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## History of February 14

- ◆ **1628** : **Shahjahan** sat on the throne of Agra.
- ◆ **1537** : **Sultan Bahadur Shah** of Gujarat died by drowning while escaping from the Portuguese.
- ◆ **1556** : **Akbar** was crowned king at the age of 13 at Kalanaur in Gurudaspur district of Punjab.
- ◆ **1881** : **India's first Homeopathic Medical College** was established in Kolkata.
- ◆ **1483** : **Emperor Babar** of the **Mughal Empire** was born.

## Current Affairs Related to 14 February

- ◆ In the interim budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that a high-powered committee will be constituted to consider the challenges arising from rapid population growth and demographic changes. The committee will make recommendations to address the challenges faced in achieving the goal of a developed India. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the census and delimitation of parliamentary seats will be done only after the 2024 general elections.
- ◆ The government has proposed to set up a new corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to promote private investment in research and new initiatives in new emerging areas. This fund will be set up with a fifty-year interest-free loan. It will offer low or no interest long-term financing or long-term refinancing. According to the Finance Minister, this will give a great boost to research and innovation in new emerging areas by the private sector. The Finance Minister also suggested launching a new program to advance deep technical capabilities for defence.
- ◆ According to the Finance Minister, through rooftop solarization, one crore families will be able to get up to 300 units of free electricity every month. As a result of receiving free solar energy and selling excess electricity to distribution companies, families are expected to save fifteen to eighteen thousand rupees per year. This is expected to provide entrepreneurial opportunities to vendors for supply and installation. It is expected that this will also provide work opportunities to youth having technical skills in manufacturing, installation and maintenance.
- ◆ VADM Lochan Singh Pathania took charge as the Chief Hydrographer of the Government of India. He joined the executive branch of the Indian Navy in 1990. He is a hydrography expert and commanded the ships Darshan and Sandhyak. He conducted various hydrographic surveys. He was involved in the challenging task of data collection and production of new charts in the Sundarban Delta for the IMBL intervention.
- ◆ The government has not made any changes in direct and indirect tax rates in the interim budget for 2024-2025. In the interim budget, it has been proposed to withdraw the outstanding direct tax demands of up to Rs 25,000 related to the period 2009-2010 and up to Rs 10,000 related to the financial year 2011 to 2014-2015. In the last 10 years, direct tax collections have more than tripled and the number of returns filed has increased 2.4 times.
- ◆ Taiwan's first lunar mission is scheduled to launch in 2024. The university said the deep space radiation probe developed by its faculty and students is scheduled to launch in Japan in the fourth quarter of this year. It is designed to study the radiation environment in deep space and its effects on technology from a four-month trip to the Moon, providing a reference for future space missions and the design of space and electronic products. The DSRP weighs 400 grams and is slightly larger than the size of a hand.
- ◆ The Government approved the signing and ratification of the Bilateral Investment Treaty between India and the United Arab Emirates. This treaty will help in increasing investment between the two countries. This will significantly boost bilateral economic engagement in various sectors including manufacturing and foreign direct investment. This will increase the confidence of investors, especially big investors, which will increase opportunities for foreign investment and foreign direct investment.
- ◆ Jay Shah has been re-appointed as the President of the Asian Cricket Council for the third consecutive term. At the ACC Annual General Meeting in Bali, all ACC members unanimously supported his nomination. Shah assumed this post for the first time in January 2021. He had replaced Nazmul Hasan as the President of Bangladesh Cricket Board.
- ◆ The largest allocation in Budget 2024-2025 is for defence, and the least for agriculture.

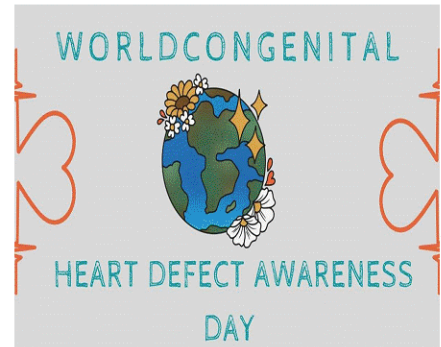


## National & International Current Affairs

**1. When is World Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Day celebrated every year?**

- (A) 9th February (B) 11th February  
(C) 13th February (D) 14th February

**(D)** World Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Day is celebrated on 14 February. Its objective is to spread awareness about the disease and reduce the number of patients. Congenital heart disease is an umbrella term for a variety of birth defects that impair the heart's ability to function normally.



