RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR SSC EXAMS

MONTH

February 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

February 2026

Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **Jnanpith Award 2025/2026 Announced:** The 59th Jnanpith Award selection committee announced India's highest literary honour recognizing lifetime contributions to Indian literature and vernacular enrichment.
- **National Water Awards 2026:** Conferred by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, awarding top-performing states and urban municipal corporations for groundwater rejuvenation and river basin protection.
- **68th Annual Grammy Awards (Indian Achievers):** Prominent Indian classical instrumentalists and global fusion composers earned nominations and honours in the Best Global Music Performance category.
- **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Celebrations:** National recognition drives held across states commemorating youth prodigies awarded for exceptional societal impact, innovation, and courage.
- **CII National Award for Excellence in Energy Management:** Multiple Zonal Railways and production units (DLW, ICF, CLW) received top industry accolades for energy-efficient locomotive manufacture.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2026:** Held in Mumbai, felicitating iconic cinematic veterans, actors, and technicians across Indian film industries.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **79th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA 2026):** Held at the Royal Festival Hall in London, celebrating global cinematic masterpieces across international direction, documentary, and acting categories.
- **Nobel Peace Prize Nominations 2026:** International parliamentary bodies and academic institutes submitted formal nominee dossiers highlighting multilateral peace mediation and refugee relief efforts.
- **UN Champions of Science & Innovation:** Global research coalitions awarded international honours to Indian solar physicists for continuous data contributions from space solar observatories.
- **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) Honours:** The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) honoured global environmental leaders in New Delhi for steering climate equity in the Global South.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **General Manager Postings across Key Railway Zones:** Ministry of Railways appointed senior Indian Railway Service officers as General Managers of Northern, Eastern, and Western Railways to fast-track safety works.

- **Election Commissioner of India:** The high-powered selection panel chaired by the Prime Minister appointed a senior administrator to fill vacancies in the three-member Election Commission of India.
- **Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):** Senior IPS officer assumed charge as DG CISF, tasked with augmenting security protocols across airports, metro rail systems, and critical aerospace facilities.
- **Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT):** Senior revenue service administrator appointed to steer post-Union Budget direct tax policy reforms and AI-driven tax assessments.
- **Managing Director & CEO of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC):** Appointed to oversee hospitality modernization, digital ticketing scaling, and Bharat Gaurav tourist train expansions.
- **Controller General of Accounts (CGA):** Senior officer from the Indian Civil Accounts Service appointed to oversee Union Government financial accounting and Public Financial Management System (PFMS) operations.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **President of the United Nations General Assembly (Preparatory Sessions):** Strategic consultation rounds commenced for electing upcoming leadership from regional groupings for the 81st UNGA session.
- **Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Global multilateral lender appointed leading macroeconomic researcher to steer global growth forecast modeling.
- **Secretary-General of SAARC Re-engagement:** Diplomatic consultations initiated in Kathmandu to restore functional consultative tracks on regional disaster management and meteorology.
- **Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA):** Multilateral consultations finalized on clean energy transition oversight and critical minerals security monitoring.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Legendary Indian Playback Maestro:** Renowned Padma-decorated veteran classical and playback maestro passed away at 91, mourned nationwide across musical institutions.
- **Passing of Renowned Civil Rights Jurist:** Former Supreme Court senior jurist known for landmark rulings on environmental jurisprudence and personal liberty passed away.
- **Yashasvi Jaiswal in News:** Indian opening batter set record milestones across ICC Test batting rankings following commanding double centuries in high-profile bilateral series.
- **D. Gukesh in News:** Celebrated across sports academies and felicitated by state governments following historic World Chess Championship performances in Singapore.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **Union Budget 2026–27 Presentation:** Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget in Parliament, detailing capital expenditure roadmaps and economic priorities.

- **Viksit Bharat National Infrastructure Pipeline Scaling:** Budgetary outlays expanded for mega logistics hubs, inland waterways development, and industrial multi-modal connectivity corridors.
- **Mission Shakti & Saksham Anganwadi 2.0:** Ministry of Women and Child Development expanded nutrition tracking and women empowerment hubs across aspirational districts.
- **PM Vishwakarma Scheme Expansion:** Ministry of Skill Development onboarded over 50 lakh traditional artisans into modern tool-kit distribution networks and institutional collateral-free credit lines.
- **National Health Claims Exchange (NHCX) Pan-India Integration:** National Health Authority made NHCX integration operational across major private hospitals to ensure cashless health insurance processing.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Gram Parivahan Yojana Expansion (Bihar):** State administration allocated funds to provide subsidized commercial vehicles to rural youth from marginalized communities.
- **Yuva Sathi Employment Portal (West Bengal):** State government upgraded its single-window digital registration portal to disburse vocational training stipends to educated jobseekers.
- **Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana Special Trains (Delhi):** Launched dedicated pilgrim special train itineraries in coordination with Indian Railways for senior citizens visiting sacred shrines.
- **Jagananna Thodu Scheme (Andhra Pradesh):** Disbursed interest-free working capital loan tranches to thousands of urban and rural street vendors across the state.
- **Panchayat Green Energy Initiative (Kerala):** Launched decentralized community microgrids and rooftop solar clusters across local panchayats to attain localized net-zero power status.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Record Railway Capital Expenditure (CapEx) in Budget 2026:** Union Budget allocated a historic capital outlay exceeding ₹2.65 lakh crore for Indian Railways safety, track renewal, and rolling stock.
- **National High-Speed Rail Corridor Progress:** NHSRCL completed piercing of crucial mountain tunnels and elevated viaduct segments on the Gujarat section of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project.
- **Kavach 5.0 High-Speed Trial Runs:** Indian Railways conducted successful 160 kmph trial runs of the indigenous Kavach Automatic Train Protection system along the Delhi-Agra high-density corridor.
- **Amrit Bharat Express Commercial Fleet Expansion:** 20 additional pairs of push-pull Amrit Bharat Express non-AC sleeper trains flagged off to connect major migrant-heavy industrial hubs.
- **Kashmir Rail Connectivity Commercialization:** Regular passenger express trains commenced through the world's highest rail arch bridge (Chenab Bridge) connecting Katra to Srinagar directly.
- **Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals (GCT):** Indian Railways commissioned 25 new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals to boost freight transit share and cut logistics costs below 9% of GDP.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 Finals:** High-stakes final played in Zimbabwe, crowning the champion after stellar performances from young pace bowlers and top-order batters.
- **WPL 2026 (Women's Premier League) Season Kicks Off:** Grand opening ceremony and high-intensity league clashes commenced across multi-city venues in Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- **Ranji Trophy 2025–26 Semi-Finals:** Elite state cricket teams locked horns in intense five-day Ranji Trophy semi-final clashes to book spots in the prestigious domestic final.
- **BCCI Annual Player Contracts 2026:** Board of Control for Cricket in India announced central contracts across Grade A+, A, B, and C categories, incentivizing domestic red-ball participation.

Hockey, Football & Tennis

- **FIH Hockey Pro League 2025–26 (Bhubaneswar Leg):** Indian Men's hockey team registered thrilling shootout and regulation wins against European powerhouses Netherlands and Australia.
- **ISL 2025–26 League Shield Race:** Indian Super League entered its decisive league-stage phase with top clubs contending for the League Winners' Shield and AFC Champions League spots.
- **ATP Dubai Tennis Championships 2026:** Top international seeded players competed in the ATP 500 hard-court championship, showcasing elite hard-court baseline rallies.
- **Santosh Trophy National Football Championship:** Final rounds held with fierce knockout matches among state football associations to determine the national champion.

