin Charnvirakul's Bhumjaithai Party Wins Thailand General Election, Leads Race to Form Government

- **Thailand's** caretaker Prime Minister **Anutin Charnvirakul**, leader of the **Bhumjaithai Party (BJT)**, won the **general election** for the **500-member House of Representatives**, as per



preliminary results announced by the **Election Commission of Thailand (ECT)**.

- **Anutin Charnvirakul** assumed the position of **Prime Minister of Thailand** in **September 2025** following a period of political turbulence, and continued as **caretaker PM** during the election period.
- The **Bhumjaithai Party (BJT)** secured a **strong mandate** to form the next government, marking a **decisive victory** in the national polls.
- **BJT won 194 seats** (175 constituency + 19 party-list), falling short of the **251-seat majority mark** in the **500-member House**.
- The **People's Party** secured **116 seats**, while **Pheu Thai Party** won **76 seats**.
- **Kla Tham Party** secured **57 seats**, and the **Democrat Party** won **22 seats**.

**About Thailand :**

- **Capital : Bangkok.**
- **Currency : Thai Baht (THB).**

**Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's Party Clinches Landmark Win in Snap Polls**

- Japan's ruling party, the **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**, led by **Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi**, Japan's **first female Prime Minister (PM)**, secured a **landmark victory** in the **snap general elections**.
- The **LDP alone won 316 seats**, crossing the **absolute majority mark of 261 seats** in the **465-member Lower House** of Japan's Parliament, known as the **National Diet**.
- This victory is a **historic milestone**, as it surpassed the previous record of **300 seats won in 1986** under former **Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone**, since the **LDP's founding in 1955**.
- The **LDP's coalition partner**, the **Japan Innovation Party (JIP)**, also known as **Ishin**, secured **36 seats** in the elections.
- Together, the **ruling coalition won a total of 352 seats**, achieving a **two-thirds super-majority** in the Lower House.
- **Opposition parties** performed poorly, securing only **111 seats** in total.
- The **Centrist Reform Alliance**, a major opposition force, won **49 seats**, a **sharp decline** from its previous **167 seats**.
- The **voter turnout** in the election stood at **slightly over 56%**, which is about **2 percentage points higher** than the previous election.



**About Japan :**

- **Capital: Tokyo**
- **Currency: Japanese Yen (JPY)**

**DEFENCE NEWS**

**INS Sudarshini Completes Maiden Salahah Visit of Lokayan 26, Boosting India-Oman Naval Relations**

**INS SUDARSHINI CONCLUDES FIRST PORT CALL OF LOKAYAN 26, STRENGTHENING INDIA-OMAN MARITIME TIES**

Posted On: 08 FEB 2026 11:30AM by PIB Delhi

The Indian Navy's first Training Ship (TS) Sudarshini successfully concluded her first port call at Salalah, Oman, on 07 Feb 2026. The visit marked a key milestone in the ship's ambitious ten-month state visit, which Lokayan 26 aimed at deepening India's rich maritime heritage and its role of *Bandha-Bandhan* (The World is One Family) across the globe.

During the visit, the Commanding Officer of INS Sudarshini, accompanied with Captain Mohanmud Ali (Retired), Senior Deck Area Commandant of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNOC), and Captain Mohanmud Ali (Retired), Commanding Officer of Royal Navy of Oman (RNOC) at Salalah. The extensive highlighted bilateral working talks between India and Oman and reinforced *Bandha-Bandhan* between the two navies. Continuing the professional engagement, the ship also hosted officers from the Royal Navy of Oman for a guided tour of the ship.

In a vibrant display of people-to-people contact, the sail training ship was open to visitors. More than 800 visitors, including schoolchildren, were provided a firsthand glimpse of the ten-masted ketch and were facilitated with the museum of ocean sailing.

INS Sudarshini will proceed on her way back to Lokayan 26, carrying forward India's maritime heritage across the eastern Indian sea and across high, the intention to serve as a symbol of maritime friendship, fraternity, and goodwill.



