



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 15, 2026

STATE

- **Kerala Becomes India's First State to Draft and Approve Comprehensive Urban Policy**
- ✓ Kerala became the first state in India to formally draft and approve a comprehensive Urban Policy, a long-term strategic plan to manage rapid city growth, infrastructure, sustainability, and governance.
- ✓ The draft policy, prepared by the Local Self-Government Department (LSGD), was approved by the State Cabinet under Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister (CM) of Kerala.
- ✓ According to estimates by the Kerala Urban Policy Commission, the state's urban population is expected to reach nearly 80% by 2050.
- ✓ The policy envisions Kerala as a continuous network of climate-smart cities and towns, promoting scientific planning, good governance, and climate resilience.

RANKING & INDEX

- **Henley Passport Index – February 2026**
- ✓ India's passport improved its global position to 75th rank, up from 80th in January 2026 and 85th in 2025, reflecting gradual progress in travel freedom.
- ✓ India, with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 56 destinations, shares its ranking with Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Madagascar, and Mauritania.
- ✓ Singapore topped the Henley Passport Index 2026 with visa-free access to 192 destinations, followed by Japan and South Korea with 187 destinations each.

- ✓ Afghanistan ranked last (101st) on the February 2026 Index, with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to only 24 countries.

APPOINTMENTS

- **CA Prasanna Kumar D Elected as the President of the ICAI**
- ✓ Chartered Accountant (CA) Prasanna Kumar D elected as the 74th President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), under Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), for the 2026-27 term, with immediate effect.
- ✓ He is a senior CA from Visakhapatnam with over four decades of professional experience in areas, encompassing practice, institutional governance, policy involvement, and member welfare initiatives.
- ✓ CA Mangesh Pandurang Kinare has been elected as Vice-President (VP) for 2026-27 term.

