

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Black Day 2026

- February 14 marks Black Day in India, commemorating the 2019 Pulwama terror attack one of the deadliest strikes on Indian security forces. In 2026, the nation honours the sacrifice of 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel through tributes, memorials, and messages of solidarity.
- A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a CRPF convoy in Pulwama district, Jammu and Kashmir, killing 40 personnel and injuring many others. The attack triggered nationwide mourning, diplomatic tensions, and military responses, straining India-Pakistan ties.
- "Black Day" signifies profound national tragedy. India observes it to honour the martyrs, support their families, and reflect on the collective loss. People hold moments of silence, candlelight vigils, and social media tributes, while schools and organisations host remembrance events.
- Seven years on, Black Day underscores national security, unity, and armed forces support. It fuels discussions on counter-terrorism and India's resilience against adversity.



WHO Prequalifies New nOPV2 Vaccine

- World Health Organization (WHO) has prequalified an additional novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2). The move strengthens global capacity to respond to outbreaks caused by circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2).
- The novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2) is designed to combat outbreaks caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2, which can emerge in areas with low immunisation coverage.
- Key features:
- Genetically more stable than older OPV vaccines
- Lower risk of mutating into virulent strains
- Retains ability to rapidly stop virus transmission
- Shelf life of up to 24 months
- Can be stored under standard vaccine temperatures
- India was certified polio-free in 2014. However, maintaining high immunisation coverage remains critical to prevent re-emergence.



India's Top Wool Producing States in 2026

- India continues to remain a major player in the global wool industry, ranking second in sheep population and ninth in wool production worldwide. With 77.4

million sheep, the country's wool sector plays a crucial role in rural livelihoods, textiles, and carpet manufacturing.

- In FY24, India's total wool production stood at 33.69 million kg. Rajasthan emerged as the largest wool-producing state, contributing 16,013.50 thousand kg, which accounted for 47.53% of the national output.
- **In terms of Annual Growth Rate (AGR):**
- Punjab recorded the highest growth at 22.04%
- Tamil Nadu followed with 17.19%
- Gujarat recorded 3.20%
- **India produces three main types of wool:**
- Carpet Grade – 85%
- Apparel Grade – 5%
- Coarser Grade – 10%
- The wool sector supports around 1.2 million people in the organised sector, while nearly two million people are employed in related industries. Carpet weaving alone provides employment to about 0.3 million workers.



NSSTA Celebrates its 18th Foundation Day

- The National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), celebrated its 18th

Foundation Day at Mahalanobis Auditorium, Knowledge Park-II, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- The theme for this year was: **“Reimagining Capacity Building for Official Statistics to Achieve Vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.”**
- The 18th Foundation Day celebration reaffirmed NSSTA’s commitment to:
- Strengthening official statistics
- Enhancing governance through data-driven policymaking
- Integrating AI and advanced analytics
- Building a future-ready statistical workforce



Tarique Rahman Set to Lead Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is witnessing a major political shift as Tarique Rahman looks set to become the country's next Prime Minister. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has claimed a **“decisive victory”** in the 2026 general elections.
- Rahman, who returned to Bangladesh in December 2025 after more than 17 years in self-imposed exile in London, had expressed confidence of securing a clear mandate. His rise comes after the 2024 mass protests that led to the ousting of long-time leader Sheikh Hasina.
- The Bangladesh election 2026 marks a turning point in the nation's political landscape.
- The Bangladesh Nationalist Party announced that it had secured a decisive mandate, positioning Tarique Rahman as the likely next Prime Minister.
- Rahman had campaigned on restoring democratic governance, peace, and institutional stability after years of political unrest.
- Tarique Rahman, aged 60, is the eldest son of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and former President Ziaur Rahman, the founder of the BNP.

- Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in 1981 during a military coup.
- Khaleda Zia later entered politics and served multiple terms as Prime Minister, becoming Bangladesh's first female PM.



Mia Mottley Secures Historic Third Term

- Barbadian PM **Mia Mottley** has won a historic third consecutive election victory, with her party sweeping all seats in the House of Assembly. Her party, the Barbados Labour Party won all 30 seats in Parliament for the third time. The victory marks a major political milestone in the island nation's history.
- **Election Outcome**
- BLP won 30/30 seats
- Opposition leader Ralph Thorne was unseated
- Mottley becomes only the second leader to serve more than two consecutive terms
- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio congratulated Mottley on her “clear electoral victory” and expressed interest in strengthening cooperation on:
- Crime control
- Drug trafficking prevention
- Regional security



Uday Kotak Appointed Chairman of GIFT City

- The Gujarat government has appointed Uday Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank, as the new Chairman of GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance-Tec City), located in Gandhinagar.
- He replaces Hasmukh Adhia, who previously served as the non-executive chairman. The appointment order was issued by the Urban Development and Urban Housing Department of the Gujarat government.
- **GIFT City is:**
- India's first operational Smart City
- India's maiden International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)
- A flagship financial hub envisioned during PM Narendra Modi's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister



Oil India Limited Wins FIPI Award 2025

- Oil India Limited has been honoured with the FIPI Award 2025 for 'Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year' (more than 1 MTOE). The award recognises the company's strong performance and contribution to India's energy security.
- Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI) presented the award during India Energy Week held in Goa. The award ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and Dr Neeraj Mittal, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- Oil India Limited has shown strong growth in oil and gas production. The company has:
 - Expanded exploration activities
 - Improved recovery from mature oil fields
 - Adopted advanced technology
 - Increased operational efficiency



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why is February 14 observed as Black Day in India?

- A) Kargil War anniversary
- B) 26/11 Mumbai attacks

- C) 2019 Pulwama terror attack
- D) Uri surgical strike

Answer: C) 2019 Pulwama terror attack

2. The Pulwama attack in 2019 targeted personnel of which force?

- A) Border Security Force
- B) Indian Army
- C) Central Reserve Police Force
- D) Indo-Tibetan Border Police

Answer: C) Central Reserve Police Force

3. The World Health Organization recently prequalified which vaccine?

- A) mRNA COVID-19 booster
- B) Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2)
- C) Malaria RTS,S vaccine
- D) HPV vaccine

Answer: B) Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2 (nOPV2)

4. India was declared polio-free in which year?

- A) 2010
- B) 2012
- C) 2014
- D) 2016

Answer: C) 2014

5. Which state is the largest wool producer in India as per FY24 data?

- A) Punjab
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Gujarat
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: B) Rajasthan

6. Carpet-grade wool accounts for approximately what percentage of India's total wool production?

- A) 50%
- B) 60%
- C) 75%
- D) 85%

Answer: D) 85%

7. NSSTA functions under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- D) Ministry of Education

Answer: C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

8. Tarique Rahman is associated with which political party?

- A) Awami League
- B) Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- C) Jatiya Party
- D) Liberal Democratic Party

Answer: B) Bangladesh Nationalist Party

9. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of GIFT City?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) Uday Kotak
- C) Hasmukh Adhia
- D) Nandan Nilekani

Answer: B) Uday Kotak

10. Oil India Limited received the FIPI Award 2025 in which category?

- A) Renewable Energy Company of the Year
- B) Best PSU of the Year
- C) Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year
- D) Energy Innovation Award

Answer: C) Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year

