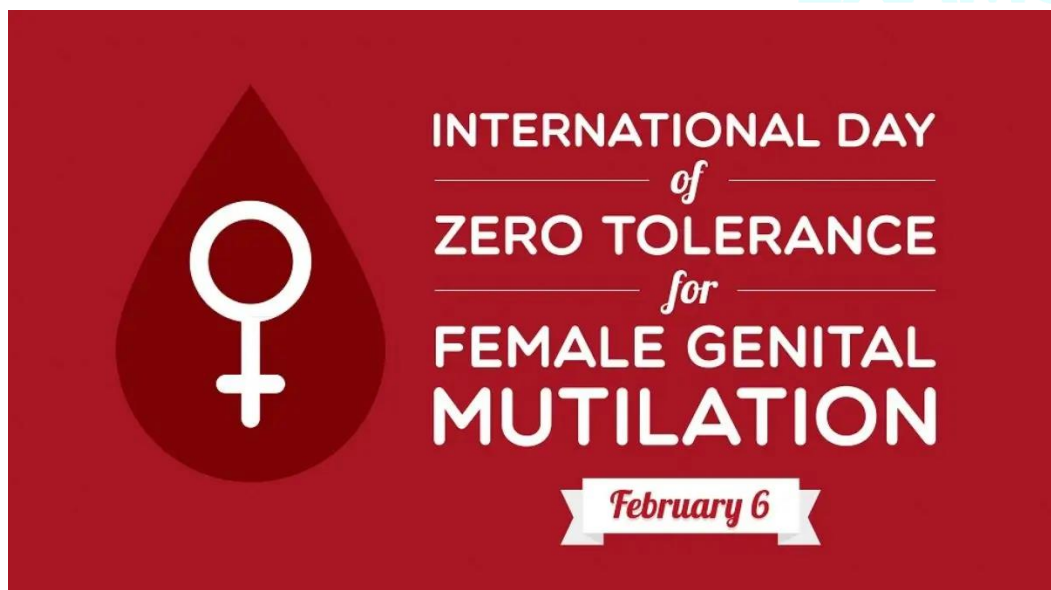


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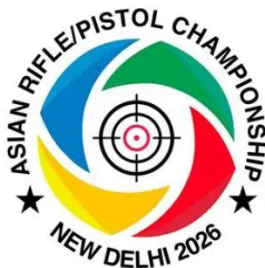
International Day of Zero Tolerance

- On 6 February 2026, the world observes the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), renewing the global pledge to end one of the most harmful practices against women and girls.
- Female Genital Mutilation refers to procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
- It is internationally recognised as a serious human rights violation affecting girls and women.
- FGM has no health benefits and can cause lifelong physical, psychological and social harm.
- The 2026 theme **“Towards 2030: No End To FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment”** highlights a clear message.



Asian Shooting Championships 2026

- India's shooting stars are once again making headlines. At the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 in New Delhi, reigning world champion Samrat Rana and World Cup finalist Suruchi Singh clinched a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.
- The mixed team silver by Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh underlined India's depth in pistol shooting.
- Samrat Rana, the reigning world champion, and Suruchi Singh, a World Cup final winner, combined precision and composure to reach the podium.
- Their medal helped India stretch its gold tally to 10 medals after just two days of competition.



Airbus Opens Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Aviation

- Airbus has inaugurated a Centre of Excellence at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) in Vadodara, Gujarat. Announced in February 2026, the initiative focuses on sustainable aviation research, innovation, and talent development.
- The newly inaugurated Centre of Excellence (CoE) marks a key milestone in Airbus's long-term partnership with GSV.
- The centre aims to strengthen research, innovation, and education in advanced aerospace technologies.

- A major focus area will be Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which is crucial for reducing aviation-related carbon emissions.
- A core pillar of the Centre of Excellence is research on Sustainable Aviation Fuel, including innovative pathways such as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to SAF.
- This approach supports a circular economy, where waste is converted into clean fuel for aviation.
- Such research aligns with India's climate commitments and the global aviation sector's decarbonization goals.



