MADE EASY

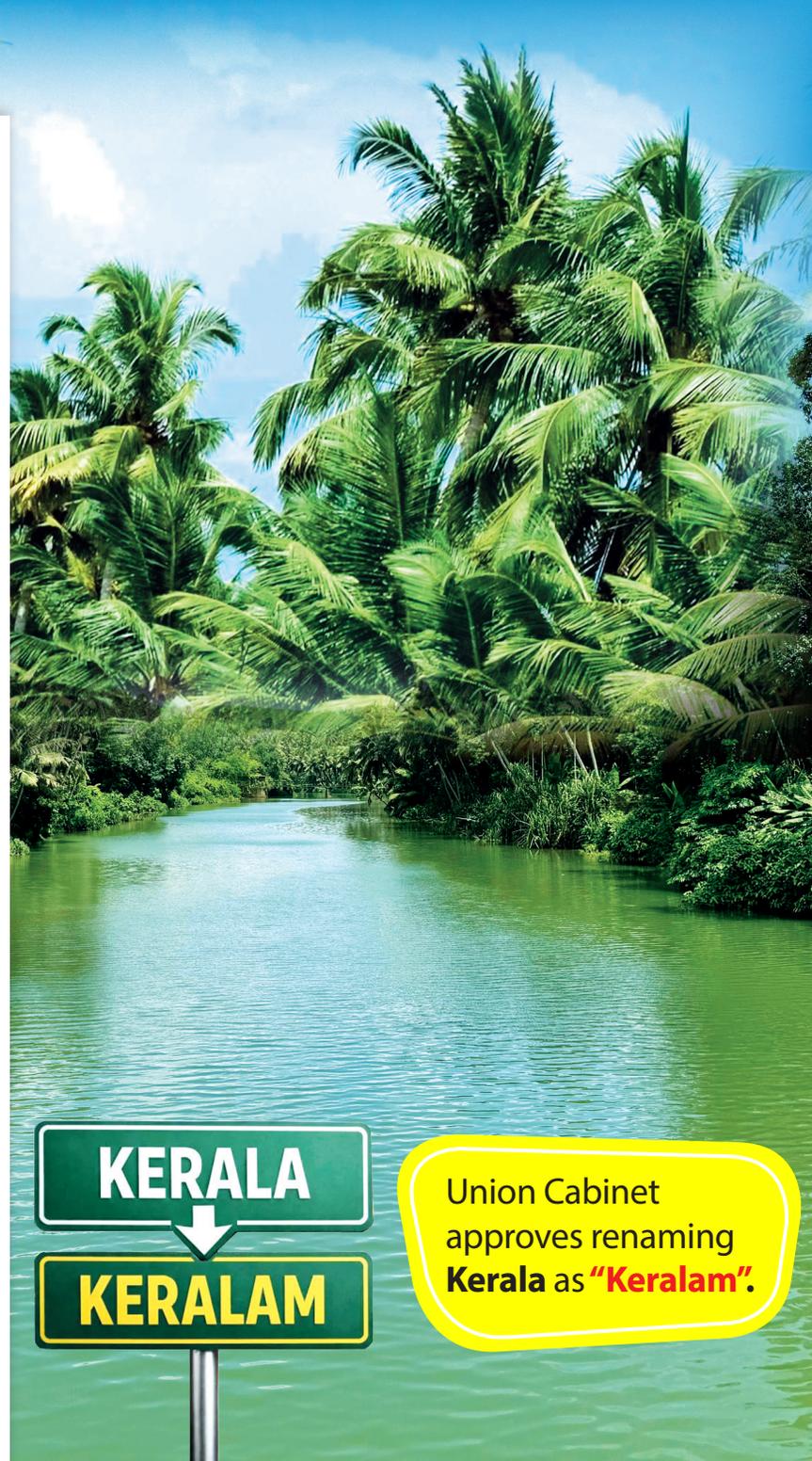## WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Coverage of

20th Feb. - 26th Feb., 2026

✦✦ Useful for ✦✦

UPSC ESE, PSUs, RRB, SSC, Banking & State Services Exams

KERALA → **KERALAM**

Union Cabinet approves renaming **Kerala** as **"Keralam".**

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20th FEBRUARY 2026

Global Mission on AI for Energy

- **Context:** The International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched the Global Mission on AI for Energy at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 to accelerate AI adoption in clean energy across 120+ member countries, emphasizing digital infrastructure like India's Energy Stack.

