

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 11 February, 2026



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'Siliserh Lake Model' for Wetland Conservation and Management



Why in News?

- Recently, WWF India, the knowledge partner organization of the Rajasthan Wetland Authority, prepared a draft integrated management plan for Siliserh Lake (Alwar).





Key Points:

- It is worth noting that Siliserh Lake, located in Alwar district, was declared the 5th Ramsar site in Rajasthan and the 96th in India in December 2025.
- Under this plan prepared by WWF India, Siliserh Lake will be developed as a model for wetland conservation and management. Following this, the State Wetland Authority will develop at least one wetland in each district of Rajasthan in a phased manner.
- WWF India's plan provides detailed information on the lake's geographical location, catchment area, water flow system, water quality, climate data, wetland health, biodiversity, and future action plan.

About Siliserh Lake:

- **Location:** Located in the buffer zone of the Sariska Tiger Reserve in the Aravalli mountain range. This lake is vital for the region's water security, biodiversity, and local livelihoods.
- **Construction:** Created in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh of Alwar by building a dam across a tributary of the Ruparel River.
- **Other names:** Nandan Kanan of Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Ranks First in Implementation of the PM-Setu Scheme

Why in News?

- According to data up to February 2026, Rajasthan has ranked first in the country in the implementation of the PM-Setu Scheme.



PM SETU
PRADHAN MANTRI SKILLING AND
EMPLOYABILITY TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH UPGRADED ITIs

Key Points:

- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to achieve all the 'Green Indicators' related to the scheme on the dashboard of the Union Ministry of Skill Development.
- The main objective of this scheme is to transform Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into modern and industry-friendly institutions through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. In this context, the Rajasthan government issued a tender on February 7, 2026, implementing provisions such as a 10-year contract period, minimum capital investment, and results-based training.

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- In the first phase of the PM-Setu Scheme, the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) located in Bharatpur is being developed as a hub.
- Additionally, ITI Dholpur, ITI Karauli, ITI Kaman, and ITI Bayana are proposed to be upgraded as spoke institutions.
- It is noteworthy that the Rajasthan government submitted proposals for two proposed industry clusters under the pilot phase of the PM-Setu scheme. Cluster 1 includes Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli, Kaman (Deeg), and Bayana within the Bharatpur region.
- Under the PM-Setu scheme, each hub will be connected to an average of four spoke institutions, equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, modern machinery, digital learning systems, and advanced trades.

Other important points:

PM-Setu scheme:

- **Launch:** October 4, 2025, from Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- **Full name:** Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- **Financial outlay:** ₹60,000 crore
- **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- **Objective:** Under this scheme, 1,000 government ITIs across the country will be modernized, organized into 200 hub and 800 spoke models.
- **Concerned Ministry:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Components of the Scheme:

- **Component I** – Upgradation of 1,000 government ITIs (200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs) in a hub and spoke model, including smart classrooms, modern laboratories, digital content, and new curricula aligned with industry needs.

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- **Component II** – Capacity enhancement of NSTIs located in Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Ludhiana, including setting up sector-specific National Centers of Excellence for Skilling with a focus on advanced training of trainers with global partnerships.

Facts for Prelims:

- **Rajasthan Skill Development Policy-2025:** On March 9, 2025, the Rajasthan Cabinet approved the Rajasthan Skill Development Policy-2025 with the aim of promoting youth skill development and employment generation in the state.
- **Rajasthan Employment Policy-2026:** The Chief Minister released the Rajasthan Employment Policy-2026 in Jaipur during the State-Level Youth Festival (January 12, 2026). Under this policy, 1.5 million employment opportunities will be created by March 2029, through a multi-pronged strategy focused on employment and entrepreneurship.

Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana:

- **Launched:** On January 12, 2026, by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- Under this scheme, 1 lakh youth will be prepared as micro-entrepreneurs by providing interest-free loans.
- **Eligibility:** Must be a permanent resident of Rajasthan and between 18 and 45 years of age.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>World's First Ayurvedic Excellence Center: Jaipur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Prataprao Jadhav inaugurated the world's first Ayurvedic Excellence Center on the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) campus in Jaipur on February 9, 2026, during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the institute.Dhanvantari Upvan, a medicinal plant garden, was also inaugurated.This Center of Excellence will create a data bank of medicinal plants through DNA barcoding, genome sequencing, and quality testing.
2.	<p>11th Marwar Horse Show: Jodhpur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Organized by: Maharaja Gaj Singh Sports Foundation (MGSF) Polo Ground (Pabupura), Jodhpur.Organized by: All India Marwari Horse Society and Marwari Horse Book Registration Society of India.Duration: February 7 and 8, 2026.Main objective: To conserve the Marwari breed of horses and bring them international recognition.
3.	<p>Exercise Rudra Shakti – 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Venue: Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer.Organizer: Rudra Brigade (Southern Command, Pune).'Exercise Rudra Shakti 2026' was an all-arms exercise, the main objective of which was to test modern technologies for future warfare.This exercise was conducted as a follow-up to 'Exercise Akhand Prahar'.

