

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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International Mother Language Day

- International Mother Language Day 2026 will be observed on 21 February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity worldwide. Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 and later adopted by the UNGA, the day highlights the importance of multilingual education and preservation of endangered languages.
- The 2026 theme, “**Youth voices on multilingual education**,” focuses on empowering young people to protect linguistic diversity. With nearly 40% of learners lacking education in their mother tongue, International Mother Language Day 2026 stresses inclusive education and cultural identity.



Harmanpreet Kaur Creates History

- India captain Harmanpreet Kaur created history by becoming the most-capped player in women’s international cricket. She achieved the milestone during the second T20I against Australia in Canberra.
- Harmanpreet Kaur record 356 matches now stands as the highest number of international appearances in women’s cricket.

- She overtook Suzie Bates during the second T20I against Australia.

Player	Country	Matches
Harmanpreet Kaur	India	356
Suzie Bates	New Zealand	355
Ellyse Perry	Australia	349
Mithali Raj	India	333
Charlotte Edwards	England	309



Harsharan Kaur Trehan Becomes PSPCL's First Woman Director

- Harsharan Kaur Trehan has been appointed as Director (Commercial) of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. The appointment, issued on 20 February 2026, makes her the first woman technocrat to reach the board level in PSPCL.

- The Harsharan Kaur Trehan PSPCL appointment was formalised through orders issued by Basant Garg, Secretary (Power), Punjab Government, who also holds additional charge as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of PSPCL.
- She has been appointed Director (Commercial) for two years from the date of joining.
- Harsharan Kaur Trehan is the first woman technocrat to rise to director level in PSPCL. Earlier, in May 2021, she became the first woman Engineer in Chief in the organization, heading the Material Management wing. She retired in October 2022 but has now returned to serve in a leadership role.



Norway Breaks Winter Olympics Record

- Norway has rewritten Winter Olympics history. At the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics 2026, Norway secured its 17th gold medal, breaking the previous record for most gold medals won by a nation at a single Winter Games.
- The historic milestone came after Johannes Dale-Skjevdal delivered a flawless performance in the biathlon men's 15-kilometer mass start. Norway had earlier set the record with 16 gold medals at Beijing 2022 and now stands alone at the top.
- The record-breaking moment came through Johannes Dale-Skjevdal, who hit all 20 targets in the men's 15km mass start race.
- Race Highlights,
 - Perfect shooting: 20/20 targets hit
 - Winning time: 39 minutes, 17.1 seconds
 - Took the lead after first standing shooting bout
 - Battled gusty winds and slow snow conditions
 - Norway had previously set the Winter Olympics record at the 2022 Beijing Games with 16 gold medals.
 - With the 17th gold in Milan, the country has officially set a new benchmark in Winter Olympics history.

- Norway's Medal Breakdown.
- Gold: 148
- Silver: 134
- Bronze: 123
- Total: 405
- 2nd – United States
- Gold: 114
- Silver: 121
- Bronze: 95
- Total: 330
- 3rd – Germany
- Gold: 105
- Silver: 97
- Bronze: 65
- Total: 267



8-Year-Old Ranvir Sachdeva Becomes Youngest Speaker

- In a moment that surprised everyone, eight-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva became the youngest speaker at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held in New Delhi. The event, packed with global CEOs and AI experts, witnessed something rare a child confidently explaining complex ideas about artificial intelligence.
- The India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, saw top technologists, investors, and policymakers. But the spotlight was on Ranvir Sachdeva, who called himself a **“technologist at heart.”**