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- **INS Sudarshini**, the sail training ship of the **Indian Navy**, successfully concluded its **first port call** at **Salalah, Oman**.
- The visit marked a key milestone in the **10-month trans-oceanic voyage** named **Lokayan 26**, aimed at showcasing India's **maritime heritage** and the philosophy of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** (The World is One Family).
- **Lokayan 26** covers over **22,000 nautical miles**, visiting **18 foreign ports** across **13 countries**, and participates in prestigious international tall-ship events such as **Escale à Sète** in France and **SAIL 250** in New York, USA.
- During the Salalah visit, the Commanding Officer of **INS Sudarshini** interacted with **Captain Mohammad Al Ghailani**, Southern Naval Area Commander of the **Royal Navy of Oman (RNO)**, and **Captain Mohammad Al Mahari**, Commanding Officer of **RNO Vessel Al Moazer**, highlighting historic seafaring links and reinforcing **Bridges of Friendship** between the two navies.
- The ship hosted officers of the **Royal Navy of Oman** for a **guided tour**, promoting **professional naval engagement** and cooperation.
- In a **people-to-people connect** initiative, **INS Sudarshini** was opened to **over 600 visitors**, including **schoolchildren**, providing a firsthand experience of the **three-masted barque** and **ocean sailing practices**.
- Following the Salalah visit, **INS Sudarshini** continues its next leg of **Lokayan 26**, symbolising **maritime excellence**, friendship, and **India's global outreach**.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Zoological Survey of India Researchers Discover Two New Marine Polychaete Worm Species in West Bengal's Digha and Bankiput

- **Researchers** from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, in collaboration with **global experts**, discovered **two new marine worm species (polychaetes)** in **Digha** and **Bankiput** regions of **Purba Medinipur, West Bengal**.
- The discovery was published in a study titled '**Description of Two New Species of Nereidids (Annelida: Nereididae) from West Bengal, India, Bay of Bengal**'.
- The species belong to the **Nereididae** family, a group of marine polychaete worms commonly known as **ragworms** or **clam worms**.
- One species, **Namalycastis solenotognatha**, is named from Greek words '**solenotos**' (**channelled**) and '**gnatha**' (**jaw**) due to its unique **jaws with numerous canals** emerging from the pulp cavity.
- The second species, **Nereis dhritiae**, is named after **Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**, the **first woman Director** of ZSI.
- These newly discovered worms are identified by **long slender bodies**, **distinct head with eyes and tentacles**, and **parapodia**.
- Researchers also discovered a **new dragonfly species** named **Lyriothemis keralensis** in the **low-lying coastal areas** of **Kerala**.



New 'bio-warrior' species discovered in Bay of Bengal ecosystem; meet the worms thriving where others die



- The dragonfly, commonly known as the ‘**Slender Bombardier**’, was initially identified in **2013** in the **Varapetty** region of **Kothamangalam, Kerala**.
- The discovery was published in the **International Journal of Odonatology**.
- Key features include a **slender abdomen** along with **unique tail and genital structure**.

#### About Zoological Survey of India (ZSI):

- Headquarters : **Kolkata, West Bengal**
- Established : **1916**.
- Director : **Dr. Dhriti Banerjee**.

### SPORTS NEWS

#### India Wins SAFF U-19 Women’s Championship 2026

- **India U-19 Women’s Football Team** defeated **Bangladesh U-19** by **4–0** in the **SAFF U-19 Women’s Championship final**.

India U17 blank  
Bangladesh U19 to win  
SAFF U19 Women's title



- The final was played at **Pokhara Rangasala Stadium, Nepal**. With this emphatic win, India **clinched the SAFF U-19 Women’s title**.
- **Captain Julan Nongmaithem** opened the scoring, setting the momentum for India.
- Goals were also scored by **Elizabeth Lakra, Pearl Fernandes, and Anwita Raghuraman (substitute)**.
- India dominated **possession, pressing, and attacking play**, giving Bangladesh no opportunity to stage a comeback.
- The victory served as **revenge for India’s earlier loss to Bangladesh** during the round-robin stage of the tournament.
- The four-goal margin reflected **India’s tactical improvement, mental strength, and knockout-stage performance**.
- India fielded its **Under-17 women’s national team** in the U-19 tournament as part of a **long-term development strategy**.
- The tournament was used as **preparation for the AFC U-17 Women’s Asian Cup**, scheduled later in the year.

