

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 February, 2026



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	'India's World Heritage: Rajasthan' Exhibition
2.	Final Publication of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) – 2026 in Rajasthan
3.	Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026
4.	News in Shorts 1. 'Gaon Gwal' Scheme 2. Gates Foundation Visits Rajasthan 3. Kota Mahotsav – 2026 4. Martyr Surendra Singh Takshak – Statue Unveiling 5. Suryakiran Aerobatic and Sarang Helicopter Display 6. New Chairman of Rajasthan Football Association - Prahlad Fardoda 7. Lok Kala Sangam-2026: The Light of Rajasthan's Folk Colors 8. A school shaped like the old Parliament House in Dadal village
5.	Pramod Bhagat
6.	Open Masters Games-Abu Dhabi, 2026
7.	79th Santosh Trophy, 2026
8.	South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Women's Championship, 2026
9.	Para Throwball National Federation Cup, 2026
10.	Devika Sihag: Badminton
11.	RBI: Amendment to the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS)
12.	Index of Eight Core Industries (Base Year: 2011-12 = 100)
13.	Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh: Statehood Day

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Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



14.	Indian Ocean Naval Symposium
15.	CTS "Krishna"
16.	Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University Campus
17.	India's First Semiconductor Unit/HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture Project



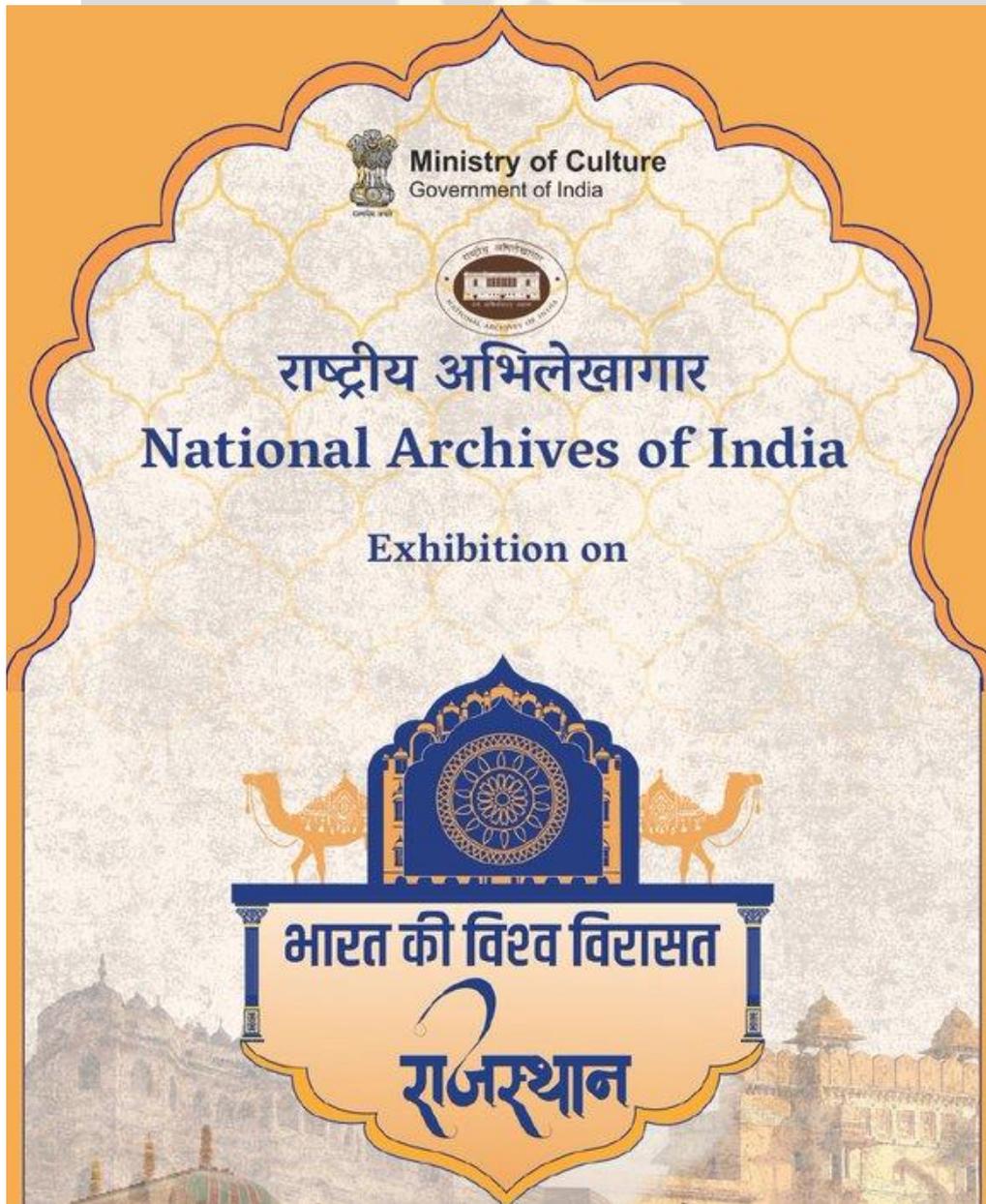
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'India's World Heritage: Rajasthan' Exhibition

Why in News?

- Recently, the National Archives of India (NAI) organized the exhibition 'India's World Heritage: Rajasthan' at the Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) in Jaipur.



Key Points:

- **Exhibition inaugurated by:** V. Srinivas (Chief Secretary, Rajasthan) and Sanjay Rastogi (Director General, National Archives of India).
- **Event:** February 22 to March 3, 2026.
- The exhibition showcases rare documents, selected visuals, and explanatory notes preserved in the National Archives.
- **The core of the exhibition:** The UNESCO-listed hill forts of Rajasthan—Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Amer, Jaisalmer, and Gagron—which are symbols of Rajput valor, military prowess, and architectural excellence. Additionally, Jantar Mantar and the historic city of Jaipur were prominently featured in the exhibition, reflecting India's scientific achievements and well-thought-out urban planning tradition.
- The exhibition also showcased the indomitable courage and self-respect of Maharana Pratap, the architectural vision and visionary leadership of Rana Kumbha, the identity and self-respect of Rani Padmini, and the devotional tradition and spirituality of Meerabai.

