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MONTHLY MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY-2025

NEWS-INSHORTS

- Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site Guneri village.
- Union Budget on February 1
- India's tiger population has increased
- four new wetlands to Ramsar
 List.
- R Praggnanandhaa secured Tata Steel Masters Chess title
- **BIMSTEC** Youth Summit 2025.
- Karnataka has been declared 'Naxal-free'
- Bengaluru hosted , Asia's
- Microsoft introduced Majorana
 1, the world's first quantum
 chip.
- Archaeologists uncovered three Kannada inscriptions.
- NASA's newest space telescope, SPHEREx,





(KAS/PSI/FDA/AAO/PC)







KARNATAKA/INDIA/INTERNATIONAL-CURRENT AFFAIRS



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February:2025

- India is set to host the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting from March 3-7, 2025, under the theme "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth."
 - BRICS was formally established in 2009, and it does not have a single permanent headquarters, but the New Development Bank (NDB), its financial institution, is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
 - The member countries of BRICS are Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Guneri village in the Kutch district has been designated as Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site to protect its rare inland mangrove ecosystem.
 - It was declared Gujarat's first Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) in 2021 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. This recognition was given due to its unique ecological and cultural significance.
 - Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are areas of unique ecological, cultural, or historical significance. They are designated to conserve biodiversity, promote sustainable development, and raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural heritage.
- Niger has become the first African country and the fifth globally to eliminate onchocerciasis, a disease caused by the Onchocerca volvulus parasite and transmitted by black flies in riverine areas.
 - > The disease is spread by the bites of infected female blackflies.
 - The disease is a major cause of blindness in endemic regions, affecting millions of people.
 - It also causes significant social and economic burdens, as it often affects rural communities reliant on agriculture and fishing near rivers.
- Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams has set a new record for the longest spacewalking time by a woman, surpassing the previous record held by Peggy Whitson.
 - Sunita Williams is a distinguished Indian-American astronaut and former Navy officer, known for her record-breaking spacewalks and contributions to NASA's space exploration missions



Revision points

- Nirmala Sitharaman has made history by presenting her 8th consecutive Union Budget on February 1, 2025.
 - The budget will be presented against the backdrop of India's economic growth trajectory, inflation trends, and global economic conditions.
 - The budget will be presented against the backdrop of India's economic growth trajectory, inflation trends, and global economic conditions.
- According to a study published in the journal Science, India's tiger population has increased by 30% over the past two decades.
 - India is now home to over 70% of the world's wild tiger population, with an estimated 3,167 tigers as of the latest census (2022).
 - This growth is a testament to the success of India's conservation efforts, including strict anti-poaching measures, habitat restoration, and community involvement in wildlife protection.
- India has recently added four new wetlands to the Ramsar List, bringing the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 89.
- The four newly designated wetlands are:
 - > Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve (Karnataka)
 - > Aghanashini Estuary (Karnataka)
 - > Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve (Karnataka)
 - > Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- The saffron reedtail damselfly (Indosticta deccanensis) was discovered in Madhugundi, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, its first recorded presence in the northern Western Ghats.
 - It is a rare species of damselfly called Kesar Reedtail has been observed, which is found in the Western Ghats of India.
- Scientifically known as Indosticta deccanensis.
- The DRDO successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) system, demonstrating its capability to intercept low-altitude, high-speed threats.
- Gujarat has appointed a panel, led by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai, to draft the state's Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

- The unemployment rate in the country has reduced to 3.2% from the previous 6% in the last fiscal year during July 2023 June 2024, as per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).
 - This marks a substantial reduction and reflects positive developments in the country's labor market and economic recovery.
- R Praggnanandhaa secured his first-ever Tata Steel Masters Chess title by defeating D Gukesh 2-1 in a dramatic tie-breaker held in the Netherlands.
- India has emerged as the world's 2nd largest mobile manufacturer, driven by the rapid expansion of its electronics industry.
- Out of the total 4,096.7 km of the India-Bangladesh border, around 864.482 km remains unfenced due to various challenges, including land acquisition and objections from Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).
 - Fencing the India-Bangladesh border faces challenges like land acquisition delays, objections from Border Guard Bangladesh, difficult terrains, environmental concerns, disruption of cross-border communities, and high costs.
- Tshego Gaelae made history by becoming the first Black woman to win the Mrs World title in 2025.
- The Indian Army has renamed Kolkata's Fort William 'Vijay Durg' as part of a decolonization initiative aimed at honouring India's indigenous military heritage.
- The **BIMSTEC Youth Summit 2025** is taking place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, from 7th to 11th February.
 - Its member countries, including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.
 - Focused on fostering regional cooperation, the summit aims to empower youth through dialogue, innovation, and cultural exchange.
- The Kodava community is an endogamous Dravidian ethnolinguistic group native to the Kodagu region in Karnataka.
 - It known for their martial traditions, unique customs, and reverence for weapons, including the "Kailpodh" festival.

- Karnataka has been declared 'Naxal-free' after the surrender of its last active Naxalite, Lakshmi, in Udupi.
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully completed three successive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) off the Odisha coast.
- Assam is set to host the world's largest Jhumur dance festival on February 24, 2025, as a prelude to the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit.



- Organised to commemorate over two centuries of Assam's tea industry, the grand spectacle also marks the beginning of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit.
- Uganda, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners, has initiated the first-ever clinical trial for a vaccine targeting the Sudan species of the Ebola virus.
- The Para-Archery Asia Cup took place in Bangkok, where Indian archer Sarita secured a gold medal in the Women's Compound Open category by defeating Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim 143-142.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in collaboration with MyGov, has launched the 'Culinary, Crafts & Clicks Moods & Magic' festival to celebrate India's cultural heritage.
 - It aims to showcase India's cultural diversity through food, traditional arts, and photography.
 - It brings together artisans, photographers, and food enthusiasts at Kartavya Path and Amrit Udyan.
- DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Korea Transport Institute (KoTI) to enhance logistics and infrastructure cooperation.
- Bengaluru hosted, Asia's largest aerospace exhibition. The event highlighted India's growing capabilities in aerospace and defense sectors, attracting global participants and fostering collaborations.



- **Biovet** has developed **Biolumpivaxin**, the world's first DIVA marker vaccine for Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), and has received CDSCO approval for it.
 - Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), caused by the Lumpy Skin Disease Virus (LSDV), is a highly infectious viral disease of cattle and water buffalo, characterized by nodules on the skin, fever, and potential mortality, primarily spread by biting insects.
- The Jurassic-era bird fossils were discovered in Fujian Province, China, by a team of researchers led by Professor Wang Min from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP).



- The Haryana government has approved Nilgai culling to address the growing human-wildlife conflicts, particularly due to the damage these animals cause to agricultural lands.
 - Human-wildlife conflict occurs when encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative impacts, such as property damage, loss of livelihoods, or even injuries or deaths, often due to competition for resources or perceived threats.
- Two remote tribal hamlets, Buriga and China Konela, located in Andhra Pradesh's ASR district, celebrated "freedom from darkness" after receiving electricity for the first time in 78 years.
- The Representation of the People Act, of 1951, was enacted to regulate elections and establish disqualification criteria for elected officials.
 - The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA), is a crucial piece of legislation for India's democratic framework, ensuring free and fair elections by supplementing constitutional provisions and providing a legal framework for electoral processes, candidate eligibility, and addressing malpractices.
- The statue of the Tamil poet and philosopher Thiruvalluvar was unveiled in the Philippines, specifically at the Gullas College of Medicine (GCM) in Cebu.
- The Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), under MeitY, launched a new advanced IT incubation centre in Salt Lake, Kolkata.

