



The Hindu Simplified

DAILY NEWS CAPSULES | FEBRUARY 13, 2026



Your daily dose of news, minus the confusion.

Textile Trade: India & USA

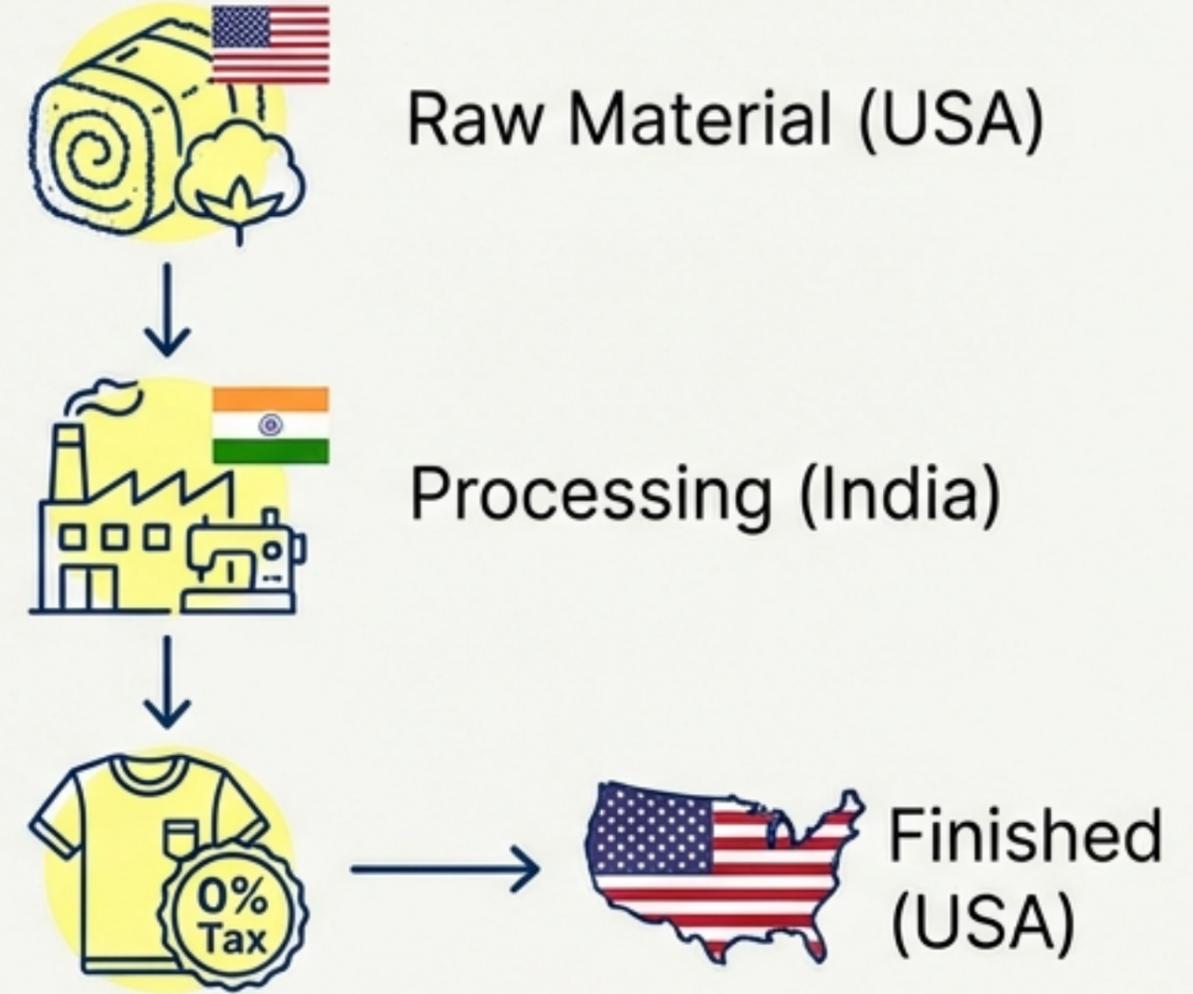
The 'Zero Tax' Export Deal

The Core Update: India is finalizing an interim trade agreement with the US to allow textile exports at **0% Tax** (Zero Reciprocal Tariff).