Facts for Prelims:

World Heritage Sites in Rajasthan:

- UNESCO collectively declared six hill forts of Rajasthan as World Heritage Sites during its 37th session held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 2013.
- **6 hill forts:** Chittorgarh Fort (Chittorgarh), Kumbhalgarh Fort (Rajsamand), Ranthambore Fort (Sawai Madhopur), Gagron Fort (Jhalawar), Amer Fort (Jaipur), and Sonar Fort (Jaisalmer).
- **Jaipur City (Parkota):** UNESCO added the historic Walled City of Jaipur to the World Heritage List on July 6, 2019, during the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee held in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



- **Jantar Mantar (Jaipur):** Jantar Mantar, built by Sawai Jai Singh, the founder of Jaipur city, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2010.
- **Keoladeo National Park:** Keoladeo National Park, located in Bharatpur, was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985 due to its bird diversity.
- **Kalbelia Dance:** Included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list since 2010.



--5:--

Final Publication of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) – 2026 in Rajasthan

Why in News?

- On February 21, 2026, the Election Commission of India (ECI) published the final publication of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) – 2026 of voter lists for 199 assembly constituencies (excluding the remaining assembly constituencies) in Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Rajasthan from October 28, 2025, to February 7, 2026.
- Special Intensive Revision (SIR):** The Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a process of updating voter lists to ensure they are accurate and error-free. This exercise is done to ensure that no eligible voter is left out and no ineligible person is included in the list.
- Increase in Voters:** After the publication of the draft voter list, there has been an increase of 10,48,605 voters in the final publication, which is 2.08 percent.
- Highest Voters:** The total voter turnout has increased by 3.45 percent (highest) in Jaipur, 3.22 percent in Phalodi, 2.78 percent in Bharatpur, 2.72 percent in Sirohi, and 2.71 percent in Bundi.
- Sex Ratio:** The sex ratio has increased by 2 points in the final publication, from 909, at the time of draft publication to 911, at the time of final publication. Jaipur has increased by 7 points (highest), Kota by 6 points, and Ajmer, Sirohi, Dungarpur, Bundi, Jhalawar, and Baran by 4 points.

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



- **Young Voters:** After the publication of the draft voter list, the number of young voters (aged 18 to 19 years) increased by 435,061 in the final publication, which is 0.82 percent. Jaipur saw the highest increase of 1.30 percent, followed by Barmer by 1.26 percent, Bharatpur by 1.22 percent, Phalodi by 1.18 percent, and Bundi by 1.09 percent.

Other important points:

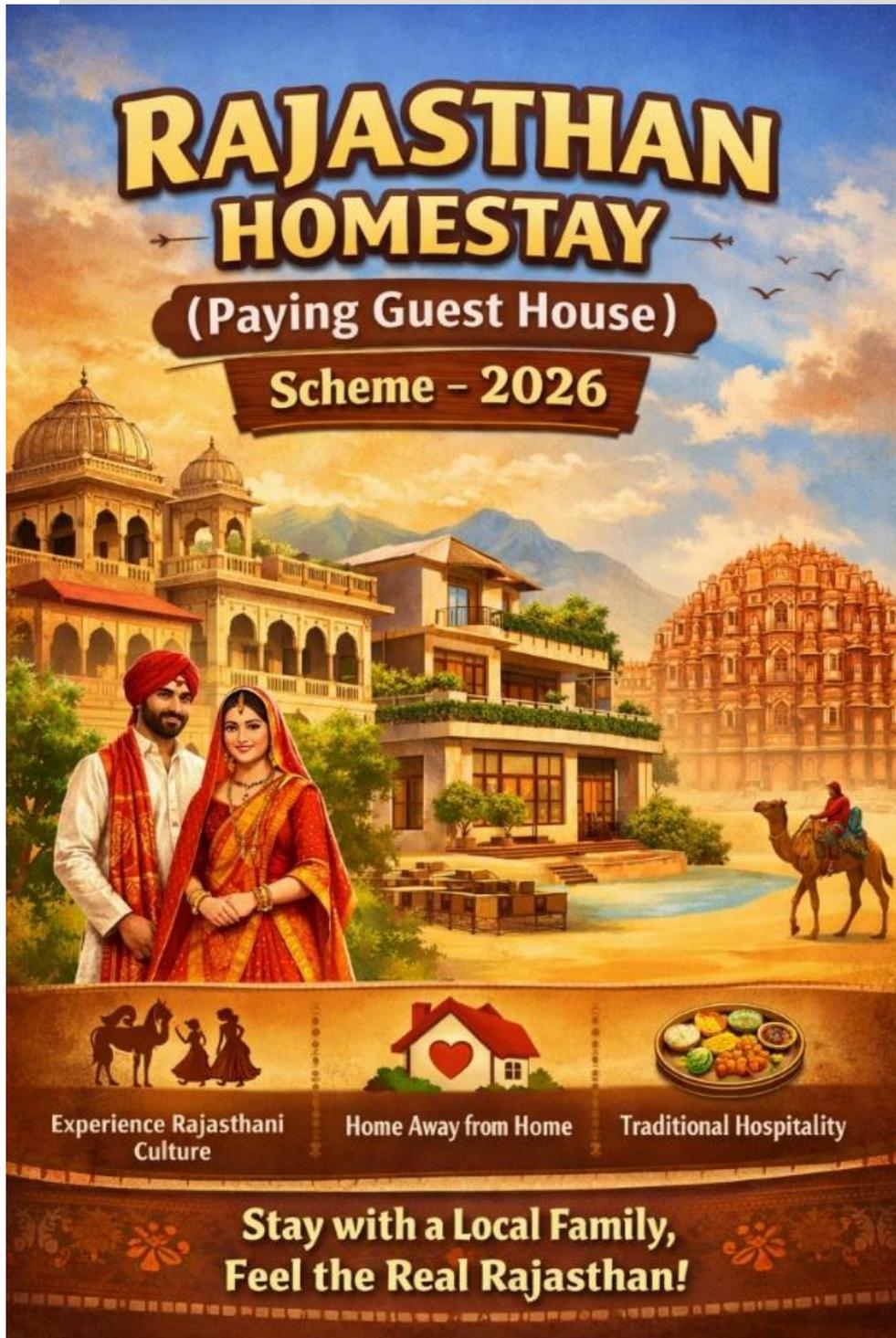
- **Gyanesh Kumar:** Took charge as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India on February 19, 2025. He is a 1988 batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre of the Indian Administrative Service.
- **Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu:** Joined the Election Commission of India as an Election Commissioner on March 15, 2024. He is a 1988 batch IAS officer from the Uttarakhand cadre.
- **Dr. Vivek Joshi:** Joined the Election Commission of India as an Election Commissioner on February 19, 2025. He is a 1989 batch IAS officer from the Haryana cadre.
- **Chief Election Commissioner of Rajasthan:** Rajeshwar Singh.
- **Chief Electoral Officer (Rajasthan):** Naveen Mahajan.