#### Meghana Sajjanar Wins Bronze at Asian Shooting Championships 2026

- **Indian shooter Meghana Sajjanar**, eight months pregnant, won a **bronze medal** in the **women’s 10m air rifle event** at the **Asian Shooting Championships 2026**.
- She achieved the feat marking her **maiden individual medal at the Asian Championships**.
- Meghana narrowly missed the **silver medal**, finishing



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- just outside the top two after **one shot fell outside the 10-ring** in the final.
- Along with the individual bronze, she was also part of the **Indian women's team that won gold**, making the championship doubly successful for her.
  - The **10m air rifle event** is one of the most demanding precision sports, requiring **extreme balance, posture stability, breath control, and mental focus**.
  - Shooters aim at a **0.5 mm bullseye**, where even minor physical changes can affect performance.
  - Competing during pregnancy added extra challenges due to **changes in body weight, posture, and balance**.
  - Meghana made **daily technical adjustments** to her stance and shooting technique to maintain consistency.
  - She chose to **continue training and competing after pregnancy**, modifying routines with guidance from her coach instead of stepping away from the sport.
  - Her shooting jacket and trousers required **frequent alterations** as equipment stiffness and fit are critical in rifle events.
  - National coaches highlighted that **rifle shooting is especially sensitive to posture changes**, making her achievement exceptional.

### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Smashes Record 175 in ICC Under-19 World Cup 2026 Final

**Vaibhav Sooryavanshi**, a 14-year-old Indian cricketer, scored a record-breaking 175 runs off 80 balls in the **ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 final** against **England Under-19**. This knock is the **highest individual score ever in an Under-19 World Cup final**, creating history in youth cricket.

He reached his **half-century in 32 balls** and the next fifty in **23 balls**, showing exceptional scoring speed.

His **century came at a lightning pace**, reflecting fearless intent and clean power-hitting.

The innings included **15 fours and 15 sixes** with a massive **strike rate of 218.75**.

Sooryavanshi's knock completely **dominated England's bowling attack** and gave India a commanding start in the final.

The score of **175** became the **highest score by an Indian in Under-19 World Cup history**, surpassing *Raj Bawa's 162 (2022)\*\**.

Overall, this innings is the **ninth-highest individual score in Youth One Day International history**.

*Among Indian players, only Ambati Rayudu's 177 (2002)* is higher in Youth ODIs.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi broke **Dewald Brevis' record for most sixes in a single Under-19 World Cup edition**.

Dewald Brevis had hit **22 sixes in the 2022 edition**, while Sooryavanshi finished the

#### Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Smashes Record U19 World Cup Final Century

India's 14-year-old opener dazzles with a historic 175-run blitz against England, shattering records and setting up a potential path to glory as both teams remain undefeated in the tournament.

##### Key Points

- Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scored 175 runs off 80 balls, setting the highest individual score in ICC Under-19 World Cup final history on February 6, 2026.
- Sooryavanshi hit 15 fours and 15 sixes, breaking the record for most sixes in an Under-19 World Cup and achieving a 218.75 strike rate.
- His 142-run partnership with captain Ayush Mishra helped India establish dominance, leading to a commanding total against England at Hove Sports Club.

2026 tournament with **30 sixes**.

He entered the final with **15 sixes** and smashed **15 sixes in the final alone**.

The innings highlights the **strength of India's grassroots cricket system** and the rise of **fearless young talent**.

Performing at such a high level at **14 years of age** signals a **promising future for Indian cricket**.

