

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti 2026

- Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa Jayanti 2026 is being observed to honour one of India's greatest spiritual leaders. Born on **18 February 1836** in Kamarpukur, West Bengal, Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa was originally named Gadadhar Chattopadhyay.
- As per the Hindu calendar, it is celebrated on Dwitiya Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Phalguna month.
- Devotees across India visit temples and Ramakrishna Mission centres to offer prayers and remember his teachings.
- The occasion is marked by bhajans, meditation, and spiritual discourses.
- The teachings of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa focus on devotion, love and self-realization.
- He emphasized direct spiritual experience over bookish knowledge. According to him, all religions are different paths leading to one ultimate truth.
- He taught that inner purity is more important than rituals and that overcoming greed and ego is essential for spiritual growth.



Tejaswin Shankar Strikes Gold in Men's Heptathlon

- India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched a historic gold medal at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026 in Tianjin, China. The Indian athlete won the men's heptathlon event with a record-breaking performance of 5,993 points.
- This marked India's only gold medal at the championship. With this achievement, Tejaswin Shankar also set a new national indoor record, surpassing his earlier best. India finished the tournament with five medals and secured sixth place in the overall standings.
- Tejaswin Shankar delivered the standout performance for India at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026.
- Competing in the men's heptathlon, he accumulated 5,993 points, creating a new national indoor record.
- This score surpassed his previous best of 5,650 points set in the United States in 2021.
- Other medal winners included,
- Pooja – Silver in High Jump
- Tajinderpal Singh Toor – Silver in Shot Put
- Ancy Sojan – Bronze in Long Jump
- Host nation **China dominated the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026.**
- China finished at the top of the medal standings with a total of 34 medals, including 10 gold, 11 silver, and 13 bronze medals.
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J&K Captain Paras Dogra Enters Elite Club

- Paras Dogra has created history in the Ranji Trophy. The Jammu & Kashmir captain reached the massive milestone of 10,000 runs during the Ranji Trophy semi-final against Bengal.
- The right-handed batter scored 58 runs and became the fastest player to achieve this landmark in the tournament's history. Paras Dogra reached 10,000 Ranji Trophy runs in just 147 innings, breaking records previously held by legends.
- Paras Dogra created a new Ranji Trophy record by becoming the fastest batter to score 10,000 runs in the tournament's history. He reached the milestone in just 147 innings, surpassing former India opener Wasim Jaffer, who took 196 innings.
- However, only two players have crossed 10,000 runs.
- Top Run-Scorers in Ranji Trophy,
 - Wasim Jaffer – 12,038 runs
 - Paras Dogra – 10,000* runs
 - Amol Muzumdar – 9,202 runs
 - Devendra Bundela – 9,201 runs
 - Yashpal Singh – 8,700 runs

- The Ranji Trophy is India's premier domestic first-class cricket tournament.
- It started in 1934-35 and is named after Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji.
- The tournament provides a platform for players to showcase talent and earn national selection.
- Many Indian legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid rose through this competition.



BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025

- Indian cricket star **Smriti Mandhana** has been named the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025, recognizing her outstanding contribution to India's historic **Women's World Cup victory**.
- At 29, Smriti Mandhana played a pivotal role in India's 2025 Women's World Cup win, a landmark moment in Indian women's cricket history.
- Mandhana, currently touring Australia with the Indian team, expressed gratitude in a video message, calling 2025 "a special year for women's cricket."
- Young chess sensation **Divya Deshmukh** won the Emerging Player of the Year award for her historic triumph at the FIDE Women's World Cup at the age of 20.
- **BBC Star Performers of the Year**
 - Indian Women's Cricket Team – Women's World Cup victory
 - Indian Women's Cricket Team for the Blind – World Cup win
 - Indian Women's Kabaddi Team – World Cup champions
 - Ekta Bhyan, Deepthi Jeevanji, Preethi Pal – Para Athletics achievements
- **BBC Changemakers of the Year**

- Indian Women's Ice Hockey Team
- Rajbir Kaur
- Savita Punia
- Paani Devi



Iran's Strait of Hormuz Shutdown

- Iran briefly shut down parts of the Strait of Hormuz during live-fire naval drills, instantly drawing global attention. Tehran described the restriction as a short safety measure, lasting only a few hours.
- However, the timing alongside escalating Iran-US tensions and renewed nuclear talks in Geneva amplified market anxieties. Even temporary disruptions in this narrow waterway can ripple through global oil flows, shipping costs, and energy prices.
- Iranian authorities temporarily restricted navigation,
- Conducted live surface firing exercises
- Launched missiles at designated targets
- Issued maritime safety advisories
- Shutdown lasted only several hours
- The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most critical maritime chokepoint,
- Connects Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman and to the Indian Ocean
- Narrowest width: Nearly 33 km
- Handles ~13 million barrels/day (2025)
- Roughly 31% of global seaborne crude trade