4.

Solar Physics International Conference - Udaipur

- The Solar Physics International Conference was organized on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Udaipur Solar Observatory (USO).
- **Theme:** 'Exploring the Sun at High-Resolution: Present Perspectives and Future Horizons'
- **Event period:** February 10 to 13, 2026.

5.

Arundhati Chaudhary - Gold Medal at Bosco Cup

- Kota-based boxer Arundhati Chaudhary won the gold medal at the Bosco Cup International Boxing Championship held in Alicante, Spain.
- Arundhati Chaudhary defeated Ukrainian boxer Taran Anastasia 5-0 in the final.
- This competition was held from February 2 to 7, 2026.
- Earlier, Arundhati Chaudhary had also won the gold medal at the 9th National Boxing Championship held in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh) from January 4 to 10, 2026.

6.

MoU between IIT Jodhpur and SLIET Longowal

- Recently, the Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology (SLIET), Longowal to strengthen academic collaboration, promote research cooperation, and provide advanced research opportunities for students.
- This agreement will promote collaboration in academic excellence and research innovation between IIT Jodhpur and SLIET Longowal.

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7.

Singer Shahzad Ali: Youth Icon Award

- Bikaner resident singer Shahzad Ali was honored with the 'Youth Icon Award' at the recently held Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF) - 2026.
- The award was presented to him at the Mehrangarh Fort during the 12th edition of the Rajasthan International Film Festival (RIFF).

8.

'Eat Right School Program' in Rajasthan

- The Eat Right School Program in Rajasthan is being implemented by the State Medical and Health Department (Food Safety Commissionerate) under the guidance of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- **Main objective:** To create awareness among school children about food safety, nutrition, and hygiene, so that they can develop healthy and safe eating habits.
- This initiative is being implemented under the state government's 'Niramya Rajasthan' campaign, which aims to cover approximately 10,000 schools in the state.
- Schools are assessed and certified based on the 'Eat Right Matrix' developed by FSSAI.

9.

Vedanta Udaipur World Music Festival - 2026

- **Event:** Lake Pichola, Udaipur, from February 6 to 8, 2026.
- **Theme:** 'Music Without Borders'.
- **Edition:** 10th.
- **Organizers:** Seher, Rajasthan Tourism Department, and Hindustan Zinc.

10.

Kanota, Chandlai, and Nevta Dams in the News

- The Rajasthan government is conducting a detailed scientific study to decontaminate the Kanota, Chandlai, and Nevta dams and develop them as eco-tourism destinations.
- These three dams are located in Jaipur district.

11.

The country's first international-level lacrosse ground

- The country's first international-level lacrosse ground has been built in Maharana Pratap Khelgaon, Udaipur.
- The state's first lacrosse academy has also been established in Udaipur.





Bastar Pandum Festival



Why in News?

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of Chhattisgarh for organizing the 'Bastar Pandum' festival.



Key Points:

About the Festival

- Bastar Pandum is a cultural festival celebrated in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, showcasing tribal heritage and cultural traditions.
- Held from February 7 to 9, the festival has emerged as a major cultural platform showcasing the tribal identity of Bastar through art, music, dance, handicrafts, and indigenous cuisine.

🎓 Indian Governance and State System 🎓

Suspension of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha: Constitutional Procedure and Articles

📣 Why in News?

- Opposition parties (INDIA alliance) are considering a no-confidence motion/suspension motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, alleging that he has engaged in partisan conduct, denied MPs the opportunity to speak, suspended MPs, and ignored complaints against certain members.

📌 Key Points:

Relevant Constitutional Articles

- **Article 93:** The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha are elected by the House.
- **Article 94:** This provides for the following:
 - Resignation of office
 - Resignation
 - Suspension by passing a resolution by the Lok Sabha (majority of the total membership of the Lok Sabha required)
 - 14 days' notice is mandatory before presenting the motion.

