



Daily Current Affairs

22nd & 23rd Feb 2026



BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Imposes ₹38.60 Lakh Penalty on UCO Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a **₹38.60 lakh monetary penalty** on **UCO Bank** for **non-compliance** with regulatory directions.
- The **penalty** pertains to violations related to **interest payment periodically on savings deposits, locker rent refunds, and credit information reporting for Self Help Group (SHG) members.**
- **UCO Bank** failed to pay interest on certain **savings accounts**, did not report **SHG member-level credit data** to **Credit Information Companies (CICs)**, and did not refund **proportionate locker rent** on **premature locker surrender.**
- The **penalty** was imposed under the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** and the **Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.**

About UCO Bank :

- **UCO Bank**, formerly **United Commercial Bank**, is a **public sector bank** headquartered in **Kolkata, India.**
- **MD & CEO : Shri Ashwani Kumar**

Reserve Bank of India imposes monetary penalty on UCO Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has, by an order dated February 16, 2025, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹38.60 lakh (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Sixty Thousand only) on UCO Bank (the bank) for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on 'Periodicity of payment of interest on savings deposits', 'Locker Rent' and 'Credit Information Reporting in respect of Self Help Group (SHG) members'. This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of section 47A(1)(c) read with section 49(4)(i) and 51(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and section 25(1)(b) read with section 23(4) of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005.

The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (SISE 2025) of the bank was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2025. Based on supervisory findings of non-compliance with the provisions of RBI directions and related correspondence in that regard, a notice was issued to the bank advising it to show cause as to why penalty should not be imposed on it for its failure to comply with the said provisions of RBI directions.

After considering the bank's reply to the notice and additional submissions made by it, RBI found that the following charges against the bank were sustained, warranting imposition of monetary penalty.

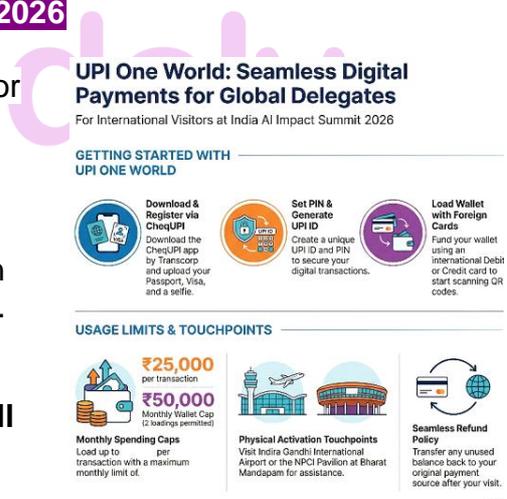
- The bank did not pay any interest on certain Savings Bank Deposit accounts;
- The bank did not report credit related Self Help Group member level data to Credit Information Companies; and
- The bank did not refund the proportionate amount of advance locker rent collected in case of premature surrender of locker by certain customers.

This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers. Further, imposition of monetary penalty is without prejudice to any other action that may be initiated by RBI against the bank.

(Bijoy Raj)
Chief General Manager

National Payments Corporation of India Launches UPI One World Wallet for International Delegates at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the '**UPI One World**' **Wallet** for **international delegates** attending the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi.**
- The **pilot programme** targets visitors from **40+ countries**, enabling **real-time UPI person-to-merchant (P2M)** payments without requiring an **Indian bank account** or **local mobile number.**
- The **wallet** can be linked to an **international mobile number** and used at any **UPI-enabled merchant** across India, including **metros, small towns, and rural areas.**
- The **wallet** is being issued through **authorised Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)** providers and is currently available at **Indira Gandhi International Airport** and the **NPCI Pavilion at Bharat Mandapam.**
- **Delegates** can activate the wallet through the **CheqUPI app (Transcorp)** by completing **KYC verification** using **passport, visa, selfie authentication, and UPI PIN setup.**
- The system allows a **maximum load of ₹25,000** per transaction with a **monthly cumulative limit of ₹50,000.**
- The initiative promotes **digital payments inclusion**, strengthens **tourism-friendly financial services**, and enhances **India's global digital payment infrastructure.**



UPI One World: Seamless Digital Payments for Global Delegates
For International Visitors at India AI Impact Summit 2026

GETTING STARTED WITH UPI ONE WORLD

- Download & Register via CheqUPI**: Download the CheqUPI app by Transcorp and upload your Passport, Visa, and a selfie.
- Set PIN & Generate UPI ID**: Create a unique UPI ID and PIN to secure your digital transactions.
- Load Wallet with Foreign Cards**: Fund your wallet using an International Debit or Credit card to start scanning QR codes.

USAGE LIMITS & TOUCHPOINTS

- Monthly Spending Caps**: Load up to transaction with a maximum monthly limit of ₹25,000 per transaction and ₹50,000 Monthly Wallet Cap (2 loadings permitted).
- Physical Activation Touchpoints**: Visit Indira Gandhi International Airport or the NPCI Pavilion at Bharat Mandapam for assistance.
- Seamless Refund Policy**: Transfer any unused balance back to your original payment source after your visit.

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City City Signs Memorandum of Understanding with AJNIFM to Boost Financial Education and FinTech Collaboration

- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)**, Faridabad, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- The **MoU** aims to promote joint **postgraduate (PG)** and **executive programmes, collaborative research, and academic exchanges** in **International Finance and Financial Technology (FinTech)**.
- The partnership supports **capacity building** under the **GIFT International FinTech Institute**, aligning **financial education** with the needs of India's only **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**.
- The collaboration aims to create a **future-ready talent pipeline** for **global and cross-border finance operations**.
- A **five-day Industry Immersion Programme** was launched for **second-year MBA students** of **AJNIFM**, providing exposure to **regulatory frameworks, capital markets, cross-border financial services, and digital finance innovations**.
- **AJNIFM** trains officers of **Government Financial and Accounts Services (GF&AS)** and provides **postgraduate and executive-level financial education**.
- **GIFT City** provides a **global financial ecosystem** for **practical and applied financial learning**, strengthening India's **international finance and FinTech capabilities**.



NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Gujarat Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹4.08 Lakh Crore Outlay

- The **Gujarat Budget 2026–27** was presented by **Finance Minister Kanu Desai** in the Assembly at **Gandhinagar**.
- The total outlay stands at **₹4,08,053 crore**, making it the **largest Budget in the history of Gujarat**.
- The Government also declared **2026 as Gujarat Tourism Year**.
- The Budget focuses on **tourism expansion, Artificial Intelligence driven policing, sports infrastructure, transport expansion, highways development and enhanced health coverage**, outlining a long-term growth roadmap.



Gujarat Finance Minister Kanu Desai presented a ₹4.08 lakh crore rupees Budget for the fiscal year 2026, with an estimated surplus of ₹14 crore rupees. Designated under the vision of 'Viksit Gujarat @ 2047'. Key highlights of the budget include a massive leap in student welfare with increased scholarship limits, the creation of a 50,000 crore rupee developmental fund, and a visionary plan to prepare Ahmedabad for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and tourism promotion.

Key Highlights

- Highest ever Budget outlay in Gujarat's history.
- Presented by **Finance Minister Kanu Desai**, marking his **fifth consecutive Budget**.
- Budget structured around **five pillars – Social Security, Human Resource Development, Infrastructure, Economic Expansion and Green Growth**.
- Government declared **2026 as Gujarat Tourism Year**.
- **₹5,096 crore** allocated for **tourism, pilgrimage, civil aviation and sports**.
- **₹447 crore** allocated for development of a world class bus port at **Somnath**.
- **₹236 crore** earmarked for upgrading facilities at the **Statue of Unity**.
- Promotion of **Lothal and Dholavira** as global heritage tourism hubs.
- Introduction of **Artificial Intelligence driven policing system**.
- **₹60 crore** allocated for setting up **Data Fusion Centre and Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence in Policing**.

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- ₹1,571 crore allocated for construction of 20,444 modern houses for police personnel over five years.
- Plan to develop Ahmedabad as an Olympic Ready City ahead of the 2030 Commonwealth Games.
- ₹1,278 crore proposed for international grade sports infrastructure and transport integration.
- Induction of 2,463 technologically upgraded buses, including 500 Air Conditioned electric buses and 500 mini buses for tribal areas, students and industrial workers.
- ₹1,286 crore allocated for bus expansion and green mobility push.
- Development of 1,155 kilometre Garvi Gujarat High Speed Corridor with ₹800 crore allocation.
- Provision of cashless medical cover up to ₹10 lakh for about 6.4 lakh state employees and pensioners under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana framework.

About Gujarat

- Governor: Acharya Devvrat
- Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel
- Deputy Chief Minister: Harsh Sanghvi
- Capital: Gandhinagar

RECENT NEWS

- Government of Gujarat signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Starlink, a subsidiary of SpaceX, on 9 February 2026 in Gandhinagar. The agreement aims to bring high-speed satellite internet to remote, tribal, and underserved regions of the state.

Madhya Pradesh Budget 2026–27 Presented with ₹4.38 Trillion Outlay

- The Madhya Pradesh Budget 2026–27 was presented by Finance Minister Jagdish Devda in the State Assembly.
- The total outlay stands at ₹4,38,317 crore (₹4.38 trillion).
- It is the third consecutive budget of the Mohan Yadav Government and focuses on women empowerment, rural development, youth employment and infrastructure, while announcing no new taxes.
- The Opposition raised concerns regarding the rising debt burden during the session.

Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda on Wednesday tabled the state's "women-centric" budget for 2026-27 with an outlay of ₹4,38,317 crore, and said no new taxes would be imposed.

Devda presented the Mohan Yadav government's third consecutive budget amid interruptions from the Opposition, which raised concerns over the "mounting debt" burden on the people of the state.

In his nearly 90-minute speech, the finance minister said the budget is framed on the model "GYANII - Garib Kalyan (poor), Yuva Shakti (youth), Annadata (farmers), Nari Shakti (women empowerment), Infrastructure and Industry".

Allocations of about 3 trillion have been made for these areas, he said.

Key Highlights

- Budget framed under the GYANII Model – Garib Kalyan, Yuva Shakti, Annadata, Nari Shakti, Infrastructure and Industry.
- Nearly ₹3 trillion allocated across priority sectors.
- About ₹1,27,555 crore earmarked for women welfare schemes.
- Announcement of 5,700 working women hostels.
- ₹23,883 crore allocated for Ladli Behna Yojana.
- About 1.25 crore women receive ₹1,500 per month under the scheme.
- Since 2023, ₹52,304 crore disbursed under Ladli Behna Yojana.
- Support extended to Self Help Groups and Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries.
- ₹3,600 crore allocated for Simhastha Kumbh 2028 in Ujjain to strengthen civic infrastructure and religious tourism.
- ₹40,062 crore allocated to Panchayat and Rural Development Department.
- ₹10,428 crore earmarked for rural employment scheme GRAM G.

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- ₹900 crore allocated under PM Janman for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- Recruitment of 15,000 teachers in government schools.
- Provision of free milk in tetra packs for students up to Class 8.
- Distribution of 1 lakh solar pumps to farmers.
- ₹12,690 crore allocated for road repairs.
- ₹4,454 crore earmarked for Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ₹1,335 crore allocated to the Labour Department.
- Government announced no new taxes in Budget 2026–27.
- Opposition raised concern over borrowing of ₹5,600 crore before the Budget session and increasing state debt.

About Madhya Pradesh

- Governor: **Mangubhai Patel**
- Chief Minister: **Mohan Yadav**
- Finance Minister: **Jagdish Devda**
- Capital: **Bhopal**

RECENT NEWS

- India's push for inclusive and technology-driven governance received a major boost as Madhya Pradesh partnered with the Digital India BHASHINI Division. The collaboration focuses on integrating multilingual and voice-based AI solutions into government platforms, ensuring that digital services reach citizens across linguistic and regional boundaries.

India Creates Guinness World Record for Responsible Artificial Intelligence Pledges

- India created a **Guinness World Record** by collecting **2,50,946 valid pledges for responsible Artificial Intelligence use within 24 hours**.
- The achievement was announced by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** during the **India Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026** held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- The pledges were recorded between **February 16 and February 17, 2026**, and officially verified by a Guinness World Records adjudicator at the venue.