Chess, Badminton & Multi-Sport

- **FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 Build-Up:** International Chess Federation published official player qualification lists and venue preparations for determining world title challengers.
- **Badminton Asia Team Championships 2026:** Indian men's and women's squads showcased dominant group-stage wins in continental team competition, securing knockout stage berths.
- **National Winter Games 2026 (Gulmarg):** Jammu & Kashmir hosted the prestigious national winter sports showcase featuring alpine skiing, snowboarding, and ice hockey.
- **ISSF Shooting World Cup (Rifle/Pistol):** Indian markspersons secured multiple gold and silver podium finishes in mixed team and individual 10m air rifle events.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **Chandrayaan-4 Lunar Sample Return Propulsion Module:** ISRO completed ground static fire testing of propulsion modules designed to bring soil samples back from the lunar south pole.
- **NISAR Satellite Final Launch Window:** NASA and ISRO technical steering teams declared completion of payload integration and environmental testing ahead of Sriharikota launch.
- **AstroSat Decade-Long Scientific Milestone:** India's premier multi-wavelength space observatory crossed over 10 years of operational orbital life, generating petabytes of deep space data.

- **Starship Integrated Flight Test 7:** SpaceX completed successful orbital injection and targeted ocean splashdown maneuvers, advancing Starship human spaceflight certification.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **VAYU-SHAKTI 2026 Mega Air Combat Exercise:** Indian Air Force staged a massive firepower and precision strike demonstration at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan featuring Rafale, Tejas, and Su-30MKI.
- **Induction of Indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS):** Indian Army completed final high-altitude induction trials of the 155mm/52-calibre ATAGS developed by DRDO.
- **Sea Trials of 4th Kalvari-Class Follow-On Submarine:** Project-75 submarine commenced deep-sea dive trials, demonstrating advanced acoustic silencing and heavyweight torpedo capability.
- **Anti-Drone Directed Energy Weapon Trials:** DRDO successfully tested vehicle-mounted high-energy laser systems designed to neutralize rogue drone swarms and loitering munitions.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **National Artificial Intelligence Computing Infrastructure:** MeitY commissioned initial high-density GPU compute clusters under the IndiaAI mission to empower indigenous LLM startups.
- **Indigenous mRNA Vaccine Platform for Infectious Diseases:** Department of Biotechnology supported researchers in developing homegrown mRNA vaccine candidates for emerging viral pathogens.
- **Supercomputing Node 'Param Shakti' Upgrades:** Advanced computational modeling deployed across premier IITs to accelerate quantum materials simulation and aerodynamic testing.
- **Genome India Project Data Release:** National genomic research consortium released comprehensive open-source datasets covering over 10,000 sequenced human genomes representing Indian diversity.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026:** Hosted by TERI in New Delhi, bringing together global ministers and scientists to debate clean energy access and climate finance.
- **14th India-EU Summit Ministerial Engagements:** Senior trade commissioners advanced bilateral dialogues on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Investment Protection Agreement.
- **Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2026:** Global defense ministers and security experts gathered in Germany to evaluate European security architectures, Indo-Pacific stability, and AI cyber defense.
- **IBSA Dialogue Forum Foreign Ministers' Meet:** India, Brazil, and South Africa reaffirmed trilateral cooperation on South-South trade partnerships, healthcare access, and multilateral reform.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **Finance Bill 2026 Introduced in Lok Sabha:** Union Finance Minister introduced the Finance Bill to give statutory effect to tax proposals and direct taxation amendments announced in Union Budget 2026.
- **Railway Safety & Operational Modernization Statutory Review:** Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways reviewed budget allocations for track renewals, signaling upgrades, and grade-crossing elimination.
- **Tribal Land Rights & Forest Governance Parliamentary Scrutiny:** Inter-ministerial committees evaluated implementation audits of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) across tribal-dominated districts.
- **Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Regulatory Directives:** Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued enforceable guidelines against dark patterns and fraudulent AI-generated online ads.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-France Defense Industrial Roadmap Milestones:** High-level defense acquisitions council reviewed co-production timelines for military aircraft engines and maritime patrol technologies.
- **India-Sri Lanka Multi-Product Energy Pipeline:** Delegations agreed on engineering modalities to lay cross-strait petroleum and liquefied natural gas pipelines connecting southern India to Sri Lanka.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Africa Clean Grid Projects:** ISA initiated financing tranches for decentralized mini-grid and solar water pumping deployments across Sub-Saharan nations.
- **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) Working Groups:** Partner nations convened working groups focusing on maritime ecology, disaster reduction, and sustainable fisheries surveillance.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'Tracks of Transformation: The Modernization of Indian Railways':** Authored by veteran transport administrator chronicling track electrification, Kavach implementation, and passenger logistics overhauls.
- **'The Republic of Ideas: Reshaping India's Democratic Century':** Authored by prominent constitutional scholar examining grassroots institutional resilience and judicial evolution.
- **'Monsoon Frontiers: Climate and Survival in the Indo-Pacific':** Authored by environmental journalist exploring rising sea levels, cyclone frequency, and coastal adaptation in the Bay of Bengal.
- **'Legacy of the Willow: The Story of Indian Cricket':** Authored by senior sports editor documenting pivotal domestic tournament milestones, Ranji records, and ICC triumphs.
- **'Wings over the Horizon: Indigenous Aviation in India':** Authored by retired Air Marshal recounting the design journey of indigenous fighter jets, trainers, and transport aircraft.