--7--

Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026

Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan government announced the implementation of the 'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme – 2026'.



--8:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 February, 2026



Key Points:

- **The scheme's responsible department:** Rajasthan Tourism Department.
- This scheme will strengthen the concept of 'ease of doing business' and 'ease of living' in the state and boost the tourism sector.
- **Objective:** To promote tourism development, rural income growth, and self-employment.
- The scheme has been simplified in line with the Central Government's Deregulation 2.0 measures and the spirit of Ease of Doing Business.

Key features and conditions of the scheme:

- Under the 'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme-2026', the maximum number of rooms permitted per residential unit has been increased from 5 to 8, while the maximum bed capacity has been fixed at 24.
- Under the scheme, homestay units can be operated by the property owner, lessee, or a caretaker appointed as per the prescribed standards.
- Under the scheme, homestays have been classified into Silver and Gold categories. The registration fee is ₹1,000 for the Silver category and ₹2,000 for the Gold category.

--9:--



NEWS IN SHORTS



S. No.	News
1.	<p>'Gaon Gwal' Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, Rajasthan's Education and Panchayati Raj Minister, Madan Dilawar, launched the 'Gaon Gwal' Scheme from Kherli village (Chechat) in the Ramganj Mandi Assembly constituency.This scheme is primarily aimed at protecting cows in rural areas, rehabilitating pasture lands, and creating employment.The cowherds appointed under the scheme will receive a monthly honorarium of ₹10,000 from the government.
2.	<p>Gates Foundation Visits Rajasthan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Recently, a high-level delegation from the Gates Foundation visited the Government Higher Secondary School, Burhera, in the Tijara block.During the visit, the Gates Foundation observed the AI-based Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) assessment process being implemented in Rajasthan. It is worth noting that this assessment has been implemented under 'Prakash Rajasthan 2.0' to accurately assess reading skills and improve learning levels.
3.	<p>Kota Mahotsav – 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Event: February 21 and 22, 2026Organizers: District Administration and Rajasthan Tourism Department.Heritage Walk: A heritage walk was organized from the historic Mathuradhish Temple to Garh Palace and Rampura Kotwali, which was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

4. **Martyr Surendra Singh Takshak – Statue Unveiling**

- Recently, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav and State Minister for Urban Development and Self-Governance Jhabar Singh Kharra unveiled the statue of Martyr Surendra Singh Takshak in Jat Behror village of Khairthal-Tijara.

5. **Suryakiran Aerobatic and Sarang Helicopter Display**

- An air show by the Indian Air Force (IAF)'s Suryakiran Aerobatic Team and Sarang Helicopter Display Team was held on February 22, 2026, on the embankment of Jal Mahal (Mansagar Lake) in Jaipur.
- The three pilots of the Suryakiran Aerobatic Team, Wing Commander Rajesh Kajla, Wing Commander Ankit Vashisht, and Squadron Leader Sanjesh Singh, who are Indian Air Force ambassadors, are residents of Jaipur.
- **The Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT):** Performed the 'Tejas Formation', loops, barrel rolls, and formations such as the 'Heart' and 'DNA' with 9 Hawk Mk-132 Advanced Jets.
- **The Sarang Helicopter Display Team:** Performed the 'Dolphin Leap', 'Cross-Over', and the 'I' Formation, the symbol of India, with 5 indigenous 'Dhruv' Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH).

6. **New Chairman of Rajasthan Football Association - Prahlad Fardoda**

- Recently, Prahlad Fardoda was appointed the new Chairman of the Rajasthan Football Association during the Rajasthan Football Association meeting held at Sardar Club, Jodhpur.
- Prahlad Fardoda replaced Manvendra Singh Jasol.

7. **Lok Kala Sangam-2026: The Light of Rajasthan's Folk Colors**
- **Event:** February 20-22, 2026.
 - **Venue:** Shilpgram, Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur.
 - **Organizer:** Sanskar Bharti (Jaipur Province) and the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Rajasthan.
 - **Objective:** To revive the state's traditional folk arts that are being left behind in the era of globalization and to provide a strong platform to local artists.
 - **Main Theme:** The Light of Rajasthan's Folk Colors.
8. **A school shaped like the old Parliament House in Dadal village**
- Dr. Ashok Jain, who lives in the US, built a school shaped like the old Parliament House in Dadal village (Sayla subdivision) of Jalore.
 - Built at a cost of ₹7 crore, the building features modern facilities such as 22 classrooms, digital boards, science and computer labs, and playgrounds.

