



Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana Launched in Gujarat | National Current Affairs | 04 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Gujarat Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel** launched the **Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana** to strengthen **rural governance and infrastructure**.

Key Points

- **Launch venue:** Foundation stones laid at **Bhadran village, Anand district, Gujarat**.
- **Coverage:** **2,666 villages** to receive **Gram Panchayat buildings-cum-Talati residences** for strengthening local governance.
 - **Funding:** Project sanctioned at **₹663 crore** to provide functional panchayat infrastructure at the village level.
- **Urban-Like Facilities:** Scheme includes **modern amenities** such as roads, water, sanitation, solar street lights, **e-Gram digital services**, and community halls.
- **Focus:** Initial development targets **114 villages** functioning as taluka headquarters without municipal status.
 - Aims to **reduce rural-urban divide** by bringing essential services closer to rural citizens.
- **Future Expansion:** Planned to cover **other large gram panchayats (population >10,000)** across Gujarat.
- **Significance:** Enhances **rural governance capacity**, improves **service delivery**, and creates **infrastructure parity** with urban areas.

Read More: [Rural governance](#)

Australian Open 2026 | National Current Affairs | 04 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **2026 Australian Open**, the first Grand Slam tennis tournament of the year held in **Melbourne, Australia**, concluded with **Carlos Alcaraz** and **Elena Rybakina** crowned as the men's and women's singles champions respectively.

Key Points

- **Men's Singles Winner:** **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)** won the **men's singles title** at the 2026 Australian Open by defeating **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** in the final.
 - **Runner-Up:** **Novak Djokovic (Serbia)** finished second after losing to Alcaraz in the final clash.
- **Historic (Men's):** This victory was Alcaraz's **first Australian Open title** and his **seventh**

major singles title overall.

- **Women's Singles Winner:** Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) clinched the **women's singles title** by defeating Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus).
 - **Runner-Up:** Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) was the runner-up, losing to Rybakina in the championship match.
- **Women's Achievement:** The victory marked Rybakina's **second Grand Slam singles title**, her first Australian Open crown, showcasing her ability to triumph over the world No. 1.
- **Venue:** The tournament was played on the hard courts of **Melbourne Park**, attracting top tennis talent from around the world.

Exercise Agni Pariksha: Army-ITBP Joint Initiative | National Current Affairs | 04 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **Indian Army** and the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** recently concluded a **six-day joint training exercise** named "**Agni Pariksha**" in **Arunachal Pradesh**, aimed at strengthening **inter-force operational synergy** along border regions.

Key Points:

- **Location:** The exercise was conducted at **Sigar** in the East Siang district of **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Objective:** The primary purpose of the drill was to **familiarise non-artillery personnel** — including **infantry and ITBP troops** — with **artillery procedures, fire control systems, coordination mechanisms**, and the **execution of firing missions** under realistic field conditions.
- **Participants:** Spearhead Gunners of the Indian Army's Spear Corps alongside infantry regiments and personnel from the ITBP.
- **Significance:** Improves coordination between the Army and paramilitary forces for **border security and combat operations**.
 - **Operational readiness:** Ensures troops are better prepared for **complex battlefield scenarios**, especially in **high-altitude border sectors**.

Read More: [ITBP](#)

India at the 64th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development | National Current Affairs | 04 Feb 2026

Why in News?

India is participating in the **64th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD64)** at the **UN Headquarters in New York**.

Key Points

- **Leadership:** India's delegation to the **64th Session of CSocD** at the **UN Headquarters in New York** was led by **Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur**.
- **Commission:** The **Commission for Social Development (CSocD)** is a key **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** body that focuses on **international cooperation for social development**, including **poverty eradication, social inclusion, equity, and welfare policies**.
- **Chair:** The 64th session was presided over by **Ambassador Khrystyna Hayovyshyn** (Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN) and saw participation from **over 100 UN member states**.
 - India is an elected member of the 64th session, which brings together member states to assess progress and share lessons on social development issues.
- **India's Statement:** India highlighted that **social justice and social protection** are firmly anchored in **constitutional guarantees** and aligned with the country's long-term vision of "**Viksit Bharat 2047**".
 - The guiding principle of "**Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas**" was emphasised as reflecting a **whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach** to ensure no one is left behind.

Read More: [Viksit Bharat 2047, ECOSOC, UN](#)

CSIR-NIO Shore-Based Lab Inaugurated in Visakhapatnam | National Current Affairs | 04 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. **Jitendra Singh**, recently inaugurated the **Shore-Based Laboratory** of the **CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)** Regional Centre at **Visakhapatnam**.

Key Points:

- **Infrastructure:** Built at a cost of **₹32 crore** by the **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)**, the state-of-the-art facility covers **4,550 square metres** on a 4-acre campus located in **Yendada village, Rushikonda**.
- **Regional Mandate:** The lab will focus on systematic marine geological and geophysical surveys of the **Eastern Continental Margin of India (ECMI)**.
- **Strategic Research:** It aims to map bathymetry and identify resource potential for **hydrocarbons, seabed minerals, oil, and natural gas**, influenced by sediment deposits from Himalayan river systems.
- **Sectors Supported:** The centre collaborates with stakeholders like ONGC and Oil India to support pharmaceuticals, ports, thermal power, and the fisheries sector.
- **Significance for the Blue Economy:** The lab will project tropical cyclone tracks and forecast harmful algal blooms to protect coastal livelihoods.
 - **Self-Reliance:** By exploring deep-sea resources, it strengthens India's energy security and supports the national **Blue Economy vision**.

Read More: [Blue Economy](#)

Chittoor District Achieves Guinness World Record for E-Cycle Distribution | National Current Affairs | 04 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **Chittoor district** administration in **Andhra Pradesh** has officially entered the **Guinness World Records** by distributing **5,555 electric bicycles** within a single 24-hour period.

Key Points:

- **The Record:** The event secured the title for the "**Most electric bicycles distributed in 24 hours**," surpassing previous global benchmarks in green mobility initiatives.
- **Target Beneficiaries:** The e-cycles were primarily provided to **government school students** (specifically girls and those from marginalized communities) to improve educational accessibility and reduce dropout rates.
- **Logistics:** The distribution was spearheaded by the district collectorate at the **Police Parade Grounds** in Chittoor.
- **Sustainability Focus:** The initiative promotes **decarbonization** of rural transport and aligns with India's commitment to climate action by reducing reliance on fossil-fuel-based commuting.
- **Social Empowerment:** By providing clean transport to students, the program addresses the "last-mile" connectivity issue that often hinders rural education.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/05-02-2026/jharkhand/print>