Procedure for Suspension of the Speaker

- Written notice (at least 14 days in advance) is submitted to the Secretary-General.
- The motion is listed for discussion and voting.
- The motion must be passed by a majority of the total membership of the Lok Sabha.

- The Deputy Speaker or another member presides over the House during this process.
- When a suspension motion is being considered, the Speaker will not preside.

Reasons for Controversy

- Allegations of benefiting the ruling party
- Party interests overshadow national interests
- Bills are not referred to committees
- Sometimes bills are labeled "money bills" to secure passage in the Upper House. For example, electoral bonds were passed as a money bill.
- Abuse of Powers under the Tenth Schedule
- The Speaker is usually selected from the ruling party, raising questions about their independence from party influence.

Related Supreme Court Decisions

Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachilihu (1992)

- Citing incidents of partisanship, the Supreme Court has asked Parliament to consider reconsidering the Speaker's powers.
- It has suggested independent tribunals to decide on disqualifications.

Nabam Rebia vs. Bemang Felix (2016)

- The Supreme Court held that it is "constitutionally impermissible" to proceed with disqualification proceedings against a Speaker while a no-confidence motion is pending against him.

Kaisham Meghchandra Singh vs. Hon'ble Speaker of Manipur (2020)

- The Supreme Court recommended amending the Constitution to create an independent tribunal headed by judges to handle such cases.

With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements :

While any resolution for the **removal of the Speaker** of the Lok Sabha is under consideration

1. He/She shall not preside.
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak.
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Sociology

Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1976: 50 Years of Legislation

Why in News?

- The enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act on February 9, 1976, marked an important milestone towards equality in India.



Key Points:

Additional Information

- Bonded labour is defined as a situation where money is lent in such a way that the debtor is forced to repay it through labor rather than money.
- The Bonded Labour Abolition Act 1976, was enacted to give effect to Article 23 of the Constitution (Prohibition of Human Trafficking and Forced Labour).
- The practice of bonded labour was deeply entrenched due to poverty, caste discrimination, landlessness, and debt.
- India ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 29 (Forced Labour) in 1954, strengthening legal obligations.

INTERNATIONAL

India and Seychelles: Joint Vision Announced

Why in News?

- The President of Seychelles visited India to mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Key Points:

- India and Seychelles announced a joint vision for 'sustainable development, economic growth, and security' through enhanced engagement.



Key Outcomes

- **Special Economic Package:** India announced a package totaling US\$175 million for development projects, capacity building, and maritime security.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Seychelles will become a full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC).
- The CSC is a regional security grouping. It includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Maldives, and Bangladesh.
- Its objective is to promote regional security by addressing common challenges and threats among member countries.
- **Disaster Resilience:** Seychelles agreed to join the 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' (CDRI).
- **Health:** Seychelles will recognize the Indian Pharmacopoeia (medicine standards book) to purchase affordable and quality medicines.
- **Digital Transformation:** India agreed to make extensive efforts to build Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in Seychelles.
- **Maritime Cooperation:** Seychelles will establish a Hydrographic Unit with Indian assistance.

Seychelles' Importance to India

- **Ocean and Sea Vision:** Seychelles is a central pillar of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and the recently announced Vision SAGAR (Mutual and Inclusive Advancement for Security and Development in the Region).
- **Geostrategic:** Its location near important maritime trade routes facilitates surveillance of major shipping routes (such as the Mozambique Channel).
- **Example:** India's efforts to develop Assumption Island to enhance surveillance.
- **Countering China's expansion:** India has deployed a 'Coastal Surveillance Radar System' in Seychelles.
- **UNSC candidacy:** Seychelles supports India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council.
- **Defense cooperation:** Example: Conducting the joint maritime exercise 'LAMITYE'.



