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English Medium

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2026

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Current Affairs Related to 9 February 2026

- ◆ **The Reserve Bank of India has advanced its scheduled open market operation purchases.** The central bank will now inject ₹1 lakh crore of liquidity into the system through the purchase of government securities to stabilize liquidity conditions and calm negative sentiment in the bond market. The RBI has revised the timings of its OMO purchases of government securities. This decision was taken after liquidity in the banking system fell rapidly below the normal level and bond yields reached an 11-month high.
- ◆ **Indian Railways has taken a significant step in the direction of railway modernization.** An AI-powered robot named AACC Arjun has been deployed at Visakhapatnam Railway Station. It has been developed with the aim of strengthening security and passenger services. This robot, through artificial intelligence, automation, and indigenous innovation, aims to develop secure public infrastructure, reflecting Indian Railways' increasing focus on technology. The deployment of AACC Arjun is a significant milestone for the Indian Railways network. Its purpose is to assist in security, surveillance, and crowd management.
- ◆ **As the central parliamentary session is underway, all eyes are on the Economic Survey 2026,** a crucial document that shapes India's economic direction. Considered the report card of the Indian economy, it is of immense importance to policymakers, students, universities, and everyone interested in the country's economic health. In this article, we discuss what the Economic Survey is, when it is released, and how it differs from the Union Budget. The Economic Survey is an annual document prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance under the supervision of the Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India.
- ◆ **K. Pazhanivel has been awarded the Padma Shri for his contribution** to traditional martial arts. He is a prominent Silambam artist from Puducherry. This award recognizes his role in the preservation and promotion of Silambam. He began his training in Silambam under the guidance of Master Rajaram. He has worked to popularize Silambam in India. He is known as a skilled practitioner and dedicated teacher.
- ◆ **The Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards for 2025** has been approved by the President of India.
- ◆ **Indian researchers at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials** have developed a new high-voltage supercapacitor. This supercapacitor uses porous graphene carbon nanocomposite electrodes. It operates at 3.4 volts, which is significantly higher than the typical 2.5-3.0 volt range of commercial supercapacitors. The electrode material has been made water-resistant and is highly compatible with organic electrolytes. This reduces electrolyte degradation at high voltages, and the porous structure allows for rapid electrolyte penetration.
- ◆ **Nagaland's first drone school and drone excellence center was inaugurated at the Nagaland GIS and Remote Sensing Centre in Kohima.** The facility was formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day celebrations. This state-of-the-art initiative has been developed under the State GIS and Remote Sensing Centre of the Planning and Transformation Department. The drone school has been established to equip young people with advanced drone technology skills and promote innovation-based employment.
- ◆ **The RBI and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) have signed** a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU relates to cooperation and exchange of information concerning central counterparties regulated and supervised by the RBI. This MoU provides a framework for ESMA to rely on the RBI's regulatory and supervisory activities while safeguarding the financial stability of the European Union. This MoU highlights the importance of cross-border regulatory cooperation for the smooth functioning of international clearing activities.
- ◆ **India and Canada signed a joint statement on energy cooperation. This signing took place** during Energy Week 2026 held in Goa. This agreement strengthens bilateral cooperation in the energy sector and encompasses both conventional and clean energy sources. The statement was issued after a meeting between India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, and Canada's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Timothy Hodgson. The meeting also marked the revival of the India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue.

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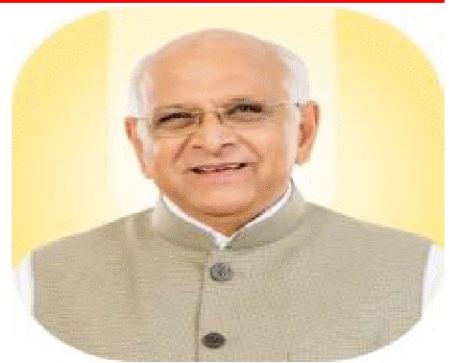
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National & International Current Affairs

1. Recently, under the Namo Lakshmi Yojana, how many crores of financial assistance has been announced for education in Gujarat?

(A) 780 crore (B) 1050 crore
(C) 1250 crore (D) 1530 crore

(C) Education in Gujarat has received a major boost, as the state government has announced massive financial assistance for adolescents. The aim is to ensure that no student's education is hampered after primary education due to economic reasons. The Namo Lakshmi Yojana is a state scheme aimed at supporting secondary and higher secondary education.



2. Recently, which state has been declared by the central government as the first state to achieve complete digital data entry under the Digital Census 2027?

