



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 20, 2026

NATIONAL

- **India's Largest Lithium Battery Gigafactory**
 - ✓ Waaree Energies will set up India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery Gigafactory in Rambilli, Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh, with an investment of ₹8,175 crore and 16 GWh production capacity.
 - ✓ The greenfield facility will cover the full battery value chain, including cell manufacturing, battery pack assembly, and large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), creating around 3,000 direct jobs.
 - ✓ The Gigafactory will strengthen India's renewable energy and EV ecosystem, reduce import dependence, and boost domestic energy storage manufacturing.

- **AI-MET White Paper launched at India AI Impact Summit 2026**
 - ✓ a White Paper Concept on "AI for Manufacturing Engineering Technology (AI-MET) was launched by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the India AI Impact Summit 2026.
 - ✓ The document outlines a strategic framework for integrating artificial intelligence into Manufacturing Engineering Technology (MET).
 - ✓ The high-level convening of industry leaders, global academicians and policymakers was organised by NAMTECH under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. Representatives from leading global institutions and technology companies participated in the discussions.

- ✓ The white paper proposes coordinated pathways for industry, academia and policymakers to accelerate responsible AI adoption. It was emphasised that AI is a foundational pillar in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat.
- ✓ Cybersecurity and shop-floor deployment were identified as critical factors for successful AI integration. The discussions positioned AI-driven manufacturing as a key enabler of India's long-term industrial transformation.

- **Mumbai selected to host the Earthshot Prize 2026 in November**
- ✓ Mumbai was announced as the host city for the Earthshot Prize 2026, marking the first time the prestigious environmental award will be held in India.
- ✓ The decision was revealed during the ongoing Mumbai Climate Week, highlighting India's growing role in global climate action.
- ✓ In 2020, Britain's Prince Prince William founded the Earthshot Prize to spark collective ambition and action to save the planet.
- ✓ It was emphasised that the multi-day event will celebrate global environmental leaders delivering impactful and scalable solutions.
- ✓ The 2026 edition will spotlight 15 breakthrough solutions across five categories including Protect and Restore Nature, Clean our Air, Revive our Oceans, Build a Waste-Free World and Fix our Climate.

- **Global Hunger Relief**
- ✓ Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the World Food Programme (WFP) signed an MoU for the supply of rice to support global humanitarian operations aimed at combating hunger and food insecurity.
- ✓ Under the agreement, Food Corporation of India will supply 2 lakh metric tonnes of rice to WFP, as informed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- ✓ The agreement will remain valid for five years and can be extended by mutual consent. The price will be decided annually, with the current rate fixed at 2,800 per quintal until 31 March 2026.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Day of Social Justice**

- ✓ 20 February is observed as the World Day of Social Justice by the United Nations, and the 2026 theme is “Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice.”
- ✓ The observance follows the Doha Political Declaration and calls for stronger action on poverty eradication, decent work, full employment, and social inclusion.
- ✓ The day urges governments to translate global commitments into measurable policies, including universal social protection, gender equality, youth employment, and inclusive digital and green transitions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

