

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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World Interfaith Harmony Week 2026

- World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) 2026 is being observed from 1 to 7 February 2026 across the world. The observance is led by the United Nations (UN) and aims to promote peace, tolerance, non-violence, and mutual understanding among people of different religions and beliefs.
- World Interfaith Harmony Week is rooted in the **“A Common Word”** initiative, launched in 2007.
- The proposal for World Interfaith Harmony Week was presented at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 23 September 2010.
- The proposal was made by:
 - Abdullah II, King of Jordan
 - Ghazi bin Muhammad, Prince of Jordan
- World Interfaith Harmony Week 2026 continues to stress that religious harmony is essential for global peace. It reminds societies that differences in belief should not lead to conflict, but rather encourage understanding and cooperation.



Port Named Cleanest Port of the Year

- For an India's cleanliness and sustainability drive, Paradip Port Authority has emerged as the cleanest-performing major port, winning the First Prize at the **Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025**.
- Paradip Port Authority has emerged as India's cleanest-performing major port, earning the First Prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025.
- This recognition reflects sustained efforts in sanitation, environmental management, and inclusive participation rather than one-time cleanliness drives.
- Swachhata Pakhwada is a flagship cleanliness campaign under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, focusing on behavioural change, waste management and community involvement.
- Ports and maritime institutions are evaluated on citizen engagement, green practices and Safai Mitra welfare.



Bhutan Queen Mother Honoured

- In a significant recognition of humanitarian leadership and cross-border goodwill, **Gyalum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck**, the Queen Mother of Bhutan, was honoured with the 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma '**Soldier of Humanity**' Award 2025.
- The event was attended by Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam. The award recognises her lifelong humanitarian service and compassionate

leadership, especially through her work in social development and cultural preservation.

- The Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award was instituted in 2004 by the Upendra Nath Brahma Trust. The award is named after Upendra Nath Brahma, popularly known as Bodofa, a revered Bodo leader and social reformer.
- Under her leadership, the foundation has played a major role in:
- Rural development
- Women's empowerment
- Education and healthcare initiatives
- Preservation of Bhutan's cultural heritage



IOC Elects First Female Member from Iran

- In a historic development for global sports governance, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has elected its first-ever female member from Iran.
- Iranian badminton player Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha was elected on 4 February 2026 during the 145th IOC Session held in Milan, Italy. With this election, she also became the youngest current member of the IOC.
- The International Olympic Committee is the supreme authority of the Olympic Movement. It is responsible for organising the Olympic Games, promoting Olympic values, and overseeing global sports governance.

- Iran has had limited representation in the IOC. Soraya Aghaei becomes only the third Iranian member in IOC history and the first since 2004, highlighting the rarity and importance of her election.
- Soraya Aghaei was elected as the 107th member of the IOC through a decisive 95–2 vote. She took her oath during the IOC session held ahead of the 2026 Winter Olympics. Her election was formally confirmed in the presence of senior IOC officials and international delegates.



2026 Winter Olympics

- The 2026 Winter Olympics are one of the biggest global sports events. Officially called the Milano Cortina 2026, the Games will be held in Italy. This event is very important for competitive exams, sports GK, and current affairs.
- The 2026 Winter Olympics will be held in Italy.
- Italy is hosting the Winter Olympics for the third time:
 - Cortina d'Ampezzo – 1956
 - Turin – 2006
- The 2026 Games will follow a multi-city model. Events will be held in:
 - Milan
 - Cortina d'Ampezzo
 - Bormio
 - Val di Fiemme

Topic	Details
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Event Name	Winter Olympics 2026
Official Name	Milano Cortina 2026
Host Country	Italy
Host Cities	Milan, Cortina, Bormio
Dates	6–22 February 2026
Edition	25th Winter Olympics



71 Years of NSIC

- The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) marked an important milestone as it completed 71 years of service to the nation. The 71st Foundation Day celebrations were held on 4 February 2026 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- NSIC is a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of MSME. Since its establishment, NSIC has worked as a key support institution for micro, small, and medium enterprises across the country.
- Its main objective has been to promote, aid, and foster MSMEs by providing support in areas such as credit facilitation, marketing assistance, technology support, skill development, and digital integration.