About International Solar Alliance

- It is a global initiative launched in 2015 by India and France at COP21 in Paris.
- It has over 120 member countries and works across Africa, Asia, and island nations.
- It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promotes solar power as a sustainable transition to a clean energy future.
- ISA's evolving vision is anchored on four strategic pillars:
  1. Catalytic Finance Hub to unlock and mobilise investments at scale
  2. Global Capability Centre and Digitisation to foster innovation, digital platforms, and capacity building across Member Countries
  3. Regional and Country-level Engagement to drive tailored interventions through strategic partnerships and

  4. Technology Roadmap and Policy to accelerate the deployment of emerging solar technologies through actionable policy frameworks and knowledge resources.

About AI-for-Energy Mission

- It places digital infrastructure and citizen-centric platforms at the centre of the energy transition.
- It aims to bring together governments, industry, financial institutions and multilateral organisations to scale digital and AI-enabled clean energy systems.
- It seeks to align policy frameworks, strengthen data infrastructure, build technical capacity and mobilise finance - moving beyond isolated pilot projects towards system-wide transformation.

Importance of the Mission

- **Global Energy Transition:** AI can optimize renewable energy integration, reduce transmission losses, and enhance forecasting of solar and wind power.
- **Citizen-Centric Systems:** By leveraging AI-driven platforms, energy delivery can become more inclusive, transparent, and efficient.
- **Policy Alignment:** The mission aims to harmonize data systems, financing, and regulatory frameworks across 120+ countries, ensuring coordinated progress.
- **Decentralised renewable energy:** AI-driven solutions could help countries bypass legacy infrastructure pathways by improving grid resilience, cutting operational costs and accelerating the deployment of decentralised renewable energy.
- **India's Leadership:** As the host and founding member of ISA, India positions itself as a leader in digital innovation for climate action, linking solar diplomacy with AI-driven governance.

Bharat GI

- **Context:** 'Bharat GI', a national initiative to promote India's Geographical Indication-tagged products globally, was highlighted at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.

Key Facts

- Bharat GI serves as an umbrella brand showcasing unique Indian GI products like Coorg coffee and Darjeeling tea on international platforms.
- It is launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce.
- It leverages digital tools, including AI-driven traceability and market analytics, to connect artisans directly with global buyers.

Vibrant Villages Programme–II (VVP-II)

- **Context:** The Vibrant Villages Programme–II (VVP-II) is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Union Home Minister at Nathanpur village in Assam's Cachar district.

Key Facts

- VVP-II aims to fill infrastructure gaps, reverse out-migration, and improve livelihoods in border areas, fostering secure communities aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047.
- It builds on VVP-I by targeting comprehensive development in border villages along India's international land borders (excluding northern borders covered earlier), spanning 15 states and 2 UTs with a ₹6,839 crore outlay until FY 2028-29.
- Evolved from the 1986-87 Border Area Development Programme (BADP), VVP-I (2023) targeted northern borders; VVP-II extends to Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Nepal, Indo-Myanmar, Indo-Bhutan, and Indo-Pakistan frontiers with tailored strategies.

Key Features

- **Saturation approach:** Ensures all households access existing welfare schemes via convergence.
- **Core infrastructure:** Prioritizes all-weather roads (PMGSY-IV), telecom (Digital Bharat Nidhi), TV connectivity (BIND), and electrification (RDSS).

