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Daily
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📅 **Saturday, February 28, 2026**

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Top Stories of The Day

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- *Yogi Adityanath Secures ₹90,000 Crore Japanese Investment* MoUs for Uttar Pradesh

- India and Israel Elevate Ties to Special Strategic *Partnership, Sign 16 MoUs*

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Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Approves ₹797 Crore Green Hydrogen Jetty at Paradip Port Authority

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन
एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
PORTS, SHIPPING
AND WATERWAYS
सत्यमेव जयते

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) has approved the construction of a green hydrogen and liquid cargo handling jetty at the Paradip Port Authority in Odisha with an estimated investment of ₹797.17 crore. The project is to be implemented under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model by the Paradip Port Authority.

Key features of the project:

- Handling capacity: 4 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) for green hydrogen, green ammonia and other liquid cargo.
- Infrastructure: Includes jetty, storage systems, pipelines, cargo handling equipment and allied facilities.
- Technical specs: The berth will have a dredged depth of ~14.3 m and a centre-to-centre span of ~279 m between extreme end dolphins.
- Capital share: Paradip Port Authority to contribute ~20% (~₹159.43 crore) during construction.
- Timeline: Expected to be completed within 24 months.

Government objectives aligned:

- The project supports the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), aimed at strengthening India's green energy supply chain and export logistics.

- It is expected to boost investments, generate employment and create an integrated green energy ecosystem in eastern India.

About Green Hydrogen in India

- Green Hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable energy, resulting in zero carbon emissions. It is considered a critical fuel for decarbonisation across industries like steel, fertilizer, and transport.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

Launch:

- Approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2023.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

Financial Outlay:

- Total outlay: ₹19,744 crore.

Main Objectives:

- Make India a global hub for production, usage, and export of Green Hydrogen.
- Reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.
- Support India's net-zero target by 2070.
- Decarbonise hard-to-abate sectors like steel, cement, refineries, fertilisers, and heavy transport.

Production Target:

- At least 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of Green Hydrogen per year by 2030.

Renewable Energy Addition:

- Expected to add around 125 GW of renewable energy capacity.

Strategic Importance of Paradip Port

- Paradip Port Authority (PPA) is a major deep-water, all-weather port on India's east coast (Odisha), handling bulk, breakbulk, dry, liquid and container cargo.
- Paradip Port has been officially recognised as one of India's Green Hydrogen Hubs under NGHM.
- The port is part of India's maritime infrastructure expansion under the Sagarmala Programme, which aims to modernise ports for cargo growth and global competitiveness (note: Sagarmala often cited in exam syllabi).

BOT Model

- The Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model allows private or semi-government entities to invest in infrastructure, operate it for a set period, and then transfer it back to the government authority. This reduces fiscal burden and attracts private capital.

Broader Policy Context

- The project aligns with India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, focusing on clean energy transition and reducing carbon intensity.
- It also connects to Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) goals by developing domestic green energy supply and export potential.

Yogi Adityanath-Led Uttar Pradesh Government Secures Major Japanese Investment MoUs Worth ₹90,000 Crore

- The Government of Uttar Pradesh signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹90,000 crore with various Japanese companies during a two-day official visit by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to Japan. The agreements aim to attract investment into the state's industrial and manufacturing sectors.

Purpose of the Visit

- The visit was intended to promote Uttar Pradesh as a global investment destination, highlight its investment potential, and strengthen economic and industrial cooperation between Uttar Pradesh and Japanese businesses.

Sectors Covered Under the Agreements

- The MoUs involve collaboration across key sectors such as:
- Manufacturing and industrial machinery
- Automobiles and auto components
- Agricultural equipment and technology
- Electronics and advanced components
- Hospitality, real estate and infrastructure
- Environmental and water solutions

- Leading multinational firms such as Kubota Corporation, Minda Corporation, Japan Aviation Electronics Industry, Nagase & Co. Ltd, Seiko Advance and others are among the signatories to these agreements.