Guinness Record Marks India's AI Resolve

More than 250,000 citizens commit to responsible AI

Posted On: 18 FEB 2026 8:01PM by PIB Delhi



सर्वानां कल्याणं : सर्वानां सुखं
WELFARE FOR ALL : HAPPINESS FOR ALL

Key Highlights

- India secured the Guinness World Record for **Most pledges received for an Artificial Intelligence responsibility campaign in 24 hours**.
- A total of **2,50,946 valid pledges** were recorded, significantly exceeding the initial target of 5,000 pledges.
- The campaign was launched under the **India Artificial Intelligence Mission** in collaboration with **Intel India**.
- Participants pledged commitment towards **ethical, inclusive and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence** through an online platform.
- The pledge campaign included awareness on **data privacy, transparency, accountability and combating misinformation**.
- Citizens completing the pledge received a **digital certificate and access to Artificial Intelligence learning resources**.
- More than **2.5 lakh students and educational institutions** actively participated, making it a major youth driven initiative.

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- The achievement highlights India's emphasis on **responsible Artificial Intelligence governance, public awareness and ethical technology adoption.**

Gujarat Assembly Passes Gujarat Shops and Establishments Amendment Bill 2026

- The **Gujarat Legislative Assembly** has unanimously passed the **Gujarat Shops and Establishments Amendment Bill 2026**, allowing **night shifts for women, increasing daily working hours to 10 hours and raising the overtime limit to 144 hours.**
- The Bill was introduced by **Labour Skill Development and Employment Minister Kunvarji Bavaliya** and replaces the ordinance issued in December 2025.



Key Highlights

- The amendment permits **night shifts for women between 9 pm and 6 am**, subject to mandatory safety and welfare safeguards.
- Employment during night hours will require **written consent of the woman employee.**
- Employers must provide **rest rooms, separate ladies toilets, night creche facilities, protection against sexual harassment and transportation from workplace to residence.**
- The daily working hour limit has been increased from **9 hours to 10 hours**, while the **weekly limit remains 48 hours.**
- No employee can work more than **10 hours per day**, and continuous work beyond **6 hours is prohibited without a mandatory 30 minute break.**
- The overtime limit has been raised from **125 hours to 144 hours in a three month period.**
- Overtime wages will continue to be paid at **twice the ordinary rate of wages.**
- The State Government retains the authority to **prohibit or regulate employment of women during night hours in public interest.**
- The legislation formally replaces the **December 2025 ordinance** and was passed unanimously in the Assembly.

India France Launch Indo French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health at All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi

- **India and France** jointly inaugurated the **Indo French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health at All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi** during the **Rencontres Universitaires Et Scientifiques De Haut Niveau 2026** meetings held.
- The centre was launched by **Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda** and **President of France Emmanuel Macron**, marking a major step in **Artificial Intelligence powered healthcare collaboration** between the two nations.



French President Emmanuel Macron and Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda inaugurated the Indo-French Centre on AI in Global Health (IF-CAGH) at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi. The IF-CAGH is a pioneering initiative aimed at advancing AI-driven research, medical education and clinical innovation to address complex healthcare challenges.

Key Highlights

- The **Indo French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health** will function as a specialised hub for **interdisciplinary research in Artificial Intelligence and healthcare**.
- Core focus areas include **Artificial Intelligence in healthcare, brain health and neuroscience, clinical decision support systems, global healthcare innovation and responsible use of health data**.
- The centre has been established under a **Joint Memorandum of Understanding** between **All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi with Sorbonne University and Paris Brain Institute**.
- The collaboration will promote **joint research programmes, academic exchange, mobility of students and faculty and knowledge sharing in Artificial Intelligence and health sciences**.
- The inauguration took place during the **Rencontres Universitaires Et Scientifiques De Haut Niveau 2026 meetings**, featuring a session on **Artificial Intelligence in brain health and global healthcare**.
- Discussions focused on **Artificial Intelligence applications in mental health, brain disorders and global health challenges** involving scientists, clinicians and policymakers.
- **President Emmanuel Macron** emphasised the need for **sovereign and trusted Artificial Intelligence systems, domestic computing capacity, Artificial Intelligence talent development, algorithmic transparency and protection of cultural diversity**.
- A special youth interaction featured **Priyanka Das Rajkakati and Manan Suri**, moderated by **Clara Chappaz**, highlighting **youth led innovation and cross border collaboration**.
- The initiative strengthens ongoing **India France cooperation in digital health, antimicrobial resistance, human resources for health and responsible data governance**.
- Expected outcomes include **enhanced research capacity, evidence based policymaking, skill development and global healthcare innovation partnerships**.

Eight-Year-Old Ranvir Sachdeva Becomes Youngest Speaker at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- In a remarkable moment at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, eight-year-old **Ranvir Sachdeva** became the **youngest speaker at the event**.
- The summit, attended by global Chief Executive Officers and artificial intelligence experts, witnessed Ranvir delivering a keynote address focused on inclusive and ethical Artificial Intelligence.
- His core message was clear — **Artificial Intelligence should be built for everyone**.

Key Highlights

- Ranvir Sachdeva started coding at the age of three and began studying machine learning models at a very young age.
- He has previously delivered talks at international technology forums and actively promotes combining Indian philosophical values with Artificial Intelligence development.