**2. How many Indian scientists will receive the prestigious UK award in London recently?**

- (A) 2 (B) 3  
(C) 4 (D) 5

**(B)** The prestigious Blavatnik Awards will recognize the extraordinary contributions of Rahul R Nair, Mehul Malik, Tanmay Bharat and other early career scientists at a black tie ceremony in London on February 27. The awards, worth a total of £480,000, highlight the importance of recognition and research funding in driving scientific breakthroughs.



**3. Recently, how many lakh crores of funding has the Finance Minister announced for emerging sectors in Budget 2024?**

- (A) 1 lakh crore (B) 2 lakh crore  
(C) 3 lakh crore (D) 4 lakh crore

**(A)** In an unprecedented move to boost research and development within the private sector, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman revealed the setting up of a substantial financial fund of Rs 1 lakh crore during the announcement of the interim Budget 2024. The aim of this fund is to provide low cost or interest free loans, which can be extended for up to 50 years.



**4. In which state has the Kalaingar Sports Kit Initiative been launched recently?**

- (A) Kerala (B) Telangana  
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Odisha

**(C)** Tamil Nadu Youth Welfare and Sports Development Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin recently announced a pioneering scheme aimed at nurturing sports talent at the grassroots level. The Kalaingar Sports Kit initiative, named after late Kalaingar Karunanidhi, is set to provide sports kits to 12000 gram panchayats across the state.

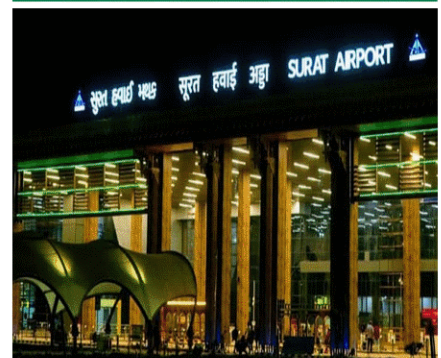


**Kalaingar Sports Kit Scheme**

**5. Which city has recently been declared an international airport by the Central Government?**

- (A) Surat (B) New Delhi  
(C) Indore (D) Hyderabad

**(A)** Taking a big decision, the Central Government has declared Surat Airport in Gujarat as an international airport. The Civil Aviation Ministry has given this information by issuing a notification. In this way Gujarat has got its third international airport. Surat is famous all over the world for its diamond business. In such a situation, this decision of the government will greatly benefit the industrialists and diamond traders of Surat.





6. In how many months has the number of youth registering on the Mera Yuva Bharat portal crossed 1.45 crore?

- (A) 2 months (B) 3 months  
(C) 4 months (D) 5 months

(B) Prime Minister Narendra Modi's MY Bharat portal has achieved a historic feat with over 1.45 crore registrations in just three months. Which proves its popularity. Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 31 October 2023, the platform has fast become a key driver of youth development and engagement.



7. In which state Ungalai Thedi, Ungala Oril Scheme was inaugurated recently?

- (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Karnataka  
(C) Maharashtra (D) Telangana

(A) The Tamil Nadu government under the leadership of Chief Minister MK Stalin has taken an important step towards improving public service delivery and accelerating the implementation of various schemes through the launch of Ungalai Thedi, Ungala Oril Scheme. This innovative initiative aims to bridge the gap between the government and the public by ensuring that the benefits of various schemes reach the grassroots level.



8. How many new corridors will be constructed in Indian Railways in the recent budget 2024-2025?

- (A) 1 (B) 2  
(C) 3 (D) 4

(C) In the interim budget for 2024-2025, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a transformational plan to strengthen the Indian Railways. This comprehensive approach includes the establishment of three important economic railway corridors in line with the PM Gati Shakti initiative. Additionally, a significant upgradation of 40,000 coaches is proposed to meet Vande Bharat standards, thereby ensuring better safety, convenience and comfort for passengers.



9. Who has recently been honored with the Champions of Change Award for outstanding humanitarian efforts?

- (A) Mahendra Singh Dhoni  
(B) Sonu Sood  
(C) Virat Kohli  
(D) Akshay Kumar

(B) Recently Bollywood actor Sonu Sood has been honored with the prestigious Champions of Change award for his outstanding humanitarian efforts. Known for his selfless efforts, Sonu has earned praise from every corner of the country for his unwavering commitment towards social welfare.



10. Recently, a joint effort of FICCI and DPIIT, PM Gatishakti Summit was held.

- (A) New Delhi (B) Odisha  
(C) Telangana (D) Madhya Pradesh

(A) A joint effort of FICCI and DPIIT, the PM Gatishakti Summit held in New Delhi is an important achievement in India's infrastructure development strategy. The inauguration of the event saw the presence of eminent personalities including officials of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and key representatives of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

