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55+

GK BYTES

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EDITION: FEBRUARY 2026 · BUDGET & AI SUMMIT SPECIAL

Contents

Ten thematic sections covering 100 must-know updates from February 2026 - anchored by the Union Budget 2026-27, the India AI Impact Summit and the Milano-Cortina Winter Olympics. Many entries carry a **GK Byte** strip linking the news to static general knowledge.

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How to use this capsule

Read the **heading** first (recall trigger), then the **explanation** (prelims facts + mains context), then the **GK Byte** (static linkage). Revise the GK Bytes and the **Rapid Revision** table at the end the night before your exam for quick, high-yield wins.



1 Union Budget 2026-27 Presented (February 1)

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for FY27, with total expenditure pegged at Rs 53,47,315 crore (up 7.7% over 2025-26 RE) and receipts other than borrowings at Rs 36,51,547 crore.

GK BYTE

Article 112: Annual Financial Statement

FM: Nirmala Sitharaman

2 Fiscal Deficit Target Lowered to 4.3% of GDP

The FY27 fiscal deficit is targeted at 4.3% of GDP (down from the 4.4% revised estimate for FY26), with the revenue deficit at 1.5% and nominal GDP growth assumed at 10%.

GK BYTE

Fiscal deficit: total borrowings to meet spending

FRBM Act: 2003

3 Capital Expenditure Raised to Rs 12.2 lakh crore

Capex for FY27 was increased to Rs 12.2 lakh crore (from Rs 11.2 lakh crore) to sustain infrastructure-led growth; effective capex was projected at 4.4% of GDP.

4 Income Tax Slabs Left Unchanged

Personal income-tax slabs stayed unchanged under both regimes; income up to Rs 12 lakh (Rs 12.75 lakh for salaried, with Rs 75,000 standard deduction) remains effectively tax-free in the new regime.

5 Defence Gets Highest Ministry Allocation

The Ministry of Defence received the highest allocation at Rs 7,84,678 crore (about 15% of total central expenditure), with defence capital outlay at Rs 2,19,306 crore, 17.6% higher than the FY26 revised estimate.

6 Record Railways Capital Allocation

The Ministry of Railways received Rs 2,77,830 crore in capital allocation for FY27, a 10.25% increase and its highest ever.

7 Budget: Seven High-Speed Rail Corridors & 20 Waterways

The Budget announced seven new high-speed rail corridors connecting major cities and 20 new national waterways to be made operational over five years.

 GK BYTE

India's 1st bullet-train corridor: Mumbai-Ahmedabad

8 Budget: STT Hike & Data-Centre Tax Holiday

Securities Transaction Tax rates on Futures & Options were increased, and a tax holiday until 2047 was announced for foreign companies providing global cloud services using Indian data centres.

9 Economic Survey 2025-26 Tabled

The Economic Survey (tabled 29 January, the core document of the Budget session) projected real GDP growth of 7.4% and GVA growth of 7.3% for FY26, keeping India the fastest-growing major economy, with FY27 growth projected at 6.8-7.2%.

 GK BYTE

Prepared by: Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)

10 Economic Survey: Record-Low Inflation & High Forex

The Survey noted India's lowest average CPI inflation (1.7%) for Apr-Dec 2025 since the series began, forex reserves of about US\$701.4 billion (~11 months of import cover), and India as the top remittance recipient (US\$135.4 billion in FY25).

11 New GDP Series with 2022-23 Base Year (February 27)

MoSPI released a revised GDP series shifting the base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23; under the new series FY26 GDP growth (second advance estimate) is 7.6% and Q3 (Oct-Dec 2025) grew 7.8%.

 GK BYTE**MoSPI:** Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation**12 New CPI Series with 2024 Base Year (February 12)**

A new Consumer Price Index series adopting 2024 as its base year was released; CPI inflation for January 2026 stood at about 2.75% under the new base.

13 January 2026 Merchandise Trade Data

Merchandise exports in January 2026 were US\$36.56 billion and imports US\$71.24 billion; combined (goods + services) total exports were US\$80.45 billion (+13.17% YoY), with gold imports surging.