- At the summit, he interacted with **Sundar Pichai**, Chief Executive Officer of **Google**, and **Sam Altman**, Chief Executive Officer of **OpenAI**.
- His interaction with global technology leaders gained widespread attention and appreciation.
- In his keynote address, he emphasised that Artificial Intelligence must be accessible to common citizens and not remain limited to experts or corporations.
- He highlighted that India can play a leading role in developing ethical, responsible and inclusive Artificial Intelligence systems.
- He explained complex Artificial Intelligence concepts in simple language, making them understandable to a diverse audience.
- The India AI Impact Summit 2026 focused on **responsible Artificial Intelligence, global collaboration, innovation and policy discussions**.
- Ranvir Sachdeva's participation symbolised how Artificial Intelligence innovation in India is expanding across generations and encouraging youth engagement in emerging technologies.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Switzerland to Host 2027 AI Summit in Geneva; UAE to Host 2028 Edition

- **Switzerland** will host the **2027 AI Summit in Geneva**, while the **UAE** is set to host the **2028 edition**, demonstrating **global continuity in AI governance efforts**.
- The announcement was made by **Swiss President Guy Parmelin** during his meeting with **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on the sidelines of the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**.
- **Switzerland** is coordinating with **India, South Korea, France, and Sweden** to promote **inclusive and balanced AI governance frameworks**.
- **India-Switzerland relations** have strengthened following the **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**, which came into effect in **October 2025**, accelerating **economic cooperation**.
- **President Parmelin** highlighted the potential of a **bilateral Investment Treaty** to promote **Swiss investment in India** and support **sustainable job creation**.
- **India-Switzerland ties** have been celebrated for **25 years (2024)**, with **TEPA** further reinforcing cooperation in **AI and research**.
- The announcement underscores **Switzerland's focus on AI, research collaboration**, and deepening **economic relations with India**.

About Switzerland :

- Capital : **Bern**
- Currency : **Swiss franc (CHF)**.

Japan Scraps Arakurayama Sengen Park Cherry Blossom Festival Over Tourist Misconduct Near Mount Fuji

- **Japan** cancelled the decade-old **Cherry Blossom Festival at Arakurayama Sengen**

Switzerland's President announces Geneva as host of 2027 AI Impact Summit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit in 2027 will be held in Geneva, Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin said here on Thursday, making a pitch for smaller countries to "come together" to ensure good governance of AI development, so it is not held in the hands of a few "big powers".

Mr. Parmelin, who also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bilateral talks on Thursday on the sidelines of the AI summit here, said they had discussed cooperating in innovation on artificial intelligence, multilateral cooperation, and trade ties after the conclusion of the India-EFTA trade agreement in 2024.

"Switzerland is looking forward to hosting the 2027 AI Summit in Geneva — and to working with the subsequent incoming host of the 2028 AI Summit, the United Arab Emirates, as partner for the Geneva Summit," Mr. Parmelin told presspersons at Switzerland's "Country Pavilion" at the Bharat Mandapam complex after the plenary session. "It will also consolidate our role as a leading centre for innovation and research in AI," he said adding the next summit would focus on international law aspects of AI.

Asked about the domination of the two big AI players, U.S. and China, who together account for more than 70% of the global AI industry, Mr. Parmelin said smaller countries should "organise" together and build infrastructure, while recognising specific technological breakthroughs in many of the other countries.

"It is very important that we work together so that the technological fu-



Guy Parmelin

ture of the world) is not just in a few hands of big powers," Mr. Parmelin said in response to a question from *The Hindu*. "We know some countries have taken a way forward, and it's very important that good governance is brought to everyone. Notably, countries like South Korea, France, Switzerland, need to work together to bring good governance to other countries," he added.

In a statement after his meeting with Mr. Modi, the Ministry of External Affairs said both leaders had discussed the benefits of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the four-nation European Free Trade association (EFTA) for bilateral trade.

"Both sides agreed to further strengthen collaboration in innovation-led growth, joint research, sharing of best practices, and capacity building through training and skill development initiatives," the MEA statement said. Mr. Modi welcomed plans to hold the fifth Summit in Switzerland.

Japan Cancels Arakurayama Sengen Park Cherry Blossom Festival Near Mount Fuji Due To Tourist Misconduct



- **Park, Fujiyoshida**, due to **overtourism** and its negative impact on local residents.
- The **surge in tourists** caused problems such as **traffic congestion**, **littering**, **trespassing**, and incidents of tourists entering or **defecating in private gardens**.
- The festival was first opened in **2016** and became a **global tourist attraction** for viewing **sakura** (cherry blossoms) with **Mount Fuji** as a backdrop, boosted by **social media popularity**.
- The festival had been organised for **over 10 years** and attracted **lakhs of tourists** annually.
- **Fujiyoshida Mayor Shigeru Horiuchi** stated that while **Mount Fuji's** scenic beauty attracts tourists, it has also threatened the **peaceful lives of residents**, creating a **sense of crisis**.
- **Japan** received nearly **43 million tourists** in the previous year (**2025**), marking its **highest tourism inflow** ever.
- The incident highlights challenges related to **sustainable tourism management** and balancing **economic benefits** with **local community welfare**.

India and Israel Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Boost Defence Collaboration and Technology Sharing

- **India and Israel** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **defence cooperation**, focusing on **joint seminars**, **industrial collaboration**, and **technology sharing**.
- The agreement was facilitated during a **strategic defence seminar** and **Business-to-Business (B2B)** meetings organised by **SIBAT (International Defence Cooperation Directorate)** under the **Israel Ministry of Defence (IMOD)**, in collaboration with **Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)** and **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, India, in **Tel Aviv, Israel**.
- The **India–Israel Defence Industry Seminar** was led by **Brigadier General (Retd.) Yair Kulas**, Director of **SIBAT**, who facilitated interactions between **30 Indian defence companies** and **26 Israeli defence companies** through **B2B meetings**.
- The **Indian delegation** was headed by **Ramesh K**, Director General (DG) of **SIDM**, along with **J P Singh**, **Ambassador of India to Israel**, and **Group Captain Vijay Patil**, **Defence Attaché**.
- Discussions focused on strengthening **India's defence industrial ecosystem**, including **co-development**, **co-production**, **technology transfer**, and **interoperability**.
- The discussions also highlighted the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2026**, aimed at **modernising defence procurement processes** and promoting **indigenous defence manufacturing**.
- The initiative aims to boost **bilateral defence industrial cooperation**, strengthen **strategic partnerships**, and enhance **defence technology innovation** between **India and Israel**.



Recent News :

- In Feb 2026, A high-level Indian delegation led by **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying) visited **Israel** from **13–15 January 2026** to participate in the **Second Global Summit on “Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026”** held in **Eilat**.

About Israel :

- Capital : Jerusalem
- Currency : Israeli New Shekel.

DEFENCE NEWS

Defence Research and Development Organisation Successfully Tests Drogue Parachute for Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission

- India's **human spaceflight programme Gaganyaan** achieved a major milestone with the successful **qualification-level load test** of the **Drogue Parachute** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS)** facility of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** at **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh**.