The Condition:

1. India buys raw cotton from the USA.
2. India processes it into cloth/garments.
3. India sells the finished product back to the USA tax-free.

Why? To make Indian textiles competitive against nations like Bangladesh.



Economy Watch: Inflation

Changing the Math on Price Rise

2.75%

Retail Inflation (Jan 2026)

New Base Year: 2024

Food Weight
Reduced
(46% → 37%)

Housing &
Utilities Increased
(to ~17.6%)



Online
Marketplaces
Added

Since we spend less on food and more on lifestyle than we did in 2012, the government changed the formula to match reality.

Strengthening the Forces

Big Buys Approved (₹3.6 Lakh Crore)

The Hardware

114 Rafale Jets (For Air Force) &
6 P-8I Patrol Aircraft (For Navy).



The Squad

Indigenous Recruits: By 2050, the Assam Rifles will phase out foreign breeds. They are recruiting local **Tangkul Hui** dogs from Manipur—known for hunting skills and disease resistance.



World News: Oil Diplomacy

A Tug-of-War: USA, India & Russia

US Position

"**Claim:** India is cutting Russian oil imports because we 'wanted them to'."

— US Official

The Fact Sheet Edit:

The US released a document saying India 'committed' to stop buying Russian oil.

India objected.

The US edited the text to say India merely 'intends' to buy American goods.

India Position

"**Response:** We act in our national interest. (No official denial)."

— Ministry of External Affairs



Tech Trends: The Hindu Tech Summit

Theme: Resilience by Design

How Companies Handle Failure

Old Way (Compliance):

Did we follow the rules? → Panic when it crashes.

New Way (Resilience):

Assume it WILL crash. → Design systems to keep running anyway.



****The Deepfake Risk****

AI fake videos are cheaper/faster to make. The defense is **Multi-Factor Authentication** (checking identity via multiple signals, not just video).

Tech in Daily Life



Education

Bodhan AI

Launched by Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. An AI tool for schools to help teachers teach and students learn. Built on the non-profit 'Bharat EduAI Stack'.



Travel

Digi Yatra Global

The face-scan entry system at Indian airports is going international. Testing passport-based enrollment for seamless travel abroad.

Neighborhood Watch: Pakistan

Health Concerns for Former PM



Imran Khan's Health

- **Vision Loss:** A court-appointed lawyer (*Amicus Curiae*) reports Khan has only **15% vision** left in one eye.
- **Cause:** Alleged poor jail conditions and lack of medical care.
- **Context:** Adds to the ongoing political instability in the region.

National Snapshots

New Rules & Rising Tensions



Jammu: The Spa Ban

Administration bans 'cross-gender' massage to maintain public order.
New Rules: No locked doors allowed. CCTV mandatory at entry points.



Migrant Worker Safety

West Bengal CM raises alarm over the death of a Bengali worker in Pune (Maharashtra).

The Issue: Political tension over the safety of inter-state migrant laborers.

Editorial Simplified: Sociology

Learning to Think for Yourself

“Reporting is not merely repeating.”

A Lesson from André Béteille: whether you are a student or a journalist, don't just recite facts from books.



Go to the field.



Listen to people.



Don't force reality to fit your theory.

Energy Policy: The SHANTI Act

Nuclear Power Goes Private

The News: India opens nuclear power generation to private companies.

The Controversy: The new law changes who pays if an accident happens (Liability Framework). Critics fear it protects suppliers too much at the cost of public safety.

The Goal: Boost nuclear energy capacity (currently only 3% of India's power).

Sports Wrap: T20 World Cup



Team India:

Hardik Pandya stars with an all-round display.

Strategy Spotlight (Netherlands):

**The Dutch Philosophy:* "Travel, see the ground, start the game, adjust."

**The Challenge:* Adapting to the evening dew at Chepauk stadium.

New Zealand:

Tim Seifert adopts a new batting stance (inspired by Faf du Plessis) for power hitting.

News in Short: Speed Round



Angela Merkel: Will deliver the first Manmohan Singh Memorial Lecture in Delhi.



Assam Politics: BJP social media member sacked over a controversial AI-generated video.



Markets: Sensex dipped slightly (-0.66%).



Health: Sad update: One of the two Nipah-infected nurses in West Bengal has passed away.

