

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 11 February 2025

### International Day of Women and Girls in Science

- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on 11 February. The United Nations marks this day to promote equal participation of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
- The theme for International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 is **“Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls.”**
- This theme highlights how Artificial Intelligence, STEM education, social sciences and financial investment can work together.
- Even today, women represent only about 31% of researchers globally. In AI-related professions, women account for nearly 22%.
- Though 46% of young women enroll in higher education, only 35% graduate in science-related disciplines.
- These statistics show why International Day of Women and Girls in Science is crucial.



## MHA Updates Rules on Order of National Song and Anthem

- The Union Home Ministry has issued fresh guidelines stating that all six stanzas of Vande Mataram must be sung before the National Anthem when both are played together at official events.
- The full rendition of the six stanzas takes around 3 minutes and 10 seconds. The Centre is also celebrating the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram this year, marking a historic milestone in India's national movement.
- The new MHA directive outlines specific occasions where Vande Mataram should be sung or played. It will accompany events such as,
  - Unfurling of the National Flag
  - Cultural and ceremonial functions (excluding parades)
  - Arrival of the President at public functions
  - Significant gatherings attended by Ministers
- Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in the 1870s.
- It was included in his novel Anandamath. The song became a powerful slogan during India's freedom struggle.
- In 1950, the Constituent Assembly adopted Vande Mataram as the National Song of India, while Jana Gana Mana was adopted as the National Anthem.



## India Named Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026

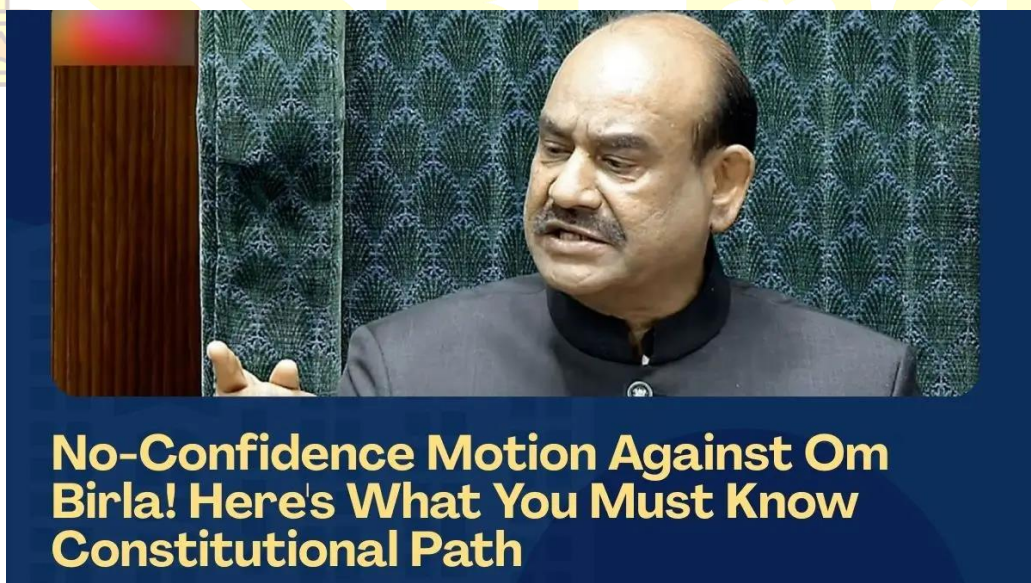
- India has achieved a major global recognition in sustainable agriculture by being designated the Country of the Year at BIOFACH 2026, the world's leading trade fair for organic products. The event will be held from 10 to 13 February 2026 at Nuremberg, Germany.
- This honour places India at the centre of the global organic movement and reflects its growing strength as a reliable supplier of high-quality organic food products. India's participation will be led by APEDA with a large-scale and high-impact presence.
- India's participation at BIOFACH 2026 is being organized by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- APEDA has been participating in BIOFACH for more than a decade.
- The India Country Pavilion at BIOFACH 2026 will cover a massive 1,074 square metres, making it one of the largest national pavilions at the event.
- The pavilion will host 67 co-exhibitors, including exporters, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), cooperatives, organic laboratories, state government bodies, and commodity boards.