DRDO conducts successful qualification test for Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute

Posted On: 19 FEB 2026 3:45PM by PIB Delhi

India's human spaceflight programme has achieved a key milestone with the successful qualification level load test of Drogue Parachute for Gaganyaan programme at Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh. RTRS is a specialised dynamic test facility being used extensively for high speed aerodynamic and ballistic evaluation.



Key Highlights :

- The **RTRS facility** is a **high-speed aerodynamic** and **ballistic testing facility** used for advanced **defence and space programme** evaluations.
- The test was conducted on **February 18, 2026**, with participation from **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO, Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), DRDO, and TBRL** dedicated technical teams.
- The **RTRS dynamic test** simulated **qualification-level loads** higher than **maximum flight loads**, demonstrating the **additional safety design margin** of the **drogue parachute system**.
- The test validates India's capability in **designing and manufacturing** high-strength **ribbon parachutes** for **human spaceflight safety systems**.
- **DRDO**, under the **Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, provided **advanced testing infrastructure, instrumentation, and technical expertise**.
- The **drogue parachute** is used to **stabilise and decelerate** the **crew module** before **main parachute deployment** during **re-entry and recovery operations**.
- The **Gaganyaan Mission** is **ISRO's first human spaceflight programme**, aiming to send a **3-member Indian crew** into **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** at **400 km altitude** for a **3-day mission** and ensure **safe re-entry and recovery** in the **Indian Ocean**.
- The mission is a major step in strengthening India's **space technology self-reliance** and **human space exploration capabilities**.

About DRDO:

- Founded: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Parent Ministry: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat

Indian Navy Hosts Exercise MILAN 2026, International Fleet Review 2026, and 9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium Conclave at Visakhapatnam

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** hosted three major international engagements at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** from **15–25 February 2026**, including **Exercise MILAN 2026, International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026, and the 9th**



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Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave.

- **Exercise MILAN 2026** was inaugurated by **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and conducted from **19–25 February 2026** in the **Bay of Bengal** as a **biennial multilateral naval exercise** hosted by the **Indian Navy**.
- The theme of **MILAN 2026** was **“Camaraderie, Cooperation, Collaboration.”**
- **International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026** was held on **18 February 2026** off **Visakhapatnam**, under the theme **“United through Oceans”**, presided over by **President Droupadi Murmu, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces**.
- The **9th IONS Conclave 2026** was held on **20 February 2026** at **Visakhapatnam, AP**.
- **India** will lead **IONS** for the **2026–2028 term**, marking its **second tenure** as Chair since the forum’s launch in **2008, New Delhi**.
- **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)** of the **Indian Navy**, assumed the **Chairmanship of IONS** from the **Royal Thai Navy (RTN)**.

Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, The **Indian Navy** signed a contract with **M/s Suryadipta Projects Private Limited**, a **Thane-based MSME shipyard**, for the construction and delivery of **three 200-tonne bottom-opening non-propelled barges**.

About Indian Navy (IN) :

- **Chief of Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi
- **Established:** 1950
- **Motto:** “Sam no Varunah”

APPS & PORTALS

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Unveils PMS Portal to Expedite Provincialization of Venture Educational Institutions

- Chief Minister of Assam **Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched the **Provincialization Management System (PMS) Portal** at **Lok Sewa Bhawan, Guwahati** to streamline the **provincialization of venture educational institutions** and their staff.
- The portal operates under the **Assam Education (Provincialisation of Services of Teachers and Re-Organisation of Educational Institutions) Act, 2017**, amended in **2025**.
- **Purpose:** The **PMS Portal** creates a **centralised digital database** for venture schools and colleges, enabling **teaching and non-teaching staff to submit and track provincialization applications online**.
- The platform ensures **transparency, reduced delays, minimal paperwork**, and **reduced manual intervention** in the provincialization process.
- **Eligibility:** The current phase covers venture educational institutions established before **January 1, 2006**, including:
 - **Lower Primary (LP) Schools**
 - **Upper Primary (UP)/Middle English (ME) Schools**
 - **High Schools**
 - **Higher Secondary Schools**
 - **Venture Degree Colleges**



- Applicants must submit required documents such as **recognition certificates, land records, staff lists, and academic records** for verification.
- The initiative aims to **digitize education governance**, improve **administrative efficiency**, and ensure **faster service regularisation** for eligible institutions and staff.

Recent News :

- In Feb 2026, The **Assam Cabinet approved 3 percent reservation for Tea Tribes and Adivasi communities in Class One and Class Two state government jobs** within the **Other Backward Classes** quota.

About Assam:

- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- Capital: Dispur
- National Parks: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Bura-Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

Ministry of Power Forms Panels to Oversee Proposed Power Finance Corporation and REC Merger

- The **Ministry of Power (MoP)** constituted a **three-member High-Level Committee** and a **three-member Working Group** to supervise the proposed merger of **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** and **REC Limited (Rural Electrification Corporation Limited)**.
- The **High-Level Committee** consists of **Parminder Chopra (Chairman & MD, PFC)**, **Jitendra Srivastava (CMD, REC)**, and **Shankank Mishra (Joint Secretary, Distribution, MoP)** as **convenor**.
- The committee will **monitor the merger process**, review **weekly progress reports**, resolve **policy and structural issues**, ensure alignment with **government objectives**, and coordinate with **regulatory authorities and stakeholders**.
- The **Working Group on Merger Modalities** is headed by **Pranav Tayal, Director (Distribution), MoP**, with **Executive Directors from PFC and REC** as members.
- The **Working Group** will focus on **personnel integration**, including **harmonisation of pay scales, service conditions, and promotion policies**.
- The **merger initiative** aims to improve **financial efficiency**, strengthen **power sector financing**, and enhance **institutional synergy** between **PFC and REC**.

About Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) :

- It is an Indian **public sector enterprise** engaged in **infrastructure finance**, primarily supporting the **Indian power sector**.
- Established : **1986**
- Headquarters : **New Delhi**
- **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) : Parminder Chopra**

About REC Limited :

- **REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited)**

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New panels to oversee merger of PFC & REC

SAURAVANAND
New Delhi, February 19

WITH A COMBINED loan book of over ₹11 lakh crore and deep exposure to India's power and infrastructure build-out, the government has formally set the merger of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) into execution mode, constituting a high-level committee and a dedicated working group to drive the integration of the two state-run lenders.

