

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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National Science Day 2026

- India celebrates National Science Day 2026 to honour the discovery of the Raman Effect by **Sir C. V. Raman** in 1928. This day observed on 28th February every year.
- This historic scientific breakthrough earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 which is making him the first Asian Nobel laureate in science.
- The 2026 theme, “**Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat,**” focuses on the powerful role of women scientists in shaping a developed India through innovation, research, and leadership in STEM fields.
- On 28 February 1928 C. V. Raman discovered the Raman Effect which explains how light scatters when it passes through a transparent material.
- For this discovery, he received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, becoming the first Asian scientist to win in the field of science.
- In 1986, the Government of India officially declared 28 February as National Science Day.



Jammu & Kashmir Win Ranji Trophy

- Jammu and Kashmir etched their name in history by winning the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 in their maiden final appearance. At the KSCA Cricket Stadium in Hubballi, J&K defeated eight-time champions Karnataka by securing a massive first-innings lead of 291 runs.
- Led by captain Paras Dogra, the team celebrated in style as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah watched from the stands. With this triumph, Jammu and Kashmir became only the 10th team in 92 years to win the Ranji Trophy in their debut final.
- Ranji Trophy 2025-26 final was played at the KSCA Cricket Stadium.
- Jammu and Kashmir defeated Karnataka cricket team, an eight-time champion.
- J&K posted a huge 584 runs in the first innings.
- They secured a decisive 291-run first-innings lead.
- The victory came in their very first appearance in a Ranji Trophy final.

Season	Winning Team	Runner-up
1934–35	Bombay	Northern India
1936–37	Nawanagar	Bengal
1937–38	Hyderabad	Nawanagar
1939–40	Maharashtra	United Provinces
1942–43	Baroda	Hyderabad
1943–44	Western India	Bengal
1973–74	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh (UP)
1992–93	Punjab	Maharashtra
2017–18	Vidarbha	Delhi

2025–26	Jammu & Kashmir	Karnataka
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Road Safety Financing Project in India

- India has received a major boost in its fight against road accidents. The United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) launched a new Sustainable Road Safety Financing Project on 24 February 2026 in New Delhi.
- The launch took place during the visit of the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Jean Todt. This initiative aims to strengthen India's road safety ecosystem by creating stable and innovative funding mechanisms to support life saving interventions nationwide.
- The key pillars include,
 - Strengthening National and State Road Safety Funds.
 - Introducing innovative financing tools such as road safety bonds.
 - Exploring dedicated taxes for road safety.
 - Promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).
 - Building government capacity for effective resource allocation.



Three Major Inland Waterways Projects Opened

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated three key infrastructure projects on **National Waterway-2** (NW-2) along the Brahmaputra River in Dibrugarh, Assam.
- The projects include the Bogibeel Customs and Immigration Complex, the Dhubri Customs and Immigration Complex, and the renovated IWAI Heritage Building.
- The projects are located on National Waterway 2, which runs along the Brahmaputra River.
- The initiative reflects the government's focus on inland waterways as a cost-effective transport mode.
- The Bogibeel Customs and Immigration Complex is developed as a tourist cum cargo terminal.
- It integrates customs, immigration and administrative functions of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- The Dhubri Customs and Immigration Complex strengthens regulatory oversight.
- It will boost export-import activities in western Assam.
- Dhubri is strategically located near Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- The complex aims to position Dhubri as a key inland trade gateway.



UN Approves First Carbon Credits

- The United Nations has officially approved the first ever carbon credits under the Paris Agreement's carbon market mechanism. The credits come from a clean cooking project in Myanmar which is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect forests.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has approved the first credits under the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism.
- This new carbon market mechanism allows countries and companies to offset excess emissions by investing in emission reducing projects abroad.
- The first approved project is a clean cooking initiative in Myanmar, partnered with a South Korean company.
- These UN carbon credits will count toward the climate targets of both Myanmar and South Korea.
- The system was finalized under new rules adopted at COP29 in Azerbaijan (2024).
- The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 and it is a global treaty under the UN to combat climate change.
- Nearly 200 countries agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming.
- Article 6 of the agreement allows countries to cooperate through carbon markets.



Micron's Semiconductor ATMP Facility in Sanand

- Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Micron Technology's Semiconductor Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Sanand which is in Gujarat on 28 February 2026.
- The launch marks the start of commercial production and a significant milestone in India's semiconductor journey.
- India has approved 10 semiconductor projects under the Semicon India Programme with additional facilities expected in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha and Punjab.
- The Micron ATMP Sanand plant produces D-RAM and NAND memory solutions, essential for AI applications, data centres and mobile devices.
- The Micron ATMP Sanand facility is not just a manufacturing unit. A semiconductor ecosystem includes,
 - Machine manufacturers
 - Chip design engineers
 - Research institutions
 - Logistics networks
 - Skilled technicians



India Welcomes 9 Cheetahs from Botswana

- Union Environment Minister released nine cheetahs from Botswana into quarantine enclosures at **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh. With this arrival India's cheetah population has reached 48 which is including 28 India born cubs and also marking a major milestone under **Project Cheetah India**.
- Project Cheetah aims to establish a secure population outside Africa.
- India is creating an additional habitat for long term species resilience.
- Collaboration with Botswana highlights global conservation partnerships.
- Scientific monitoring ensures health, adaptation, and breeding success.
- With 28 India born cubs, the project shows encouraging results.