Important Days & Themes

Date	Event / Observance	Key Focus / Theme
February 1	Indian Coast Guard Raising Day	Marking the 49th Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard, honoring its vigilance along India's 7,516-km-long coastline.
February 2	World Wetlands Day	Commemorating the 1971 adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; Theme: 'Protecting Wetlands for Our Sustainable Future'.
February 4	World Cancer Day	Spearheaded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to drive global awareness, equitable treatment access, and cancer prevention.
February 10	National Deworming Day & World Pulses Day	Dedicated to improving child health and nutritional security; World Pulses Day highlighted the agronomic resilience of legumes.
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	Promoting full and equal access to and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.
February 12	National Productivity Day	Kicking off National Productivity Week to promote manufacturing efficiency, lean management, and industrial productivity.
February 13	World Radio Day & National Women's Day (India)	World Radio Day celebrated radio as a vital medium; National Women's Day commemorated the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.
February 20	World Day of Social Justice & Statehood Day	Celebrating statehood milestones in Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram, and advocating for equal socio-economic rights.
February 21	International Mother Language Day	Proclaimed by UNESCO to promote linguistic diversity, mother-tongue education, and cultural preservation.
February 24	Central Excise Day	Honoring the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, and recognizing the contributions of central revenue officers.
February 27	World NGO Day & National Protein Day	Acknowledging non-governmental organizations in humanitarian service, while Protein Day advocated for balanced dietary protein awareness.
February 28	National Science Day	Commemorating the historic discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Sir C.V. Raman in 1928, inspiring scientific temper and youth research in India.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **Himalayan Seabuckthorn & Apricot Oil (Ladakh):** Ladakh administration fast-tracked dedicated brand certification and export promotion for GI-certified organic seabuckthorn and wild apricot oil.
- **Kondapalli Toys & Machilipatnam Kalamkari (Andhra Pradesh):** Artisan clusters received dedicated export subsidy support to showcase traditional wooden toys and vegetable-dyed block prints globally.
- **Kashmir Saffron GI Authentication Hologram:** J&K agriculture department launched upgraded anti-counterfeiting holographic barcodes for 100% pure GI-tagged Kashmir saffron.
- **Chanderi & Maheshwari Sarees (Madhya Pradesh):** Handloom promotion councils organized international buyer-seller meets highlighting traditional silk-cotton weaves protected under GI registry.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's Largest Railway Cable-Stayed Bridge (Anji Khad Bridge):** Northern Railway finalized high-speed track testing on India's first cable-stayed railway bridge connecting Katra and Reasi.
- **World's Highest High-Altitude Rail Track Section:** USBRL rail section in Jammu & Kashmir set global engineering benchmarks for tunnels and ballastless tracks in seismic zone V.
- **India's First Green Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Passenger Locomotive:** Prototype trials marked the nation's entry into the select group of nations operating zero-emission hydrogen passenger rail propulsion.
- **World's Largest Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP):** Construction milestones reviewed at Jogighopa (Assam) and Nagpur (Maharashtra) to streamline multi-modal rail-road freight handling.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **Maratha Military Landscapes Nomination Progress:** Ministry of Culture submitted comprehensive final dossiers to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for the 2025–26 evaluation cycle.
- **Hampi Heritage Conservation Corridor:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) finalized pedestrian-friendly heritage buffer corridors around the sacred Vijayanagara monuments in Karnataka.
- **Dholavira & Lothal Harappan Tourism Circuit:** Archaeological tourism corridors inaugurated connecting Harappan metropolis sites with museum infrastructure and interactive 3D digital walkthroughs.
- **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Seminars:** Sangeet Natak Akademi held workshops for traditional Vedic chanting and Kutiyattam Sanskrit theatre preservation.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **52nd Khajuraho Dance Festival (Madhya Pradesh):** Prestigious national dance festival held against the backdrop of Khajuraho temples, showcasing Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Kuchipudi.
- **Centenary Tributes to Classical Dance Gurus:** Commemorative national symposiums celebrated legendary gurus who codified Mohiniyattam and Sattriya dance repertoires.
- **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan Sangeet Samman Conferred:** Eminent classical musicians and dance accompanists honored for enriching traditional classical ragas and rhythmic tala traditions.
- **Konark Dance Festival & Sand Art Extravaganza:** Staged in Odisha with classical dance ensembles performing against the backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage Sun Temple.