Office orders issued by the power ministry on February 19 establish a three-member high-level committee — comprising the CMDs of PFC and REC, along with the Joint Secretary (Distribution) — to monitor the merger on a weekly basis. A separate working group has been tasked with resolving operational, personnel and structural issues involved in combining the two Maharashtra NBFCs.

Together, PFC and REC manage loan books of roughly ₹6 lakh crore each, making the merged entity one of India's largest infrastructure financiers, with a strong focus on power generation, transmission, renewables and, increasingly, non-power infrastructure such as roads, ports and emerging digital assets.

The committee shall

POWERPLAY

■ A three-member high-level committee include the CMDs of PFC and REC, along with the Joint Secretary (Distribution)

■ As of FY25, PFC's renewable loan book stood at over

₹81,000 cr

■ REC had financed more than 52 GW of renewables with exposure close to

₹58,000 cr

■ The working group will study personnel integration — including harmonisation of pay, promotions and inter-seniority — along with corporate restructuring, reporting frameworks, technology integration and regulatory approvals.

The move follows in-principle board approvals earlier this month by both companies, after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the restructuring in the FY27 Budget as part of a broader push to scale up and improve efficiency in public sector NBFCs.

Power sector lending remains the backbone of both institutions, with around 40% of their loan books tied to distribution companies. Renewable energy has emerged as a major growth engine, accounting for 12–15% of their portfolios — positioning the merged entity as a central financier of India's clean energy transition.

At FY25, PFC's renewable loan book stood at over ₹81,000 crore, supporting nearly 60 GW of capacity, while REC had financed more than 52 GW of renewables with exposure close to ₹58,000 crore. Both firms have also expanded into highways, aviation infrastructure and ports to diversify earnings.

Industry executives say the merger is aimed at creating a financing powerhouse capable of underwriting large, complex projects, including ultra-mega renewable parks, national transmission corridors and energy-intensive digital infrastructure such as AI-enabled data centres.



- It is an Indian **public sector company** that provides **financial assistance** for **power projects** across India.
- Founded : **25 July 1969**.
- **Chairman and Managing Director** : Jitendra Srivastava

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Tata Group–OpenAI Join Hands to Develop India’s First AI-Ready Large-Scale Data Centre

- The **Tata Group** partnered with **OpenAI** to establish **India’s first large-scale AI-ready data centre** under the global **Stargate initiative**, with **OpenAI** becoming the **first customer** of **TCS HyperVault** data centre business.
- The **TCS HyperVault** data centre will initially host **AI-ready infrastructure** starting with **100 MW capacity**, scalable up to **1 GW (Gigawatt)**, powered by **green energy** and **AI-optimised hardware** for large-scale **AI training and inference workloads**.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** plans to invest up to **USD 7 billion** to build **1 GW data centre capacity** in India as part of the **USD 500 billion Stargate** global AI infrastructure initiative.
- The **Tata Group** also plans to deploy **OpenAI’s ChatGPT Enterprise** across its organisation, initially covering **hundreds of thousands of employees** over the coming years.
- **OpenAI** will expand its **AI certification programme** in India, with **TCS** becoming the **first organisation outside the USA** to participate in this programme.
- **OpenAI** also plans to establish **offices in Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Bengaluru (Karnataka)** in **2026**, strengthening **India’s AI ecosystem** and global technology collaboration.



Indian Space Research Organisation to Set Up Liquid Methane Plant at Mahendragiri for Next-Generation NGLV Missions

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** plans to establish a **liquid methane production plant** at the **Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu** to support next-generation rocket propulsion technologies.
- The plant will produce **liquid methane** from **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, focusing on **cost efficiency, low wastage, optimal production processes**, and detailed reporting of consumables and by-products.
- The **liquid methane** will be used for **methalox propulsion systems (methane + liquid oxygen)** to power **ISRO’s Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**.
- The **NGLV (Project Soorya)** is a **3-stage, heavy-lift, partially reusable launch vehicle** designed to replace **PSLV and GSLV** for future space missions.
- The **NGLV** will have a **30-tonne payload capacity** to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** and support **human spaceflight missions, commercial launches, and green propulsion technologies**.



- Unlike traditional launch vehicles, the **NGLV** will feature **first-stage recovery and reuse capability**, improving mission **cost efficiency**.
- **ISRO's Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri** has invited **Expression of Interest (EoI)** for design, manufacturing, testing, supply, erection, and commissioning of the **Liquid Methane Production Plant**.
- The proposed plant will have a **production capacity of 8 Metric Tonnes per day**, producing **high-purity liquid methane**.
- **Liquid methane** will be produced using **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** as raw material with emphasis on **minimum production cost** and **minimum wastage**.
- Vendors must submit a **schematic plant design**, including **LNG requirement** to produce **1 MT of liquid methane**, along with estimates of **consumables, by-products, and waste gases**.
- Eligible vendors must have established a **cryogenic production plant for liquid nitrogen, liquid oxygen, liquid hydrogen, or liquid methane** within the last **7 years** (ending **December 31, 2025**).
- Alternatively, vendors must have executed contracts involving **manufacturing and supply of cryogenic systems**, including **double-walled tanks, pipelines, and instrumentation & control systems** for cryogenic fluids within the same time period.
- The initiative supports **India's National Space Vision** and aims to develop **green, cost-effective space propulsion technologies** for future space exploration and commercial space activities.

AuraML Unveils AuraSim, India's First Multimodal Robotics Simulation Model at India AI Impact Summit 2026

- Indian AI startup **AuraML** launched **AuraSim**, India's **first multimodal world simulation model for robotics**, at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- **AuraSim** is built on **Nvidia Omniverse** and **Cosmos infrastructure**, enabling **physics-ready 3D simulation environments** using inputs like **text descriptions, 2D floor plans, video walkthroughs, depth maps, and point clouds**.
- The platform supports simulations for **humanoid robots, autonomous mobile robots (AMRs), and stationary robotic arms** operating in **shared virtual environments**.
- **AuraSim** reduces **time and cost** of training **autonomous robotic systems** by creating **high-fidelity digital twins** before hardware deployment.
- The system allows **agentic automation**, running thousands of **scenario variations** without human intervention, enabling **rapid stress-testing** of **edge cases** through simple **text prompt modifications**.
- **AuraML** is launching the **Global Physical AI & Robotics Cohort** with **NVIDIA Inception**, an **eight-week mentorship-driven training program** for robotics engineers, AI researchers, and developers with **limited seats**.
- **AuraML's** focus is on building **foundational world models** for **next-generation robotics** using **generative AI** and **physics-based simulation**.

AuraML launches India's 1st multimodal world simulation model for robotics

Our Bureau
Mumbai

Indian AI startup AuraML unveiled AuraSim, billed as India's first multimodal world simulation model for robotics, built on Nvidia's Omniverse and Cosmos infrastructure. The announcement was made in New Delhi, coinciding with the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.

AuraSim allows developers to generate physics-ready, three-dimensional simulation environments from multiple input types, including text descriptions, 2D floor plans, video walkthroughs, depth maps and point clouds.

It is designed to reduce the time and cost of training autonomous robotic systems by creating high-fidelity digital twins before any hardware is deployed.

The platform supports



simultaneous simulation of humanoid robots, autonomous mobile robots (AMRs), and stationary robotic arms operating within a shared virtual environment.

AuraML said its agentic automation pipeline can run thousands of scenario variations without human intervention, enabling rapid stress-testing of edge cases through simple text prompt modifications.

TRAINING PROGRAM

Alongside AuraSim, AuraML is launching the Global Physical AI & Robotics Cohort in

collaboration with Nvidia Inception, an eight-week mentorship-driven training program for robotics engineers, AI researchers, and developers, offered with limited seats.

"By launching the first multimodal world simulation model from India, powered by Nvidia's world-class simulation technology, we are providing a global toolset to accelerate the development of advanced robotics foundation models everywhere," said Ayush Sharma, Co-Founder of AuraML. Tobias Halloran, Director of EMEA AI start-ups and Venture Capital at Nvidia, noted that India's AI start-up ecosystem is seeing strong momentum, with Nvidia providing founders access to accelerated computing and scalable AI infrastructure through programs like Nvidia Inception.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

Food Corporation of India Signs Five-Year Memorandum of Understanding with World Food Programme to Supply 2 Lakh Metric Tonnes of Rice Annually

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- **India has strengthened** its commitment to **global food security** as the **Food Corporation of India** signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding** with the **World Food Programme**.
- Under the agreement, the Food Corporation of India will supply **2,00,000 metric tonnes (2 lakh metric tonnes)** of rice annually to support global humanitarian operations.
- The partnership reinforces India's commitment towards achieving **Zero Hunger under Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the United Nations**.

Key Highlights

- **Duration:** Five years, with provision for extension through mutual consent.
- **Annual Supply:** 2,00,000 metric tonnes of rice, including up to 25 percent broken grains.
- **Price:** ₹2,800 per quintal, fixed **until 31 March 2026**.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by **Rabindra Kumar Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director of Food Corporation of India**, and **Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of World Food Programme**, in the presence of the Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- The agreement aims to combat **hunger and malnutrition in vulnerable regions** across the world.
- The partnership highlights India's growing role in **stabilising global food supply chains** and supporting international humanitarian operations.
- The five-year framework ensures **supply stability** for global relief programmes.
- The pricing mechanism provides **operational flexibility while maintaining long-term cooperation**.
- The initiative enhances India's image as a **responsible and reliable contributor to global food systems** and strengthens diplomatic goodwill among developing nations.



Food Corporation of India (FCI) and World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of rice in support of global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger. The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has informed that FCI will supply two lakh metric tonnes of rice to WFP under the MoU.

About Food Corporation of India

- Established in 1965.
- Responsible for procurement, storage and distribution of food grains to ensure food security in India.

About World Food Programme

- Established in 1961.
- Headquarters: Rome, Italy.
- Food assistance branch of the United Nations and the largest humanitarian organisation addressing hunger and food insecurity globally.

RANKING AND REPORTS

Amazon Overtakes Walmart to Become World's Largest Company by Revenue

- In a major global corporate development, **Amazon** has surpassed **Walmart** to become the **world's largest company by annual revenue in 2026**.
- The milestone reflects Amazon's rapid diversification beyond retail into cloud computing and artificial intelligence driven infrastructure.

Amazon.com Inc. has reported revenue of \$717 billion for the year ended December 2025, placing it ahead of Walmart Inc., which posted \$713.2 billion for the 12 months ended 31 January.

As per the news reports, these figures mark the first time Amazon has led global companies by annual sales. Walmart had held the top position for over a decade based on revenue.

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Key Highlights

- Amazon reported **\$717 billion** revenue for Fiscal Year 2025.
- Walmart reported **\$713.2 billion** revenue for the 12 months ending January 31, 2026.
- Walmart had maintained the **top global revenue position for more than a decade**.
- Amazon was founded in 1994 by **Jeff Bezos** as an online bookstore and later expanded into multiple sectors.
- Over the last decade, **Amazon's revenue growth rate has been nearly ten times faster than Walmart's**.
- A key contributor to Amazon's rise is **Amazon Web Services**, its cloud computing division.
- Without Amazon Web Services, Amazon's 2025 revenue would have been **\$588 billion**, underlining the importance of cloud services and artificial intelligence infrastructure.
- Walmart does not operate a cloud computing division, giving Amazon a technological edge.
- Amazon records approximately **2.7 billion website and application visits per month**, leading global digital retail traffic.
- Walmart operates more than **10,000 physical stores worldwide**, remaining the largest brick and mortar retailer.
- Amazon acquired **Whole Foods Market** in 2017 to strengthen its presence in physical retail.
- **Nvidia** currently holds the position of the world's most valuable company with a market capitalization of \$4.5 trillion.
- Revenue leadership indicates operational scale and does not necessarily reflect market capitalization or profitability.
- **Jeff Bezos** currently ranks fourth globally in wealth with an estimated net worth of \$228 billion.

OBITUARIES

Shillong Member of Parliament Ricky Andrew J Syngkon Passed Away at 54

- **Ricky Andrew J Syngkon, Member of Parliament (MP)** from the **Shillong Lok Sabha constituency (Meghalaya)**, passed away at the age of **54** in **Shillong**.
- He was born on **6 January 1972** in **Shillong, Meghalaya**.
- He served as an **Assistant Professor in Economics** at **North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU)** before entering politics.
- He began his political career with the **Voice of the People Party (VPP)**, a Meghalaya-based regional party focused on **local issues, community development, and grassroots empowerment**.
- In the **2024 General Elections**, he contested from the **Shillong Lok Sabha constituency** and defeated **Vincent H. Pala** of the **Indian National Congress (INC)**.
- He entered the **18th Lok Sabha** as a **first-time MP**.
- His **parliamentary priorities** included **connectivity development, tribal welfare, youth empowerment, and inclusive governance**.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Scout Day is celebrated every 22nd February.

- **World Scout Day** is celebrated every **22nd February**.
- World Scout Day is observed to pay tribute to the works of scouts across the globe.
- It is their remarkable service to the world that brings about a change in the lives of many people around us.

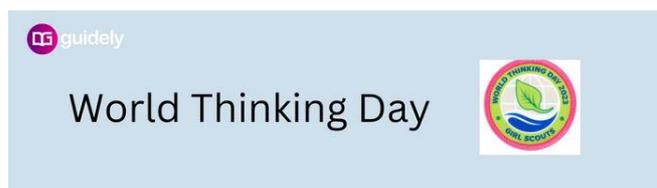


History:

- **Baden-Powell** maintained a testing center on Brownsea Island, Poole, Dorset, in 1907.
- He fetched concurrently **22 boys** and positioned them in the base under his supervision. Some of the boys were from working-class homes and some others were from public schools.
- The whole world was awaiting the result of the base. In 1908, '**Scouting for Boys**' was published by Baden Powell for the first time. The book deal was excellent.
- Boys formed Scout Patrols for the first time by themselves. The training camp paved the way for the formation of an organization.
- The youth of the country were highly influenced by this act and started to train themselves to serve society. '**Scouting for Boys**' has since been deciphered into many distinct vocabularies and lingoes.
- Following this, the boys started to develop Scout Troops across the country. In **1908**, an office was simultaneously set up to satisfy the queries related to the scout movement.
- Scouting was bestrewed throughout the British Commonwealth and to different countries and the youth training became eventually famous. In 1920 the foremost **global Scout Jamboree abode spot at Olympia, London**.
- Powell was lauded as Chief Scout of the World unanimously. During the third World Scout Jamboree, in 1929, he welcomed a car that was nicknamed **Jam-Roll**. He also obtained an Eccles Caravan.
- He played a great role in improving the education of the youth and facilitating the free mind and mentality.
- He was the one who gave the cue to the Scouting movement. According to the estimation, by **1939 3.3 million scouts** are present in the world.

World Thinking Day is observed on 22nd February

- **World Thinking Day 2026** is observed **on 22nd February**.
- World Thinking Day 2026 is a day of friendship, sisterhood, and empowerment where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across the world speak out on issues that affect girls and young women.
- World Thinking Day 2026 Theme: "**Our Friendship**"



History

- In 1926, delegates from across the world met at **Camp Edith Macy** now named the Edith Macy Conference Center in New York for the 4th World Conference, and decided to create a day for guides and Girl Scouts.
- They selected the joint birthday of **Lord Baden-Powell**, the founder of the Scout and Guide movement, and his wife Olave as the Thinking Day.
- In 1999, during the Dubai Conference, the name of Thinking Day was changed to 'World Thinking Day.' Today, this has grown into a huge global event that encourages members of the movement to think about bigger issues.

Daily CA One- Liner: 22nd & 23rd February

- The **Gujarat Budget 2026–27** was presented by **Finance Minister Kanu Desai** in the Assembly at Gandhinagar.
- The **Madhya Pradesh Budget 2026–27** was presented by **Finance Minister Jagdish Devda** in the State Assembly
- **India created a Guinness World Record** by collecting **2,50,946 valid pledges for responsible Artificial Intelligence use within 24 hours**
- The **Gujarat Legislative Assembly** has unanimously passed the **Gujarat Shops and Establishments Amendment Bill 2026**, allowing **night shifts for women**, increasing daily working hours to **10 hours** and raising the overtime limit to **144 hours**
- **India and France** jointly inaugurated the **Indo French Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Health** at **All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi** during the **Rencontres Universitaires Et Scientifiques De Haut Niveau 2026** meetings held
- In a remarkable moment at the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** held at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, eight-year-old **Ranvir Sachdeva** became the **youngest speaker at the event**
- **India has strengthened** its commitment to **global food security** as the **Food Corporation of India** signed a **five-year Memorandum of Understanding** with the **World Food Programme**.
- In a major global corporate development, **Amazon** has surpassed **Walmart** to become the **world's largest company by annual revenue in 2026**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **₹38.60 lakh monetary penalty** on **UCO Bank** for **non-compliance** with regulatory directions.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** launched the '**UPI One World**' **Wallet** for **international delegates** attending the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM)**, **Faridabad**, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- **Switzerland** will host the **2027 AI Summit** in **Geneva**, while the **UAE** is set to host the **2028 edition**, demonstrating **global continuity in AI governance efforts**.
- **Japan** cancelled the decade-old **Cherry Blossom Festival** at **Arakurayama Sengen Park, Fujiyoshida**, due to **overtourism** and its negative impact on local residents.
- **India and Israel** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **defence cooperation**, focusing on **joint seminars, industrial collaboration, and technology sharing**.
- India's **human spaceflight programme Gaganyaan** achieved a major milestone with the successful **qualification-level load test** of the **Drogue Parachute** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS)** facility of **Defence Research and Development**

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Organisation (DRDO) at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh.

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** hosted three major international engagements at **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP)** from **15–25 February 2026**, including **Exercise MILAN 2026, International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026**, and the **9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave**.
- Chief Minister of Assam **Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched the **Provincialization Management System (PMS) Portal** at **Lok Sewa Bhawan, Guwahati** to streamline the **provincialization of venture educational institutions** and their staff.
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