14 Budget Session 2026 - First Half

The Budget Session began on 28 January with the President's Address; the first half ran to 13 February, featuring the presentation and general discussion of the Union Budget.

15 Industrial Relations Code Amendment Passed

A Bill amending the Industrial Relations Code, 2020 was introduced and passed by both Houses during the Budget session, advancing labour-law reform.

 GK BYTE**Four Labour Codes:** Wages, IR, Social Security, OSH**16 Budget: 200 Legacy Industrial Clusters & Banking Panel**

The Budget proposed reviving 200 legacy industrial clusters, setting up a 'High Level Committee on Banking for Viksit Bharat', and introducing derivatives on corporate bonds.



Schemes, Cabinet & Regulations

17 - 24

17 Cabinet Approves Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0

The Union Cabinet approved Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of Rs 10,000 crore to mobilise venture capital for early-growth-stage startups, including those beyond major metros.



GK BYTE

Startup India launched: 2016

18 Cabinet Approves Rs 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund

The Cabinet approved the Urban Challenge Fund to provide central assistance to urban local bodies for transit planning, urban mobility, climate resilience and water/sanitation infrastructure.

19 Rs 60,000 crore ITI Upgradation Scheme

The Cabinet approved the National Scheme for Upgradation of ITIs and five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling, with a total outlay of Rs 60,000 crore over five years.



GK BYTE

ITI: Industrial Training Institute

20 Cabinet Approves Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

The Cabinet approved a Small Hydro Power (SHP) development scheme for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 to promote clean, decentralised hydropower generation.

21 Biopharma SHAKTI Scheme Announced

A five-year Biopharma SHAKTI scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore was announced to make India a global biopharma and biologics manufacturing hub.

22 India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 Announced (Budget)

The Budget announced the launch of India Semiconductor Mission 2.0 to strengthen domestic chip manufacturing and supply chains, building on ISM 1.0.

 GK BYTE

Nodal ministry: MeitY

23 RBI Draft on Corporate-Bond Derivatives

Following the Budget announcement, the RBI released a draft revised master direction enabling Total Return Swaps on corporate bonds and Credit Default Swaps, specifying eligible participants and prudential norms.

24 RBI Proposes Bank Lending to REITs

The RBI released draft directions to permit commercial banks to lend to Real Estate Investment Trusts (previously not allowed), subject to safeguards, and to harmonise InvIT lending norms.

 GK BYTE

REIT: Real Estate Investment Trust

**Economy & Banking**

25 - 33

25 RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25% (February 4-6 MPC)

In its first policy of 2026, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%, following a 25 bps cut in December 2025 (cumulative 125 bps in the cycle). SDF stayed at 5.00%, MSF and Bank Rate at 5.50%.

 GK BYTE

RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra

MPC members: 6

26 MPC Retains 'Neutral' Stance by 5:1

The MPC retained a neutral policy stance by a 5:1 majority (one member voted for an accommodative stance), supported by resilient growth and benign inflation.

27 RBI Issues FATF Update Notification (February 13)

The RBI informed regulated entities of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) updates concerning jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies in anti-money-laundering and counter-terror-financing frameworks.

 GK BYTE

FATF HQ: Paris", "Est.: 1989

28 RBI Measures to Strengthen Cooperative Banks

The RBI introduced measures for cooperative banks - higher housing-loan limits, expanded branch openings, improved deposit security and priority-sector lending support via NCDC - under the 'Sahakar Sarthi' push.

29 CBDC-based Public Distribution System Launched in Gujarat

The government launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based Public Distribution System in Gujarat to enable secure, transparent and faster food-grain distribution to beneficiaries.

 GK BYTE

CBDC: RBI's digital rupee (e-Rupee)

30 Moody's Projects Stable Outlook for Indian Banking

Moody's projected a stable outlook for India's banking sector, supported by expected FY27 growth and low system-wide NPAs projected at 2-2.5%.

