



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 21, 2026

### NATIONAL

- **India France National Centre of Excellence in Aeronautics and Defence**
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics and Defence at National Skill Training Institute Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
  - ✓ During a joint press statement with the President of France while inaugurating the India France Year of Innovation.
  - ✓ The initiative strengthens India France strategic partnership in advanced technology, defence manufacturing and skill development.
  - ✓ The Centre will be established under the Prime Minister Skill Development and Employment Transformation Scheme, with a total outlay of ₹60,000 crore.
  - ✓ The scheme aims to upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes across India, modernise infrastructure and align curriculum with industry needs.
  
- **Fifteenth Finance Commission released funds to strengthen rural local bodies**
  - ✓ More than ₹137 crore under the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) Untied Grants was released by the Union Government. The grant has been released to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies in Goa, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Uttarakhand.
  - ✓ In Goa, ₹11.60 crore was released as the second instalment for FY 2023–24 for two eligible District Panchayats and 191 Gram Panchayats, along with ₹2.979 crore of withheld funds.

- ✓ Meghalaya received ₹27 crore as the second instalment for FY 2021-22 covering the Autonomous District Councils of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia.
- ✓ For Sikkim, ₹6.60 crore was released for FY 2025-26 benefiting six District Panchayats and 199 Gram Panchayats, along with ₹0.165 crore for one additional District Panchayat.
- ✓ Uttarakhand received the largest share of ₹89.4117 crore as the first instalment for FY 2025-26 covering 13 District Panchayats, 95 Block Panchayats and 7,568 Gram Panchayats.

## **MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES**

### ➤ **9th IONS Conclave of Chiefs held in Visakhapatnam**

- ✓ 9th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs was scheduled held in Visakhapatnam with participation from naval leaders of several countries.
- ✓ The high-level gathering was planned alongside the International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026, enhancing its strategic importance.
- ✓ At the conclave, the Chairmanship of IONS assumed by the Chief of the Naval Staff from the Royal Thai Navy.
- ✓ India is set to lead the forum for the 2026-2028 term, marking its second tenure since the platform was launched in 2008 in New Delhi.
- ✓ IONS functions as a voluntary and inclusive platform bringing together navies of the Indian Ocean Region.
- ✓ The forum promotes maritime security, naval cooperation and humanitarian assistance among member countries.
- ✓ The conclave discussed common maritime challenges and efforts to strengthen collective security in the region.

### ➤ **Joint Regional Official Language Conference in Agartala**

- ✓ Amit Shah inaugurated the Joint Regional Official Language Conference (Rajbhasha Sammelan) for the Eastern, North-Eastern and Northern Regions on 20 February 2026. Department of Official Languages organised the conference.
- ✓ He said Hindi, Bengali and Kokborok are spoken fluently across Tripura.
- ✓ He asserted that the state has never witnessed language-related conflict.
- ✓ He described Tripura as the sacred land of Mata Tripura Sundari.

- ✓ He noted that more than 2,000 dialects are preserved through the Devanagari script.
- ✓ He described Tripura as an important part of Ashtalakshmi symbolizing the North-East's strength.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

### ➤ **C.P. Radhakrishnan Releases Book on Sree Narayana Guru**

- ✓ Vice-President of India, Chandrapuram Ponnusami (C. P.) Radhakrishnan, released the book titled 'The Sage who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru' authored by Member of Parliament (MP), Dr. Shashi Tharoor, at the India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi.
- ✓ The book was published by Aleph Book Company.
- ✓ The book presents a detailed biography and analytical study of Sree Narayana Guru, the 19th-century spiritual leader and social reformer from Kerala who led a movement against casteism and social discrimination.
- ✓ It highlights his core message, 'One Caste, One Religion, One God for humankind,' advocating equality, self-respect, social justice, and universal brotherhood.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### ➤ **International Mother Language Day - 21 February**

- ✓ International Mother Language Day 2026 will be observed on 21 February to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education worldwide.
- ✓ Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 and later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, the day underscores the need to preserve endangered languages and cultural identity.
- ✓ The 2026 theme, "Youth voices on multilingual education," highlights the role of young people in revitalising languages amid globalisation and digital change.
- ✓ With nearly 40% of learners lacking education in their mother tongue, the observance calls for inclusive policies aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4.