UAE Launches World's First Sovereign Financial Cloud with AI

- The Central Bank of the UAE has unveiled what it calls the world's first sovereign financial cloud services infrastructure which is marking a major milestone in digital finance.
- Announced on 27th February 2026 the AI powered platform aims to secure banking operations within the country's borders while strengthening regulatory oversight.
- The project, named the Sovereign Financial Cloud Services Infrastructure (SFCSI), has been introduced by the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates (CBUAE).
- Unlike traditional cloud systems operated by global providers, the UAE sovereign financial cloud is fully isolated and centrally managed within the country.
- It ensures that critical financial data remains under national jurisdiction.
- The initiative was developed in collaboration with Core42, a subsidiary of AI and tech group G42.
- AI capabilities enable,
 - Real-time fraud detection
 - Automated regulatory compliance monitoring
 - Predictive risk analysis
 - Smart workflow automation
 - Enhanced customer service systems



Iran Names Ayatollah Alireza Arafii as Temporary Supreme Leader

- Hours after the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was confirmed the senior cleric Alireza Arafii was appointed to temporarily lead the country.
- According to Iranian media reports, Arafii has been named the jurist member of a three-member Leadership Council, which will temporarily perform the duties of the Supreme Leader.
- Alireza Arafii is a 67 year old senior Shia cleric.
- He currently serves as Deputy Chairman of the Assembly of Experts.
- Previously, he was a member of the Guardian Council.
- He also heads Iran's influential seminary system in Qom.
- Arafii has been regarded as a possible contender to succeed Khamenei permanently.
- Since the **1979 Islamic Revolution**, Iran has had only two Supreme Leaders.
- The first was **Ruhollah Khomeini**, who led the revolution and ruled until his death in 1989.
- He was succeeded by **Ali Khamenei**, who served for decades and significantly expanded the role's influence.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. National Science Day in India is observed on:

- A. 15 January
- B. 26 January
- C. 28 February
- D. 5 June

Answer: C. 28 February

Explanation: National Science Day is celebrated on 28 February to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by C. V. Raman in 1928.

2. C. V. Raman received the Nobel Prize in Physics in:

- A. 1928
- B. 1930
- C. 1935
- D. 1947

Answer: B. 1930

Explanation: He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for the discovery of the Raman Effect, becoming the first Asian Nobel laureate in science.

3. The theme of National Science Day 2026 is:

- A. Science for Sustainable Development
- B. Innovation for Future India
- C. Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat
- D. Technology for All

Answer: C. Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat

Explanation: The 2026 theme focuses on women's contribution in STEM fields toward building a developed India.

4. Jammu & Kashmir won which major domestic cricket title in 2025–26?

- A. Vijay Hazare Trophy
- B. Deodhar Trophy

- C. Duleep Trophy
- D. Ranji Trophy

Answer: D. Ranji Trophy

Explanation: Jammu & Kashmir won the Ranji Trophy 2025–26 in their maiden final appearance.

5. Jammu & Kashmir defeated which team in the Ranji Trophy 2025–26 final?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Karnataka cricket team
- D. Delhi

Answer: C. Karnataka cricket team

Explanation: J&K defeated eight-time champions Karnataka by securing a 291-run first-innings lead.

6. The Sustainable Road Safety Financing Project was launched by:

- A. World Bank
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. Asian Development Bank
- D. United Nations Road Safety Fund

Answer: D. United Nations Road Safety Fund

Explanation: The UNRSF launched the initiative to strengthen road safety funding mechanisms in India.

7. The first carbon credits under the new mechanism were approved under which agreement?

- A. Kyoto Protocol
- B. Montreal Protocol
- C. Paris Agreement
- D. Glasgow Pact

Answer: C. Paris Agreement

Explanation: The UN approved the first carbon credits under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

8. Micron's Semiconductor ATMP facility inaugurated in 2026 is located in:

- A. Noida
- B. Dibrugarh
- C. Sanand
- D. Bhubaneswar

Answer: C. Sanand

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ATMP facility in Sanand, Gujarat.

9. The cheetahs recently brought to India were released at:

- A. Gir National Park
- B. Ranthambore National Park
- C. Kuno National Park
- D. Kaziranga National Park

Answer: C. Kuno National Park

Explanation: Nine cheetahs from Botswana were released into quarantine enclosures at Kuno National Park.

10. After the death of Ali Khamenei, who was appointed as temporary Supreme Leader of Iran?

- A. Hassan Rouhani
- B. Ebrahim Raisi
- C. Mohammad Khatami
- D. Alireza Araf

Answer: D. Alireza Araf

Explanation: Alireza Araf was appointed as a jurist member of the three-member Leadership Council to temporarily perform the duties of Supreme Leader after Ali Khamenei.