### **BCCI Announces ₹7.5 Crore Cash Reward for India's U-19 Cricket World Cup 2026 Champions**

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced a **₹7.5 crore cash reward** for the **India U-19 Men's Cricket Team**, following their title win at the **ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026**.
- The announcement came a day after India defeated **England by 100 runs** in the **final** held at the **Harare Sports Club, Harare**.
- With this victory, **India clinched its sixth U-19 World Cup title**, extending its record as the **most successful team** in the history of the tournament.
- The win once again highlighted the **depth and strength of India's age-group cricket system**.
- The **₹7.5 crore reward** will be distributed among:
  - **Players**
  - **Support and technical staff**
  - **Junior selection committee**
- The reward recognises not only on-field performance but also **talent identification, coaching, planning, and preparation** at the grassroots level.
- Such incentives aim to **motivate young cricketers** and further **strengthen India's cricket development ecosystem**.
- India's repeated success at the U-19 level reflects a **strong talent pipeline** feeding into the senior national team.
- Several former U-19 players have gone on to become **regular members of the Indian senior team**.
- The **2026 title** reinforces India's **long-term planning, structured domestic competitions, and focus on youth development**.
- The **ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup** is a global youth tournament organised by the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**.
- It was **first held in 1988**.
- **India holds the record for the most U-19 World Cup titles (6)**, underlining its dominance in world youth cricket.



### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

**National Deworming Day 2026 is observed on 10th February**

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- **National Deworming Day 2026** is observed on **10th February**.
- The National Deworming Day is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to make every child in the country worm free.
- This is one of the largest public health programs reaching a large number of children during a short period.

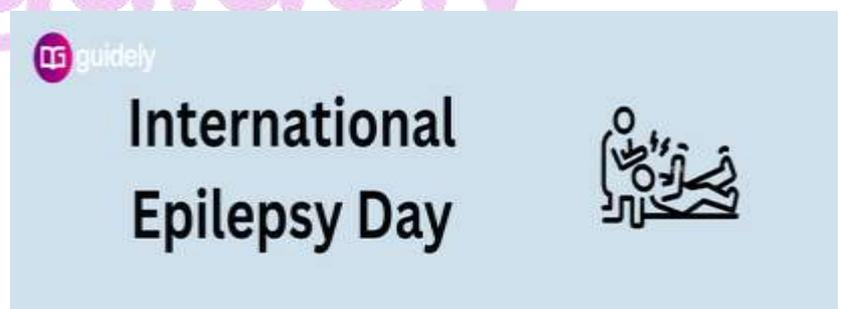


### History

- Worms can create long-term health issues in Children and interfere with their health, education, and overall well-being, even if their effects might not be visible immediately.
- Without knowing, children can carry worms for a long time and the only visible symptoms might be their hindered physical and mental health.
- It was therefore deemed necessary to treat all children despite not appearing sick and the observation of national deworming day came into being.
- According to a report by the **World Health Organisation**, around 241 million children in India, all between the ages of 1 and 14 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms. The Presence of these parasitic worms also known as **Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH)**
- National Deworming Day was launched first on **10th February 2015**.

### International Epilepsy Day 2026 is observed on 10th February

- **International Epilepsy Day 2026 is observed on 10th February** (2nd Monday of February).
- Epilepsy, also known as seizure disorder, is the fourth most common neurological disorder and one of the oldest-known medical conditions.
- The condition causes electrical activity in the brain to stop for a short time, which leads to recurrent seizures.



