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## Nivedita Dubey First Woman Member of Airports Authority of India (AAI) | National Current Affairs | 14 Feb 2026

### Why in News?

**Nivedita Dubey** has become the **first woman officer** to be appointed to the **Board of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)**, marking a significant milestone in the Indian civil aviation sector's leadership and gender representation.

### Key Points:

- **Historic Appointment:** Nivedita Dubey has assumed charge as **Member (Human Resources)** — the second-highest position — on the **AAI Board**, making her the **first woman officer ever** inducted into the board of the Airports Authority of India.
- **Organisation:** **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is a **statutory body** responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India.
- **Background:** She began her career with AAI in **1995 as a management trainee**.
  - Over the years, she has held diverse roles, including **airport manager** at **Indira Gandhi International Airport** and served as **Regional Executive Director (Eastern Region)**.
- **Role & Responsibilities:** As Member (Human Resources) on the AAI Board, she will play a key role in **policy formulation, personnel management, industrial relations and administration** for the organisation.
- **Significance:** Her appointment is being widely hailed as an **inspiring achievement for women and youth** in India, especially within the **aviation sector**, which has historically seen limited female representation at senior governance levels.

Read More: [Airports Authority of India \(AAI\)](#)

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## India Hosts First BRICS Sherpa Meeting 2026 | National Current Affairs | 14 Feb 2026

### Why in News?

India hosted the **first BRICS Sherpa and Sous-Sherpa Meeting** in **New Delhi** as part of its **2026 chairmanship** of the BRICS grouping.

### Key Points:

- **Chair & Representatives:** The meeting was chaired by **Sudhakar Dalela**, India's **BRICS Sherpa** and Secretary (Economic Relations), along with **Shambhu L. Hakki**, India's **BRICS Sous-Sherpa**.
  - **Participants:** Senior officials and sherpas from BRICS member and partner countries —

including Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the UAE — took part in the discussions.

- **Theme:** The priorities were presented under the theme “**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,**” reflecting India’s people-centric approach to its **BRICS leadership**.
- **Focus:** Emphasising cooperation across sectors such as **health, agriculture, labour, disaster risk reduction, climate change, energy, innovation, ICT, security** and economic and financial domains.
- **Significance:** The meeting laid the foundation for **India’s 2026 BRICS agenda** by promoting cooperation, resilience, innovation, and sustainability ahead of the upcoming BRICS Summit.

**Read More:** [BRICS](#)

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## Country’s Second Tulip Garden in Himachal Pradesh | National Current Affairs | 14 Feb 2026

### Why in News?

In a significant boost to hill tourism and floriculture, the **CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT)** has officially opened its **Tulip Garden in Palampur** (Kangra district) to the general public.

### Key Points:

- **Second Tulip garden:** This is the **country’s second** major tulip garden after the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir)**, which is Asia’s largest and most famous tulip garden.
- **Strategic Location:** Situated at an altitude of approximately 1,290 metres, the garden leverages the unique agro-climatic conditions of the **Dhauladhar range**.
- **Variety and Scale:** The garden features over **50,000 tulips** spanning several varieties and colours, including Red, Yellow, Pink, and White.
- **Research Integration:** Unlike purely commercial gardens, this is a research-cum-demonstration plot managed by CSIR-IHBT Palampur.
  - It serves as a testing ground for **indigenous bulb production** to reduce India's dependency on imports from the Netherlands.
- **Promotion of Floriculture:** The garden serves as a "Technical Hub" for local farmers, showcasing the commercial viability of tulip cultivation as a high-value cash crop in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Tourism Circuit:** The garden adds a new dimension to the Kangra tourism circuit, attracting visitors during the "shoulder season" (late winter/early spring) when traditional snow tourism begins to taper.
- **Biodiversity Conservation:** The institute uses this platform to educate visitors on the importance of Himalayan floral diversity.

**Read More:** [CSIR](#)

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## Nationwide Campaign to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis | National

### Why in News?

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, launched the **Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign** for the **elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)** across **12 endemic States** of India.

### Key Points:

- **Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign:** To **interrupt transmission** of LF and achieve **elimination as a public health problem**.
- **Strategy:** **Annual administration** of anti-filarial medicines to the **entire eligible population**, excluding pregnant women, infants below a certain age, and seriously ill individuals.
- **Drug Used:** Drugs commonly used include **Diethylcarbamazine (DEC)**, **Albendazole**, and in selected districts, **Ivermectin** (Triple Drug Therapy - IDA).
- **Target States:** The campaign is being implemented across **12 endemic states**: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- **Lymphatic Filariasis (LF):** Lymphatic Filariasis is a **neglected tropical disease (NTD)** caused by **parasitic worms** (*Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi*).
  - It is transmitted through the **bite of infected mosquitoes**.
  - Chronic infection leads to conditions such as **elephantiasis, hydrocele**, and long-term disability.
  - India accounts for a **significant global burden** of LF.
- **Ahead of Schedule:** India's **2027 target** reflects the nation's proactive stance in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 3) targets early.

**Read More:** [SDG](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/14-02-2026/madhya-pradesh/print>