(A) Gujarat (B) Rajasthan
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Kerala

(A) Gujarat has recently been recognized for a significant achievement in its preparations for the upcoming digital census. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the Gujarat Census.gov.in portal and the new digital census process in November 2025, making Gujarat a leading state in this direction.



3. Recently, in which state was the foundation stone laid for the Matabari Tourism Circuit costing Rs. 450 crore?

(A) Assam (B) Manipur
(C) Tripura (D) None of these

(C) Recently, Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya Scindia, laid the foundation stone for the Matabari Tourism Circuit, costing Rs. 450 crore, at Narikel Kunja in Dhalai district of Tripura. Under the project, five tourist destinations – Maa Tripura Sundari Temple and Chhabimura in Gomati district, Neermahal and Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary in Sepahijala district, and Dambur in Dhalai district – will receive a major facelift.



4. Which IIT recently developed a technique to track glacier hazards in the Eastern Himalayas?

(A) IIT Delhi (B) IIT Guwahati
(C) IIT Mumbai (D) IIT Madras

(B) Recently, researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati have developed a new method for predicting glacial hazards in the vulnerable Eastern Himalayan region. This study has identified hundreds of locations where glacial lakes could form in the future.



5. Which state recently officially declared Bacillus subtilis as its state microorganism?

(A) Karnataka (B) Bihar
(C) Maharashtra (D) Kerala

(D) Recently, Kerala became the first state in India to officially declare Bacillus subtilis as its state microorganism. This is a beneficial bacterium found in soil, fermented foods, and the human gut. This move aims to promote biodiversity conservation, biotechnology research, and educate students about the importance of microbiology.



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6. Which country recently passed a bill banning social media for children under 15 years of age?

- (A) France (B) Italy
(C) Malaysia (D) None of the above

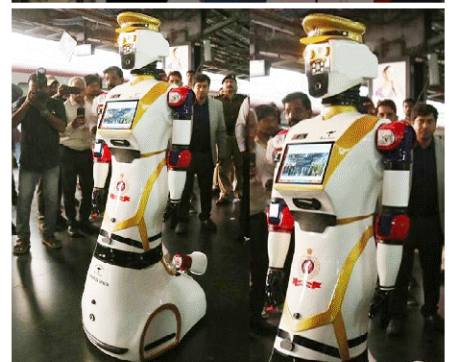
(A) Recently, after a social media ban in Australia, France is also fully prepared to impose a ban on it. India, which is the largest data generator and market for global tech giants, is now preparing to take strict legislative steps in view of the digital health of its youth and national security.



7. Where has Indian Railways recently deployed its first humanoid robot, ASC Arjun?

- (A) Gorakhpur (B) New Delhi
(C) Visakhapatnam (D) Varanasi

(C) Recently, to improve passenger safety and service delivery, Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named ASC Arjun at Visakhapatnam railway station. This deployment is the first of its kind on the Indian Railways network. It reflects the organization's commitment to adopting new and emerging technologies for public convenience and safety.



8. In which state have Neolithic artifacts recently been discovered?

- (A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Karnataka
(C) Andhra Pradesh (D) Punjab

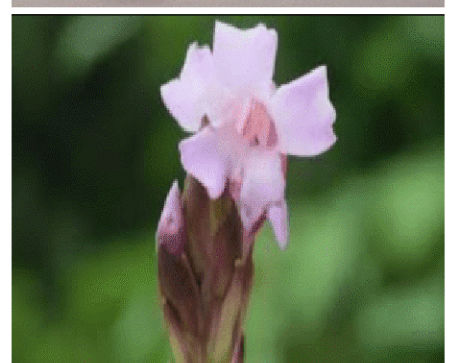
(B) Recently, Neolithic artifacts have been found in Lakkundi, Karnataka, which has strengthened the demand to make it a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The excavation is being carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India at the Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple complex. Lakkundi has historically been important under the Chalukya, Yadava, and Hoysala kings.



9. A new species of flowering plant, Strobilanthes, was recently discovered in which state?

- (A) Arunachal Pradesh (B) Odisha
(C) Kerala (D) West Bengal

(A) A new species of flowering plant has recently been formally documented from Arunachal Pradesh, further strengthening the Himalayan state's position as one of India's richest biodiversity hotspots. This discovery highlights the continued importance of systematic botanical exploration in remote and ecologically sensitive terrains that have not yet been adequately studied.



10. UNESCO recently provided \$740,000 in aid to which country to protect its heritage and education?

- (A) Venezuela (B) Ukraine
(C) Vietnam (D) None of the above

(C) UNESCO recently announced an emergency aid package to protect cultural heritage and ensure the continuation of education in parts of Vietnam severely affected by the storms that struck last November. This emergency aid package is worth approximately \$740,000.



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