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English Medium

16
Feb
2026

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Current Affairs Related to 16 February 2026

- ◆ **India will participate in the 61st International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, held in Venice, Italy on 14 May 2026.** The Ministry of Culture has confirmed India's participation in the exhibition. After a gap of seven years, India's National Pavilion is returning to the Venice Biennale. The pavilion will present a group exhibition titled "Geography of Distance, Memories of Home." Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat described the return of India's National Pavilion as a proud moment.
- ◆ **In the Union Budget 2026-2027, two projects have been launched for the empowerment of persons with disabilities.** These schemes aim to increase access to assistive technologies and skill development for persons with disabilities. Under the Divyangjan Kaushal Yojana, industry-relevant training will be provided to persons with disabilities. This training will be provided in areas such as information technology, animation, visual effects, gaming and comics, hospitality, and food and beverage services. Its objective is to provide dignified and sustainable livelihood opportunities to persons with disabilities.
- ◆ **Three chemical parks have been proposed to promote domestic production.** The objective of this proposal is to reduce import dependence and increase competitiveness in the chemical and petrochemical sectors. Provisions have been made for carbon capture utilization and storage technologies in five industrial sectors, including chemicals. An allocation of 20,000 crore over five years has been proposed to support the adoption of CCUS technology. CCUS is described as a method of reducing carbon emissions by storing or reusing carbon dioxide.
- ◆ **Seven high-speed rail corridors have been announced in the Union Budget 2026-2027.** Budgetary support of 2.78 lakh crore has been announced for the railway sector. The budget set a total capital expenditure of 2.93 lakh crore for railways. 1.20 lakh crore was allocated for passenger services and rail safety. The development of seven high-speed rail corridors on major routes across the country was announced. These corridors include Mumbai-Pune, Hyderabad-Hyderabad, Hyderabad-Bengaluru, Hyderabad-Chennai, Chennai-Bengaluru, Delhi-Varanasi, and Varanasi-Siliguri. The total length of these corridors is estimated to be approximately 4,000 kilometers.
- ◆ **He announced the successful construction of the second mountain tunnel of the Maharashtra High Speed Rail Project.** This achievement marks a significant milestone for India's first high-speed bullet train corridor connecting Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The tunnel is 454 meters long and 14.4 meters wide, allowing rail tracks to be laid both above and below the tunnel. It is reported that the construction of the second tunnel was completed within a month of the completion of the first tunnel, which was completed earlier this year.
- ◆ **278 crore has been allocated for Railways in the Union Budget 2026-2027.** The Minister shared details of the budget's state-wise allocations. 11,486 crore has been allocated to Assam and the North-Eastern states. 14,000 crore has been allocated to West Bengal. Maharashtra will receive approximately 24,000 crore. 20,000 crore has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh and 2,711 crore to Delhi under the Railway Budget. Tamil Nadu has received the largest allocation for Railways so far, at 7,611 crore.
- ◆ **Over 1.18 lakh birds have been rescued across the state under the Gujarat State's Karuna Abhiyan in the last ten years.** The Karuna Abhiyan was launched in 2017. Since its inception, over 1.29 lakh injured birds have received medical treatment. An overall recovery rate of over 92 percent has been achieved. Forest and Environment Minister Arjun Modhwadia said that better coordination has improved rescue operations. He also highlighted better medical facilities for injured birds.
- ◆ **India has begun preparations for the BRICS Summit 2026.** As part of this, the official logo and dedicated website of BRICS 2026 have been launched. This is the first time that global opportunities are being raised. It reflects India's vision of a people-to-people, inclusive, and collaborative educational level. It aims to strengthen cooperation among emerging economies and advance shared development goals. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched the official logo and website for BRICS Summit 2026.

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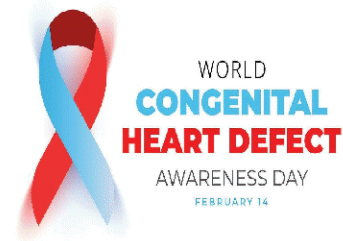
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National & International Current Affairs

1. When is World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 9 February (B) 11 February
(C) 13 February (D) 14 February

(D) World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day is celebrated on February 14. Its purpose is to raise awareness about the disease and reduce the number of cases. Congenital heart disease is a broad term for a variety of birth defects that impair the heart's ability to function normally.