CIVIL SERVICES

NATIONAL

Pramod Bhagat

Key Points:

- Pramod Bhagat won the gold medal in the men's S.L-3 category at the 2026 World Para Badminton Championships held in Bahrain.



- **Final:** Pramod defeated Mohammed Al Imran to win his fourth consecutive singles gold medal at the World Championships.
- **Total World Titles:** Pramod now has a total of six World Titles. Pramod has become the most successful player in the history of men's singles badminton, surpassing Lin Dan of China.

Open Masters Games-Abu Dhabi, 2026

Key Points:

- Indian athletes won gold in the men's hammer throw with Kishorekumar Chandira Mogan and bronze in the veteran athletics event with Mohammad Ansar at the Open Masters Games-Abu Dhabi, 2026.
- **Kishorekumar:** Took the top spot with a hammer throw of 37.92 meters.
- **Mohammad Ansar:** Took third place in the international veteran athletics competition.
- This competition is part of the Open Masters Games in Abu Dhabi, the first major multi-sport event to be held in West Asia.



ألعاب الماسترز
OPEN MASTERS GAMES
أبو ظبي 2026 Abu Dhabi 2026

79th Santosh Trophy, 2026

Key Points:

- Services defeated Kerala 1-0 at the Dhakuakhana Stadium in Assam to win the 79th Santosh Trophy, the National Football Championship. This is Services' eighth Santosh Trophy title.



South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Women's Championship, 2026

Key Points:

- In football, India defeated Bangladesh 4-0 in the final of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Women's Championship, played at the Pokhara Arena Stadium in Nepal.



Para Throwball National Federation Cup, 2026

Key Points:

- **Women's Team:** Jharkhand's women's team defeated hosts Rajasthan in the final of the Para Throwball National Federation Cup, 2026, to win the gold medal.
- **Men's Team:** Andhra Pradesh won the gold medal, Telangana won the silver medal, and Haryana won the bronze medal. Jharkhand finished fourth.

PARA THROWBALL NATIONAL FEDERATION CUP 2026
Cum Trial Selection for 2nd Asian Para Throwball Championship 2026 (Malaysia – April 2026)

PARA THROWBALL NA FEDERATION CUP 2026
Cum Trial Selection for 2nd Asian Para Throwball Championship 2026 (Malaysia – April 2026)

Dates: 3rd February to 5th February 2026
Venue: Singhania University, Pacheri Bari, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan – 333515

"In the gracious presence of
Smt. Nirmala Rawat Ji,
Hon'ble President,
World Para Throwball Federation

-:17:-

Devika Sihag: Badminton

Key Points:

- Indian badminton player Devika Sihag won the women's singles title at the Thailand Masters badminton tournament.
- Final: Devika won her first BWF Super 300 title by defeating Malaysia's Goh Jin Wei.

Relationship: Haryana

- **Past achievements:** She won her first international title at the Malaysia International in August 2025. She then played a key role in helping India's mixed team win a bronze medal at the 2025 World University Games.

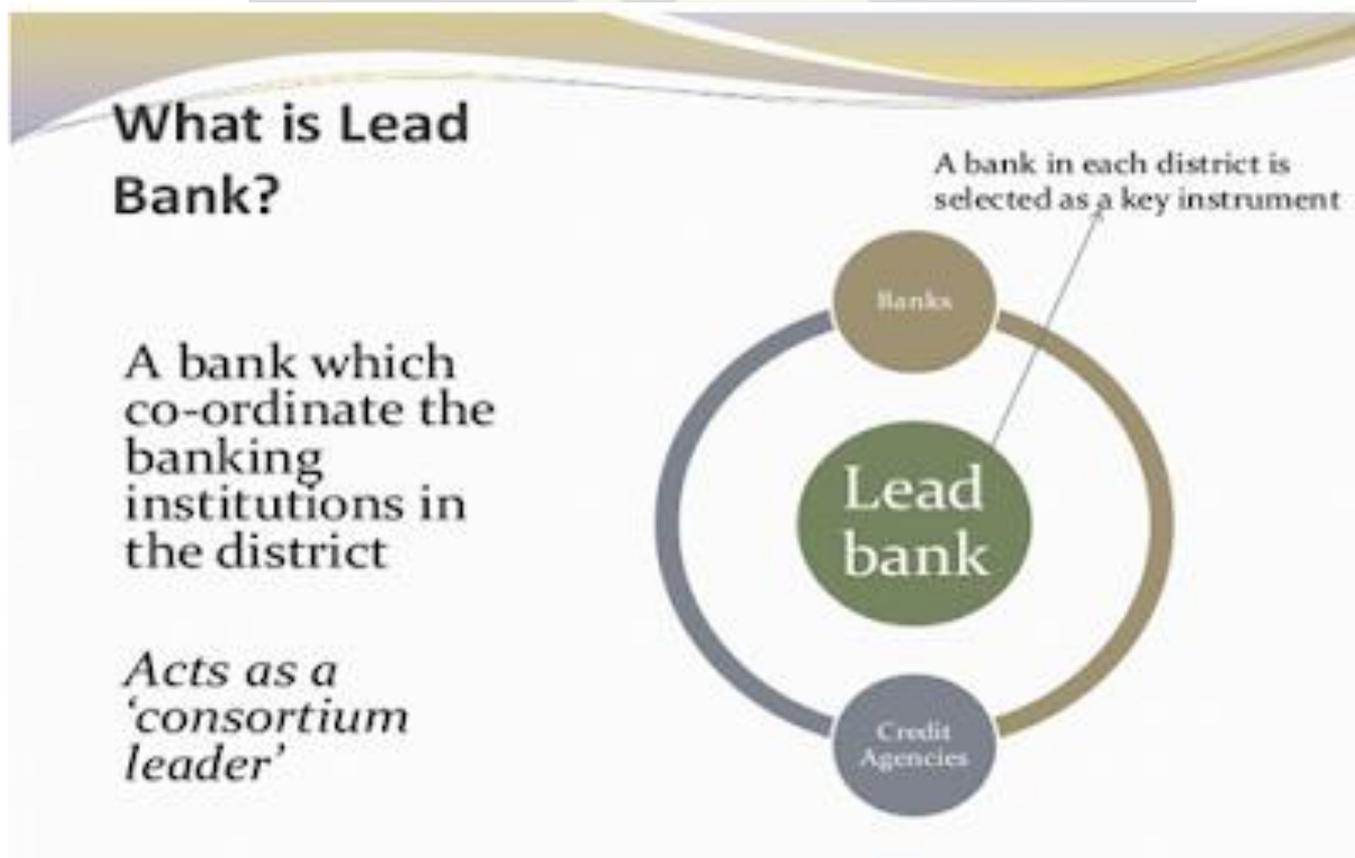


Economic Developments

RBI: Amendment to the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released draft guidelines for amendments to the Lead Bank Scheme (LBS).



Key Points:

- Objective and Need for Amendment:** Focused on strengthening State Level Bankers Committees (SLBCs) and Lead District Manager (LDM) offices for better coordination between banks, government bodies, and development agencies.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 February, 2026



- **Amendment:** Banks should monitor the credit-deposit (CD) ratio, for which a draft standard of 60% has been set in rural and semi-urban branches across the country.

Lead Bank Scheme:

- **Introduction:** The Lead Bank Scheme is a scheme aimed at providing adequate banking and credit access (financial inclusion) in rural areas through a 'service area approach' (social banking), in which one bank is designated for each region.
- **Objective:** To provide coordinated banking access in districts and increase the flow of bank credit to priority sectors (agriculture, small and medium enterprises, weaker sections); designate one bank as the "lead bank" for each district.
- **Origin:** It originated from the recommendations of two committees in 1969: the Gadgil Study Group (which advocated the "regional approach") and the Nariman Committee (which supported it and recommended banks adopt specific districts).
- **Origin:** The Lead Bank Scheme was launched by the Reserve Bank of India in December 1969.

Key Features:

- o **Monitoring the performance of credit schemes:**

At the block level	Block Level Bankers Committee (BLBC)
At the district level	District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC)
At the state level	State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC)

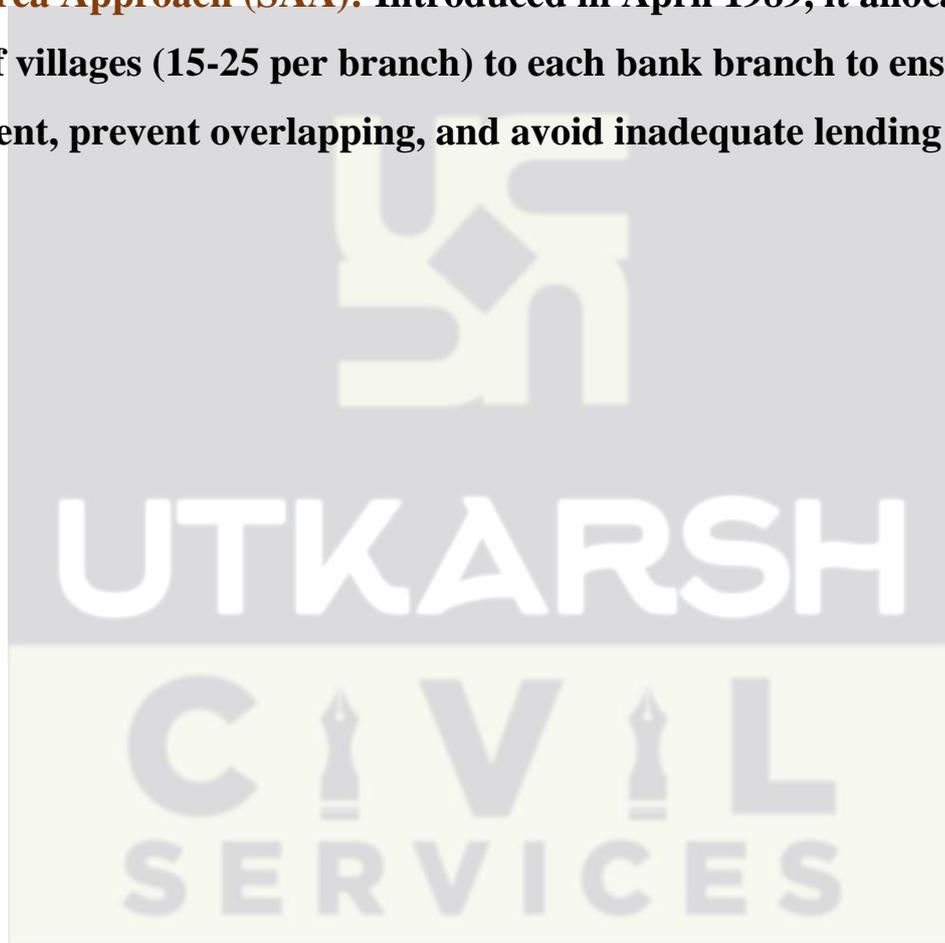
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Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



- o **Lead Bank:** A commercial bank (usually a public sector bank) is designated by the RBI as the lead bank for each district.
- o **Lead District Manager (LDM):** A dedicated officer from the lead bank oversees implementation.
- o **Service Area Approach (SAA):** Introduced in April 1989, it allocated specific clusters of villages (15-25 per branch) to each bank branch to ensure planned development, prevent overlapping, and avoid inadequate lending coverage.