- The 71st Foundation Day was not only a celebration of NSIC's legacy but also a platform to reflect on the future roadmap for MSMEs. The event reinforced the government's focus on MSMEs as key drivers of:
- Economic growth
- Job creation
- Innovation and industrial expansion



Amit Shah Launches Bharat Taxi

- Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah launched Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform, on 5 February 2026 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The launch marks a major step in strengthening the cooperative sector and promoting inclusive and citizen-centric mobility solutions in India. The initiative aligns with the Government of India's vision of Sahkar se Samriddhi, which focuses on prosperity through cooperation.
- Bharat Taxi is registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and was formally established on 6 June 2025. It is designed as an indigenous alternative to foreign investment-based ride-hailing platforms, with a strong focus on fairness, transparency, and shared prosperity.
- Women empowerment is another key focus area. Under the "**Bike Didi**" initiative, more than 150 women drivers have already joined Bharat Taxi, helping promote gender inclusion in the mobility sector.



Walmart Becomes to Reach USD 1 Trillion Market Value

- In a historic milestone for the global retail industry, Walmart Inc. became the world's first retail company to achieve a market capitalisation of USD 1 trillion in January 2026.
- The development is significant as it highlights how traditional retail companies can leverage technology, scale, and innovation to compete with global technology giants in market value.
- Walmart's stock performance has been a major driver of its rising market value.
- Shares increased by nearly 26% over the last 12 months.
- Over the past 10 years, Walmart's stock has surged by around 468%.
- This performance significantly outpaced the S&P 500, which gained about 264% during the same decade.



US Congress Approves \$200 Million Security Aid for Baltic States

- The United States Congress has approved a USD 200 million security assistance package for the Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—as concerns grow over increased Russian military activity along NATO’s eastern flank.
- The funding, cleared under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Defence Appropriations Act, reinforces Washington’s commitment to NATO allies in Eastern Europe and strengthens regional deterrence at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions.
- The legislation was signed into law on 3 February 2026 by Donald Trump, ensuring continued support for the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI) despite earlier internal discussions within the Pentagon about discontinuing the programme.
- The USD 200 million allocation forms part of the USD 838.7 billion US defence budget for FY2026. The funding ensures continuity of the Baltic Security Initiative, a programme aimed at:
 - Enhancing military preparedness
 - Improving interoperability with NATO forces
 - Supporting defence modernisation in the Baltic region



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Interfaith Harmony Week 2026 is observed during which dates?

- A. 24–30 January
- B. 1–7 February
- C. 5–11 February
- D. 10–16 February

Answer: B

2. The proposal for observing World Interfaith Harmony Week was presented at which UN body?

- A. UN Security Council
- B. UN Human Rights Council
- C. UN General Assembly
- D. UN Economic and Social Council

Answer: C

3. Paradip Port Authority won the Swachhata Pakhwada Award 2025 for which achievement?

- A. Highest cargo handling
- B. Green energy adoption

- C. Cleanest-performing major port
- D. Best port connectivity

Answer: C

4. The Swachhata Pakhwada campaign is associated with which national mission?

- A. Make in India
- B. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- C. Digital India
- D. Jal Jeevan Mission

Answer: B

5. Who was honoured with the 22nd Upendra Nath Brahma 'Soldier of Humanity' Award 2025?

- A. Ashi Jetsun Pema
- B. Dorji Wangchuck
- C. Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck
- D. Sangay Dorji

Answer: C

6. Soraya Aghaei Hajiagha made history by becoming the first female IOC member from which country?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Iran
- C. Qatar
- D. Afghanistan

Answer: B

7. The 2026 Winter Olympics will be hosted by which country?

- A. France
- B. Switzerland
- C. Italy
- D. Austria

Answer: C

8. The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) functions under which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Skill Development
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. Ministry of Finance

Answer: C

9. Bharat Taxi, launched in February 2026, is registered under which Act?

- A. Companies Act, 2013
- B. Motor Vehicles Act, 1988
- C. Cooperative Societies Act, 1912
- D. Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002

Answer: D

10. The USD 200 million security aid approved by the US Congress in 2026 is meant for which group of countries?

- A. Nordic countries
- B. Balkan states
- C. Baltic states
- D. Black Sea nations

Answer: C