- **Livelihood focus:** Promotes value chains through cooperatives/SHGs, tourism, education (e.g., SMART classes), and cultural events.

21st FEBRUARY 2026

Pax Silica

- **Context:** Recently, India has formally entered the US-led Pax Silica coalition, marking a significant moment in the geopolitics of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), and critical mineral supply chains.

About Pax Silica

- Pax Silica (launched in December, 2025) is a coalition comprising the United States, Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, the UAE, the UK, and now India.
- **Key Objectives:** Securing semiconductor supply chains, coordinating AI innovation standards, strengthening critical mineral processing networks, reducing dependence on non-aligned or adversarial states, and building a durable AI-driven economic order.

> **Do you Know?** The term 'Pax Silica' derived from Latin 'Pax' (peace) and 'Silica' (a core compound in semiconductors). It symbolizes the pursuit of technological peace and prosperity through resilient, transparent, and cooperative supply chains.

Strategic Importance for India

- **Supply Chain Security:** Membership diversifies India's access to critical minerals like lithium and rare earth elements from partners such as Australia, countering China's dominance in processing and exports.

- **Investment and Manufacturing Boost:** India gains opportunities for billions in joint investments in semiconductor fabrication, AI infrastructure, and data centers, accelerating the India Semiconductor Mission.

- **Geopolitical Alignment:** Pax Silica strengthens India-US ties under the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, positioning India among trusted democracies for standard-setting in tech.

- **Alliance-Based Industrial Policy:** It hedges against supply disruptions and political pressures, enhancing India's strategic autonomy in defense, energy transition, and frontier technologies.

Concerns over India Joining Pax Silica

- **Strategic Autonomy Risks:** Closer alignment with US technology policy may limit India's independent foreign policy flexibility.

- **Strain on China Relations:** Given China's dominance in electronics components and critical minerals, deeper participation in a US-led tech bloc could trigger trade or supply disruptions.

- **Export Control Pressures:** India may face expectations to align with US semiconductor and AI export controls, potentially affecting trade with other partners.

- **Critical Mineral Dependence:** India still relies heavily on imported rare earths and lithium, which could constrain semiconductor ambitions.

- **AI Governance Questions:** Harmonizing 'trusted AI' standards with domestic data and regulatory frameworks could create policy tensions.

International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)

- **Context:** The US Supreme Court ruled that President Trump lacked authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977 to impose broad import tariffs, citing limits on presidential power over taxation and the "major questions" doctrine.

Key Highlights

- Enacted in 1977, IEEPA empowers the President to address "unusual and extraordinary" foreign threats to national security, foreign policy, or the economy after declaring a national emergency.

- It has been used historically for sanctions, asset freezes, and blocking transactions, but the Court held it does not extend to unilateral tariffs, which encroach on Congress's constitutional taxing authority.

- In response, the President invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974 to proclaim a new 10% temporary tariff on goods from all countries, effective immediately, as a balance-of-payments measure.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- **Context:** India assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) from Thailand.

About Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- It is a voluntary naval forum launched by the Indian Navy in 2008 to boost maritime cooperation among littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

- IONS promotes mutual understanding among navies through biennial conclaves of chiefs, working groups, and activities like workshops and exercises.

- Key focus areas include maritime security (anti-piracy), Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and capacity building to address regional threats collaboratively.

- It features a rotating chairmanship (India held it multiple times) and divides 25 member states into four sub-regions: South Asian (e.g., India, Bangladesh, Maldives), West Asian, Southeast Asian/Australian, and East African. Nine observers participate; no fixed headquarters exists.

22nd FEBRUARY 2026

PRAHAAR

- **Context:** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) unveiled India's inaugural National Counter-Terrorism Policy and Strategy, titled 'PRAHAAR'.

Key Highlights

- It is this principled approach which informs the Indian policy of 'zero tolerance' against terrorism.

