

## **IMPORTANT WEEKLY AFFAIRS**

*9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February*

### **NATIONAL**

- **India to Host First-Ever WAVES Summit 2025**

India is set to host the inaugural World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai from May 1 to 4, 2025. The event will bring together global leaders in the entertainment industry to discuss innovations in film, OTT platforms, and media technologies.

- **Assam to Host World's Largest Jhumur Dance Performance**

Assam will host the world's largest Jhumur dance performance on February 24, 2025, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Jhumur, also called Jhumoir, is a traditional folk dance of Assam and neighboring regions, performed by tribal communities. The event aims to promote cultural heritage and secure global recognition for the dance form.

- **Manipur CM N. Biren Singh Resigns**

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh stepped down on February 9, 2025, amid rising ethnic violence and growing political pressure. His resignation follows nearly two years of conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities, resulting in heavy casualties and displacement.

- **India-Egypt Joint Military Exercise 'Cyclone 2025' Begins**

India and Egypt have launched 'Cyclone 2025', a joint military exercise at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan, set to continue for 14 days. This collaboration aims to strengthen defense ties between the two nations by improving the interoperability of special forces and exchanging professional expertise in challenging desert conditions.

- **India and Nicaragua Sign MoU for Quick Impact Projects**

India and Nicaragua have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) focused on enhancing physical and social infrastructure. Under this agreement, India will provide grant assistance for projects in roads, community centers, education, and sanitation, ensuring immediate benefits for local communities in Nicaragua.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### ▪ Paris AI Summit 2025

The Paris AI Summit 2025, co-chaired by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, has officially commenced in France, bringing together world leaders, industry experts, and researchers to shape the future of ethical and responsible AI development. The summit aims to establish a global AI governance framework, focusing on AI safety, risk management, and sustainable deployment while ensuring that AI benefits all nations without monopolization or misuse. A key agenda is inclusive AI governance, addressing disparities between developed and developing countries by balancing innovation and regulation.

The event has attracted significant global figures, including U.S. Vice President JD Vance and China's Vice Premier Zhang Guoqing, reflecting the geopolitical importance of AI regulation. Industry leaders such as Sam Altman (OpenAI CEO) and Demis Hassabis (DeepMind CEO) are also participating, offering insights into AI advancements, deep learning, and safety measures. Among the major announcements, France has pledged €109 billion to strengthen its AI sector, while China has introduced the "DeepSeek" chatbot, reinforcing its position in AI leadership. India, as a co-chair, is advocating for ethical AI policies and inclusive global governance, emphasizing the need for fair and transparent AI development worldwide.

### ▪ India to Open Second Diplomatic Mission in France

India is expanding its diplomatic and economic presence in France as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurate the Indian Consulate in Marseille on February 12, 2025. This will be India's second diplomatic mission in France, following its embassy in Paris. The move strengthens Indo-French relations, enhancing India's engagement in southern France and reaffirming its commitment to economic, cultural, and strategic cooperation.

### ▪ Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Aero India 2025, Asia's largest aerospace and defence expo, on February 10 in Bengaluru. The event showcases 70 aircraft, including the Russian Su-57 and US F-35 jets, with participation from 90 countries, highlighting global defence collaboration.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ▪ US Withdraws from UN Human Rights Council

United States President Donald Trump has signed an executive order officially withdrawing the US from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The decision was based on

concerns over the presence of certain "outlier" nations engaging in unethical practices within the UN.

- **Trump Declares February 9 as "Gulf of America Day"**

In a historic decision, U.S. President Donald Trump has officially designated February 9 as "Gulf of America Day" following the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico. This marks the first recognition of such a day and comes after Trump signed an executive order, drawing national and international attention. The proclamation was signed aboard Air Force One on Sunday, while he was en route to the Super Bowl in New Orleans, a city located on the Gulf.

- **Namibia's First President Sam Nujoma Passes Away at 95**

Sam Nujoma, Namibia's first president and a key leader in its independence movement, has passed away at the age of 95. A charismatic figure, he played a crucial role in leading Namibia to freedom from apartheid South Africa in 1990 and served as president for 15 years. Revered as the "Father of the Nation," Nujoma's legacy remains a cornerstone of Namibia's history.

- **Bangladesh Launches 'Operation Devil Hunt' Amid Unrest**

Bangladesh has initiated "Operation Devil Hunt", a security crackdown on supporters of former PM Sheikh Hasina, following attacks on protesters by groups allegedly linked to her regime. The interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, aims to restore order and uphold democracy. The unrest escalated after reports of Hasina's possible address from exile in India, leading to violent protests and property destruction.

## SPORTS

- **Carlos Alcaraz Wins First Indoor Hardcourt Title at Rotterdam Open**

Carlos Alcaraz claimed his first indoor hardcourt title, defeating Alex de Minaur 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the Rotterdam Open final. This victory marked his 17th ATP Tour title and made him the first Spanish champion in the tournament's 52-year history. Battling through a cold and multiple three-set matches, Alcaraz displayed resilience and adaptability, further strengthening his tennis achievements.

- **Jil Teichmann Wins 2025 Mumbai Open Title**

Swiss tennis player Jil Teichmann clinched the 2025 Mumbai Open singles title, defeating Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand in the final. The WTA 125 event, India's only WTA tournament, took place at the Cricket Club of India from February 3-9, 2025. This victory marked Teichmann's second WTA 125 title, following her 2024 Ljubljana triumph.

## RANKS

### Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Tops, India Ranks 80th

The 2025 Henley Passport Index, compiled by Henley & Partners, ranks 199 passports based on their visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to global destinations, using data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Singapore holds the top position with visa-free access to 193 destinations, followed by Japan and South Korea in second place with access to 190 countries. Several European nations, including France, Germany, and Spain, rank third with access to 189 destinations. India ranks 80th, sharing the position with Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, and Tajikistan, allowing its passport holders to travel to 62 countries without a visa or with visa-on-arrival. The report also highlights global mobility trends and changes in visa privileges over time.

## AWARDS

- **Chaman Arora to Receive Posthumous Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 for Dogri**

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in Dogri will be posthumously awarded to Chaman Arora for his short story collection, "Ik Hor Ashwthama." A three-member jury unanimously selected the book through the official selection process. The award will be presented to his family member or nominee at a special ceremony in New Delhi on March 8, 2025.

- **Varsha Bharath's Bad Girl Wins NETPAC Award at IFFR 2025**

Director Varsha Bharath's debut film, Bad Girl, has won the prestigious NETPAC Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR) 2025. Presented by acclaimed filmmakers Anurag Kashyap and Vetrimaaran, the film initially received mixed reactions for its bold themes but has now gained critical recognition. This achievement places Bad Girl alongside notable Indian films like Nasir (2019), Naukar ki Kameez (1999), and Vidheyan (1995), which previously won the award.