## No-Confidence Motion Against Om Birla

- The Opposition has moved a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on February 10, 2026. The motion will now be examined and processed according to parliamentary rules.

- The Constitution clearly lays down the process for removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker. Unlike a no-confidence motion against the government, this involves a special resolution with strict conditions.
- The removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is provided under Article 94(c) of the Constitution of India.
- According to this provision, the Speaker can be removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.
- This process applies only to the Lok Sabha and not to the Rajya Sabha.
- Article 94 lays down three conditions under which the Speaker vacates office,
  - If they cease to be a Member of the Lok Sabha.
  - If they resign by writing to the Deputy Speaker.
  - If they are removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.
- Lok Sabha Speakers have been moved three times in history,
  - 1954 – Against Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar
  - 1966 – Against Hukam Singh
  - 1987 – Against Balram Jakhar



## Clean Energy, Global Minds

- India has taken another important step towards clean energy leadership. On February 10, 2026, India and the Netherlands launched a new Hydrogen Fellowship Programme and expanded academic cooperation in green hydrogen research.

- The move highlights India's focus on international collaboration to build skills, research capacity, and advanced knowledge in emerging hydrogen technologies, which are crucial for long-term energy security and climate goals.
- The India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme was launched by Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology.
- The fellowship is designed as a national capacity-building initiative to train Indian researchers in advanced hydrogen ecosystems in the Netherlands.
- It reflects growing Indo-Dutch cooperation in clean energy and climate-focused research.



## **Aditya Pandya Becomes India's Youngest Male Analog Astronaut**

- Seventeen-year-old Aditya Pandya has created history by becoming India's youngest male analog astronaut. He successfully completed a lunar-habitat-inspired mission conducted by AAKA Space Studio from February 1 to 8, 2026 in Dholavira, Kutch (Gujarat).
- The mission simulated Moon-like isolation and autonomous operations, marking a key milestone in India's emerging analog space research ecosystem and youth participation in advanced space technology experiments.
- An analog astronaut mission is a space simulation experiment conducted on Earth that replicates the conditions astronauts may face on the Moon or Mars.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on:**

- A) 8 March
- B) 10 February
- C) 11 February
- D) 12 January

**Answer: C) 11 February**

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**2. The theme for International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 is:**

- A) Women in Innovation and Technology
- B) Equal Rights in STEM Education
- C) Empowering Girls through Digital Learning
- D) Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls

**Answer: D) Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls**

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**3. Globally, women represent approximately what percentage of researchers?**

- A) 22%
- B) 31%
- C) 35%
- D) 46%

**Answer: B) 31%**

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**4. According to the new MHA guidelines, when both Vande Mataram and the National Anthem are played together:**

- A) National Anthem must be sung first
- B) Only first stanza of Vande Mataram is sung
- C) All six stanzas of Vande Mataram are sung first
- D) Only instrumental music is allowed

**Answer: C) All six stanzas of Vande Mataram are sung first**

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**5. Vande Mataram was composed by:**

- A) Rabindranath Tagore
- B) Subramania Bharati
- C) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- D) Sarojini Naidu

**Answer: C) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**

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**6. India has been named “Country of the Year” at which international event in 2026?**

- A) COP 30
- B) World Food Expo
- C) BIOFACH
- D) Green Energy Summit

**Answer: C) BIOFACH**

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**7. India’s participation at BIOFACH 2026 is being organized by:**

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) APEDA
- C) FSSAI
- D) NABARD

**Answer: B) APEDA**

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**8. The removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker is provided under which Article of the Indian Constitution?**

- A) Article 75
- B) Article 85
- C) Article 94
- D) Article 110

**Answer: C) Article 94(c)**

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**9. The India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme focuses on:**

- A) Solar power storage
- B) Nuclear energy cooperation
- C) Green hydrogen research and capacity building
- D) Coal-based energy development

**Answer: C) Green hydrogen research and capacity building**

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**10. Aditya Pandya became India's youngest male analog astronaut after completing a mission in:**

- A) Sriharikota
- B) Leh
- C) Dholavira, Gujarat
- D) Bengaluru

**Answer: C) Dholavira, Gujarat**