

# Monthly Compilation: Key Current Affairs – February 2024

This summary compiles essential current affairs and developments in India and globally from February 2024, focusing on significant events, appointments, awards, and key government initiatives. Each point is presented clearly for effective revision and reference.

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## Major Appointments, Awards, and Honors

### State and National Leadership

- **State Fruit Declaration:** Assam officially declared '**Kaji Nemu**' (Kaji Lemon) as its state fruit.
- **Chief Minister of Jharkhand:** **Champai Soren** from JMM became the new Chief Minister after Hemant Soren's resignation and arrest.
- **Vice Chief of Indian Army:** Lt. General **Upendra Dwivedi** was appointed to this post.
- **First Woman Chief Minister in a Province of Pakistan:** **Maryam Nawaz** became the CM of Punjab province.

### National and International Honors

- **Bharat Ratna 2024:** Five individuals were awarded India's highest civilian honor, Bharat Ratna:
  - **Chaudhary Charan Singh** (Posthumous; former Prime Minister)
  - **P.V. Narasimha Rao** (Posthumous; former Prime Minister)
  - **M.S. Swaminathan** (Posthumous; agricultural scientist, "Father of Green Revolution in India")
  - **L.K. Advani** (living; former Deputy Prime Minister)
  - **Karpoori Thakur** (Posthumous; former Chief Minister of Bihar)
- **Honorary Knighthood:** **Sunil Bharti Mittal** became the first Indian citizen to receive an honorary knighthood from King Charles III of the UK.

## Judicial and Administrative Appointments

- **Chief Justices:** New Chief Justices were appointed to several High Courts:
    - **Karnataka:** Justice N.V. Anjaria
    - **Uttarakhand:** Justice **Ritu Bahri** (first woman Chief Justice for the state)
    - **Meghalaya:** Justice S. Vadyanathan
    - **Gauhati:** Justice Vijay Bishnoi
  - **Lokpal (Ombudsman) of India:** Justice **A.M. Khanwilkar** was appointed as the new Lokpal Chairperson.
  - **CMD of IRCTC:** **Sanjay Kumar Jain** was appointed to this role.
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## Notable Dates and Observances

- **Indian Coast Guard Day:** 1 February (48th edition in 2024).
  - **World Wetlands Day:** 2 February (Theme: “Wetlands and Human Well-being”).
  - **World Unani Day:** 11 February (marking the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan).
  - **National Productivity Day:** 12 February.
  - **National Women's Day (India):** 13 February.
  - **Central Excise Day (India):** 24 February.
  - **National Protein Day:** 27 February.
  - **National Science Day:** 28 February (commemorating the discovery of the Raman Effect by CV Raman).
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## Key Legislation and Government Initiatives

### State Initiatives

- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):** **Uttarakhand** became the first state in independent India to pass a UCC bill. It aims to create a common set of laws for all citizens on matters like marriage, divorce, and inheritance, exempting Scheduled Tribes.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission:** **Arunachal Pradesh** became the first northeastern state to achieve 100% household tap water connection.

- **Odisha Swatantra Scheme:** Odisha launched this scheme to provide interest-free loans up to ₹1 lakh to youth (aged 18-35) for business ventures.
- **Haryana's 'Van Mitra' Scheme:** This initiative aims to promote afforestation by incentivizing locals to plant trees.

## National Initiatives

- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:** This scheme provides **up to 300 units of free electricity** per month to households that install rooftop solar panels, with a goal of covering one crore households.
  - **Indo-Myanmar Border Fencing:** India plans to fence the entire 1,643 km border to end the free movement regime and enhance security.
  - **Shahpur Kandi Barrage:** Completed on the Ravi river in Pathankot, Punjab, it now allows India to prevent the river's water from flowing into Pakistan as per the Indus Water Treaty.
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## Science, Education, and Environment

### Museums and Heritage

- **First National Epigraphy Museum:** The foundation was laid in **Hyderabad** at the Salar Jung Museum, to be developed by the Archaeological Survey of India.
- **First Vedic Clock:** Installed at Ujjain's Jantar Mantar, Madhya Pradesh, it displays time according to the Indian Panchang.
- **First BAPS Hindu Temple in Middle East:** Inaugurated in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.
- **First Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi:** To be established in **Hyderabad**.

### Conservation and Biodiversity

- **Biodiversity Heritage Site:** **Odisha** declared the **Gupteswar Forest** in Koraput as its fourth Biodiversity Heritage Site.
- **Ramsar Sites in India:** India now has **80 Ramsar sites** after adding five new sites (three in Karnataka, two in Tamil Nadu).

- **Thay Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary:** **Tamil Nadu** announced the establishment of this new wildlife sanctuary.

## Space and Technology

- **New ISRO Spaceport:** Foundation stone was laid for India's second spaceport at **Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu**, which will be used for launching small satellites.
  - **Gaganyaan Mission Astronauts:** Four Indian Air Force pilots were designated as astronaut candidates for India's first crewed space mission: Group Captains **Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishna, Angad Pratap**, and Wing Commander **Shubhangshu Shukla**.
  - **World's First Wooden Satellite:** Named "**LignoSat**", this satellite is scheduled for launch in 2024.
  - **India's First Indigenous Smart Ammunition:** A 155mm smart ammunition was developed through a collaboration between **IIT Madras** and Munitions India Limited.
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## Major Indian and International Events

### Sports

- **Badminton Asia Team Championships 2024:** The **Indian women's team** won their first-ever gold medal.
- **Khelo India University Games 2023:** **Chandigarh University** was declared the overall champion.
- **Khelo India Winter Games:** The mascot was '**Sheen-e She**' (Snow Leopard); the event was hosted in Ladakh and Gulmarg.
- **Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup:** **Australia** defeated India in the final to clinch the trophy.
- **FIFA World Cup 2026:** To be co-hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico.
- **45th Chess Olympiad:** Will be hosted by **Hungary**.

### International Relations and Diplomacy

- **MILAN Naval Exercise (12th Edition):** Conducted in **Visakhapatnam** with over 50 participating countries.
- **Dosti Tri-lateral Exercise (16th Edition):** Held in Malé, Maldives, with India and Sri Lanka as participants and Bangladesh as an observer.
- **Indian Ocean Conference (7th Edition):** Held in Perth, Australia; theme: "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".
- **International Court of Justice (ICJ):** **Nawaf Salam** of Lebanon was elected as its President.
- **World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference:** Held in **Abu Dhabi, UAE**; Comoros and Timor-Leste joined as new members.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List:** Namibia and Kenya were added, while UAE, Barbados, Gibraltar, and Uganda were removed.

## Economic Updates

- **India's Projected GDP Growth for 2024-25:** The Reserve Bank of India projected a GDP growth of **7%**.
  - **Corruption Perception Index 2023:** India was ranked **93rd** out of 180 countries.
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## Books and Miscellaneous

- **Books Released:**
    - **"Slowing the Sun"** by Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri
    - **"Dabbling in Diplomacy: Authorized and Otherwise"** by S.D. Muni
  - **European Union's First Paperless Visa:** **France** became the first EU country to issue a paperless visa.
  - **Indian Army's Mobile Bridge System: "Sarvatra",** a new mobile bridge system, was developed by DRDO.
  - **First Gati Shakti Research Chair:** To be set up at the **Indian Institute of Management Shillong**.
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