2. Which country is hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics?

- (A) France (B) Italy
(C) Germany (D) Japan

(B) The 2026 Winter Olympics are being held from February 6 to 22. They span an area of more than 22,000 square kilometers in northern Italy. This is the Winter Olympics with the largest geographical scope ever. Its two main centers are Milano and Cortina d'Ampezzo, and there will be three subcenters in Valtellina, Val di Fiemme, and Verona.



3. Which state recently launched auto-mutation to digitize and expedite the land ownership process?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Odisha
(C) Rajasthan (D) Kerala

(A) The Karnataka government recently launched an automated property mutation system to expedite land transactions, bring transparency, and reduce corruption. This technology directly links property registrations at sub-registrar offices to revenue records, allowing for automatic mutations immediately after registration.



4. Which bank recently launched unsecured rooftop solar loans for small and medium enterprises?

- (A) ICICI Bank (B) HDFC Bank
(C) Axis Bank (D) None of these

(C) Axis Bank recently launched unsecured loans to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in adopting rooftop solar energy. Under this program, SMEs can avail unsecured loans ranging from 10 lakh to 2 crore, with a flexible repayment period of 4 to 7 years.



5. Which state's police recently launched Operation Shastra to curb the growing misuse of social media?

- (A) Delhi (B) Goa
(C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Odisha

(A) According to Delhi Police, social media is increasingly being used to project criminal power and instill fear among the public. Joint Commissioner of Police, Southern Range, S.K. Jain, said that special attention is being paid to those who attempt to establish dominance or intimidate rivals through online posts.



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6. Who recently took over as Managing Director of IIFCL?

- (A) Praveen Vashishtha (B) Rohit Garg
(C) Rohit Rishi (D) None of these
(C) Recently, state-owned India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited announced that Rohit Rishi has assumed the position of Managing Director of the company. Before taking charge of the company, he served as Executive Director at Bank of Maharashtra. In a statement, IIFCL said that Rishi brings with him over three decades of experience in the banking and financial services sector.



7. After Kerala, which coastal state recently launched India's second comprehensive bird atlas?

- (A) Gujarat (B) Goa
(C) Kerala (D) Karnataka
(B) Recently, the state of Goa released the Goa Bird Atlas, becoming the second state in India after Kerala to do so. This atlas was launched during a major bird festival, reflecting Goa's growing focus on scientific documentation, citizen participation, and wildlife conservation.



8. Which district recently became the first fully insured district in the country?

- (A) Alwar (B) Surat
(C) Jaipur (D) Patna
(A) In a significant achievement, Alwar recently became the first district in the country to achieve 100% insurance coverage under the Central Government's Insurance for All by 2047 scheme. This achievement is in line with the vision of a safe and secure India, an insured India, at the grassroots level. This scheme is a joint initiative of the Government of India and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance.



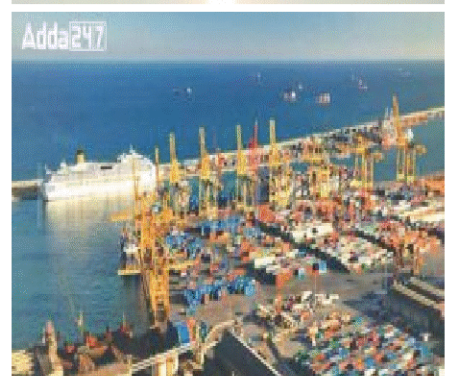
9. Where did India recently successfully test-fire the Agni-III missile?

- (A) Rajasthan (B) Maharashtra
(C) Odisha (D) Andhra Pradesh
(C) India recently successfully test-fired the Agni-III medium-range ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha. The test was conducted as part of a routine training exercise. According to defense officials, the missile successfully accomplished all mission objectives and validated key technical and operational parameters.



10. Which port in South India recently became the first to use India's first anti-drone system?

- (A) Kochi Port (B) V.O. Chidambaranar Port
(C) Visakhapatnam Port (D) None of these
(B) India has taken a major step towards strengthening port and coastal security. V.O. The Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first port in the country to deploy an advanced anti-drone system. This initiative aims to ensure the safety of critical port infrastructure and operations in light of the growing security threats from drones.



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