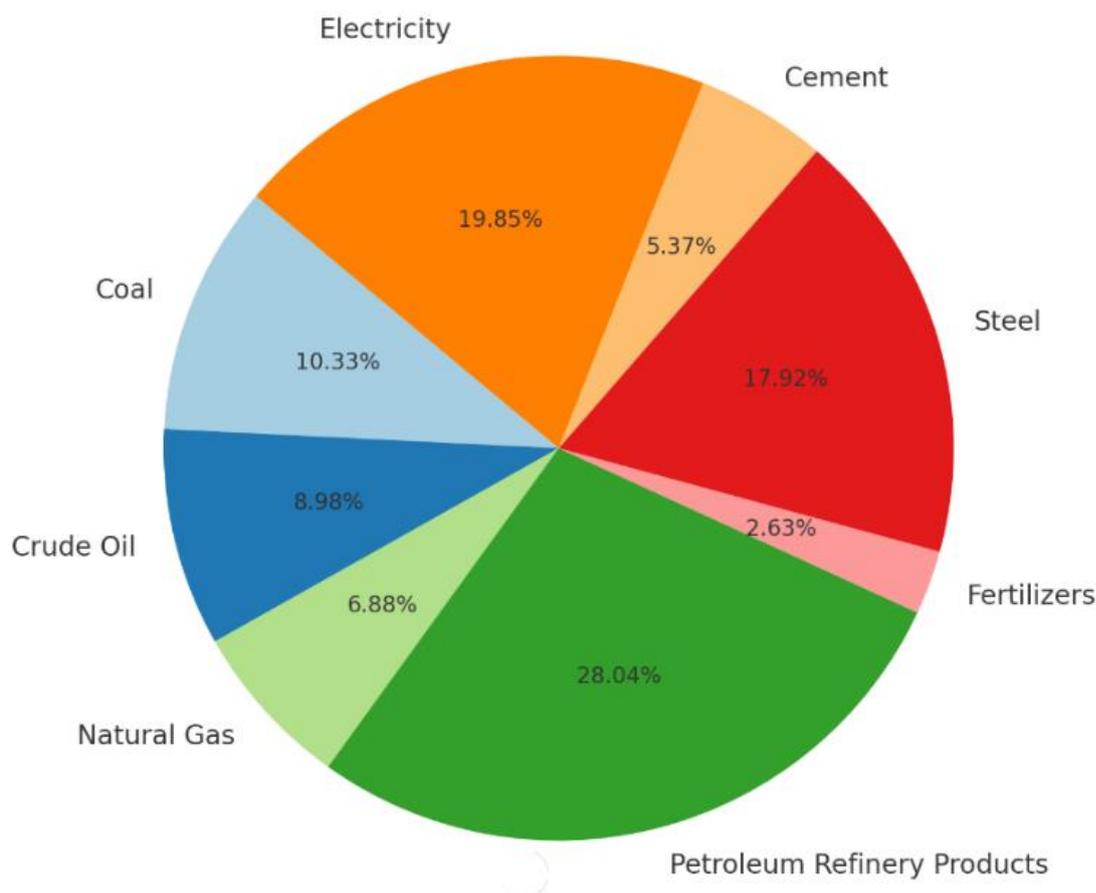


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Index of Eight Core Industries (Base Year: 2011-12 = 100)

Why in News?

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 4.0 percent (provisional) in January 2026 compared to the index for January 2025. Cement, steel, electricity, fertilizers, and coal production recorded positive growth in January 2026.



Key Points:

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures the combined and individual production performance of eight core industries, including coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 February, 2026



- These eight core industries account for 40.27 percent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The summary of the index for eight core industries is as follows:

1. **Coal:** Coal production (weight: 10.33%) increased by 3.1% in January 2026, as compared to January 2025.
2. **Crude Oil:** Crude oil production (weight: 8.98%) decreased by 5.8% in January 2026, as compared to January 2025.
3. **Natural Gas:** Natural gas production (weight: 6.88%) declined by 5.0% in January 2026, as compared to January 2025.
4. **Petroleum Refinery Products:** Petroleum refinery production (weight: 28.04%) in January 2026 remained unchanged at 147.2 (provisional) as compared to the index for January 2025.
5. **Fertilizer:** Fertilizer production (weight: 2.63 percent) increased by 3.7 percent in January 2026, compared to January 2025.
6. **Steel:** Steel production (weight: 17.92 percent) increased by 9.9 percent in January 2026, compared to January 2025.
7. **Cement:** Cement production (weight: 5.37 percent) increased by 10.7 percent in January 2026, compared to January 2025.
8. **Electricity:** Electricity production (weight: 19.85 percent) increased by 3.8 percent in January 2026, compared to January 2025.

Other important points:

- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** This index measures short-term changes in the volume of production in major economic sectors such as mining, electricity, and manufacturing in India.
- It is released monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).
- It shows the change in production compared to the base year (2011-2012).

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Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh: Statehood Day

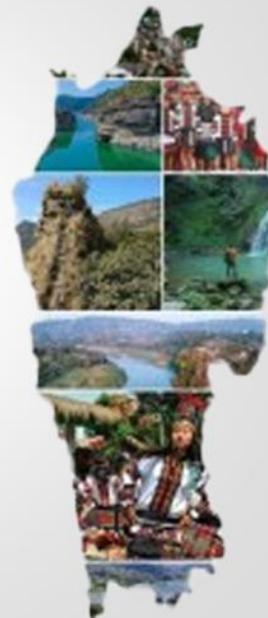
Why in News?

- On February 20, 2026, the northeastern states of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram celebrated their 40th Statehood Day. This marks the granting of full statehood to both states on February 20, 1987.



ARUNACHAL
PRADESH
foundation day

MIZORAM
foundation day



Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 February, 2026



Key Points:

Points	Mizoram	Arunachal Pradesh
Introduction	Mizoram became the 23rd state of the Indian Union on 20 February 1987, following the Mizoram Peace Accord (June 1986) signed between the Government of India and the Mizo National Front.	Arunachal Pradesh was granted statehood on February 20, 1987, as the 24th state. Prior to this, it was known as the North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA) until 1972. In January 1972, it was made a Union Territory and renamed Arunachal Pradesh.
Statehood	Statehood by the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986.	Statehood by the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986.
Historical Development	Originally known as the Lushai Hills district of Assam, it was renamed Mizo Hills in 1954. It was declared a Union Territory in 1972.	The modern history of Arunachal Pradesh began with British control under the Treaty of Yandaboo (1826) after the First Anglo-Burmese War (1824 to 1826) and the Simla Treaty of 1914 which determined the boundary between Tibet and NEFA (McMahon Line). Until 1962, Arunachal Pradesh remained under the constitutional jurisdiction of Assam.
Constitutional Protection	It is recognised as a "Tribal Area" under the Sixth Schedule [Article 244(2)] of the Constitution of India. Article 371-G of the Indian Constitution grants special status to Mizoram.	Under Article 371-H of the Constitution, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh has been given special responsibility in matters of law and order.
Other Features	Capital: Aizawl Main Languages: Mizo and English State Animal: Himalayan Serow State Bird: Bar-tailed Pheasant State Tree: Indian Rose Chestnut Literacy: The second most literate state in India after Kerala.	Capital: Itanagar Official language: English Major rivers: Brahmaputra, Subansiri, Dibang, and Lohit. Tribes: Nyishi, Monpa, Apatani, Adi Mishmi, Galo, and Tagin. State animal: Mithun/Gyal State bird: Hornbill State tree: Hollong

-:25:-

INTERNATIONAL

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

Why in News?

- The 9th Chiefs of Naval Operations Conference (IONS) was held in Visakhapatnam on February 20, 2026.



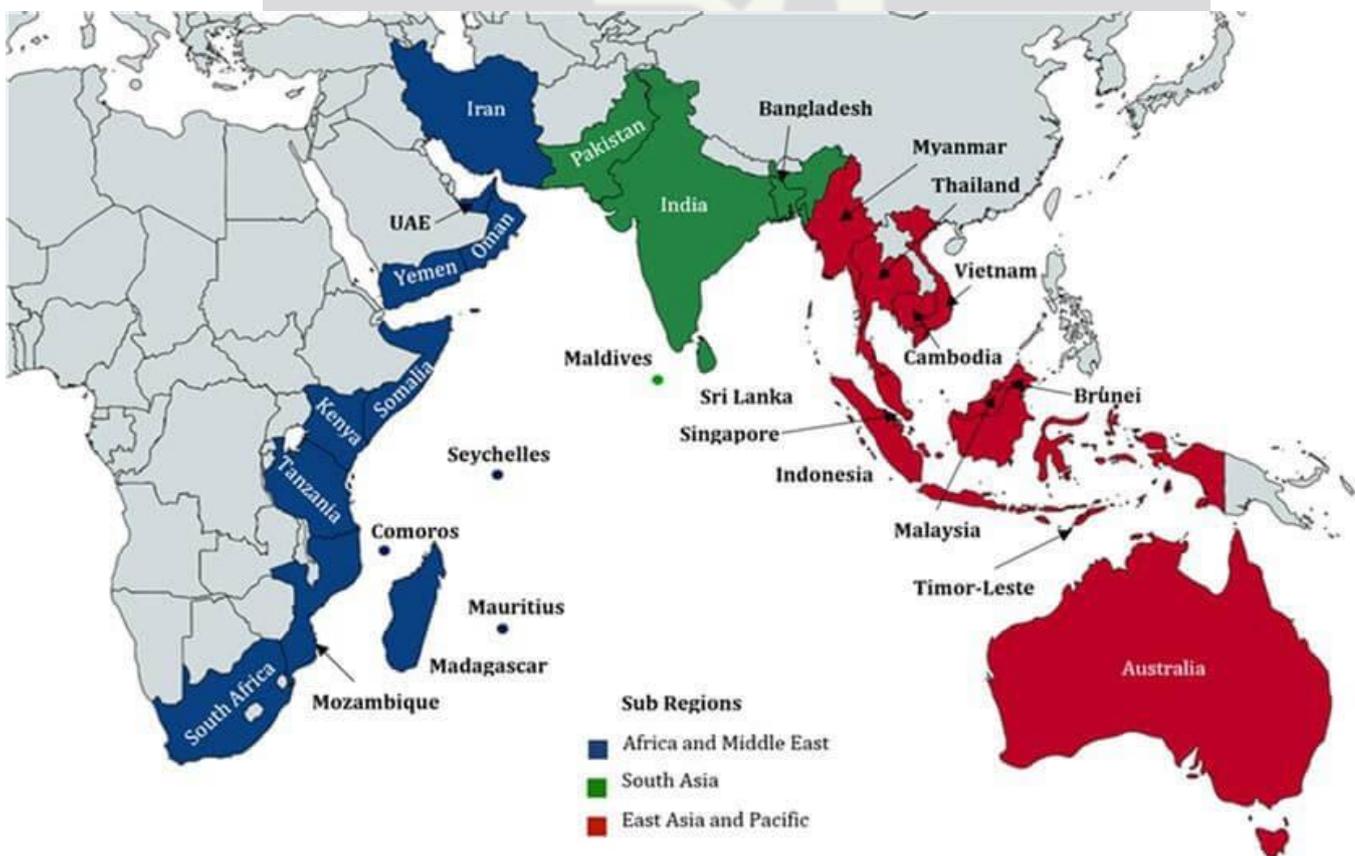
Key Points:

- **Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):** At this symposium, the Indian Navy assumed the Chairmanship of the IONS from the Royal Thai Navy. This marks India's return to this role after 16 years. (Previous Chairmanship: 2008 to 2010).

- **Launch of the IONS Website:** Key developments during the symposium included the launch of an upgraded IONS website by the Indian Navy, aimed at enhancing usability, ensuring institutional continuity, and strengthening collaboration among member navies.
- **Observer Countries and HADR:** The Philippines was admitted as an observer, and Oman joined the IONS Working Group on HADR, expanding the scope of collaborative engagement under IONS.