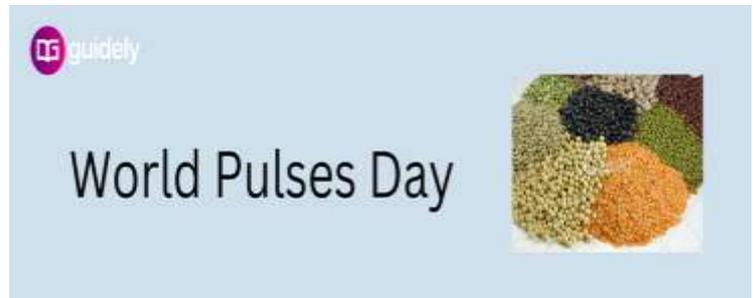
### History

- International Epilepsy Day is the brainchild of the International Bureau for Epilepsy and the International League Against Epilepsy. The two organizations have put together various events on the day since their inception.
- Epilepsy is one of the world's oldest-known medical conditions, with records dating back to the beginning of recorded history. Of course, back then, it was treated as a spiritual condition.
- In 2000 B.C., an ancient Mesopotamian text described a person who underwent an exorcism under the influence of a moon god. Ancient Babylonians attributed seizures to possession by evil spirits.

- The ancient Greeks also considered epilepsy to be spiritual possession, but they associated it with genius and divine interventions.

### World Pulses Day 2026 is observed on 10th February

- **World Pulses Day 2026** is observed on **10th February**.
- In 2018, the **United Nations established Pulses Day** as an annual international celebration of the significance and nutritional advantages of pulses (sometimes referred to as "legumes").



### History

- By definition, pulses only include dried seeds from leguminous plants grown for food and do not include green vegetable crops that were harvested.
- Their seeds are significant and healthy superfoods because they are packed with vital elements including fiber, protein, vitamins, and minerals.
- Building on the success and momentum of the I.Y.P., and recognizing the potential of pulses to further achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Burkina Faso, a landlocked West African nation, proposed the global observance of World Pulses Day.
- **On December 20, 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations** proclaimed February 10 as World Pulses Day through resolution (A/RES/73/251), and the day has been celebrated as a global event since 2019 and supported by many member nations.
- According to the U.N., pulses remain influential in mitigating the global challenges of poverty, food security and nutrition, human health, and soil health.

### Safer Internet Day 2026 is observed on 10th February

- **Safer Internet Day 2026 is observed on 10th February 2026.** Safer Internet Day is a landmark event in the online safety calendar.
- Safe Internet Day aims to improve awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns from cyberbullying to social networking to digital identity.



### History

- The **inaugural Safer Internet Day was observed globally in 2003**, and since then, it has been observed annually. On this day, numerous organizations and stakeholders from various nations can demonstrate their support for a safer online environment. Here is some background information about Safer Internet Day:
- In 2004 the **EU SafeBorders project launched it**, and in **2005**, the Insafe network of European Safer Internet Centres (SICs) adopted it.

- The Insafe network currently coordinates Safer Internet Day with the help of the European Commission.
- Today, this day is observed in about 200 nations and territories worldwide.
- On Safer Internet Day, a special focus is placed on safeguarding children and raising awareness of the precautions they can take online.

### World Day of the Sick 2026: 11th February

- **World Day of the Sick** is a Catholic Church awareness day, or observance, on **February 11**, aimed at praying and sharing, sacrificing one's suffering for the welfare of the church, and urging everyone to see the face of Christ in his or her ailing brother or sister.