31 Aye Finance IPO (February 9-11)

MSME-focused lender Aye Finance launched its Rs 1,010 crore IPO, open from 9-11 February, amid strong primary-market activity.

32 Fractal Analytics IPO (February 9-11)

AI and analytics firm Fractal Analytics opened its Rs 2,833.9 crore IPO in the same window, reflecting strong investor appetite for AI-driven enterprises.

33 Cumulative Exports (Apr-Jan) Cross US\$720 billion

India's cumulative total exports (goods + services) during April-January 2025-26 were estimated at US\$720.76 billion, up 6.15% over the same period a year earlier.

**International & Summits**

34 - 45

34 India AI Impact Summit 2026 Held in New Delhi (February 16-21)

India hosted the India AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam - the first in the series hosted by a Global South nation - drawing 20+ heads of state and delegations from over 100 countries, structured around three Sutras: People, Planet and Progress.



GK BYTE

Under: IndiaAI Mission (MeitY)

Follows AI Action Summit, Paris (2025)

35 New Delhi Declaration on AI Adopted

The Summit concluded with the New Delhi Declaration, endorsed by over 90 countries and international organisations - the first major AI-governance framework from the Global South, favouring flexible guardrails over rigid compliance.

36 Over US\$200 billion in AI Investment Commitments

The Summit generated over US\$200 billion in expected AI-related investment; the New Delhi Frontier AI Impact Commitments were announced by 13 leading global and Indian frontier-model developers.

37 PM Modi Unveils 'MANAV Vision' for AI

PM Modi unveiled India's 'MANAV Vision' for human-centric, ethical AI governance, built on five principles - Moral/ethical systems, Accountable governance, National sovereignty, Accessible design and Valid processes.

38 French President Macron's Official Visit (February 17-19)

Emmanuel Macron visited India and participated in the AI Impact Summit; he and PM Modi held bilateral talks and jointly inaugurated the India-France Year of Innovation 2026 in Mumbai.

 GK BYTE**France Capital:** Paris

P75 Scorpene submarines built with France

39 India-France Elevate Ties to 'Special Global Strategic Partnership'

PM Modi announced a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' with France, agreeing a 'Roadmap of Shared Prosperity' (including a double-taxation-avoidance agreement) and continued submarine cooperation.

40 Brazilian President Lula's State Visit (February 18-22)

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva led the largest-ever Brazilian delegation to India, attended the AI Summit and held bilateral talks. India and Brazil set a bilateral trade target of US\$30 billion by 2030.

 GK BYTE**Brazil Capital:** Brasilia

Both are BRICS members

41 PM Modi's State Visit to Israel (February 25-26)

PM Modi made a state visit to Israel at PM Netanyahu's invitation, visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and met President Isaac Herzog, with ties elevated to a 'Special Strategic Partnership'.

 GK BYTE**Israel Capital:** Jerusalem (India's embassy in Tel Aviv)**42 India-Israel Sign 16 Agreements; FTA Talks Launched**

India and Israel signed 16 economic, security and diplomatic agreements (agriculture, cyber, AI, education), welcomed Terms of Reference for Free Trade Area negotiations, and agreed on 50,000 Indian workers over five years.

43 Seychelles President Herminie's State Visit (February 5-10)

President Dr Patrick Herminie made his first state visit to India as President; the two sides signed nine agreements and unveiled the 'SESEL' Vision for the partnership.



GK BYTE

Seychelles Capital: Victoria

44 India Announces US\$175 million Package for Seychelles

India announced a US\$175 million Special Economic Package for Seychelles - a US\$125 million rupee-denominated Line of Credit plus US\$50 million in grants - covering an Extradition Treaty, UPI, Jan Aushadhi and agriculture.

45 India-US Interim Trade Framework Announced

India and the US announced a framework for an interim trade agreement under which India would cut tariffs on US industrial and many agricultural goods, and US reciprocal tariffs on Indian exports would be reduced to 18%.

**Defence**

46 - 50

46 DAC Clears 114 Rafale Jets & Major Procurements

The Defence Acquisition Council approved procurement proposals worth about Rs 3.6 lakh crore, anchored by 114 Rafale fighter jets from Dassault (~Rs 3.25 lakh crore) - 18 from France and 96 assembled in India - plus six P-8I aircraft and T-72 tanks.



GK BYTE

Rafale maker: Dassault Aviation (France)

India assembly at Nagpur

47 Exercise MILAN 2026 at Visakhapatnam (February 18-25)

The Indian Navy's flagship multilateral exercise MILAN 2026 was held under the Eastern Naval Command with 74 friendly foreign countries, 42 ships/submarines and 29 aircraft; the closing ceremony was aboard INS Vikrant.

 GK BYTE**MILAN:** held since 1995**INS Vikrant:** India's first indigenous aircraft carrier**48 International Fleet Review 2026 & IONS Conclave**

Alongside MILAN, the Indian Navy hosted the International Fleet Review 2026 and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs at Visakhapatnam, aligned with the 'MAHASAGAR' vision.

 GK BYTE**IONS:** launched by India in 2008**49 INS Anjadip Commissioned (February 27)**

INS Anjadip, an Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Chennai, part of the Navy's record induction plan for 2026.

50 DRDO VSHORADS Trials (February 28)

DRDO conducted three consecutive successful flight trials of the indigenous Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha - a man-portable system against low-altitude threats and drones.

 GK BYTE**VSHORADS:** man-portable air-defence system (MANPADS)



Science, Space & Tech

51 - 63

51 Gaganyaan Final Qualification Load Test (February 19)

ISRO and DRDO conducted the final qualification-level load test for the Gaganyaan crew module at the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, evaluating high-speed aerodynamic loads and re-entry trajectory changes.

GK BYTE

Gaganyaan: India's first human spaceflight programme**52 NASA Rolls Back Artemis II (February 25)**

NASA rolled the SLS rocket back into the Vehicle Assembly Building on 25 February after an upper-stage anomaly, to preserve an April launch date; Artemis II eventually launched on 1 April 2026.

53 Ariane 64 Maiden Flight (February 12)

Arianespace launched 32 Amazon Leo (Project Kuiper) satellites on the first-ever flight of the Ariane 64 heavy-lift configuration - the most powerful version of Europe's Ariane 6.

GK BYTE

Ariane 6: Europe's flagship rocket (Arianespace)**54 ESA PROBA-3 Anomaly**

The European Space Agency's PROBA-3 coronagraph/heliophysics mission suffered an anomaly causing loss of contact with one of its two formation-flying spacecraft (contact was re-established in March).

55 Amaravati Quantum Valley Launched (February 7)

The Amaravati Quantum Valley was inaugurated at Uddandarayunipalem, Andhra Pradesh, with IBM, TCS and L&T as partners. It is anchored by an IBM Quantum System Two, described as India's largest quantum computer to date.

GK BYTE

AP Capital: Amaravati**National Quantum Mission:** approved 2023

56 Micron Semiconductor Facility Inaugurated at Sanand (February 28)

PM Modi inaugurated Micron Technology's semiconductor Assembly, Test and Packaging facility at Sanand, Gujarat - India's first operational semiconductor facility - which handed over its first shipment of made-in-India memory modules to Dell.

 GK BYTE

Micron: US memory-chip maker

Location: Sanand, Gujarat

57 India Chip Pvt Ltd Foundation Stone at Jewar (February 21)

The foundation stone was laid for a Rs 3,700 crore semiconductor unit, 'India Chip Private Ltd' - a Foxconn (Taiwan)-HCL Group joint venture - at Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.

58 Sarvam AI Open-Sources Foundation Models

Sarvam AI open-sourced two foundation models under the IndiaAI Mission - Sarvam 30B (a 32-billion-parameter Mixture-of-Experts model) and Sarvam 105B (106-billion-parameter) - trained on Indian compute and optimised for 22 Indian languages.

59 Gnani.ai Unveils 'Inya VoiceOS' (February 17)

Gnani.ai unveiled a 5-billion-parameter voice-to-voice foundational model, 'Inya VoiceOS', for natural spoken interaction across Indian languages, launched at the AI Impact Summit.

60 India Releases National Post-Quantum Cryptography Roadmap

India released a national Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) roadmap to protect critical infrastructure and digital assets against future quantum-computing threats.

61 20,000 Additional GPUs for IndiaAI

At the Summit, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced 20,000 additional GPUs for the national AI compute pool under the IndiaAI Mission (sanctioned outlay Rs 10,371.92 crore).

62 National Science Day 2026 (February 28)

Observed with the theme 'Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat', commemorating C.V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect in 1928.



GK BYTE

Raman Effect: discovered 1928 (Nobel 1930)**63 BioAsia 2026 Held in Hyderabad (February 17-18)**

Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy inaugurated the 23rd BioAsia 2026, Asia's premier life-sciences forum, at the HITEC Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad.

**Environment & Health**

64 - 72

64 World Wetlands Day 2026 (February 2)

Observed on 2 February with the theme 'Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage', marking the 1971 signing of the Ramsar Convention.



GK BYTE

Ramsar Convention: 1971, Ramsar, Iran**65 India's Ramsar Tally Reaches 98**

Ahead of World Wetlands Day, India designated two new Ramsar sites - Patna Bird Sanctuary (UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat) - taking the national total to 98, the most in Asia and third globally.



GK BYTE

Most Ramsar sites (state): Tamil Nadu**66 Chhari-Dhand Wetland Designated (Gujarat)**

Chhari-Dhand, a ~22,700-hectare seasonal desert wetland in the Banni grasslands of Kutch, became a Ramsar site - a major congregation site for flamingos, pelicans, cranes and raptors.

67 Patna Bird Sanctuary Designated (Uttar Pradesh)

Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah district, a small but ecologically significant wetland supporting 200+ bird species including migratory cranes and raptors, was designated a Ramsar site.

68 State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026 Report Released (February 25)

Released at Nimli, near Alwar (Rajasthan) by the Centre for Science and Environment and Down To Earth, the report warned that multiple planetary boundaries are being breached and highlighted intensifying human-tiger conflict.

 GK BYTE**By:** CSE & Down To Earth (Sunita Narain)**69 Nationwide HPV Vaccination Programme Launched (February 28)**

The Government launched a nationwide HPV vaccination programme for cervical-cancer prevention, offering the vaccine free at government facilities to about 1.15 crore girls aged 14 across all States/UTs.

 GK BYTE**HPV:** Human Papillomavirus (causes cervical cancer)**70 World Cancer Day (February 4)**

Observed on 4 February under the multi-year (2025-2027) theme 'United by Unique', centring people and their stories in cancer care.

 GK BYTE**Led by:** Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)**71 SAHI and BODH Healthcare-AI Frameworks Launched**

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched SAHI (Safe and Accountable Healthcare AI) and BODH, a health-AI benchmarking platform developed by IIT Kanpur and the National Health Authority.

72 All India Tiger Estimation 2026 - Phase I Surveys

India's sixth All India Tiger Estimation cycle continued Phase I field surveys through February; initial estimates suggest the tiger population may rise 10-15% from the 3,682 recorded in 2022.

 GK BYTE**Project Tiger:** launched 1973**Sports**

73 - 80

73 WPL 2026 Final - RCB Champions (February 5)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the Women's Premier League 2026 title at Vadodara, beating Delhi Capitals by 6 wickets. Chasing 204, RCB pulled off the highest run-chase in WPL history (Smriti Mandhana 87) for their second title.

 GK BYTE**WPL launched:** 2023**74 Winter Olympics 2026 - Milano Cortina Held (February 6-22)**

The XXV Olympic Winter Games were held across Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy - the first Games with the opening ceremony spread across multiple locations.

 GK BYTE**Next Winter Olympics:** 2030 (French Alps)**75 Winter Olympics 2026 - Ceremonies & Venues**

The opening ceremony (6 February) was staged mainly at San Siro, Milan, before nearly 61,000 spectators; the closing ceremony (22 February), themed 'Beauty in Action', was held at the historic Verona Arena.

76 Winter Olympics 2026 - Norway Tops Medal Table

Norway topped the tally with 41 medals (18 gold), followed by the USA (33) and host Italy (30). Norway's 41 total and 18 golds are new all-time records for a single Winter Games.

77 Winter Olympics 2026 - Klaebo's Historic Six Golds

Norway's cross-country skier Johannes Hoesflot Klaebo won six gold medals, becoming the first Winter Olympian to win six golds at a single Games.

78 Winter Olympics 2026 - India's Contingent

India was represented by alpine skier Arif Khan (men's slalom) and cross-country skier Stanzin Lundup (10 km). Arif Khan was India's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony.

79 Winter Olympics 2026 - Arif Khan's Best-Ever Finish

Arif Khan finished 39th in the men's slalom - India's best-ever result in the event - and became the first Indian to compete in two consecutive Winter Olympics. India remains without a Winter Olympic medal.

80 Australian Open 2026 Concludes (early February)

The 2026 Australian Open ran 18 January-1 February at Melbourne Park. Defending men's champion Jannik Sinner lost in the semi-finals; Venus Williams, at 45, became the oldest player in the women's singles draw.

 GK BYTE**Australian Open:** first Grand Slam of the year (hard court)**🏆 Awards, Books & States**

81 - 90

81 68th Grammy Awards - Bad Bunny Wins Album of the Year (February 1)

At the 68th Annual Grammy Awards, Bad Bunny won Album of the Year - the first primarily Spanish-language album to win the category. Trevor Noah hosted for the sixth and final time.

82 68th Grammy Awards - Kendrick Lamar Dominates

Kendrick Lamar was the night's biggest winner with five awards, including Record of the Year, becoming the most-awarded hip-hop artist in Grammy history; Olivia Dean won Best New Artist.

83 79th BAFTA Film Awards (February 22)

Held at the Royal Festival Hall, London, Paul Thomas Anderson's 'One Battle After Another' won six awards including Best Film; Sean Penn won Best Supporting Actor and Ryan Coogler's 'Sinners' won three.

84 Shashi Tharoor's Book on Sree Narayana Guru Launched (February 19)

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan launched Dr Shashi Tharoor's book 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons & Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru' in New Delhi.

85 Coffee-table Book on Vajpayee Released (February 21)

Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released 'Atal Bihari Vajpayee: The Eternal Statesman', authored by Vijay Goel, at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

86 PSPCL Appoints First Woman Director (Commercial)

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) appointed its first-ever woman Director (Commercial), a notable milestone in the state power utility's leadership.

87 Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2026 Approved

The Delhi Cabinet (CM Rekha Gupta) approved the EV Policy 2026, involving about Rs 15,000 crore of investment over four years for purchase incentives, charging infrastructure and road-tax concessions.

 GK BYTE

Delhi CM: Rekha Gupta

88 Delhi Launches 'Bhu-Aadhaar' Land IDs

The Delhi government rolled out 'Bhu-Aadhaar', assigning a unique 14-digit ULPIN (Unique Land Parcel Identification Number) to every land parcel to modernise land records and improve ownership transparency.

 GK BYTE

ULPIN: the 'Aadhaar for land'

89 Reliance Pledges US\$110 billion for AI Infrastructure

At the AI Impact Summit, Reliance Industries pledged US\$110 billion over seven years toward AI-focused infrastructure - the single largest corporate AI commitment announced during the summit.

90 India Sets Guinness World Record for AI-Responsibility Pledges

Around the AI Impact Summit, India set a Guinness World Record for the most pledges received for an AI-responsibility campaign in 24 hours, with over 2.5 lakh validated pledges.

17 Reports, Days & Obituaries

91 - 100

91 Henley Passport Index 2026 - India Rises to 75th

India's passport ranking improved to 75th (up 10 places from 85th), reflecting expanded visa-free and visa-on-arrival access for Indian passport holders.

 GK BYTE

By: Henley & Partners

92 International Mother Language Day (February 21)

Observed with UNESCO's 2026 theme 'Youth Voices on Multilingual Education', placing young people at the centre of the multilingualism conversation.

 GK BYTE

Led by: UNESCO

Marks 1952 Bengali language movement

93 World Day of Social Justice (February 20)

The UN-designated day was observed to promote efforts to tackle poverty, exclusion, gender inequality and unemployment, and to advance decent work and social protection.

94 India-Israel Accord for 50,000 Indian Workers

As part of PM Modi's Israel visit, the two sides finalised an accord to send about 50,000 Indian workers to Israel over five years, deepening labour-mobility ties.

95 New Deeptech & Healthcare Venture Funds Launched

W Health Ventures announced an initial close of Rs 550 crore for a healthcare Fund II, and IIT Madras Research Park with Unicorn India Ventures launched a Rs 600 crore deeptech-focused fund.

96 Obituary: Music Director S.P. Venkatesh (February 3)

Veteran film music director S.P. Venkatesh, known for his work in Malayalam and Tamil cinema, died at his residence in Chennai.

97 Obituary: Producer-Director Anand Sagar (February 13)

Film and television producer-director Anand Sagar, associated with popular mythological TV serials, died in Mumbai at the age of 84.

98 Obituary: Actress Pravina Deshpande (February 17)

Veteran film and television actress Pravina Deshpande passed away, mourned across the Marathi and Hindi entertainment industries.

99 Obituary: Dr Seshagiri Mallampati

Indian-origin anesthesiologist Dr Seshagiri Mallampati, 85, known for the globally used 'Mallampati score' for airway assessment, died in February 2026.

100 Obituary: Former J&K MLA Qamar Ali Akhoon

Former Jammu & Kashmir MLA Qamar Ali Akhoon, 68, who served multiple terms in the erstwhile state assembly, died in February 2026.

Rapid Revision — One-Line Facts

High-yield one-liners distilled from this capsule. Skim these last, right before your exam.

Question / Cue	Answer
Union Budget 2026-27 - total expenditure	Rs 53.47 lakh crore
FY27 fiscal deficit target	4.3% of GDP
FY27 capital expenditure	Rs 12.2 lakh crore
Highest ministry allocation in Budget	Defence (Rs 7.85 lakh cr)
Economic Survey 2025-26 - FY26 GDP	7.4% (old series)
New GDP / CPI base years	2022-23 / 2024
RBI repo rate (Feb 2026)	5.25% (neutral, 5:1)
Fund of Funds 2.0 corpus	Rs 10,000 crore
ITI upgradation scheme outlay	Rs 60,000 crore
India AI Impact Summit venue & dates	Bharat Mandapam (Feb 16-21)
AI Summit outcome document	New Delhi Declaration on AI
PM Modi's AI governance vision	MANAV Vision
India-France ties elevated to	Special Global Strategic Partnership
India-Brazil trade target by 2030	US\$30 billion
Agreements signed during Modi's Israel visit	16
Special Economic Package for Seychelles	US\$175 million
DAC clears how many Rafale jets	114 (~Rs 3.25 lakh cr)
Navy's multilateral exercise at Visakhapatnam	MILAN 2026 (74 nations)
India's first operational semiconductor facility	Micron, Sanand

Question / Cue	Answer
India's largest quantum computer launched at	Amaravati Quantum Valley
National Science Day 2026 theme	Women in Science
India's Ramsar sites tally (Feb 2026)	98
WPL 2026 champions	Royal Challengers Bengaluru
Winter Olympics 2026 host	Milano Cortina, Italy
Winter Olympics 2026 - top of medal table	Norway (41 medals, 18 gold)
68th Grammy Album of the Year	Bad Bunny
Henley Passport Index 2026 - India rank	75th (up 10)

Disclaimer: Compiled from February 2026 news and current-affairs sources for exam preparation. The Economic Survey was tabled 29 January but is core to the February budget session. Verify exact figures, names and dates against primary sources (PIB, RBI, MEA, MoSPI, PRS) before final use. © MockSutra · www.mocksutra.com