

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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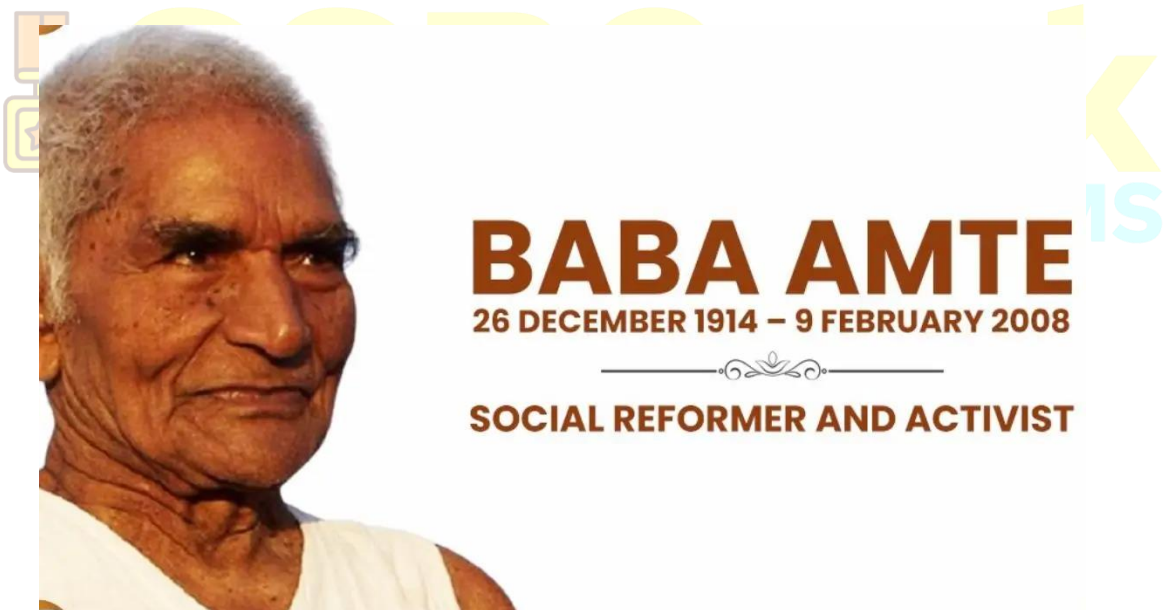
International Epilepsy Day 2026

- Monday, February 9, 2026, is being observed as International Epilepsy Day, a global initiative aimed at improving understanding of epilepsy and supporting the rights of people living with the condition.
- The day highlights the need to move beyond myths and stigma toward empathy, inclusion, and better healthcare access. With over 50 million people worldwide affected, International Epilepsy Day 2026 places renewed focus on awareness, advocacy, and real-world action.
- Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder marked by recurrent seizures caused by abnormal brain activity.
- It can affect people of all ages and is treatable in many cases with timely diagnosis and medication.



Remembering Baba Amte

- India remembers one of its greatest social reformers on February 9, 2026, the 18th death anniversary of Baba Amte. The news brings focus back to his lifelong service for the poor, the sick, and the displaced.
- The day is remembered nationwide to honour his contribution to leprosy rehabilitation, social justice, and environmental movements.
- Baba Amte, born as Murlidhar Devidas Amte on December 26, 1914, in Maharashtra, came from a well-off family.
- Trained as a lawyer, he initially worked during the freedom struggle by defending leaders jailed during the Quit India Movement.
- Baba Amte is best known for his work in leprosy rehabilitation.
- He founded Anandwan (Forest of Joy) in Maharashtra, an ashram that provided medical care, education, and employment to people affected by leprosy.



Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches Qualcomm's Chip

- Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw launched a 2 nm semiconductor chip by Qualcomm in Bengaluru. Announced on February 7, 2026, the launch highlights India's growing strength in cutting edge semiconductor design.
- Speaking at the event, the minister addressed that as the 5th Industrial Revolution unfolds, India must become a global centre for deep tech innovation.

The launch signals India's rising importance in global semiconductor engineering and design capabilities.

- The launch of the 2 nm semiconductor chip by Qualcomm is significant because 2 nanometre technology represents the frontier of chip design.
- Smaller nodes mean higher performance, lower power consumption, and advanced applications in AI, telecom, and high-performance computing.
- The minister explained that India adopted a measured and practical approach under the India Semiconductor Mission.
- The initial focus was on 28 nm technology, which meets nearly 75% of current needs, including automotive, telecom, power management, and strategic sectors.