INDEXES AND REPORTS

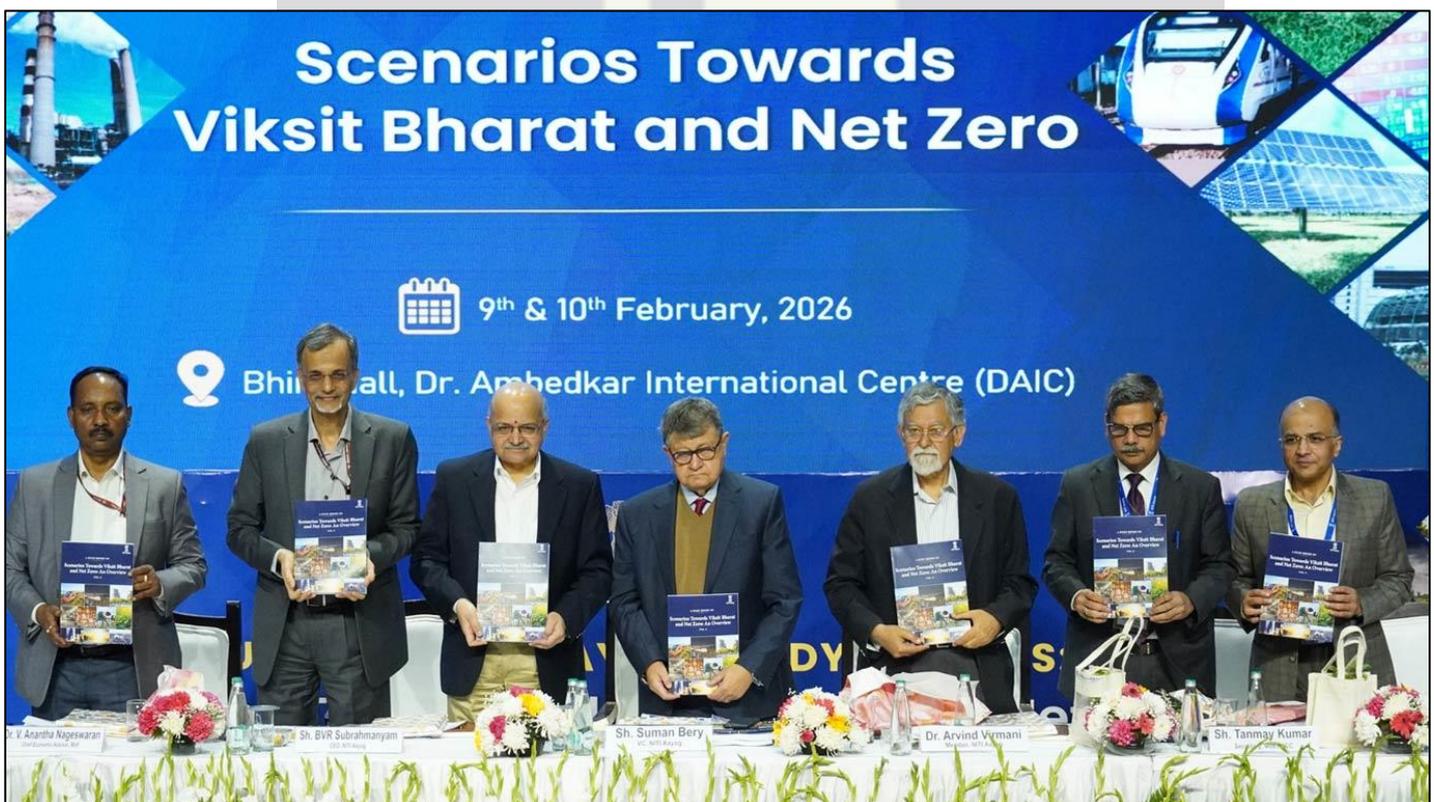


Developed India and Net Zero: NITI Aayog Reports



Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has released three study reports on scenarios for a developed India and Net Zero.



Key Points:

- These reports focus on an overall roadmap, macroeconomic implications, and financing requirements.
- **Developed India 2047:** The goal is to make India a developed nation and a US\$30 trillion economy by 2047.
- **Net Zero Emissions Target:** India has committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.

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Key Economic Implications

Lower Impact on GDP and Higher Investment Requirement

- **Moving to Investment-Led Growth:** Pursuing the Net Zero target will structurally rebalance the economy from 'consumption-led' growth to 'capital-intensive' growth.
- **Industrial Expansion:** Industrial GVA (Gross Value Added) is projected to grow to about 33% by 2050, driven by clean energy and manufacturing.
- Fossil fuel-based manufacturing is projected to decline.
- **Employment Reallocation:** Jobs will shift from fossil fuel sectors to renewable energy, construction, transportation, and clean manufacturing.
- **Reduction in Import Dependence:** The fuel import bill, which currently accounts for 4% of GDP, is projected to decline to 0.2% by 2070.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES