



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 16, 2026

NATIONAL

- **PM RAHAT for Accident Victims**
 - ✓ PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) guarantees ₹1.5 lakh cashless treatment for seven days to road accident victims, ensuring no one is denied life-saving care due to lack of funds.
 - ✓ Integrated with ERSS 112, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' eDAR platform, and the National Health Authority's TMS 2.0, the scheme enables swift admission, digital police authentication, and seamless hospital reimbursement.
 - ✓ Stabilization care covers up to 24 hours for non-life-threatening and 48 hours for critical cases, supporting Golden Hour treatment nationwide.
 - ✓ Funded through the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, it ensures timely claim settlement and structured emergency coordination.
- **Startup India Funds 2.0**
 - ✓ Union Cabinet Approves ₹10,000 Crore Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0) to strengthen India's startup ecosystem by channeling long-term capital through Alternative Investment Funds into deep tech, innovative manufacturing, and early-growth sectors.
 - ✓ Building on the success of the 2016 Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0), which supported over 1,370 startups, the new phase aims to expand venture capital access, reduce high-risk funding gaps, and promote innovation beyond metro cities.

- ✓ Aligned with the Viksit Bharat @ 2047 vision, the initiative seeks to boost manufacturing, create quality jobs, and enhance India's global competitiveness.

➤ **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**

- ✓ Union Cabinet has approved one lakh crore rupees for the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF). The fund will leverage private participation and citizen-centric reforms to deliver high-quality urban infrastructure.
- ✓ The initiative is expected to make cities the key drivers of the country's economic growth.
- ✓ The Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ The aim of the fund is to build resilient, productive, inclusive and climate-responsive cities. The Fund supports up to 25% of project cost, subject to raising a minimum of 50% of the project cost from the market.
- ✓ The operational period for the fund is from Financial Year 2025-26 to Financial Year 2030-31. Its implementation period is extendable up to the Financial Year 2033-34.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Russia Blocks WhatsApp**

- ✓ Russia has blocked WhatsApp for not complying with local laws, urging users to switch to domestic alternatives.
- ✓ Around 100 million Russian users are encouraged to use the homegrown messaging app Max.

SPORTS

➤ **FIDE Freestyle World Champion 2026**

- ✓ Magnus Carlsen has won the 2026 FIDE Freestyle Chess World Championship, defeating Fabiano Caruana 2.5-1.5 in the final at Weissenhaus.
- ✓ A draw in Game 4 secured the title, marking Carlsen's 21st world crown and his first official FIDE-recognized Freestyle (Chess960) title.

- ✓ The turning point came in Game 3, where Carlsen staged a dramatic comeback from a near-lost position as Caruana faltered under time pressure.
- ✓ Freestyle Chess randomizes the back-rank setup, reducing opening preparation and emphasizing creativity.

OBITUARY

➤ The 'Grandfather of the Internet'

- ✓ David J. Farber, known as the "Grandfather of the Internet," passed away in Tokyo at 91.
- ✓ A pioneering networking researcher and mentor, he guided future internet architects like Jonathan Postel and Paul Mockapetris, shaping foundational elements of Internet Protocol and the Domain Name System.
- ✓ Farber contributed to the growth of ARPANET and co-authored visionary work with Paul Baran predicting the convergence of computing and communications.