India Launches Nationwide Pulses Revolution

- A major shift in India's agriculture policy began from a small town in Madhya Pradesh. On February 7, 2026, the nationwide pulses revolution was launched from Amlaha in Sehore district.
- The event marked the formal rollout of the Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission, aimed at ending India's dependence on imported pulses.
- The nationwide pulses revolution was launched at the Food Legumes Research Centre, Amlaha, under the chairmanship of Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- The National Pulses Consultation brought together Union and State Agriculture Ministers, scientists, FPOs, seed companies, millers, and progressive farmers.
- Unlike earlier policy meetings, this dialogue was field-driven, not file-driven.



Santosh Trophy 2026

- Indian football witnessed another thrilling Santosh Trophy final on February 2026. In a tense, closely fought match, Services edged past Kerala to lift the prestigious national title once again.
- Services defeating Kerala 1-0 to clinch the **79th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy**.
- The final was played at Dhakuakhana Stadium, Assam, and the win gave Services their **8th Santosh Trophy title**.



Mundra Port Shines with Automobile & Liquid Cargo Surge

- India's export infrastructure witnessed a major milestone in January 2026. Mundra Port in Gujarat posted record-breaking figures in both automobile exports and liquid cargo handling.
- Mundra Port, operated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), handled its highest-ever monthly automobile exports in January 2026.
- A total of 25,762 vehicles were shipped through its dedicated roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) terminal at Adani Mundra Container Terminal (CT2).
- This surpassed the previous record set in May 2024 and reflects strong overseas demand for Indian vehicles across global markets.
- Major automobile manufacturers such as Maruti Suzuki and Toyota increasingly routed exports through Mundra Port.
- Vehicles were shipped to markets in Africa, Europe, East Asia, Australia, and the Middle East.
- Mundra is India's largest commercial port, handling over 200 million tonnes of cargo annually.
- APSEZ accounts for nearly 27% of India's total port volumes and operates 15 ports in India and four overseas ports.



Look Inside the US-India Interim Trade Framework Deal

- India and the United States have taken a decisive step to reshape their economic relationship. On February 7, 2026, both countries announced a framework for an Interim Trade Agreement, aimed at reducing tariffs, easing market access, and strengthening supply chains.

- The US-India Interim Trade Agreement framework lays the foundation for reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade.
- It focuses on immediate tariff adjustments, market access, and regulatory cooperation while paving the way for the final BTA.
- Both sides have committed to concrete outcomes rather than symbolic announcements.
- The framework signals trust, balance, and shared economic priorities, positioning the US-India Interim Trade Agreement as a milestone in bilateral relations and a bridge toward a comprehensive long-term trade pact.



Japan PM Sanae Takaichi Wins

- Japan has witnessed a historic political moment. On February 8, 2026, Japan Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi led her party to a massive electoral victory. The election results marked a clear shift in Japanese politics, giving her a strong mandate just months after taking office.
- The Japan Election 2026 is in the news after Sanae Takaichi, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, secured a two-thirds supermajority in the powerful lower house of parliament.
- According to NHK projections, the LDP won 316 seats in the 465-member House of Representatives, far above the majority mark of 261 seats.
- This is the party's best performance since its formation in 1955.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who became Japan's first female Prime Minister in October 2025?

- A. Yuriko Koike
- B. Sanae Takaichi
- C. Fumio Kishida
- D. Yoko Kamikawa

Answer: B. Sanae Takaichi

2. Which country witnessed a massive electoral victory under the leadership of Sanae Takaichi?

- A. South Korea
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. Thailand

Answer: C. Japan

3. International Epilepsy Day is observed on which date in 2026?

- A. February 7
- B. February 8
- C. February 9
- D. February 10

Answer: C. February 9

4. What is the main objective of observing International Epilepsy Day?

- A. Promoting medical tourism
- B. Supporting cancer research
- C. Improving understanding of epilepsy and supporting patients' rights
- D. Raising funds for hospitals

Answer: C. Improving understanding of epilepsy and supporting patients' rights

5. February 9, 2026 marks the ____ death anniversary of Baba Amte.

- A. 15th
- B. 16th
- C. 17th
- D. 18th

Answer: D. 18th

6. Baba Amte is best known for his work in the rehabilitation of patients suffering from:

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. Cancer
- C. Leprosy
- D. Polio

Answer: C. Leprosy

7. Anandwan (Forest of Joy), founded by Baba Amte, is located in which state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Madhya Pradesh

- C. Maharashtra
- D. Rajasthan

Answer: C. Maharashtra

8. Who launched the 2 nm semiconductor chip by Qualcomm in Bengaluru?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Piyush Goyal
- C. Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D. Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Answer: C. Ashwini Vaishnaw

9. The nationwide pulses revolution in India was launched from which place?

- A. Vidisha
- B. Amlaha
- C. Indore
- D. Bhopal

Answer: B. Amlaha

10. Amlaha, the launch site of the pulses revolution, is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

- A. Raisen
- B. Seoni
- C. Sehore
- D. Satna

Answer: C. Sehore