The study indicates that nearly 44% of the global population, which equates to 3.5 billion people, is potentially exposed to zoonotic diseases. > Zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses, are infectious illnesses that can spread between animals and humans, often caused by germs like viruses, bacteria, parasites, and fungi. > They can be transmitted through direct contact, contaminated food/water, or vectors like insects. The 17th BRICS Summit will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 6-7, 2025. The summit will bring together leaders from BRICS countries and selected invited nations to discuss critical global governance reforms and cooperation. > The first BRICS summit, which was initially the BRIC summit, was established in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on June 16, 2009. > The BRICS headquarters is in Shanghai, China. > The summit's focus was on improving the global economic situation, reforming financial institutions. The Digital Inner Line Permit System has been launched in Chamoli for tourists visiting the India-Tibet border areas. > Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the state government concerned to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. It is obligatory for Indian citizens from outside those states to obtain a permit to enter the protected state. The National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) has been launched by the Ministry of Rural **Development** in India. > The NAKSHA program aims to create and update land records in urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership. This initiative will empower citizens, improve ease of living, enhance urban planning, and reduce land-related disputes. Kerala is launching the 'nPROUD' initiative, India's first government-led program for the safe collection and disposal of expired medicines. Mount Dukono, one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, erupted on February 20, 2025, sending a massive ash cloud into the sky. It erupted after 92 years since its first eruption in 1933.

- The presence of faecal coliform bacteria in the Ganga River at Prayagraj has raised serious public health concerns, particularly during the Maha Kumbh Mela.
 - Fecal coliform bacteria, a subgroup of coliform bacteria, are used as indicators of fecal contamination in water, suggesting the presence of



other potentially harmful pathogens.

- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which is collaborating with India's Department of Technology (DoT) on Al-driven digital twin technologies, has its headquarters located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- On January 29, 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared Guinea free from the gambiense form of human African trypanosomiasis (HAT), a significant achievement in public health.
 - It known as West African sleeping sickness, is a chronic, slowly progressing disease caused by the Trypanosoma brucei gambiense parasite, transmitted by tsetse flies, primarily in West and Central Africa.
- The Karnataka government has announced the provision of an additional 5 kilograms of rice starting from February, as part of the prepoll Anna Bhagya guarantee.
- The 2nd Simolu Festival was held in Assam, specifically at Bwisang-Na, an ethnic eco-resort located in Barunguri, Laokhowa.
 - The two-day festival was held to celebrate the blooming Bombax ceiba (Shimul) flowers and promote ecotourism, conservation, and local culture.
- India's first zoo-based wildlife biobank has been established at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZP) in Darjeeling, West Bengal.
 - It is a facility that collects, preserves, and stores biological samples (like DNA, tissues, and reproductive cells) from animals, especially endangered species, for conservation and research purposes.
- The new bat coronavirus, HKU5-CoV-2, was discovered by researchers in China, specifically at the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

- West Bengal topped India's bird species count for the third consecutive year in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) held from February 14 to 17, 2025.
 - It encouraging people to observe and document birds in their local areas, contributing to scientific data on bird populations.
- Nagaland's Forest Management Project (NFMP) was recognized with the prestigious SKOCH Award 2024 for its outstanding contributions to national development.
 - > The SKOCH Award aims to identify and celebrate exemplary leadership, projects, and institutions that contribute to positive socio-economic transformations and make India a better nation.
- Uttarakhand's Cabinet approved the Bhoo Kanoon (Land Law Amendment Bill), which aims to regulate land transactions involving non-residents.
 - The Bhu Kanoon is Uttarakhand's land law regulating property ownership. The 2025 revision restricts nonresidents from buying agricultural/horticultural land in 11 districts to protect local culture, prevent environmental degradation, and stabilize land prices.
- Microsoft introduced Majorana 1, the world's first quantum chip, which is powered by a Topological Core architecture.
 - > This chip utilizes topological qubits, which are based on Majorana particles—particles that are their own antiparticles -offering enhanced stability



and scalability for quantum computing.

- The 51st Khajuraho Dance Festival 2025 is being hosted by the Department of Culture, Madhya Pradesh, with support from Madhya Pradesh Tourism.
 - > The festival not only showcased traditional dance forms but also promoted innovation in choreography, fostering a deeper appreciation for India's cultural heritage.

Bisleri International has partnered with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0 Programme' to restore and protect historic water bodies at heritage sites across India.