Trump Slaps 10% Global Tariff on All Imports

- In a major global trade development, US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order imposing a 10% tariff on imports from all countries. The decision came after the US Supreme Court ruled against his earlier sweeping tariffs under the **International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)** on 20 February 2026.
- The Trump 10% global tariff decision followed a 6-3 ruling by the US Supreme Court, which stated that the President did not have authority under IEEPA to impose broad global tariffs.
- The court judgment was delivered on 20 February 2026.
- After criticizing the ruling, Trump invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974.
- This provision allows the President to impose temporary tariffs of up to 15% for 150 days to address balance-of-payments issues or trade deficits.
- Using this law, Trump announced a non-discriminatory 10% tariff on all imports. Any extension beyond 150 days would require Congressional approval.
- The US import tariff 2026 means all goods entering the United States will face an additional 10% tax. This is over and above existing tariffs such as,
 - Section 232 tariffs (national security grounds)
 - Section 301 tariffs (unfair trade practices)
- The Trump 10% global tariff will also impact India exports. Despite recent diplomatic engagements between India and the US, the White House confirmed that India will not receive any exemption.
- Earlier, India had faced tariffs up to 50% under previous US trade measures, later reduced to around 18% after negotiations. The new 10% tariff adds

additional cost pressure. If Indian goods become more expensive in the US, export demand may slow, affecting manufacturing output and employment.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. International Mother Language Day is observed every year on:

- A) 20 February
- B) 21 February
- C) 22 February
- D) 23 February

Answer: B) 21 February

Explanation: International Mother Language Day is observed on 21 February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity.

2. International Mother Language Day was proclaimed in 1999 by:

- A) UNICEF
- B) UNDP
- C) UNESCO
- D) World Bank

Answer: C) UNESCO

Explanation: UNESCO proclaimed the day in 1999, and it was later adopted by the UN General Assembly.

3. The 2026 theme of International Mother Language Day focuses on:

- A) Digital Education
- B) Climate Change
- C) Youth Voices on Multilingual Education
- D) Artificial Intelligence

Answer: C) Youth Voices on Multilingual Education

Explanation: The 2026 theme emphasizes the role of youth in promoting multilingual education.

4. Harmanpreet Kaur became the most-capped player in women's international cricket with how many matches?

- A) 349
- B) 333
- C) 355
- D) 356

Answer: D) 356

Explanation: Harmanpreet Kaur reached 356 international appearances, becoming the highest in women's cricket history.

5. Harmanpreet Kaur surpassed which cricketer to become the most-capped player?

- A) Mithali Raj
- B) Ellyse Perry
- C) Suzie Bates
- D) Charlotte Edwards

Answer: C) Suzie Bates

Explanation: She overtook Suzie Bates, who had 355 international matches.

6. Harsharan Kaur Trehan has been appointed as Director (Commercial) of:

- A) NTPC
- B) Power Grid Corporation
- C) Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
- D) NHPC

Answer: C) Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Explanation: She became the first woman technocrat to reach board level in PSPCL.

7. Norway broke the record for most gold medals at a single Winter Olympics at:

- A) Beijing 2022
- B) PyeongChang 2018
- C) Milan Cortina 2026
- D) Sochi 2014

Answer: C) Milan Cortina 2026

Explanation: Norway won its 17th gold medal at Milan Cortina 2026, setting a new record.

8. Johannes Dale-Skjevdal won gold in which event at the Winter Olympics 2026?

- A) Ski Jumping
- B) Cross-Country Skiing
- C) Biathlon 15 km Mass Start
- D) Alpine Skiing

Answer: C) Biathlon 15 km Mass Start

Explanation: He secured gold with a perfect shooting score in the biathlon event.

9. Eight-year-old Ranvir Sachdeva became the youngest speaker at:

- A) G20 Summit 2026
- B) India AI Impact Summit 2026
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) Startup India Conclave

Answer: B) India AI Impact Summit 2026

Explanation: He spoke at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held in New Delhi.

10. The 10% global tariff on imports was imposed by which US President?

- A) Joe Biden
- B) Barack Obama
- C) George Bush
- D) Donald Trump

Answer: D) Donald Trump

Explanation: Donald Trump imposed a 10% tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 after a Supreme Court ruling.