- **Prevention:** India follows a pro-active 'Intelligence-Guided' approach, in which primacy is accorded to intelligence gathering and its dissemination to executive agencies.
  - Operationalization of Multi Agency Centre (MAC) along with the Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI) in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) remain the nodal platform for efficient and real time sharing.

- **Response:** The local Police is the first responder to any attack, assisted by specialized State and Central anti-terror Forces.
  - The vulnerable states have created special CT Forces to respond to attacks.
  - The National Security Guard (NSG) is the nodal national Counter-Terror Force under MHA, for assistance to State Forces in responding to major terror attacks.
  - The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Police Agencies conduct CT investigations in India and high prosecution rates of these investigations ensure a deterrent to future terror incidents.

- **Aggregating Capacities:** There is regular acquisition of latest tools, technology and weaponry, besides training for new skills and tactics for CT Agencies.
  - Efforts have been made to further modernize the training modules and infrastructure of the training institutes.

- **Human Rights and Rule of Law Based Processes:** India adheres to the 'Rule of Law', where laws are just, applied evenly and protect fundamental rights.
  - India is also a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, besides ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

- **Attenuating the conditions conducive to Terrorism:** Terrorist groups are continuously making efforts to recruit Indian youth.
  - Once identified, these youths undergo a graded police response, aimed at comprehensively addressing the problem of radicalization and violent extremism.

- Legal action is initiated against the individual based on their level of radicalization.
- **Aligning and Shaping the International Efforts:** India has entered into various agreements like Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), Extradition Treaty/Extradition Arrangement (ET/EA), Joint Working Group (JWG) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign partners for information sharing and other legal cooperation.
- **Recovery and Resilience through a whole-of-society approach:** Public-private partnership has been a key component helping in faster recovery and resilience in case of a terror attack.
  - The government engages a team of doctors, psychologists, lawyers and other members of civil society, including NGOs, religious and community leaders, to sensitize and reintegrate the affected community.

Bela Gram: First Net-zero Village

- **Context:** Recently, Bela Gram has become India's first net-zero panchayat.

About Net Zero

- Net zero means reducing carbon emissions to a minimal level that can be absorbed by nature or other removal methods, leaving no excess in the atmosphere.
- Achieving net zero requires a major transformation in production, consumption, and transportation.

- The energy sector, responsible for about three-quarters of greenhouse gas emissions, is crucial; switching from coal, gas, and oil to renewable energy like wind and solar can significantly cut emissions and help combat climate change.

About Bela Gram

- It is situated in the Bhandara district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.
- It was recognized as India's first net-zero panchayat during Mumbai Climate Week 2026 for its sustainable and carbon-neutral initiatives.
- The panchayat leadership plays a vital role in shaping localised climate action and combating climate change.
- It planted over 90,000 trees, transitioned from smoky chulhas to LPG.
- It installed solar panels, promoted waste segregation, and eliminated single-use plastics.
- It received the 2024 Rashtriya Panchayat Puraskar.

India's first Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)

- **Context:** The Prime Minister inaugurated India's first Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and dedicated the 82-km Delhi-Meerut Namo Bharat Corridor to the nation.

About Namo Bharat

- It is India's first Regional Rail connecting key urban nodes across the National Capital Region via high-speed rail corridors (82-km long corridor).

- It is a rail-based, high-speed, high-frequency and sustainable transit system with a design speed of 180 Kmph and an average speed of 100 Kmph which aims at bringing people and places closer to NCR.
- National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is the implementing agency.
- Namo Bharat will provide fast, safe, and comfortable regional commute and encourage more people to switch to public transport by way of seamless integration among public transit systems in the region.

23rd FEBRUARY 2026

International Energy Agency (IEA)

- **Context:** The International Energy Agency (IEA) welcomed the progress being made on India's request for full membership of the organisation.

About International Energy Agency (IEA)

- **Established:** 1974
- The IEA's founding members were Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and the United States.
- It was created when major oil-exporting countries drastically reduced oil supplies, causing severe economic disruptions in industrialized nations.
- IEA's original mandate was to ensure that oil supplies were kept stable, and potential disruptions in future were anticipated and prevented through timely action. It also developed an elaborate mechanism to deal with oil emergencies in future, making it mandatory for every member country to maintain certain minimum strategic stocks of oil.
- The membership was kept open only for OECD countries. There are now 33 full members with Colombia being inducted as 33rd members recently.

- In 2015, IEA opened the doors for non-OECD countries to become associate members.
  - The associate members participate in the policy discussions and activities, but do not have decision-making rights.
  - India became an associate member in 2017. There are 13 associate members right now.

About Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- The OECD is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes economic development, policy coordination, and global cooperation.
- **Motto:** "Better Policies for Better Lives."
- Established in 1961, succeeding the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC).
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France.
- **Membership:** 38 member countries (mainly developed economies). India is not a member.

National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0)

- **Context:** Recently, the Union Finance Minister has launched the National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0), targeting ₹16.72 lakh crore through asset monetisation over the period 2025–26 to 2029–30.

Key Highlights

- National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0 (NMP 2.0) launched by the Union Finance Minister, builds on the original NMP (2021-2025) by outlining a ₹16.72 lakh crore roadmap for FY 2026-2030.
- It targets operational "brownfield" public assets like highways and railways to unlock value through private investment, funding new greenfield infrastructure without raising fresh debt or taxes.
- Developed by NITI Aayog with line ministries, it's guided by the Ministry of Finance and monitored by the Core Group of Secretaries on Asset Monetisation (CGAM), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

Key Objectives

- Recycle existing assets to mobilize 5.8 lakh crore in private funds for capex.
- Boost private sector visibility via PPPs, InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts), cash flow securitization, and strategic sales.
- Standardize processes from NMP 1.0 lessons, ensuring time-bound execution and proceeds routed to Consolidated Fund of India, PSUs, or states.

Major Sectoral Allocation

- **Highways, MMLPs, Ropeways:** ₹4.42 lakh crore
- **Power:** ₹2.77 lakh crore
- **Ports:** ₹2.64 lakh crore
- **Railways:** ₹2.62 lakh crore
- **Coal:** ₹2.16 lakh crore
- **Mines:** ₹1 lakh crore
- **Capital Recycling Model:** Asset monetisation follows the principle of 'Asset Recycling':
  - Monetise operational brownfield assets;
  - Use proceeds to fund greenfield infrastructure;
  - It reduces fiscal burden, and public debt pressure.
- **Revenue Distribution:** Proceeds are expected to flow primarily into Consolidated Fund of India, Direct private investment, PSU/Port Authority allocations, and State Consolidated Funds.

24th FEBRUARY 2026

Keralam

- **Context:** The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to rename Kerala as Keralam.

Key Facts

- **Pre-Independence Background:** Malayalam-speaking people were historically divided among multiple kingdoms and princely states. Major regions included Malabar (under British rule) and the princely states of Travancore and Kochi. In the 1920s, the Aikya (Unified) Kerala Movement demanded a single state for Malayalam speakers.

- On 1 July 1949, Travancore and Kochi merged to form the Travancore–Cochin State.
- **State Reorganisation Commission:** The Union Government appointed the State Reorganisation Commission (SRC) under Fazl Ali. It proposed the creation of a unified Kerala state.
- The state of Kerala was formally created on 1 November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act. It brought together:
  - Malabar district (from Madras State).
  - Travancore – Cochin State (excluding some Tamil-majority areas).

Process to Rename a State in India

- **Article 3 authorizes the Parliament to:**
  - form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state;
  - increase the area of any state;
  - diminish the area of any state;
  - alter the boundaries of any state; and
  - alter the name of any state.
- However, Article 3 lays down two conditions in this regard: a bill contemplating the above changes can be introduced in the Parliament only with the prior recommendation of the President; and before recommending the bill, the President has to refer the same to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period.

- The President (or Parliament) is not bound by the views of the state legislature and may either accept or reject them.
- Moreover, the Indian Constitution (Article 4) itself declares that laws made for alteration of names of existing states (under Articles 3) are not to be considered as amendments of the Constitution under Article 368. such laws can be passed by a simple majority and by the ordinary legislative process.

Exercise Dharma Guardian

- **Context:** The 7th edition of the annual India–Japan joint military exercise Dharma Guardian commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Chaubattia, Uttarakhand.

Key Highlights

- Exercise Dharma Guardian was initiated in 2018. It is conducted annually and held alternately in India and Japan.
- The primary objective of the exercise is to strengthen military collaboration and enhance the combined operational capabilities of both forces to undertake joint operations in a semi-urban environment.

Do you **Know** ?

Exercise JIMEX is a bilateral naval exercise conducted between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

25th FEBRUARY 2026

Blockchain India Challenge

- **Context:** The Blockchain India Challenge, launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is a national initiative aimed at encouraging visionary Indian startups to pitch and pilot cutting-edge Blockchain-based digital governance solutions.

About Blockchain

- Blockchain is a distributed, transparent, secure, and immutable database that functions like a ledger of records or transactions, resistant to tampering and accessible across a network of computers.
- **Understanding Types of Blockchain:**
  - **Public Blockchain:** In this network, all nodes can access records, verify transactions, perform proof-of-work, and add new blocks.
  - **Private Blockchain:** It is a permissioned blockchain, restricted to selected participants within an organization.
  - **Consortium Blockchain:** In this network, the blockchain is semi-decentralized, governed jointly by multiple organizations for shared data management and validation.
  - **Hybrid Blockchain:** It is a blend of public and private blockchains allowing selective data access.

Role of Blockchain in Governance

- **Certificates and Document Chain:** The chain allows secure issuance, storage, and retrieval of documents such as academic certificates, caste, income, ration cards, driving licenses, and birth or death certificates.
- **Logistics Chain:** Provides a tamper-proof and transparent platform to track goods across multiple stakeholders.

  Example: Karnataka's Aushada system tracks medicines from manufacturers to hospitals, verifying quality, expiry, and traceability, reducing the risk of spurious drugs.

- **Land Records and Real Estate:** Ensures transparency in land and property transactions, allowing verification of ownership and rights, minimizing disputes, and expediting resolution processes.

  Example: States like Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have piloted blockchain-based land registries where every transfer is recorded as a block, making illegal encroaching or title-tampering virtually impossible.

- **Judiciary Chain:** Blockchain facilitates electronic delivery of notices, summons, and bail orders, reducing delays and eliminating manual dependencies.

  Example: The Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) integrates the criminal justice ecosystem, ensuring a unified digital platform for case records, evidence, and judicial documents.

- **Public Distribution System (PDS) and Supply Chain:** The blockchain would eliminate the diversion of food grains and "leakages" in the subsidy chain.

  Example: By 2026, the World Bank's FundsChain initiative has demonstrated success in tracking project funds globally. In India, blockchain can track a grain sack from a FCI godown to a ration shop.

- **Healthcare Data Integrity:** It will eliminate the problem of fragmented patient records and counterfeit medicines.

  Example: Under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, blockchain can allow hospitals to share patient records securely while ensuring patients have absolute control over who views their data.

About National Blockchain Framework (NBF)

- Developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NBF was launched in 2024 with a budget outlay of ₹64.76 crore.

- NBF is designed to accelerate the development and deployment of permissioned blockchain-based applications, marking a strategic step towards building a secure, transparent, and scalable digital infrastructure for India.

Him-CONNECT

- **Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is organising Him-CONNECT in New Delhi as part of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS).

Key Highlights

- Him-CONNECT links researchers from the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) with start-ups, investors and policymakers.

- It will showcase more than 24 technologies and innovations developed under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).

- The platform aims to facilitate commercialisation, on-ground deployment and wider adoption of Himalayan-focused solutions.