Policy and Investment Environment

- The state's investor-friendly policies, improvements in law and order, development of world-class infrastructure, and initiatives like single-window clearance systems have increased investor confidence. These reforms play a significant role in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

India–Japan Economic Relations:

- Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

Cooperation in:

- High-Speed Rail (Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project)
- Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)
- Defence & Indo-Pacific strategy
- Japan is a major source of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India.

Japan:

- Capital: Tokyo
- Prime Minister: Head of Government
- Parliament: National Diet (Bicameral – House of Representatives & House of Councillors)
- Currency: Japanese Yen (¥)

Geographical Facts

- Located in East Asia, in the northwest Pacific Ocean.
- An archipelago of 6,800+ islands.
- Four main islands: Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku.
- Lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire → prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity.
- Highest peak: Mount Fuji (3,776 m).

Economic Facts

- One of the world's largest economies (Top 3–4 globally by nominal GDP).
- Known for industries like:
- Automobiles (Toyota, Honda)
- Electronics (Sony, Panasonic)
- Robotics & Technology
- Major investor in India (infrastructure, metro rail, industrial corridors).

International Memberships

- Japan is a member of:
- United Nations (UN)
- G7
- G20
- IMF
- World Bank
- APEC

India and Israel Elevate Ties; Sign 16 MoUs, Announce Special Strategic Partnership

- During the ongoing state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Israel, both countries signed 16 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and formally announced the elevation of bilateral relations to a "Special Strategic Partnership." The agreements were signed in Jerusalem in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu.

Key Areas of Cooperation Covered by the MoUs

The 16 MoUs and agreements span multiple strategic and emerging sectors, such as:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies

Agriculture and innovation centres

- Cybersecurity and digital payments (UPI linkage)

Education and research collaboration

- Commerce, services, and manufacturing protocols

Cultural and people-to-people exchanges

- These agreements are expected to enhance high-tech engagement, trade flows, research cooperation, and bilateral economic integration.

Special Strategic Partnership Framework

- Both leaders announced that the upgraded bilateral relationship will focus on:
- Joint collaboration in defence, technology, and innovation (e.g., defence R&D and technology transfer).
- Expansion of economic cooperation, including advanced discussions on a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- Digital cooperation, such as enabling the use of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Israel to facilitate cross-border transactions.
- Cooperation in space, energy, and cybersecurity sectors.
- This reflects a comprehensive partnership covering security, technology, trade, and people-to-people links.

Strategic and Geopolitical Significance

- The partnership signals a deepening of India-Israel ties against the backdrop of evolving global and regional dynamics.
- Both nations reiterated their shared position against terrorism and commitment to peace and stability.
- The elevated strategic link also aligns with frameworks such as I2U2 and the potential India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

India–Israel Diplomatic Relations

- India and Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992 after decades of limited engagement.
- Strategic cooperation has grown significantly over the past three decades, covering defence, agriculture, water management, and technology.

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

- UPI is a real-time payments system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) that enables instant funds transfer across banks and merchants.
- The agreement to enable UPI in Israel is expected to facilitate seamless digital payments, boost tourism, and strengthen financial connectivity.

- National Payments Corporation of India:
- Founded: 19 December 2016
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Non-Exe Chairman: Ajay Kumar Choudhary
- MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe

India-Israel Defence Cooperation

- Israel is one of India's major defence partners, with cooperation in joint development, production, and technological transfers. The relationship has expanded from traditional defence equipment to focus on high-tech and co-development projects.

UIDAI and Google Partner to Show Authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and tech major Google have signed an agreement to display authorised Aadhaar enrolment and update centres on Google Maps. This initiative, announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, is aimed at improving citizens' ease of access and

convenience when locating official Aadhaar centres across India.

What Will Be Displayed?

- Under the collaboration, residents across the country will soon be able to use Google Maps to:
- Locate verified Aadhaar centres, including Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs).
- See the services offered — such as adult enrolment, child enrolment, or address and mobile updates.
- View accessibility details like divyang-friendly infrastructure, parking facilities, and centre operating hours wherever applicable.
- The facility is expected to be available in the coming months.

About Aadhaar

- Launched in 2009, Aadhaar is the world's largest biometric ID system managed by UIDAI. It provides a 12-digit unique identification number to residents based on biometric and demographic data.
- Aadhaar is used for various government welfare schemes, direct benefit transfers (DBT), and identity verification across services such as banking and taxation.
- Chairman: Neelkanth Mishra
- CEO: Bhuvnesh Kumar

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

- Responsible for digital transformation initiatives in India, including e-governance, cybersecurity, and digital services infrastructure.
- Drives programs like Digital India, aimed at expanding internet access and delivery of government services digitally.
- Cabinet Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw,
- Minister of State: Jitin Prasada
- Secretary: S. Krishnan

Senior IAS Officer Nidhi Chhibber Assumes Additional Charge as CEO of NITI Aayog

- The Government of India has assigned additional charge of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog to Nidhi Chhibber, a senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, following the completion of the extended tenure of B. V. R. Subrahmanyam.
- She will serve in this interim capacity until a regular CEO is appointed or until further orders.
- Nidhi Chhibber is a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre.
- She is currently the Director General of the Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) within NITI Aayog, focusing on outcome-based monitoring and evaluation of flagship government programmes.

About NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) was formed in January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission to serve as a policy think tank of the Government of India.
- The Prime Minister of India serves as its Chairperson. Other members include the Vice-Chairperson, CEO, and full-time/part-time members.
- Its core functions include strategic policy formulation, cooperative federalism, and evaluation of government programmes.
- Chairperson: Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson: Suman Bery

- CEO: B. V. R. Subrahmanyam

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)

- The ACC is the authority that approves senior appointments in the Government of India, including inter-cadre transfers and key bureaucratic assignments like that of NITI Aayog CEO.
- Secretary: Manisha Saxena

Chartered Flight Operations in India: Safety Lapses and DGCA Actions

- Several air safety lapses involving chartered flights (operated by non-scheduled operators) in India have raised concerns about regulatory oversight and safety standards. These incidents include recent crashes such as the one on January 28, 2026, which killed Ajit Pawar and others, prompting regulatory actions by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

What Are Chartered/Non-Scheduled Operations?

- Chartered flights are on-demand air services provided by operators under Non-Scheduled Operator Permits (NSOPs), including private jets, air ambulances, and other non-routine flights.
- Unlike commercial airlines, NSOPs don't operate fixed, published schedules and often serve individual or VIP needs.

Safety Concerns Identified

- DGCA's review of past incidents identified several key issues behind small aircraft accidents:
- Non-adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Inadequate flight planning
- Training deficiencies for pilots and crew
- Pressure on pilots from commercial considerations or VIP schedules that can compromise safety decisions.
- Experts have also pointed to risks stemming from remote airfields with poor navigational aids, ageing aircraft, and shortages of trained maintenance engineers and experienced pilots.

DGCA's Regulatory Response

- In response to the rise in safety incidents, the DGCA has announced a range of tougher safety measures:
- Enforcement of a zero-tolerance safety policy for NSOPs.
- Mandatory public disclosure of critical safety information (aircraft age, maintenance history, pilot experience).
- Safety rankings for NSOPs to be published on the DGCA website.
- Increased random audits of cockpit voice recorders (CVRs) and flight data.
- Accountability of senior management and stricter penalties, including licence suspension for pilots found violating safety norms.
- The regulator emphasised that a pilot's decision to divert, delay or cancel a flight for safety reasons must be final, irrespective of commercial or VIP pressures.

What Is an NSOP?

- Non-Scheduled Operator Permit (NSOP): A permit issued by the DGCA to operators providing non-regular air transport services (e.g., charter flights, private jets, air ambulances) under the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

About DGCA

- The DGCA is India's civil aviation regulatory authority, responsible for air safety, licensing, airworthiness standards, and regulatory oversight of all civil aircraft operations in India.
- It functions under the Aircraft Act, 1934, and Aircraft Rules, 1937.
- Director General: Faiz Ahmed Kidwai

Aviation Safety Trends

- Recent regulatory actions, including groundings and audits, are part of broader efforts to strengthen safety culture across India's aviation sector, especially in smaller aircraft and charter segments.

India Develops Voluntary Framework & Guidelines for Space Cyber Security

DEFSAT 2026
24-26 February 2026
Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi

- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the SatCom Industry Association of India (SIA-India), has unveiled a comprehensive voluntary framework and guidelines for space cyber security to strengthen the cyber resilience of India's space ecosystem, including satellite networks, ground infrastructure, and related supply chains. The guidelines were released at the DefSat Conference & Expo-2026 in New Delhi.

Purpose of the Framework

- To enhance cyber preparedness for space assets, including satellites, ground stations, and space communication infrastructure.

- To define principles, recommended controls and stakeholder responsibilities to foster a culture of resilience, accountability and proactive risk management across the space sector.
- To support diverse stakeholders such as government agencies, satellite service providers, equipment vendors and private space enterprises.

Significance for Space Security

- The framework treats space cyber security as a core component of mission assurance, not an afterthought, recognising that cyber threats could endanger critical space services.
- It reflects public-private partnership between government and industry to improve security posture against evolving cyber risks.
- It supports India's ambitions to become a global space power by protecting space communications that are vital for national security, disaster management, navigation, broadcasting and economic growth.

Why Space Cyber Security Matters

- Space systems, such as satellites and communication links, play crucial roles in defence, strategic communications, navigation (e.g., GPS/NavIC), weather monitoring and internet connectivity, making them high-value targets for cyber threats.
- As space becomes more contested globally, cyber security ensures continuity of services and protection against hostile interference.

Indian Space Ecosystem & Institutional Framework

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the primary space agency, responsible for satellite launches, space exploration and operational missions.
- Department of Space (DoS) oversees national space policy and governance.
- Indian Space Association (ISpA) is an industry body representing private and commercial space

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companies, promoting policy reforms in India's space sector.

Space Situational Awareness (SSA)

- Space situational awareness involves tracking space debris, satellites and objects to ensure operational safety.
- India's ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) compiles annual Indian Space Situational Assessment Reports to monitor hazards like debris and enhance space safety.

CSE & Down To Earth Release State of India's Environment 2026 Report

- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth magazine released the annual State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026 report at the Anil Agarwal Dialogue 2026 — a major environmental conclave. The report highlights escalating environmental crises, including planetary boundary breaches, air pollution challenges, biodiversity risks and human-wildlife conflicts in India.

Key Findings of SOE 2026 Report

Planetary Boundaries Under Threat

- The report warns that 7 out of 9 planetary boundaries — the safe limits within which humanity can operate without destabilising Earth's life-support systems — have been breached.
- These include climate change, biosphere integrity (biodiversity loss), land system change, freshwater stress, biogeochemical flows, novel entities (pollutants) and ocean acidification.
- Ocean acidification has risen 30–40% since the industrial era, threatening marine ecosystems such as corals and plankton.

Air Pollution Monitoring Gaps

- India's air quality monitoring network is highly urban-centric, leaving 85% of the population outside a 10 km radius of continuous monitoring stations.
- Most industrial belts and peri-urban areas lack adequate air quality data, weakening policy responses.

Rising Human–Tiger Conflict

- Ecological changes, habitat loss and invasive species like Lantana camara have altered tiger behaviour.
- Tigers increasingly move outside protected areas due to saturation in reserves, escalating human-tiger encounters and risk of conflict.

Freshwater and Pollution Challenges

- Freshwater reserves are severely stressed due to climate change and over-extraction.
- Persistent threats include plastics, synthetic chemicals and other novel entities that harm ecosystems and human health.

Significance of the Report

- The SOE report provides an annual evidence-based assessment of environmental trends and policy gaps in India, influencing planners, policymakers and civil society.
- It brings global ecological frameworks like planetary boundaries into national discourse, urging integration into policymaking and sustainability strategies.
- The report informs national and international climate negotiations and supports implementation of global agreements such as

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the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Planetary Boundaries — Concept & Importance

- Proposed by a group of Earth system scientists led by Johan Rockström in 2009 and updated since, the planetary boundaries framework identifies limits for human-induced pressures beyond which Earth's stability is jeopardised.
- Crossing these boundaries increases the risk of abrupt, irreversible environmental change that can undermine ecosystems, economies and human well-being.
- SOE 2026 emphasises that multiple boundaries are now in the danger zone, indicating global ecological strain.

Anil Agarwal Dialogue (AAD)

- The Anil Agarwal Dialogue is an annual environment and development forum convened by CSE named after environmentalist Anil Agarwal.
- It serves as India's premier platform for environment communicators, policy experts, scientists and media to deliberate on sustainable solutions.

Planetary Boundary Examples

- Climate Change: Driven by greenhouse gas emissions; linked to global warming.
- Biosphere Integrity: Relates to species extinction rates.
- Land System Change: Linked to deforestation and land conversion.
- Novel Entities: Includes plastics, industrial chemicals, synthetic materials.

World Economic Forum CEO Børge Brende Resigns Amid Epstein Links Scrutiny

- Børge Brende, President and Chief Executive Officer of the World Economic Forum (WEF),

has stepped down from his position amid scrutiny over his past interactions with Jeffrey Epstein, the late convicted sex offender. Brende's resignation comes after disclosures from the US Department of Justice showed he had attended multiple business dinners and exchanged communications with Epstein, prompting an internal review by the WEF.

About the World Economic Forum (WEF)

- Established in 1971, the WEF is an international NGO committed to public-private cooperation on global issues including economic development, climate change, health, and technology.
- It is best known for its Annual Meeting at Davos, which gathers leaders from governments, businesses, and civil society to discuss major global challenges.
- Chairman: Larry Fink
- Founder: Klaus Schwab

Important Reports Released by WEF

- Global Competitiveness Report
- Global Risks Report
- Global Gender Gap Report
- Future of Jobs Report
- Energy Transition Index

Governance Structure

- Led by a President & CEO.
- Governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of global leaders.
- Operates through thematic platforms like:
- Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR)

- Climate & Nature initiatives
- Digital Economy & New Growth

Jeffrey Epstein Background

- Jeffrey Epstein was an American financier convicted in 2008 for procuring a minor for prostitution.
- He was arrested again in 2019 on federal sex-trafficking charges and died by suicide in prison while awaiting trial.

What is Trump's third-country deportation policy, now struck down by US court?

What Was the "Third-Country Deportation" Policy?

- The policy was introduced by the Donald Trump administration in the United States.
- It allowed U.S. authorities to deport migrants not only to their home countries, but also to a "third country" — a nation where they had no citizenship or clear ties.
- The idea was to speed up deportations and reduce the number of undocumented migrants in the U.S. immigration system.

Why It Happened

- Normally, when migrants are deported, they are returned to their own country of citizenship.
- But some countries refused to take back their citizens.

- The Trump administration began asking other countries to accept deportees in such cases, even if the migrants had no connections there.
- Some agreements were made where countries agreed to accept certain deportees.

Main Issue: Legal Challenge

- A group of migrants filed a lawsuit in U.S. federal court against this policy.
- They argued that the government was deporting them without giving them proper legal notice or a chance to explain why they shouldn't be removed.
- The migrants said this violated their rights under U.S. law, especially the right to due process (a legal right to be heard before serious actions are taken against a person).

Judicial Decision: What the Court Ruled

- On 25 February 2026, a U.S. federal judge in Boston, Judge Brian Murphy, ruled that the third-country deportation policy was unlawful (illegal).
- He said the government must first try to send migrants to their home country or other approved destinations and must give migrants meaningful notice and a chance to object before sending them elsewhere.
- The judge also said that migrants facing deportation should not be removed without knowing where they are going or whether they might be in danger there.

Temporary Status of the Ruling

- The judge paused his own order for 15 days to allow the government time to file an appeal (ask a higher court to review the decision).
- Earlier, the Supreme Court of the United States had allowed parts of this policy to go forward temporarily, but the legal battle continued.

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Securities and Exchange Board of India Mandates Disclosure of Registration Details on Social Media

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed all SEBI-registered entities and their agents to prominently display their registered name and SEBI registration number while posting any securities market-related content on social media platforms.
- The new rule will come into effect from 1 May 2026.
-

Who Will Be Covered?

- The directive applies to all SEBI-regulated intermediaries, including: Stock Brokers, Mutual Funds, Investment Advisers, Research Analysts, Portfolio Managers, Depository Participants, Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), REITs and InvITs

- If an entity holds multiple SEBI registrations, it must provide a weblink on its homepage containing all registration details.

Scope of Platforms

- The disclosure requirement covers all major social media platforms
- The rule applies to posts, videos, captions, and even content shared in closed groups.

Objective Behind the Move

- To enhance investor protection.
- To prevent misleading financial advice by unregistered individuals ("finfluencers").
- To improve transparency and accountability in digital financial communication.
- To help investors easily verify whether the information source is officially regulated.

About SEBI and Its Role

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is India's capital markets regulator, established in 1992 (Statutory status in 1992, operational since 1995). It protects investor interests, regulates securities markets, and promotes market development.
- SEBI functions under the SEBI Act, 1992, which gives it powers to regulate intermediaries, market infrastructure institutions, and listed companies.
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Lets Revise

- ❖ Which ministry approved the ₹797 crore Green Hydrogen and liquid cargo handling jetty project at Paradip Port Authority? Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- ❖ Which Indian state government signed MoUs worth ₹90,000 crore with Japanese companies? Uttar Pradesh.

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- How many MoUs were signed between India and Israel during PM Narendra Modi's visit? 16 MoUs.

- Which authority signed an agreement with Google to display authorised Aadhaar centres on Google Maps? Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of NITI Aayog? Nidhi Chhibber (IAS).

- What type of flight services are provided under NSOP in India? Non-scheduled, on-demand charter and private jet flights.

- Which Indian agency developed the voluntary framework for space cyber security? The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under MeitY.

- What major shortcoming in India's air pollution fight does the SOE 2026 report highlight? Air quality monitoring

- Who recently stepped down as President and CEO of the World Economic Forum amid scrutiny over past interactions with Jeffrey Epstein? Børge Brende

- What did the U.S. third-country deportation policy allow? It allowed deporting migrants to a country other than their home nation.

- Which U.S. administration introduced the third-country deportation policy? The Donald Trump administration.

- Which regulatory body mandated disclosure of registered name and number on social media for market-related posts? Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Current affairs form the dynamic backbone of preparation for competitive examinations such as UPSC, SSC, and banking services. They bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world developments, transforming static knowledge into practical understanding. In an age marked by rapid geopolitical changes, economic reforms, and policy innovations, a significant portion of these exams—often 30-35%—draws directly or indirectly from recent events.

Mastery of current affairs not only enhances scores but also cultivates analytical thinking, clarity of perspective, and decision-making skills—qualities indispensable for future administrators and professionals.

Key Dimensions of Importance

• Syllabus Integration: Current events seamlessly connect with core subjects like polity, economy, history, and geography. For instance, understanding constitutional provisions becomes more meaningful when linked to recent judicial reforms or landmark judgments.

• Scoring Edge: Many questions in prelims and mains are derived from contemporary developments. A well-prepared aspirant can secure quick and confident marks through accurate knowledge of high-yield topics from reliable news sources.

• Interview Excellence: In personality tests and interviews, panels evaluate awareness of pressing national and global issues—ranging from climate diplomacy to economic policy—requiring thoughtful, balanced responses.

As many toppers emphasize, current affairs are not a separate subject but the soul of exam preparation. Consistent engagement with credible sources like The Hindu, PIB releases, and Yojana magazine strengthens critical thinking and nurtures a well-rounded outlook, moving beyond rote memorization.

In a competitive landscape where millions aspire for limited opportunities, current affairs serve as a decisive differentiator. Adopting structured habits—daily news analysis, monthly revisions, and regular mock tests—empowers candidates to adapt confidently to evolving exam patterns. Ignoring this essential component is like navigating uncertain waters without direction—while mastering it ensures clarity, confidence, and a competitive advantage.

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