- John McFall, a former British Paralympian with a prosthetic leg, has been medically approved by the European Space Agency (ESA) for long-duration space missions to the International Space Station (ISS).
- The proposed Aravali Safari Park, which is planned to be the world's largest safari park, is located in Haryana.
 - Aravali Safari Park Project: It is envisioned as the world's largest safari park (approx 10,000 acres) and aims to support eco-tourism and compensatory afforestation.
- Childhood cancers, defined as cancers affecting children aged 0-14 years, account for 4% of all cancer cases in India.
 - > This translates to an estimated 52,366 new cases annually within this age group.
- India and the United Kingdom agreed to resume free trade negotiations following discussions between Prime Minister Modi of India and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer of the United Kingdom.
 - The resumption of these negotiations reflects the commitment of both nations to strengthen their economic ties and explore new investment opportunities across various sectors.
- The northern region of Iraq is experiencing a slow sinking effect caused by the movement of tectonic plates.
 - Tectonic plate movement is the driving force behind many geological phenomena, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and the formation of mountain ranges.
- Madhya Pradesh has recorded the highest vulture population in India, with 12,981 vultures counted in the first phase of the 2025 census.
 - India's vulture population experienced a drastic decline in the 1990s due to the widespread use of the veterinary drug diclofenac, leading to a near-extinction crisis, and now conservation efforts focus on protecting the remaining species, particularly the critically endangered White-backed, Slender-billed, and Long-billed vultures.
- The international art exhibition titled "Topographies of Tents, Terracotta, and Time" will be hosted in Hyderabad.

- According to a recent study, Australia and New Zealand have the highest breast cancer incidence rates in the world.
 - Australia and New Zealand have some of the highest breast cancer incidence rates globally. In Australia, it's estimated that 1 in 7 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime, while in New Zealand, it's 1 in 9.
- Heart Lamp is a short story collection by Kannada author Banu Mushtaq, which has been longlisted for the prestigious International Booker Prize 2025.
 - The Booker Prize is one of the most prestigious literary awards, recognizing outstanding works of fiction written in English. Established in 1969, it has celebrated authors from around the world, including those from Australia and New Zealand.
- The successful test-firing of India's Naval Anti-Ship Missile (NASM-SR) was conducted from Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
 - The missile successfully hit a small ship target in sea skimming mode at maximum range.



- The missile deployed its indigenous IIR seeker for terminal guidance.
- The Karnataka government proposed tax waivers and financial incentives to promote clean mobility. This includes significant tax cuts for hybrid cars and incentives ranging from 15% to 25% for manufacturers of electric vehicles and related components.
- Archaeologists uncovered three Kannada inscriptions from the Kalyana Chalukya era in Kankal village, Vikarabad district. Dating back to 1129-1132 CE, these inscriptions provide valuable insights into the region's historical heritage.
 - It providing insights into temple construction, land donations, and the region's history during the reign of Emperor Someswara-III Bhulokamalladeva.



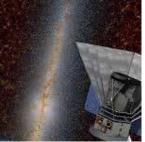
 In 2025, the United Nations designated the year as the "International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IYQ)" to celebrate 100 years of quantum mechanics and raise global awareness of its importance and applications.



- Quantum science and technology (QuST) leverages quantum mechanics to develop innovative technologies, including quantum computing, communication, and sensing, with applications ranging from medicine to materials science.
- Central Zoo Authority (CZA) approved India's first white tiger breeding centre in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. The centre will be set up in Govindgarh, near Mukundpur's white tiger safari. The project received in-principle approval in 2011.
- The king cobra, previously considered a single species, has been reclassified into four distinct species: Northern King Cobra, Sunda King Cobra, Western Ghats King Cobra, and Luzon King Cobra.
 - This reclassification highlights the importance of ongoing research in understanding biodiversity and the evolution of species.



- The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), or Prime Minister's Farmer Income Protection Scheme, is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring farmers receive remunerative prices for their produce, including pulses, oilseeds, and copra, through mechanisms like Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS).
- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) is a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSO) to measure employment and unemployment in India. The survey is conducted quarterly for urban areas and annually for both rural and urban areas.
- NASA's newest space telescope, SPHEREx, launched on March 12, 2025, aims to map the entire sky and search for the building blocks of life, while the James Webb Space Telescope continues to capture stunning images of the early universe and exoplanets.



• The Genome India Project (GIP) is a government-funded initiative to sequence the genomes of 10,000 healthy Indians.

- Indian Coast Guard Day, observed annually on February 1st, commemorates the establishment of the Indian Coast Guard on that day in 1977, recognizing its vital role in maritime security and safety.
- World Wetlands Day is observed every year on February 2 to raise awareness about the crucial role wetlands play in supporting biodiversity, human well-being, and cultural heritage.
- World Cancer Day is observed annually on February 4th, aiming to raise awareness, promote action, and encourage global collaboration to address the growing burden of cancer.
- February 4 International Day of Human Fraternity 2025, the day generally focuses on promoting unity, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence, inspired by the "Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together".
- International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was observed on February 6, 2025.
 - It is a global initiative to raise awareness and take action against the harmful practice of FGM.
 - This day highlights the physical, psychological, and social consequences of FGM on women and girls and calls for its eradication through education, advocacy, and community engagement.
- International Epilepsy Day is observed on the second Monday of February each year to raise awareness about epilepsy, its diagnosis, treatment, and impact on individuals.
 - It aims to raise global awareness about epilepsy, its diagnosis, treatment, and the impact on individuals, families, and communities.
- World Pulses Day is observed every year on February 10 to highlight the importance of pulses as a sustainable and nutritious food source.



- The theme for World Pulses Day 2025 Pulses: Bringing diversity to agrifood systems,"
- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed annually on February 11 to promote gender equality in STEM fields.
 - It recognising that equal access to and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are critical for achieving gender equality.

- World Interfaith Harmony Week February 1st to 7th is a vital initiative that underscores the importance of unity in diversity. By fostering dialogue, respect, and collaboration among people of all faiths, it contributes to a more peaceful and harmonious world.
- Anti-Smuggling Day is observed annually on February 11 to raise awareness about the threats posed by smuggling to national security and the economy.
 - This day highlights the dangers of illegal trade, including arms smuggling, fake currency circulation, and drug trafficking.
- National Productivity Day is observed annually on February 12th in India to raise awareness about the importance of productivity for economic growth and sustainability, and it's celebrated under the guidance of the National Productivity Council (NPC).
 - It to generate awareness about the importance of productivity in achieving economic growth and sustainability, under the guidance of the National Productivity Council (NPC).
- World Radio Day is celebrated on February 13th an opportunity to celebrate Radio as a medium. It is a chance to promote international cooperation between radio broadcasters to encourage major networks and local radio stations to access to information and freedom of expression.
- February 13 is celebrated as National Women's Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, a prominent freedom fighter, poet, and women's rights activist, also known as the "Nightingale of India".
- February 14 February 14th is remembered as a "Black Day" in India, a day to remember the sacrifices of the soldiers who lost their lives in Pulvama attack.
- India Energy Week 2025 February 11 to 14 was held in New Delhi, organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, along with the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI).

International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is observed on February 15 each year. > It is to raise awareness about childhood cancer and support children and adolescents battling the disease. well as their families. **Global Tourism Resilience Day** is observed annually on February 17. > This day focuses on the significance of building a resilient tourism sector capable of withstanding challenges. The World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20. It is a UN-designated day to raise awareness about the importance of social justice and to promote efforts to combat poverty, exclusion, and unemployment, according to the United Nations. International Mother Language Day is observed annually on February 21. World NGO Day is celebrated annually on February 27 to acknowledge and appreciate the vital contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in addressing global challenges. It is a global event recognizing and honoring the contributions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in addressing global challenges and promoting social good. National Science Day is observed on February 28 each year • to commemorate Sir C.V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect, which earned him the Nobel Prize in 1930. On February 28, 1928, Sir C.V. Raman announced his ground breaking discovery of the Raman Effect, a phenomenon in spectroscowhere light scatters when passing through a transparent material, with some of the scattered light changing in wavelength. Financial Literacy Week to be observed during February 24 – 28, 2025 is 'Financial Literacy - Women's Prosperity' with emphasis on 'Financial Planning', 'Saving and Risk Management' and 'Availing Credit for Growth'.





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