26th FEBRUARY 2026

PM Modi visit to Israel

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Jerusalem visit upgraded India-Israel ties but sparked debate over India's stance on Palestine and its broader strategic balance in West Asia.

Key Highlights

- PM Narendra Modi's Jerusalem visit upgraded India-Israel ties to a Special Strategic Partnership, with over 15 MoUs signed in critical sectors and labour mobility agreements.

- The visit showed exceptional diplomatic warmth from Benjamin Netanyahu, strengthening bilateral optics amid Israel's international criticism over Gaza and West Bank policies.

- Modi's speech supported a two-state solution indirectly, but avoided direct reference to Palestinian civilian casualties, raising questions about India's balanced stance.

- Regional initiatives like I2U2 and IMEC were reaffirmed, signalling India's commitment to broader West Asian connectivity despite regional polarisation.

- A visibly pro-Israel posture risks complicating India's historically calibrated relations with other West Asian powers and its traditional support for Palestine.

Significance of The Visit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 24-hour visit to Jerusalem marked an important bilateral outreach to Israel.

- However, it was viewed as a missed opportunity to engage Palestine, carrying complex implications for India's broader West Asia policy.

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had announced and actively facilitated the visit, reflecting Israel's strong interest.

- Mr. Netanyahu personally accompanied Mr. Modi throughout the engagements, signalling the warmth of ties.

Upgrading Bilateral Relations

- After bilateral talks, both leaders upgraded ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership."

- Over 15 MoUs were signed, covering AI, agriculture, culture, education, and critical technologies.

- India and Israel agreed to facilitate employment for 50,000 Indian workers in Israel over five years.

- The diplomatic warmth exceeded even Mr. Modi's 2017 Israel visit.

Geopolitical Timing and Political Context

- The visit occurred as Israel faces growing international isolation over high civilian casualties in Gaza and controversial West Bank settlement plans.

- Several countries, including Germany, France, and the U.K., have recently criticised Israel's West Bank proposals.

- Mr. Netanyahu heads into elections later this year, amid allegations of corruption and scrutiny over security lapses in 2023.

- Mr. Modi's visit could politically strengthen Mr. Netanyahu ahead of these elections.

India's Position on the Israel-Palestine Conflict

- In his address at the Knesset, Mr. Modi referred only indirectly to Palestinian sovereignty.

- He endorsed the U.S.-led Gaza Peace Initiative supporting a two-state solution, calling it a pathway to durable peace.

- While expressing solidarity with victims of the October 2023 Hamas attack, he did not mention the large civilian toll in Gaza.

- Observers expect India to clarify its position, possibly through a follow-up visit to Palestine.

Regional and Strategic Implications

- The visit took place amid heightened tensions, including potential U.S. military action against Iran, raising concerns about perceived alignment.

- Mr. Modi announced renewed momentum for regional groupings such as:
  - India-Israel-UAE framework
  - I2U2 (India-Israel-UAE-U.S.)
  - India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

- These initiatives suggest India believes regional cooperation remains viable despite deep polarisation. However, a strong pro-Israel stance could strain India's relations with other West Asian powers.

- Traditionally, India has maintained a carefully balanced approach, guided by principles of peace, strategic autonomy, and moral positioning in the Israel-Palestine conflict.

India - Sweden AI Partnership Through SITAC Framework

- **Context:** On the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Key Highlights

- It provides a structured framework for collaboration on the development, application and deployment of artificial intelligence solutions, with emphasis on real-world industrial and societal outcomes.

- Both countries will jointly develop a dedicated programme titled the Sweden – India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC).

- SITAC will serve as the flagship platform to facilitate structured engagement among government agencies, industry stakeholders, startups and academic institutions from both countries.

- The partnership aligns the objectives of the IndiaAI Mission to build a comprehensive national AI ecosystem through access to compute, data and talent with Sweden's strengths in industrial innovation, advanced research and development and responsible AI implementation.