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# Current Affairs Today – February 28, 2026

28 February 2026

**SUBJECTS COVERED**

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SECURITY &amp; DEFENCE

ENVIRONMENT

HISTORY &amp; CULTURE

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# Current Affairs Today — February 28, 2026

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## WHY IN NEWS

India's semiconductor journey advanced with Micron's world-record ATMP facility at Sanand; INS Anjadip joined the Navy's coastal ASW fleet; a Sulawesi cave hand stencil was confirmed as the world's oldest rock art at 67,800 years; and reforms in land rights, waterways, and innovation ecosystems unfolded across Assam and Tripura — making February 28, 2026 a rich day for UPSC coverage.

## MICRON OPENS WORLD'S LARGEST SEMICONDUCTOR CLEAN ROOM IN GUJARAT

**Micron Technology** inaugurated India's first advanced memory **Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP)** facility at **Sanand, Gujarat** — a **500,000 sq ft clean room**, the largest single semiconductor assembly clean room worldwide. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the facility, which delivered its first finished DRAM module to **Dell Technologies**.

### Key Details:

Investment: **\$2.7 billion** (two phases); current: tens of millions of ICs/year; **2027 target: ~1 billion units annually**

Products: **DRAM** (volatile memory) and **NAND flash** (non-volatile storage)

Workforce: **~1,300 employees**, nearly half fresh engineering graduates (3–6 months training in Malaysia/Singapore)

Clean room rating: **Class 1000** (max 1,000 particles/cubic metre); air circulation **120×/hour**

First customers: **Dell, Asus, Qualcomm**

## UPSC RELEVANCE

ATMP, DRAM, NAND, Sanand Gujarat, Micron Technology.

### MAINS GS-3:

Semiconductor policy; India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem; Atmanirbhar Bharat.

## INS ANJADIP COMMISSIONED INTO INDIAN NAVY

**INS Anjadip**, the fourth vessel of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** programme, was commissioned at **Chennai Port** by **CNS Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi**.

### Key Details:

Length: **77 metres**; displacement: **~1,400 tonnes**; indigenous content: **over 80%**

Builders: **GRSE Kolkata + L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli**

Named after: **Anjadip Island near Karwar**

Fleet: Joins **INS Arnala (1st)**, **INS Androth (2nd)**, and **INS Akshay (3rd)**

Mission: Detect and neutralise underwater threats in shallow coastal (littoral) waters

### UPSC RELEVANCE

ASW-SWC programme, GRSE, INS Anjadip, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

### MAINS GS-3:

Indigenous defence manufacturing; naval modernisation.

## SULAWESI HAND STENCIL — OLDEST KNOWN ROCK ART AT 67,800 YEARS

A hand stencil in **Liang Metanduno cave, Muna Island, Indonesia (Sulawesi)** has been dated to at least **67,800 years ago** — the oldest known rock art globally, predating previous records in the Maros-Pangkep karst by **16,000 years**.

### Key Details:

Dating method: **Uranium series dating** on calcite crust over the art (laser ablation)

Mineral crust age: **~71,600 years**; artwork minimum age: **67,800 years**

Researchers documented **44 rock art sites**, dated **11 motifs** from 8 sites

Artistic activity continued until **~20,000 years ago**

Distinctive: Finger shapes narrowed to “claw-like” forms — rare globally

Migration link: Supports **65,000-year-old human migration to Sahul** (ancient landmass = Australia + New Guinea + Tasmania during Pleistocene lower sea levels)

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Wallacea, Sahul, uranium series dating, Liang Metanduno, Pleistocene.

### MAINS GS-1:

Prehistoric human migration; evolution of symbolic thinking; archaeology.

## MOIST HEATWAVES DURING MONSOON NOW PREDICTABLE WEEKS AHEAD

A study in *Climate Dynamics* shows India's **moist heatwaves during the southwest monsoon** can be predicted **2–4 weeks in advance**, using the **Boreal Summer Intraseasonal Oscillation (BSISO)** (30–90 day cycle).

### Key Details:

**Wet bulb temperature** threshold for human survivability: conventionally **35°C**; new research: **25.8–34.1°C** (younger adults), **21.9–33.7°C** (older adults)

Active monsoon: Northern plains + central India at elevated risk

Break phases: Southern + eastern India more vulnerable

Certain BSISO phases increase northern India heatwave risk by **over 125%** above baseline

Dataset: 1940–2023

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Wet bulb temperature, BSISO, moist heatwave, monsoon break/active phases.