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India Pays \$35.18 Million to UN Regular Budget for 2026

- India has paid USD 35.18 million to the United Nations (UN) Regular Budget for 2026, earning a place on the UN's "honour roll" of countries that have paid their assessed contributions in full and on time.
- The payment was made on 3 February 2026, within the 30-day due period prescribed under UN financial regulations. This move reflects India's continued commitment to multilateralism and its responsibilities as a key member of the United Nations.
- For the year 2026, India contributed USD 35.18 million to the UN Regular Budget. According to the Committee on Contributions, 47 UN Member States had paid their assessed contributions in full as of 3 February 2026, qualifying them for the honour roll.



India-GCC FTA Terms of Reference Signed

- India and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to begin formal negotiations. This decision can reshape India's trade, energy security, and investment flow.
- The Terms of Reference act as a roadmap for the India-GCC Free Trade Agreement negotiations.
- They outline which sectors will be covered, how discussions will proceed, and what goals both sides want to achieve.
- According to the Indian government, the ToR ensures clarity and avoids confusion during negotiations.
- The India-GCC Free Trade Agreement is important because the GCC is one of India's largest trading partners.
- India's trade with GCC reached USD 178.56 billion in FY 2024-25, forming 15.42% of India's total global trade.
- Exports stood at USD 56.87 billion, while imports were USD 121.68 billion.
- Over the last five years, trade grew at an average rate of 15.3% per year.



Indian Teams Set for Mt Aconcagua Expedition

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on 5 February 2026 flagged off a prestigious Indian mountaineering expedition to Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, the highest peak in South America.
- The joint mission is being undertaken by the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering & Winter Sports (JIM&WS).
- The expedition gained national attention after it was formally flagged off from South Block, New Delhi by Rajnath Singh.
- Mount Aconcagua, standing at 6,961 metres, is the highest mountain outside Asia.
- Scaling this peak is considered a major global mountaineering challenge.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on which date?

- A. 4 February
- B. 6 February
- C. 8 March
- D. 10 December

Answer: B. 6 February

2. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) primarily refers to:

- A. Medical procedures for women's health
- B. Cosmetic surgery
- C. Non-medical procedures that alter or injure female genital organs
- D. Post-natal treatment methods

Answer: C. Non-medical procedures that alter or injure female genital organs

3. What is the theme of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM in 2026?

- A. Gender Equality for All
- B. Ending Harmful Traditions
- C. Towards 2030: No End to FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment
- D. Empowering Women Globally

Answer: C. Towards 2030: No End to FGM Without Sustained Commitment and Investment

4. Who won the silver medal for India in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Asian Shooting Championships 2026?

- A. Abhinav Bindra and Apurvi Chandela
- B. Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker
- C. Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh
- D. Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu

Answer: C. Samrat Rana and Suruchi Singh

5. The Asian Rifle/Pistol Championship 2026 was held in:

- A. Beijing
- B. Tokyo
- C. New Delhi
- D. Seoul

Answer: C. New Delhi

6. Airbus inaugurated its Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Aviation at:

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IISc Bengaluru
- C. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara
- D. IIT Madras

Answer: C. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara

7. Which fuel is a major research focus at the Airbus Centre of Excellence?

- A. Bio-diesel
- B. Hydrogen fuel
- C. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)
- D. Nuclear fuel

Answer: C. Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)

8. India paid how much to the UN Regular Budget for 2026?

- A. USD 30.25 million
- B. USD 32.10 million
- C. USD 35.18 million
- D. USD 40.50 million

Answer: C. USD 35.18 million

9. The India–GCC Terms of Reference were signed to begin negotiations for:

- A. Defence Pact
- B. Climate Agreement

- C. Free Trade Agreement
- D. Energy Security Treaty

Answer: C. Free Trade Agreement

10. Mount Aconcagua, the target of the Indian mountaineering expedition, is located in:

- A. Chile
- B. Peru
- C. Bolivia
- D. Argentina

Answer: D. Argentina