

The Hindu SimpleLEfied

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES | FEBRUARY 16, 2026



News made simple.

India Heads to Bangladesh for New PM's Swearing-in

Who is going? Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will represent India.

The Event: Swearing-in of Tarique Rahman (BNP party) as the new Prime Minister.

Context: This follows the ouster of former PM Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

Significance: India affirms 'deep and enduring friendship' with Bangladesh.



Trade Deals: 'Position of Strength' vs. Farmer Concerns



Government View:

PM Modi defends new trade deals with the EU and USA.

Goal: Help Indian MSMEs (textiles, leather, gems) sell to the world.



Opposition View:

Congress warns about negative impacts.

Concerns: Zero-tariff access for Bangladesh might hurt Indian textile/cotton farmers.

Fear: Importing Genetically Modified (GM) corn/soy from the USA.

World Leaders Gather for AI Impact Summit



Event: AI Impact Summit 2026.

Location: Bharat Mandapam,
New Delhi.

Who is coming? Leaders from ~100 countries, including tech giants like Sundar Pichai and Sam Altman.

Highlight: PM Modi will inaugurate the “India AI Impact Expo 2026”.

ISRO Rocket Debris Found in Maldives



The Discovery: A large object washed up on an uninhabited island in the Maldives (near L. Kunahandhoo).

Identification: It is the 'payload fairing' (protective shell) from an Indian rocket.

Rocket Model: Believed to be from the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3).

Markings: The object bears the ISRO logo and the National Emblem.

The Debate on Russian Oil

- **The Accusation:** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio claims India agreed to stop buying Russian oil.
- **The Response:** India clarifies that 'National Interests' are the only guide for buying energy.
- **Strategy:** India will continue to diversify its oil sources to ensure stability.



Kerala Launches 'Vision 2031'



The Plan: CM Pinarayi Vijayan unveiled 'Vision 2031.'

The Goal: To move beyond just human development (health/education) and aim for a new stage of economic progress.

Theme: 'Development and Democracy.'

Global Conflict Zones: Gaza & Syria



- **Gaza:** 12 people killed in fresh airstrikes; truce violations reported.
- **USA/Gaza:** Donald Trump announces a 'Board of Peace' and pledges \$5 billion for reconstruction.
- **Syria:** Government forces took over the Al-Shadadi military base from US forces.
- **Myanmar:** Expelled East Timor representative over a war crimes lawsuit.

India Wins Big in T20 World Cup



Match: India vs. Pakistan (T20 World Cup, Colombo)

Result: India won by 61 runs (DLS method)

Star Player: Ishan Kishan (77 runs)

Team Score: India posted 175 for 7

Records Broken on Snow & Turf



Winter Olympics: Norwegian skier Johannes Klaebo wins a record 9th Gold medal.



Football (ISL): Sunil Chhetri becomes the oldest scorer in the league; Bengaluru FC beats SC Delhi.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cows Can Use Tools!



- **Observation:** A cow in Austria named Veronika was seen using a stick to scratch herself.
- **Comparison:** Similar to Jane Goodall's famous 1960 discovery of chimpanzees using sticks.
- **Lesson:** We might need to rethink how we define 'tool use' in animals.

Political Shifts in the States



Tamil Nadu: Tension in the DMK-Congress alliance; Congress leader Manickam Tagore says they are blamed for DMK's mistakes.

Bihar: LJP protests after an RJD leader called late leader Ram Vilas Paswan 'bechara' (pitiable).

Do We Need Scientists in Civil Service?



The Problem: Generalist bureaucrats (IAS) often manage highly technical scientific departments.

The Proposal: The editorial suggests creating a separate 'Scientific Cadre' within the civil services.

Benefit: Better governance and understanding of technical issues.

FAST FACTS

News in a Nutshell



Accident: Chemical tank explosion in Karnataka (Mandya district) kills 2 workers.



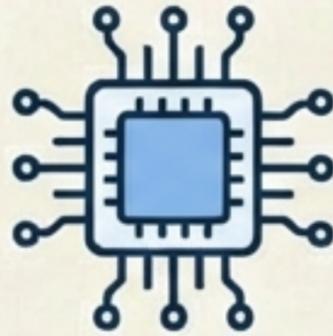
Investigation: CBI visits the village of a NEET aspirant who died in Patna to probe the case.



Welfare: Jobless youth in West Bengal queue up for the 'Yuva Sathi Sathi Scheme' (₹1,500/month aid).

WRAP UP

Key Takeaways



Summary: India is strengthening global ties (Bangladesh, Trade Deals) while pushing ahead in future **Tech (AI Summit)** and **Sports (Cricket wins)**.

Question for You: With world leaders gathering in Delhi for the AI Summit, **do you think AI needs stricter global laws?**