

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 25 February 2025

### Cabinet Approves MSP for Raw Jute for 2026-27

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for the Marketing Season 2026-27.
- The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) has been fixed at ₹5,925 per quintal for the 2026-27 season.
- This MSP ensures a return of 61.8% over the all-India weighted average cost of production. The decision follows the government's principle, announced in Budget 2018-19, of fixing MSP at least 1.5 times the cost of production.
- The MSP has been increased by ₹275 per quintal compared to the 2025-26 season.
- Since 2014-15, MSP for raw jute has risen from ₹2,400 per quintal to ₹5,925 per quintal, marking an increase of ₹3,525 per quintal (2.5 times).
- The government stated that during the period 2014-15 to 2025-26, a total of ₹1,342 crore was paid to jute farmers as MSP.
- In comparison, during 2004-05 to 2013-14, only ₹441 crore was paid, showing significant growth in financial support.



## MeitY Launches 'Blockchain India Challenge'

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the Blockchain India Challenge, a national initiative aimed at promoting blockchain-based digital governance solutions.
- The Blockchain India Challenge aims to encourage Indian startups to develop permissioned blockchain-based solutions for government use cases.
- **The focus is on:**
  - Regulatory control
  - Security and trust
  - Auditability
  - Tamper-proof records
  - Single source of truth across systems
- **The challenge targets several critical domains, including:**
  - E-procurement
  - Supply chain management
  - Public Distribution System (PDS)
  - Education, Healthcare, Agriculture
  - Power sector, Internet of Things (IoT)

- Land records, Environment and sustainability



## Kerala as “Keralam”

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal to change the name of the State of “Kerala” to “Keralam”.
- The decision follows a resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly on June 24, 2024, requesting the Centre to take steps under Article 3 of the Constitution to officially alter the State’s name.
- **Constitutional Process Under Article 3**
- The President of India will refer the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026 to the Kerala Legislative Assembly for expressing its views.
- After receiving the State Assembly’s views, the Central Government will take further action.
- The Bill can then be introduced in Parliament only with the recommendation of the President.



## India Holds Spot as No. 2 Buyer of Russian Fuels

- India remained the second-largest buyer of Russian fossil fuels in January 2026, importing energy worth €2.2 billion (\$2.59 billion), according to data from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- Although India's Russian oil imports have declined since November, crude oil still formed the majority of purchases. Global sanctions, EU restrictions and changing trade flows are now reshaping India's Russian oil imports and overall energy strategy.
- India's Russian oil imports in January 2026 stood at €2.2 billion (\$2.59 billion), slightly lower than December's €2.3 billion.
- Break-up of imports,
  - Crude oil: €2 billion (\$2.36 billion) – 78% share
  - Coal: €442 million (\$520.6 million)
  - Oil products: €30 million (\$35.3 million)
- Despite a 23% drop since November, India remained behind only China in buying Russian fossil fuels. The data highlights how India's energy security continues to rely significantly on discounted Russian oil supplies.
- While India reduced purchases, China increased its Russian oil imports by 29% over the last two months. China's crude imports reached €4 billion (\$4.71 billion) in January alone.



## Carbon Trading Programme

- India is in the final stage of launching its first comprehensive carbon-trading programme aimed at regulating and reporting industrial emissions. The scheme will mark a major step in the country's climate action framework.
- According to officials from the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), the programme will cover the period from April 2025 to March 2026. Interviews for verifiers are currently underway to ensure compliance and transparency.
- The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) is India's first compliance-based carbon market. Under this system:
  - Industries will be assigned emission targets.
  - Units emitting less than their limit can earn carbon credits.
  - Units exceeding limits must purchase credits or face penalties.



## Delhi Open 2026

- The Delhi Open 2026 witnessed an exciting finish as Greece's Stefanos Sakellaridis clinched the men's singles title after a hard fought victory over Great Britain's Oliver Crawford. The 21-year-old secured his first ATP Challenger Tour singles crown in a thrilling three-set match.
- Greece's Stefanos Sakellaridis lifted the Delhi Open 2026 singles title after defeating Oliver Crawford in an intense final. The match ended with a scoreline of 7-5, 5-6, 7-6.
- Key highlights of the final,
- Sakellaridis won his maiden ATP Challenger Tour singles crown.
- The final set went into a tie-break.
- He staged a strong comeback in the decider.
- Won the final tie-break 8-6 on his second match point.
- In the doubles event of the Delhi Open 2026, India's Siddhant Banthia partnered with Bulgaria's Alexander Donski to claim the title.
- They defeated,
- India's Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha
- Thailand's Pruchya Isaro
- The ATP Challenger Tour is the second-highest tier of international men's professional tennis after the ATP Tour.
- It allows emerging players to earn ranking points and improve their global standings.
- Tournaments like the Delhi Open provide opportunities for young talents to gain competitive experience.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. The MSP for Raw Jute (TD-3 grade) for the 2026–27 season has been fixed at:**

- (a) ₹5,650 per quintal
- (b) ₹5,925 per quintal
- (c) ₹6,000 per quintal
- (d) ₹5,750 per quintal

**Answer: (b) ₹5,925 per quintal**

---

**2. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Raw Jute for 2026–27 was approved by the:**

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Finance Commission
- (c) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- (d) RBI

**Answer: (c) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**

---

**3. The MSP for Raw Jute for 2026–27 ensures a return of approximately:**

- (a) 50% over cost of production
- (b) 55% over cost of production
- (c) 61.8% over cost of production
- (d) 75% over cost of production

**Answer: (c) 61.8% over cost of production**

---

**4. The 'Blockchain India Challenge' has been launched by:**

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (c) Ministry of Commerce
- (d) NASSCOM

**Answer: (b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

---

**5. The Blockchain India Challenge primarily promotes which type of blockchain system for governance?**

- (a) Public blockchain
- (b) Hybrid blockchain
- (c) Cryptocurrency-based blockchain
- (d) Permissioned blockchain

**Answer: (d) Permissioned blockchain**

---

**6. The proposal to rename Kerala as “Keralam” has been approved by the:**

- (a) Election Commission
- (b) Supreme Court
- (c) State Finance Commission
- (d) Union Cabinet

**Answer: (d) Union Cabinet**

---

**7. The constitutional provision dealing with alteration of state names is:**

- (a) Article 1
- (b) Article 2
- (c) Article 3
- (d) Article 356

**Answer: (c) Article 3**

---

**8. According to data from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), India ranked \_\_\_\_ in buying Russian fossil fuels in January 2026.**

- (a) First
- (b) Second
- (c) Third
- (d) Fourth

**Answer: (b) Second**

---

**9. India’s Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) is being implemented by the:**

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board
- (b) Ministry of Environment

- (c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- (d) NITI Aayog

**Answer: (c) Bureau of Energy Efficiency**

---

**10. The men's singles title at the Delhi Open 2026 was won by:**

- (a) Oliver Crawford
- (b) Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha
- (c) Stefanos Sakellaridis
- (d) Siddhant Banthia

**Answer: (c) Stefanos Sakellaridis**