

Monthly Current Affairs February 2026: New Ramsar Sites | 16th Finance Commission | Budget 2026-27

This monthly summary of current affairs for February 2026 is designed to assist aspirants preparing for various competitive exams at the state and national levels. We have compiled all the crucial updates from national, international, economic, and sports sectors to strengthen your general knowledge. Regularly following these updates will serve as a complete guide for your preparation.

National News

01 New Ramsar Sites and Environmental Updates

India has reached a new milestone in wetland conservation. The 'Patna Bird Sanctuary' in Etah, Uttar Pradesh, and the 'Chhari Dhand Wetland' in Kutch, Gujarat, have been awarded the status of Ramsar sites. This brings the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 98.

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- The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for wetland conservation, signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran.
- India signed this treaty on February 1, 1982.

02 16th Finance Commission and Administrative Announcements

Dr. Arvind Panagariya has been appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission. The recommendations of this commission will remain in effect from April 1, 2026, to 2031. Additionally, Sumitra Pawar has been appointed as the first female Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Punjab's Adampur Airport has been renamed 'Shri Guru Ravidas Ji Airport', and Yumnam Khumchand Singh has become the new Chief Minister of Manipur.

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- The President constitutes the Finance Commission under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
- The first Finance Commission was established in 1951 under the chairmanship of K.C. Neogy.

03 Infrastructure and Security Initiatives

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has shifted from the South Block to the new 'Seva Teerth' complex. India's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnel is being constructed between Gohpur and Numaligarh under the Brahmaputra River in Assam. Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry has launched 'Prahar', India's first national counter-terrorism policy.

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- The Bogibeel Bridge in Assam is the longest rail-cum-road bridge in India.
- The Brahmaputra River is known as 'Tsangpo' in Tibet.

International News

04 Global Politics and Indices

India ranks 91st out of 182 countries in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2025, with Denmark topping the list. Tarique Rahman has taken charge as the head of government in Bangladesh, and Sanae Takaichi has assumed office as Japan's first female Prime Minister. Furthermore, 38-year-old Rob Jetten has become the youngest Prime Minister of the Netherlands.

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- Transparency International, headquartered in Berlin, Germany, publishes the Corruption Perception Index.
- The NATO headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium.

05 Alliances and Summits

The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under India's presidency was held in New Delhi. Meanwhile, the 39th African Union Summit concluded in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. India has joined the strategic 'Pexilica' alliance, which will focus on AI and semiconductor supply chains.

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- The BRICS group currently consists of ten members (after Argentina chose not to accept membership).

- The African Union (AU) became a permanent member of the G-20 group in 2023.

Sports

06 Tennis and Cricket Updates

Carlos Alcaraz of Spain has won the Australian Open 2026 men's singles title. On the cricket field, India won its 6th Under-19 men's cricket World Cup by defeating England. In football, Services defeated Kerala to emerge as champions of the 79th Santosh Trophy.

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- The Australian Open is held annually in January-February at Melbourne Park.
- The Santosh Trophy is a prestigious national football competition in India that began in 1941.

07 Olympics and Other Sports

Norway secured the top spot in the medal tally with 41 medals at the 2026 Winter Olympics held in Italy. In the Khelo India Winter Games 2026, the Indian Army topped the charts with 23 medals. India also maintained the top spot in the Asian Rifle Pistol Championship with 94 medals.

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- The headquarters of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The Khelo India project was launched in 2018 to improve grassroots sports in India.

Economy and Business

08 Union Budget 2026-27

The Government of India has set a total expenditure target of 53.5 lakh crore rupees for the upcoming fiscal year. A target has been set to keep the Fiscal Deficit at 4.3% of the GDP. Notably, it has been proposed to change the Base

Year for calculating GDP and IIP from 2011-12 to 2022-23.

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- James Wilson presented India's first budget in 1860.
- R.K. Shanmukham Chetty presented the first budget of independent India.

09 State-wise Economic Success

Gujarat currently ranks first in India in renewable energy production (42.58 GW). Alwar district in Rajasthan has become the first district in India to achieve 100 percent insurance coverage. Uday Kotak has been appointed as the new Chairman of Gujarat's GIFT City.

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- GIFT City stands for Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
- India's largest solar park is located in the Kutch region of Gujarat.

Environment and Geography

10 Natural Disasters and Disputes

The Kerala government has declared 'tidal flooding' as a state-specific disaster. The Pennar river water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has come back into the spotlight. Meanwhile, the Shahpurkandi Dam on the Ravi River is located on the border of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

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- India's only active volcano, Barren Island, is located in the Andamans.
- The Pennar River originates from Nandi Hills in Karnataka.

Appointments and Miscellaneous

Nivedita Dubey has become the first female board member of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Military exercises 'Khanjar 13' (India-Kyrgyzstan) and the 16th 'Vajra Prahar' (India-USA) were conducted recently. The 'Ol Chiki' script of the Santali language has completed 100 years. The World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the oral polio vaccine 'nOPV2' manufactured by the Indian company Biological E Limited.

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- The Ol Chiki script was discovered by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925.
- The World Health Organization was established on April 7, 1948.

Among the important books released this month, Shashi Tharoor's 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism' and Chhattisgarh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan's 'E Mati Katha Kahe' are noteworthy. Those who regularly follow current affairs should make a note of these facts. Participate in the quiz below to test your preparation.

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