EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 28, 2026

NATIONAL

➢ **Micron Semiconductor Plant in Sanand**

✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first semiconductor ATMP plant by Micron Technology in Sanand on 28 February 2026.

✓ The ₹22,516 crore facility will assemble, test, mark, and package DRAM, NAND flash memory, and SSD products, marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor manufacturing journey.

✓ The plant is expected to create around 5,000 direct jobs and support both domestic and global markets, especially amid rising AI-driven demand for advanced memory solutions.

✓ By handling post-fabrication processes for chips sourced from Micron's global units, the Sanand facility strengthens India's electronics ecosystem and advances its ambition to become a key player in the global semiconductor supply chain.

➢ **Sachin Tendulkar Named UN Global Champion for Road Safety**

✓ Sachin Tendulkar was designated as a Global Champion for Road Safety by the United Nations (UN) to promote global road safety awareness.

✓ He joined other international figures supporting worldwide road safety initiatives.

✓ He released a video message promoting safe road practices under the UN-JCDecaux and "Make A Safety Statement" Campaign launched in New Delhi.

✓ The campaign promotes key safety actions such as wearing seat belts and helmets, observing speed limits, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, not driving under the influence, and respecting pedestrians and cyclists.

- ✓ Digital billboards and posters displaying campaign messages will appear in New Delhi, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), and Bengaluru (Karnataka).

STATE

- ➢ **Maharashtra's 'Caste-Free' Village**
- ✓ Soundala village in Maharashtra declared itself a "caste-free village" through a unanimous gram sabha resolution.
- ✓ Located in Ahilyanagar district, the village resolved not to ask or publicise caste, ensured equal access to temples, schools, crematoriums, and water sources, and banned caste-based slurs or boycotts. Led by Sarpanch Sharad Argade, the motto guiding the reform is "My caste is humanity."
- ✓ The initiative builds on years of gradual change, from ending segregated wells to promoting shared meals and festivals.
- ✓ Additional reforms include fines for abusive language, support for widow remarriage, educational aid for girls, and structured study hours, reinforcing social equality and community harmony.

- ➢ **Rajasthan Changes 3 Historic City Names**
- ✓ The Government of Rajasthan has announced that Mount Abu will now be officially known as Aburaj, as declared by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma in the State Assembly.
- ✓ Alongside this, Kaman has been renamed Kamvan and Jahazpur as Yagyapur, aiming to restore their historical and cultural identities.
- ✓ The government stated that official records, documents, and public signage will be updated to reflect the new names.
- ✓ The move seeks to honour regional heritage, revive traditional associations, and strengthen cultural pride across Rajasthan.

DEFENCE

- ➢ **Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026**
- ✓ The Indian Air Force showcased its combat capability during Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026 at the Pokhran Field Firing Range in the Thar desert near the India–Pakistan border.

- ✓ The large-scale day-to-night exercise was witnessed by President Droupadi Murmu and featured realistic battlefield simulations, precision strikes, and integrated air defence operations.
- ✓ Frontline fighters including the Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Jaguar, and Mirage 2000 conducted coordinated strikes on simulated enemy targets such as runways, bunkers, radar stations, and terror camps.
- ✓ Helicopters like the Apache and Mi-17V5 supported ground missions, while the Akash surface-to-air missile system demonstrated India's indigenous air defence strength and multi-platform combat coordination.

➢ **VSHORADS Missile**

- ✓ India successfully conducted three consecutive flight trials of the indigenous VSHORADS (Very Short Range Air Defence System) missile on 27 February 2026 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.
- ✓ Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and led by Research Centre Imarat, the man-portable system is designed to neutralise low-flying aircraft, helicopters, drones, and other high-speed aerial threats.
- ✓ The missile intercepted targets at varying speeds, ranges, and altitudes, meeting all operational parameters under deployment conditions.
- ✓ The successful trials confirm its readiness for induction into the armed forces. VSHORADS will strengthen India's short-range, layered air defence network and boost indigenous defence capabilities under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

OBITUARY

➢ **T.K. Oommen Passes Away**

- ✓ Eminent sociologist T.K. Oommen passed away on 26 February 2026 in Gurugram at the age of 88.
- ✓ A Professor Emeritus at Jawaharlal Nehru University, he was regarded as a leading architect of modern Indian sociology, known for his work on social justice, pluralism, identity, and social transformation.
- ✓ His landmark study of the Bhoodan Movement led by Vinoba Bhave established his reputation as a scholar connecting theory with grassroots realities.
- ✓ A former President of the International Sociological Association and recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2008), Prof. Oommen authored nearly 20 books,

shaping debates on state, ethnicity, civil society, and national integration in India.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **National Science Day - February 28**

✓ National Science Day 2026 is celebrated every year on 28 February in India to honour the discovery of the Raman Effect by Sir C V Raman in 1928.

✓ First Observed in 1987.

✓ This day highlights the importance of science in daily life and encourages students to develop scientific temper, curiosity, and innovation.

✓ The National Science Day – 2026 celebrates the theme of 'Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat'; reflecting IN's continued commitment to scientific research, and women-led innovation, propelling India towards a self-reliant future.

APPOLO STUDY CENTRE