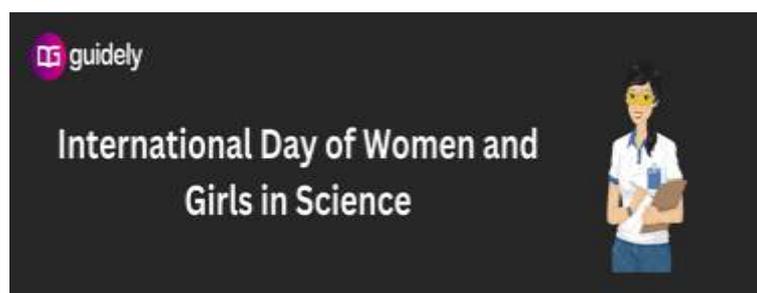


### History

- In 1992, Pope John Paul II established the day to urge people to pray for individuals who are ill and their caretakers.
- The pope showed signs of Parkinson's disease in 1991, but it wasn't verified until 2001, therefore, it's notable that he opted to establish the World Day of the Sick barely a year after his diagnosis.
- In his apostolic letter "Salvifici Doloris", the pope wrote extensively on the subject of suffering and considered that it has always been a redeeming process through Christ. On February 11, 1993, the first World Day of the Sick was observed.
- The World Day of the Sick had a particular significance in 2005 because the ailing pope died on April 2 of that year. As he lay dying in St. Peter's Square in Rome, a large crowd assembled to pray for him.
- On this day in 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation, citing his poor health as the cause for his departure. On World Day of the Sick, people all across the world take the opportunity to pray for the sick and those who labor tirelessly to alleviate their pain.
- Faith-based organizations commemorate this day by providing medicines, food, and spiritual guidance to the sick.

### International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 is observed on 11th February

- The **International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026** is observed on 11th February 2026
- The Commission on the Status of Women adopted a report on **March 14, 2011**, with the goal of encouraging girls and women to pursue careers in science,



technology, engineering, and math.

- Moreover, promoting women's equal access to full employment and respectable jobs should be a priority.
- The General Assembly recognized in a resolution on science, technology, and innovation for development adopted on December 20, 2013, that women and girls should have full and equal access to and participation in science, technology, and innovation in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It is necessary for girls and women of all ages.

### Daily CA One- Liner: February 11

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in consultation with the **Government of India**, announced that **loans sanctioned by banks to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** w.e.f. **January 19, 2026**, for **on-lending to cooperative societies** are eligible for classification as **priority sector lending (PSL)** under the respective categories.
- The **gross NPA ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** has continuously declined over the last eight financial years, reaching a **historic low of 2.15%** as on **30 September 2025**, lower than the 2010–11 level.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) Sector (Amendment) Directions, 2026** on **9 February 2026**, under **Sections 21 and 35A** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been observing **Financial Literacy Week (FLW)** annually since **2016** to promote **financial awareness among citizens**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has allowed banks to **lend directly to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** with **prudential safeguards** to deepen credit access for the real estate sector.
- **Transcorp International Limited** received **in-principle approval** from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to participate in **Centralized Payment Systems (CPS)**, marking a major development in its banking services infrastructure.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Malaysia** on a **two-day official trip** from **February 7–8, 2026**, at the invitation of **Malaysian PM Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim**.
- **India and Bhutan** reviewed and reaffirmed their long-standing partnership in the **power sector**, focusing on **hydropower, cross-border transmission**, and future energy cooperation.
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** highlighted the risks of **excessive concentration of critical minerals** and stressed the need to **de-risk global supply chains** through **structured international cooperation**.
- **Thailand's** caretaker Prime Minister **Anutin Charnvirakul**, leader of the **Bhumjaithai Party (BJT)**, won the **general election** for the **500-member House of Representatives**, as per preliminary results announced by the **Election Commission of Thailand (ECT)**.
- **Japan's** ruling party, the **Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**, led by **Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi**, Japan's **first female Prime Minister (PM)**, secured a **landmark victory** in the **snap general elections**.

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- **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched **'Padhai with AI'** at **Barthin** in **Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh**.
- **Alwar district of Rajasthan** became **India's first district** to achieve **100% insurance coverage** under the **'Insurance for All by 2047'** roadmap.
- **Black Swan Summit India 2026** was inaugurated in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched a **2 nanometre (nm) semiconductor chip** designed by **Qualcomm** in **Bengaluru**
- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Bharat Taxi** to improve **last-mile connectivity** at select airports
- **India U-19 Women's Football Team** defeated **Bangladesh U-19** by **4–0** in the **SAFF U-19 Women's Championship final**
- **Indian shooter Meghana Sajjanar**, eight months pregnant, won a **bronze medal** in the **women's 10m air rifle event** at the **Asian Shooting Championships 2026**
- **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi**, a **14-year-old Indian cricketer**, scored a record-breaking **175 runs off 80 balls** in the **ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 final** against **England Under-19**
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