### MAINS GS-3:

Climate change impacts; heat stress and public health; monsoon science.

## SONOWAL LAUNCHES THREE BRAHMAPUTRA WATERWAY PROJECTS

Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated three projects on **National Waterway-2 (River Brahmaputra)**:

**Customs and Immigration Complex at Bogibeel** — for Indo-Bangladesh Protocol operations

**Dhubri Complex** — cross-border trade gateway to Bangladesh and Bhutan

## Heritage Building Renovation at Dibrugarh — combining preservation with modernisation

**Key Facts:** 20 Northeast rivers are National Waterways. NW-2 = Brahmaputra (under National Waterways Act, 2016).

### UPSC RELEVANCE

NW-2, IWAI, Bogibeel, Indo-Bangladesh Protocol, Sarbananda Sonowal.

### MAINS GS-3:

Inland waterways; Act East Policy; logistics infrastructure.

## ASSAM — MISSION BASUNDHARA 3.0 DISTRIBUTES LAND PATTAS

CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** distributed land pattas to over **1,06,905 indigenous landless families** through **Mission Basundhara 3.0**, launched at **Deuri Beel, Dhemaji**.

### Mission Evolution:

- 1.0:** 5.82 lakh families (patta conversions/corrections)
- 2.0:** 2.29 lakh families (land rights for SC/ST/OBC on govt land)
- 3.0:** 1.06 lakh families + **538 forest land rights** (Subansiri/Jiadhal Reserved Forests)

**Progress:** ~10 lakh families in 5 years; **80% of state land issues resolved**

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Mission Basundhara, Forest Rights Act 2006, SVAMITVA, Dhemaji.

### MAINS GS-2:

Land rights; tribal welfare; governance reforms.

## TRIPURA — T-NEST AND STATE INNOVATION MISSION LAUNCHED

**T-NEST (Tripura: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups)** launched at **Hapania, Agartala**. Simultaneously, NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission 2.0** launched Tripura's **State Innovation Mission (SIM)** — first of its kind under AIM 2.0's State Support Mission.

## Key Details:

Institutionalised via **Tripura Institution for Transformation (TIFT)**

Innovation Centres in **all 8 districts**; District Innovator Fellowship (DIF)

MOU signed with **T-Hub** (Hyderabad)

**AI Policy + AI City proposed in Agartala**

NITI Aayog VP **Suman Bery** and MoS S&T **Dr. Jitendra Singh** in attendance

### UPSC RELEVANCE

AIM 2.0, T-NEST, TIFT, NITI Aayog, Suman Bery.

### MAINS GS-3:

Startup ecosystem; Northeast development; innovation policy.

## NARI ADALAT PILOT IN 10 TRIPURA PANCHAYATS

The Tripura government approved a pilot of the **Nari Adalat** scheme — a **panchayat-level arbitration forum** for women facing violence and abuse — across **10 gram panchayats** in all 8 districts.

Administered by: **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**

Each Adalat: **up to 9 committee members** selected for community credibility

Focus: Early intervention, counselling, mediation; police action when needed

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Nari Adalat, Ministry of Women and Child Development, alternative dispute resolution.

### MAINS GS-2:

Women's rights; grassroots governance; ADR mechanisms.

## MANGALURU AIRPORT WINS ACI ASQ BEST ARRIVALS AWARD 2025

**Mangaluru International Airport** (managed by **Adani Airport Holdings**) won the **ACI Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for Best Airport at Arrivals** — second consecutive year. One of only **6 airports globally** recognised in this category.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

ACI World, ASQ Award, Mangaluru International Airport, Adani Airport Holdings.

### MAINS GS-3:

Civil aviation; airport infrastructure.

## ISRAEL'S MULTI-LAYERED AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS

Israel's air defence comprises: **Arrow-2** (within-atmosphere), **Arrow-3** (exo-atmospheric, Israel Aerospace Industries + Boeing), **David's Sling** (100–200 km, Rafael + RTX), **Iron Dome** (since 2011, short-range), **Iron Beam** (laser, operational late 2025), and US **THAAD**.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

Arrow, David's Sling, Iron Dome, Iron Beam, THAAD.