ENVIRONMENT

- **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2025/26 Findings:** Forest Survey of India (FSI) released biennial data indicating marginal net gains in forest and tree cover, led by agro-forestry and mangrove pockets.
- **Mission LiFE Global Eco-Practices Showcase:** India presented its community-led sustainable lifestyle interventions at the UNEP Environment Assembly side-events in Nairobi.

- **Project Tiger & Project Elephant Synchronized Census:** Wildlife authorities initiated joint landscape-level population surveys using M-STrIPES digital tracking across Southern Western Ghats reserves.
- **Ramsar Convention 55th Anniversary:** India celebrated its expanding network of Ramsar wetlands, organizing conservation rallies across coastal lagoons and high-altitude lakes.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Annual Progress:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported continuous PM10 and PM2.5 improvements in over 80 non-attainment cities.
- **Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Wildlife Mitigation:** National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) reviewed habitat compensatory measures in Panna Tiger Reserve to safeguard tiger corridors.
- **Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Conservation Breeding:** Wildlife Institute of India announced the successful hatching and rearing of bustard chicks at breeding centers in Sam, Jaisalmer.
- **Single-Use Plastic Ban Enforcement:** State pollution control boards intensified surveillance against non-biodegradable plastic packaging and thermocol cutlery across commercial markets.
- **Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP):** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways commenced procurement of battery-electric and green-hydrogen-powered tugboats for major Indian ports.
- **National Clean Carbon Mission for Steel & Cement:** Inter-ministerial roadmap unveiled to implement carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) pilots in heavy industrial units.
- **Kaziranga National Park Flood-Resilience Review:** Assam forest department completed elevated highlands and camera-trap corridors to provide safe passage to one-horned rhinos during seasonal floods.
- **Miyawaki Urban Forest Initiatives:** Municipal corporations across major metropolitan rail hubs established dense urban micro-forests along railway embankments and vacant lands.
- **Himalayan Black Bear Rescue & Habitat Safeguards:** Wildlife sanctuaries in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh notified buffer corridors to minimize human-wildlife encounters during winter foraging.
- **Bilateral Transboundary Wildlife Corridor:** India and Bhutan signed environmental protocols to safeguard transboundary elephant and tiger migratory routes across the Royal Manas-Manas landscape.

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