



PM's First Decisions from Seva Teerth | National Current Affairs | 17 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **Prime Minister of India** announced several significant decisions from **Seva Teerth, New Delhi**, aimed at strengthening social security, women's financial inclusion, agriculture infrastructure, and the startup ecosystem.

Key Points:

- **PM RAHAT Scheme:** The scheme offers **cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh** for accident victims to ensure timely and affordable medical care.
- **Lakhpati Didis Target Increased:** The government doubled the target of **Lakhpati Didis beneficiaries from 3 crore to 6 crore by March 2029** to expand **financial inclusion** and women-oriented savings benefits.
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Target:** The loan allocation under the fund has been increased to strengthen farmers' access to credit and enhance **agricultural value chains**.
- **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 Receives ₹10,000 Crore Corpus:**
 - Aimed at boosting **innovation** and supporting **early-stage startups**, the fund will provide financial support to new **technology-driven ventures** across the country.
- **Decisions Reflect Citizen-Centric Governance and Social Welfare:** The initiatives collectively focus on social security, economic growth, women empowerment, and innovation-led development.

Read More: [Seva Teerth](#), [Lakhpati Didis](#), [Financial inclusion](#)

Indian Coast Guard Inaugurates Waterjet Production & Testing Facility in Goa | National Current Affairs | 17 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **Indian Coast Guard** has inaugurated a state-of-the-art **Waterjet Production and Testing Facility** at **Goa**, marking a major step towards **maritime self-reliance and enhanced operational capability**.

Key Points:

- **Inauguration:** The Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, **Paramesh Sivamani**, inaugurated the facility in **February 2026**, strengthening India's indigenous defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- **Partner:** Established in partnership with **M/s Marine Jet Power (MJP) India**.

- The unit was developed under the **Manufacturing and Transfer of Technology (ToT) framework** to enable in-country **production and testing of waterjet systems**.
- **India Becomes Third Country:** With this development, **India** joins only the **United States and South Korea** as the **third nation** globally to host an advanced waterjet production and testing facility.
 - The facility will **strengthen operational sustainment and maintenance of waterjet propulsion systems** used in ICG vessels and reduce dependency on foreign testing infrastructure.
- **Support:** The unit is expected to support the **domestic supply chain, generate employment, and bolster the MSME ecosystem** by integrating local manufacturing partners into defence production.
 - The facility will also serve as a **regional hub for South Asia and adjoining regions** for testing and maintenance of waterjet systems, positioning India as a key maritime engineering centre.
- **Boosts Coast Guard Fleet Capability:** The Indian Coast Guard currently operates more than **100 MJP waterjet propulsion systems** onboard its vessels.

Read More: [Indian Coast Guard](#), [MSME](#)

Gujarat Launches India's First CBDC-Based Public Distribution System | National Current Affairs | 17 Feb 2026

Why in News?

The **Government of Gujarat** has launched India's **first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Public Distribution System (PDS)** aimed at transforming food subsidy delivery using digital currency.

Key Points:

- **First in India:** India launched its first **CBDC-enabled public distribution system** in Gujarat, using **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**-authorised **digital currency tokens** for subsidy delivery.
- **Digital Tokens:** Under the system, beneficiaries receive **CBDC-linked digital coupons or tokens** in their wallets.
 - This can be used to redeem **subsidised foodgrains** at fair price shops using **QR codes or Aadhaar-based OTP authentication**.
- **ATM for 24x7 Access:** A '**Annapurthi Grain ATM**' was introduced in the **Sabarmati zone (Ahmedabad)**, capable of dispensing up to **25 kg of food grains in 35 seconds**.
 - The new PDS model also includes distribution of essential commodities such as **tur dal and chana** in **1-kg sealed packs** instead of loose supplies to maintain hygiene and quality.
- **Significance:** By using CBDC tokens, the system aims to improve **transparency, reduce corruption** in the food supply chain, ensure **traceability of transactions**, and strengthen **accountability** in subsidy delivery.
- **Developed by:** The CBDC platform has been developed by **Punjab National Bank** under the RBI-authorised framework, enabling secure and traceable transactions for beneficiary welfare.

Read More: [Public Distribution System](#), [Transparency and accountability](#), [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#)

PM Modi Congratulates Barbados PM Mia Mottley on Historic Victory | National Current Affairs | 17 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Narendra Modi, the **Prime Minister of India**, extended warm congratulations to **Mia Amor Mottley**, the Prime Minister of **Barbados**, on her **historic third consecutive electoral victory** in the general elections held in Barbados.

Key Points:

- **Historic Victory:** **Mia Amor Mottley** secured a **third successive term** as Prime Minister after her party won all seats in the **House of Assembly**, marking a significant political milestone.
 - The **Prime Minister of India** congratulated her on this achievement, recalling their previous meeting on the sidelines of the **India-CARICOM Summit 2024** and expressing India's commitment to **strengthening bilateral ties**.
- **Deep-Rooted Relations:** PM Modi emphasised that India **deeply values its long-standing friendship** with Barbados, which continues to expand across diverse areas of cooperation.
 - He highlighted the **intent to work** closely with **Barbados** to further enhance partnership for the benefit of both **nations' peoples**.
- **Global & Regional Context:** Mia Mottley has emerged as a globally recognised leader, advocating **climate action, economic reforms, and South-South cooperation**, contributing to **Barbados' diplomatic profile**.

Read More: [Barbados](#)

Reliance Secures US Licence to Import Venezuelan Crude Oil | National Current Affairs | 17 Feb 2026

Why in News?

Reliance Industries has been granted a **general licence by the United States government** to directly import **crude oil from Venezuela**, enabling the company to resume discounted heavy oil imports and boost its refining margins.

Key Points:

- **Venezuelan Oil Imports:** The **United States** issued a licence permitting Reliance to directly purchase Venezuelan crude oil without violating sanctions.
 - **Venezuelan heavy crude** is sold at a discount and is compatible with the sophisticated units at **Reliance's Jamnagar refinery**.
- **Diversifies Sources:** The licence helps India's **largest private refiner** reduce dependence on a narrow set of suppliers and diversifies crude sources amid **global market uncertainties**.
 - Reliance had halted **Venezuelan crude imports** in **2025** due to sanctions but had earlier imported through traders.
- **Impact:** Venezuelan oil imports may help reduce **India's dependence on Russian crude**, ensuring a more stable and reliable supply of oil for Indian refineries.

- **Strategic Energy Interests:** By securing discounted heavy crude, Reliance enhances its competitive edge and contributes to **secure energy supply chains** while navigating **international sanctions frameworks**.

Read More: [Venezuelan Crisis](#)

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