Other important points:

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)



- **Introduction and Establishment:** The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a multilateral maritime forum established in 2008, to enhance cooperation among the littoral states of the Indian Ocean region.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 February, 2026



- **Operationalization:** Activities are driven by specialized working groups (IWGs), which translate high-level guidelines into concrete initiatives. Currently, three IWGs are operational: HADR, Maritime Security (MARSEC), and Information Sharing and Interoperability (IS&I). India and Iran co-chair HADR and MARSEC, while Australia and France co-chair IS&I, ensuring balanced accountability.
- **Objective:** To promote shared understanding, strengthen capabilities, establish collaborative mechanisms, develop interoperability in principles and procedures, and enable effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

Members:

- India (became a member on February 28, 2015).
- Australia, Seychelles, Bangladesh, Singapore, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, UAE, United Kingdom, and UK
- Qatar (joined on June 29, 2021)

Fundamental Principles: IONS operates on an open, inclusive, consultative, collaborative, and consensual basis and adheres to the following fundamental principles:

1. **Equality:** All members will be treated equally.
2. **Decisions:** Decisions on all matters and issues will be taken through a consensus-building process among all members. Decisions must have the consent of all members present.
3. **Multilateralism:** IONS will focus on multilateral solutions.

--:28:--

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



4. **Shared Values:** All members accept the principles of equality, cooperation, and mutual benefit on which this Charter is based.
- **Chairmanship:** The position of Chairman of the IOS shall be held by rotation among the members every two years, and the selection of the Chairman shall be agreed upon through mutual consultation.

The position of Chairman shall be held by rotation in the following geographical order:

- (i) South Asian
- (ii) West Asian
- (iii) East African
- (iv) South East Asian and Australian coastal regions.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

CTS "Krishna"

Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian Navy launched its first indigenously built and designed Cadet Training Ship (CTS), 'Krishna', at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.



Key Points:

- Inauguration:** On February 16, 2026, by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan.
- First Indigenous CTS 'Krishna' and Contract:** The contract for three cadet training ships was signed between the Ministry of Defence and M/s L&T Shipyard (L&T) on March 7, 2023, and CTS 'Krishna' is the first of three cadet training ships being built for the Indian Navy.

--:30:--

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



- **Naming:** Named after the Krishna River (the third longest river in the country).
- **Objective:** To strengthen the Navy's training infrastructure by providing a dedicated environment for cadets to gain practical experience in navigation, seamanship, and ship handling, without removing frontline warships from active duty.
- **Key Features:**
 - It includes a dedicated bridge for training cadets, a chart house, and integrated simulators for "watch-keeping" exercises.
 - Displacement of approximately 4,700 tonnes, length of 122 meters, maximum speed of 20 knots, and seaworthiness of up to 60 days.
 - It is equipped with a 76 mm naval gun, two AK-630M Close-in Weapon Systems (CIWS), and a 12.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled cannon.

Other important points:

Sagar Maitri (SM-5) Initiative:

- India's oceanographic research vessel INS Sagardhwani, belonging to the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, departed from Southern Naval Command, Kochi on January 17, 2026, for the fifth edition of the Sagar Maitri (SM-5) (MAITRI; Marine and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative) initiative.
- Sagar Maitri is a flagship collaborative initiative of the Indian Navy and DRDO, in line with the Government of India's vision of 'Mutual and Inclusive Advancement for Security and Growth in the Region (MAHASAGAR).'

--:31:--

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



- Under the Sagar Maitri program, INS Sagardhwani will retrace the historic path of INS Krishna, which participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition during 1962-65.
- The initiative aims to provide training to the eight IOR countries; To pursue ongoing scientific collaborations with Oman, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

INS Sagardhwani:

- INS Sagardhwani is a specialized marine acoustic research vessel designed by NPOL and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). Commissioned in July 1994, the ship has served as a premier platform for ocean observation and oceanographic research for over three decades, contributing significantly to India's marine scientific capabilities.

UTKARSH

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SERVICES

-:32:-

Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University Campus

Why in News?

- At the India AI Impact Summit, the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish India's first dedicated Quantum and Artificial Intelligence University Campus in Amaravati on February 20, 2026.



Key Points:

- Located within NIELIT's deemed-to-be university ecosystem, the Amaravati campus will be India's first institutionally dedicated academic center focused solely on quantum and artificial intelligence.

--:33:--

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 23 February, 2026



The proposed campus will focus on cutting-edge areas, including:

1. Quantum computing and quantum algorithms
 2. Artificial intelligence and machine learning
 3. Quantum communications and cybersecurity
 4. Quantum hardware and systems engineering
 5. High-performance computing
 6. AI-quantum convergence research
- **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT):** An autonomous scientific institution under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
 - NIELIT has been granted the status of a "Deemed University" under the category of Distinction by the Ministry of Education, and has 12 recognized campuses across the country.

India's First Semiconductor Unit/HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture Project

Why in News?

- On February 21, 2026, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the HCL-Foxconn joint venture project – India Chip Private Limited – at the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) in Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing.
- This is North India's first semiconductor manufacturing unit.
- Also, major infrastructure projects were inaugurated, including the Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS; 82 km long from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in Meerut) corridor and the Meerut Metro (13 stations and 23 km long).



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Key Points:

- **Foundation stone of a semiconductor manufacturing unit:** Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
- This Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility is being set up by India Chip Private Limited under the Modified Scheme for Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) scheme.
- **Total Investment:** This semiconductor manufacturing facility is a joint venture between HCL and Foxconn, with an estimated investment of approximately ₹3,700 crore.
- **Significance:** The project is in line with the government's efforts to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities, reduce dependence on imports, and build a robust global supply chain.
- The project is expected to enhance domestic chip production capacity, generate employment, and attract supporting industries to the electronics ecosystem.

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