### MAINS GS-2:

West Asia security; India-Israel relations; missile defence architecture.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

**Sarbananda Sonowal** — Union Minister, Ports Shipping & Waterways; launched 3 Brahmaputra projects.

**Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** — Chief of Naval Staff; presided over INS Anjadip commissioning.

**Himanta Biswa Sarma** — Assam CM; launched Mission Basundhara 3.0 at Dhemaji.

**Dr. Manik Saha** — Tripura CM; inaugurated T-NEST and Tripura State Innovation Mission.

**Suman Bery** — NITI Aayog Vice Chairman; attended Tripura innovation launch.

**UPSC RELEVANCE**

ATMP, DRAM, GRSE, NW-2, Nari Adalat, BSISO, AIM 2.0, Sulawesi rock art.

**MAINS GS-1:**

Prehistoric art; human migration.

**GS-2:**

Land rights; women's welfare; grassroots governance.

**GS-3:**

Semiconductor policy; naval modernisation; waterways; climate science.

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### MICRON ATMP — GUJARAT:

Location: **Sanand, Gujarat**

Total investment: **\$2.7 billion** (two phases)

Clean room: **500,000 sq ft** (world's largest single ATMP clean room)

Rating: **Class 1000** (max 1,000 particles/m<sup>3</sup>); air circulation: **120×/hour**

Products: **DRAM** (volatile) + **NAND flash** (non-volatile)

Workforce: **~1,300** employees; 2027 target: **~1 billion units/year**

First customers: **Dell, Asus, Qualcomm**

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Programme: **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** — 4th vessel

Length: **77 m**; Displacement: **~1,400 tonnes**; Indigenous content: **>80%**

Builders: **GRSE Kolkata + L&T Shipbuilding Kattupalli**

Named after: **Anjadip Island, near Karwar**

CNS: **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi**

### SULAWESI ROCK ART:

Location: **Liang Metanduno cave, Muna Island, Sulawesi, Indonesia**

Age: at least **67,800 years** (mineral crust: **~71,600 years**)

Dating: **Uranium series dating** (laser ablation)

Previous record (Maros-Pangkep): **~51,800 years** — now beaten by 16,000 years

Sites documented: **44**; motifs dated: **11 from 8 sites**

Migration link: Supports **~65,000-year Sahul colonisation**

### MOIST HEATWAVE PREDICTION:

Study published: **Climate Dynamics**

Forecast window: **2–4 weeks in advance**

Mechanism: **BSISO** (Boreal Summer Intraseasonal Oscillation; 30–90 day cycle)

Wet bulb survivability: Conventional **35°C**; New research: **25.8–34.1°C** (young), **21.9–33.7°C** (elderly)

Risk increase in certain BSISO phases: **>125% above baseline** in northern India

### MISSION BASUNDHARA:

1.0: **5.82 lakh** families | 2.0: **2.29 lakh** families | 3.0: **1.06 lakh** families

Forest rights in 3.0: **538 residents** (Subansiri + Jiadhhal Reserved Forests)

Overall progress: **~10 lakh** families; **80% state land issues resolved**

### BRAHMAPUTRA WATERWAYS (NW-2):

National Waterway designation: **National Waterways Act, 2016**

Northeast rivers as NWs: **20** total

Key projects: Bogibeel (customs/immigration), Dhubri (trade), Dibrugarh (heritage)

### AIM 2.0 / T-NEST:

AIM: **Atal Innovation Mission** under **NITI Aayog**

T-NEST: Tripura Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups

TIFT: Tripura Institution for Transformation

DIF: **District Innovator Fellowship** (grassroots innovators)

#### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commission in **2015**; VC: **Suman Bery** (as of 2026)

Railway Claims Tribunal: established under **Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987**; 23 benches in 21 cities

RailTech scale-up grants increased **>3×**; prototype/trial grants **doubled**

Nari Adalat: under **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**; each panel has **up to 9 members**

ACI ASQ Award (Best at Arrivals): Mangaluru International Airport — **2nd consecutive year** (2024 + 2025)

Vikko Sat-1: 600g mini satellite by Class 11 students, Ariyakudi Govt School, Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu — detects fungal spores, reached 22 km altitude

Indravati River: tributary of **Godavari**; originates in **Kalahandi, Odisha**; flows through **Bastar, Chhattisgarh**; length **~535 km**

Sources: GKToday, PIB, The Hindu

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