



Dalai Lama Wins First Grammy Award at Age 90 | National Current Affairs | 05 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Tibetan spiritual leader **His Holiness the Dalai Lama** won his **first Grammy Award** at the **68th Annual Grammy Awards (2026)** held in **Los Angeles, USA**.

Key Points

- **Award & Category:** The Dalai Lama won the **Grammy Award** in the **Best Audio Book, Narration & Storytelling Recording** category for his album ***Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama***.
- This was his **first-ever Grammy Award**, achieved at age **90**, making it a unique recognition for a spiritual leader at one of music's most prestigious platforms.
- The award was accepted on his behalf by musician **Rufus Wainwright** at the ceremony.
- **Album Content:** The album blends the **Dalai Lama's teachings on peace, compassion, mindfulness and universal responsibility** with musical compositions and narration, designed to spread messages of harmony across cultures.
- **Collaborations:** The project features musical contributions from Indian classical maestro **Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash**, with production by Grammy-winning producer **Kabir Sehgal**.
- **Global Recognition:** The win underscores the **global reach and universal appeal** of Dalai Lama's voice and teachings, crossing cultural, spiritual and artistic boundaries.
- **International Response:** The achievement drew widespread acclaim, though it was also **criticised by the Chinese government**, which termed the award a form of political manipulation given longstanding tensions regarding the Dalai Lama's status.

Read More: [Grammy Award, Dalai Lama](#)

Indian-Origin Scientist Veerabhadran Ramanathan Wins Crafoord Prize 2026 | National Current Affairs | 05 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Indian-origin climate scientist **Veerabhadran Ramanathan** has been awarded the **2026 Crafoord Prize in Geosciences** by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** — a distinction often described as the **"Nobel of Geosciences"** due to its prestige in fields not covered by the Nobel Prizes.

Key Points:

- **Key Contributions:** The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences selected Ramanathan for

his "**pioneering contributions to our understanding of the role of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and the greenhouse effect.**"

- **Discovery of Non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases (1975):** He was the first to demonstrate that Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)—previously only known for ozone depletion—were also potent greenhouse gases.
- **Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABCs):** His research identified vast "brown clouds" of soot and dust over South Asia and the Indian Ocean.
 - He showed that these particles (Black Carbon) absorb sunlight, heating the atmosphere while simultaneously cooling the Earth's surface (dimming effect), which disrupts monsoon patterns.
- **Crafoord Prize:** Established by Holger Crafoord (industrialist) and his wife Anna-Greta in 1980.
- **Awarded by:** The **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** (the same body that awards Nobel Prizes).
- **Disciplines:** It is awarded in fields not covered by the Nobel Prizes: **Mathematics, Astronomy, Geosciences, and Biosciences.**

Tripura's gram panchayat tops India in Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 | National Current Affairs | 05 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Tripura has achieved a historic milestone in grassroots governance by securing the top rank in the **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0**, announced by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**.

Key Points:

- **Top Performer in PAI 2.0:** **Jugal Kishore Nagar Village Committee**, located in **Jampuijala RD Block, Sepahijala district of Tripura**, secured the **first position nationwide** with a score of 88.44 among nearly 2.5 lakh gram panchayats assessed.
- **Strong Showing by Tripura Panchayats:** Tripura's exceptional performance didn't end there:
 - **South Nalchar Gram Panchayat** (Nalchar RD Block, Sepahijala) secured the **third position with a score of 88.14**.
 - **Chesrimai Gram Panchayat** (Charilam RD Block, Sepahijala) achieved the **fourth position with a score of 87.85**.
- **100% Participation:** Tripura achieved the rare distinction of 100% data submission and verification for all its **1,176 Gram Panchayats** and Village Committees for the 2023-24 financial year.
- **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0:** It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India** that evaluates the performance of **over 2.5 lakh gram panchayats** across the country.
 - **Framework:** It evaluates local bodies based on **435 unique local indicators** across **9 themes** aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - **Key Indicators:** Includes such as **transparency, service delivery, decentralised planning, community participation and governance outcomes**.
- **Aim:** The index aims to strengthen **grassroots democracy and local self-governance** in line with national development goals.

Yumnam Khemchand Singh Named Manipur Chief Minister | National Current Affairs | 05 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Yumnam Khemchand Singh, a senior **BJP leader**, has assumed office as the **Chief Minister of Manipur**, ending nearly a year of **President's Rule** in the violence-affected state.

Key Points:

Key Appointments:

- **Chief Minister: Yumnam Khemchand Singh** (Singjamei MLA), a former Speaker and RSS veteran, is perceived as a "liberal Meitei" figure capable of bridging ethnic divides.
- **Deputy CM (Kuki-Zo): Nemcha Kipgen** (Kangpokpi MLA) made history as the state's **first woman and first Kuki-Zo Deputy Chief Minister**.
- **Deputy CM (Naga):** Losii Dikho of the Naga People's Front (NPF) was appointed to represent the Naga community, ensuring a tripartite ethnic representation in the top executive.
- **Significance of the Appointments: First woman and first Kuki-Zo deputy CM** highlights steps toward **inclusive governance** in a multi-ethnic state.
 - The formation of the government after **President's Rule** demonstrates a **return to democratic governance** and political normalcy.
- **Constitutional Restoration:** The revocation of President's Rule under Article 356(2) was notified by President Droupadi Murm.
- **Ethnic Balancing Act:** The inclusion of Meitei, Kuki, and Naga leaders is a deliberate move to rebuild a fractured political landscape after two years of ethnic conflict.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/06-02-2026/madhya-pradesh/print>