NGT Gives Nod to ₹81,000 Crore Great Nicobar Project

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has cleared the ₹81,000 crore Great Nicobar Project, stating it found no valid ground to interfere with the environmental clearance granted earlier. The decision was delivered on February 16, 2026, by a six-member bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava.
- The Great Nicobar Project received NGT approval after fresh pleas challenging its environmental and coastal clearances were dismissed.
- The tribunal upheld the Environmental Clearance (EC) granted in November 2022, noting that adequate safeguards were incorporated.
- The bench emphasised that national interest and strategic needs must be balanced with environmental protection.
- The Great Nicobar Project has been allowed to proceed with strong environmental safeguards.
- The NGT directed that construction must not cause shoreline erosion or loss of sandy beaches, which are critical nesting grounds for turtles and birds.
- Coral reefs must be protected through scientific regeneration and translocation as advised by the Zoological Survey of India.
- The Great Nicobar Project is a mega infrastructure initiative conceived by NITI Aayog in 2021.
- It aims to transform Great Nicobar Island into a major strategic and economic hub under Maritime Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- The project includes an International Container Transshipment Terminal a greenfield international airport, township development, and a 450 MVA gas- and solar-based power plant.
- Great Nicobar Island is the largest island in the Nicobar group of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- The Ten Degree Channel separates the Andaman and Nicobar groups.
- Indira Point, India's southernmost point, is located here, just 90 nautical miles from Sumatra, Indonesia.
- The island has tropical rainforests and over 75% forest cover.
- It is part of the **UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme** since 2013.
- The region falls under the Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Notification, 2019.



India-France Year of Innovation to Boost Tech Collaboration

- PM Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron have launched the India-France Year of Innovation 2026 during Macron's three-day visit to India from 17 to 19 February. The initiative aims to deepen cooperation in artificial intelligence, defense, digital technology, and the Indo-Pacific.
- It reflects the growing strength of the India France Strategic Partnership 1998, which has expanded into defense, AI, climate action, and Indo-Pacific cooperation.
- The Innovation Year will focus on emerging technologies, digital infrastructure, and joint research programs.
- Defense cooperation continues as a core pillar of the India-France relationship. India's Defense Acquisitions Council has approved a proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter aircraft.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti is celebrated on which tithi according to the Hindu calendar?

- A) Amavasya of Phalguna
- B) Dwitiya of Shukla Paksha in Phalguna
- C) Purnima of Magha
- D) Ekadashi of Chaitra

Answer: B) Dwitiya of Shukla Paksha in Phalguna

Explanation: Sri Ramakrishna Jayanti is observed on the Dwitiya Tithi of Shukla Paksha in the month of Phalguna.

2. What was the original name of Sri Ramakrishna Paramhansa?

- A) Ram Mohan Roy
- B) Narendranath Dutta
- C) Gadadhar Chattopadhyay
- D) Dayanand Saraswati

Answer: C) Gadadhar Chattopadhyay

Explanation: Sri Ramakrishna was born as Gadadhar Chattopadhyay in 1836 in Kamarpukur, West Bengal.

3. Tejaswin Shankar won gold in which event at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2026?

- A) Decathlon
- B) High Jump
- C) Heptathlon
- D) Long Jump

Answer: C) Heptathlon

Explanation: Tejaswin Shankar secured gold in the men's heptathlon with 5,993 points.

4. Tejaswin Shankar's record-breaking score at the 2026 championship was:

- A) 5,650 points
- B) 5,800 points
- C) 5,993 points
- D) 6,100 points

Answer: C) 5,993 points

Explanation: He set a new national indoor record with 5,993 points.

5. Paras Dogra became the fastest player to score 10,000 runs in which tournament?

- A) Vijay Hazare Trophy
- B) IPL
- C) Duleep Trophy
- D) Ranji Trophy

Answer: D) Ranji Trophy

Explanation: Paras Dogra achieved 10,000 runs in the Ranji Trophy in just 147 innings.

6. Who previously held the record for fastest 10,000 runs in the Ranji Trophy before Paras Dogra?

- A) Rahul Dravid
- B) Sachin Tendulkar
- C) Wasim Jaffer
- D) Amol Muzumdar

Answer: C) Wasim Jaffer

Explanation: Wasim Jaffer reached the milestone in 196 innings before Dogra broke the record.

7. Who won the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 award?

- A) Mithali Raj
- B) Smriti Mandhana
- C) Harmanpreet Kaur
- D) Divya Deshmukh

Answer: B) Smriti Mandhana

Explanation: Smriti Mandhana received the award for her contribution to India's Women's World Cup victory.

8. The Strait of Hormuz connects which two water bodies?

- A) Red Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- B) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- C) Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal
- D) Black Sea and Caspian Sea

Answer: B) Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

Explanation: The Strait of Hormuz links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean.

9. The Great Nicobar Project was conceptualized by:

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) ISRO
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) Ministry of Tourism

Answer: C) NITI Aayog

Explanation: NITI Aayog conceived the Great Nicobar Project in 2021.

10. The India-France Year of Innovation 2026 was launched by:

- A) Narendra Modi and Joe Biden
- B) Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron
- C) Rajnath Singh and Emmanuel Macron
- D) S. Jaishankar and French PM

Answer: B) Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron