

The week from 15th February 2026 to 22nd February 2026

India began its BRICS Chairship 2026 by hosting the first Sherpas and Sous Sherpas meeting in New Delhi on Feb 9–10 under the theme “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.” India emphasized a people-centric approach, promoting academic, business, youth, and cultural engagement across BRICS.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party secured a decisive victory in Bangladesh’s general elections, winning 209 of 300 seats. The polls marked the first election since the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, with her Awami League barred from contesting. The prime opposition, Jamaat-e-Islami bloc won 77 seats and the turnout scaling to 59.44%.

The Gujarat government has appointed Uday Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank, as the new Chairman of GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance-Tec City) in Gandhinagar replacing Hasmukh Adhia. GIFT City is India’s first operational Smart City and maiden International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), hosting 35 banking units and managing \$100.14 billion in assets.

Magnus Carlsen won the first officially recognised Freestyle Chess World Championship by defeating Fabiano Caruana 2.5–1.5 in the final held at Weissenhaus. With this victory, Carlsen extends his tally to 21 world titles across formats.

Indian cricket star Smriti Mandhana was awarded the BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2025 for her pivotal role in India’s historic Women’s World Cup victory. At 29, Smriti Mandhana holds the record for second-highest centuries in Women’s ODIs, and is the scorer of the fastest 50-over international century by an Indian, surpassing Virat Kohli’s record.

India’s cheetah reintroduction programme marks a milestone as Gamini, a South African cheetah at Kuno National Park, gave birth to three cubs, raising the total population to 38. Project Cheetah, the world’s first inter-continental relocation of a large carnivore, has seen 20 cheetahs brought from Namibia and South Africa. With these 3, the number of Indian-born cubs is now 27!

The Losar Festival 2026 is being celebrated from 18 to 20 February in McLeod Ganj, Himachal Pradesh, marking the start of the Fire Horse Year. The Dalai Lama’s presence has added spiritual significance, inspiring devotees and locals alike. The Fire Horse Year, occurring once every 60 years, symbolizes strength, passion, and transformation.

The India AI Impact Summit 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, brought together policymakers, global technology firms, startups, and researchers to discuss responsible AI, governance frameworks, and innovation. The summit highlighted India’s growing leadership in artificial intelligence and its ambition to become a major AI hub for the Global South.



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