Vocabulary Check

Words of the Day

Interim Agreement

(Noun)

A temporary or provisional deal signed before the final, permanent contract is ready. (Context: India-US Trade)

Amicus Curiae

(Latin Phrase)

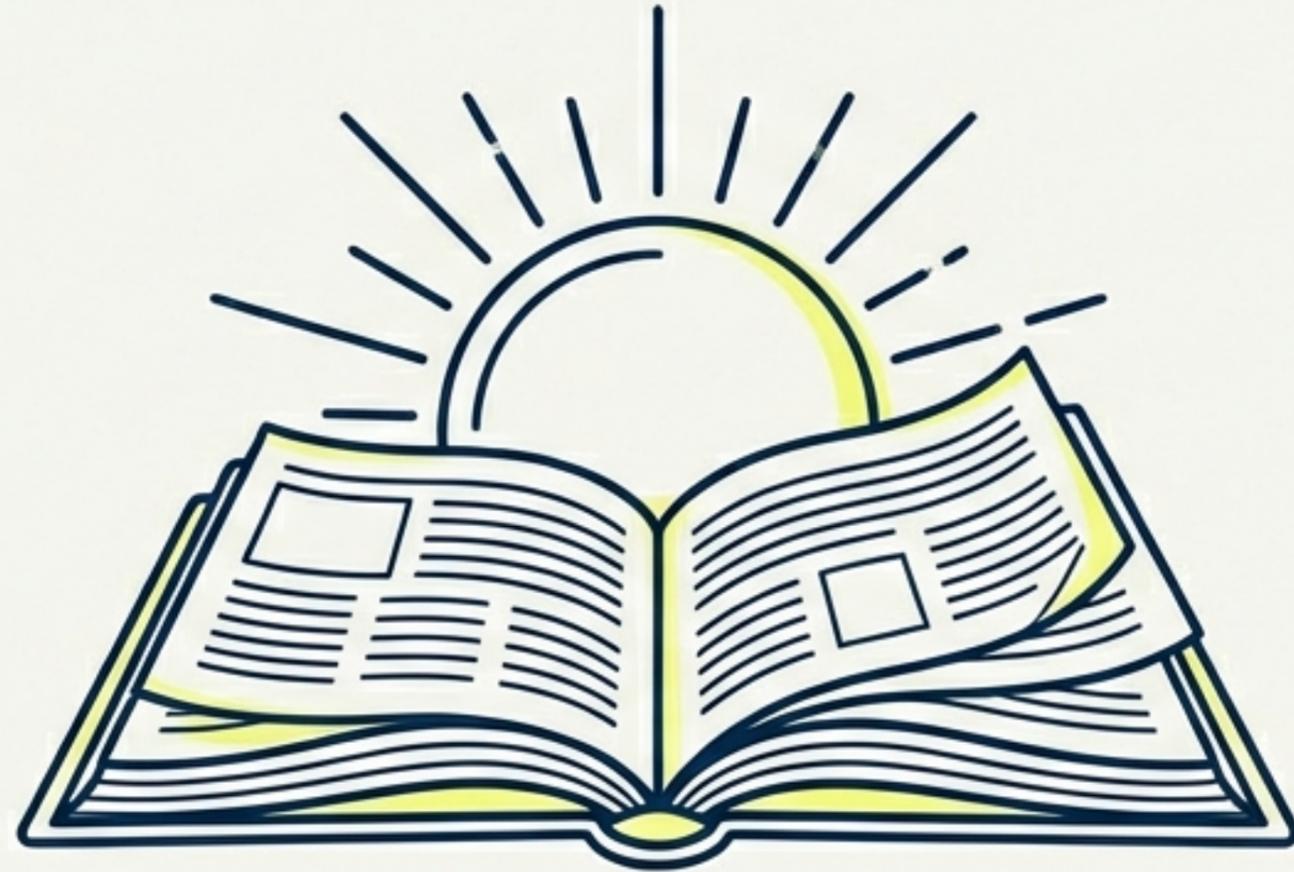
Meaning: "Friend of the court." A lawyer appointed to assist the judge impartially, not representing either side. (Context: Imran Khan Case)

Resilience

(Noun)

The ability to recover quickly from difficulties. In tech, designing systems that keep working even when parts fail. (Context: Tech Summit)

That's your update for today!



Stay Curious. Read the full stories for deep dives.

See you tomorrow!