



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

---

### AGNI-3 MISSILE



- It is an indigenously developed **intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM)**.
- It is a **surface-to-surface** ballistic missile.

#### Features of Agni-3 Missile:

- The missile is **two-stage and solid-fuelled**, capable of carrying a **1,500 kg payload**.
  - **Range:** 3,000–3,500 km
  - It is designed **primarily as a nuclear delivery system**, with an estimated warhead yield of 200–300 kilotons.
- 

### BAILEY BRIDGE



- It is a **type of modular bridge** whose parts are **pre-built**, so they can be put together quickly as needed.
- It is preferred because **these bridges are designed for rapid construction** in difficult conditions without the need for heavy equipment or sophisticated construction methods.

**Uses:** The design supports **heavy loads, including tanks and other military vehicles**.

**Advantages:** Bailey bridge assembly covers a **small area**, which can avoid the situation that large hoisting equipment cannot enter the construction site.

**Ideal for:** It is generally used in **terrains that span rivers, valleys, and spans that are not very large**.

---

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

---

### THE INDIA-EU TRADE DEAL IS ALSO A STRATEGIC TURNING POINT

- The contemporary global order is marked by geopolitical rivalry, economic nationalism, and institutional uncertainty.
- Within this context, the recent breakthrough in trade negotiations between India and the European Union (EU) represents more than a commercial arrangement.
- The agreement reflects a deeper **strategic** convergence between two influential actors seeking stability and **autonomy** in a rapidly changing world.
- Rather than a narrow settlement of tariffs, the development signals the emergence of a partnership with the capacity to influence a **multipolar** international system and contribute to global **stability**.

#### Historical Background and Significance

- Negotiations between India and the EU extended over nearly twenty-five years, repeatedly encountering **deadlock** and delay.
- The prolonged process demonstrated the difficulty of aligning two complex economic systems with different regulatory traditions and development priorities.
- The eventual breakthrough indicates a shift in policy orientation on both sides.
- Economic incentives alone cannot explain the progress; broader political and **geopolitical** considerations now shape cooperation. The agreement therefore stands as a turning point in bilateral relations.

#### Role of Political Leadership and Trust

- Sustained diplomatic engagement created the conditions necessary for compromise.
- Frequent summits and high-level dialogue fostered **trust** and mutual understanding, allowing leaders to address domestic resistance.
- In India, policymakers moderated **protectionism** by presenting Europe as a reliable and diversified economic partner.
- In Europe, political guidance encouraged the **bureaucracy** to move beyond rigid negotiation frameworks.



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

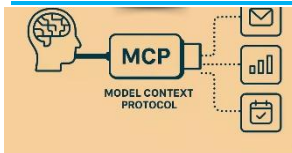
### Geopolitical Drivers of the Agreement

- The global environment strongly influenced this development. Intensifying **competition** among major powers, economic pressures, and security challenges increased the need for diversified partnerships.
- Concerns about economic dependence and **coercion** encouraged both sides to pursue **resilience** through collaboration.
- The agreement therefore represents a pragmatic response to a changing international system and a collective attempt to safeguard **security** and long-term interests.

### Conclusion

- The trade agreement marks the beginning of a **long-term transformation** rather than the end of negotiations.
- Political engagement and changing global conditions enabled the breakthrough, but lasting success depends on **sustained commitment** in security, energy, technology, and societal exchange.
- With continued implementation, the partnership can strengthen **economic growth** and international cooperation.
- The agreement therefore forms a foundation for a **durable** strategic relationship capable of contributing to a stable and cooperative global system.

### MODEL CONTEXT PROTOCOL



- It is a technology that allows **users to connect directly** with datasets through **their own AI tools and applications**.
- It is a standard way to make **information available to large language models (LLMs)**.

### Key Facts about eSankhyiki portal:

- It provides **real-time inputs for planners**, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large. The objective of this portal is to **establish a comprehensive data management** and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics.



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

---

- It has two modules namely:
    - **Data Catalogue Module:** This module catalogues the major data assets of the Ministry at one place for ease of access.
    - **Macro Indicators Module:** This module offers time series data of key macro indicators with features for filtering and visualizing data enabling ease of access for the users.
- 

### BHARAT GENAI



- BharatGen is the first **government supported national initiative** to develop a range of sovereign foundational AI models tailored to **Indian languages and societal contexts**.
- **Aim:** BharatGen aims to **revolutionize AI development** across India's linguistic and cultural spectrum.
- It spans multiple modalities, **including text** (via Large Language Models), **speech** (Text-to-Speech and Automatic Speech Recognition), and **vision-language systems**.
- It is developed under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems(NM-ICPS)** and implemented **through TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay**.
- It is being executed through a network of **25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs)**, four of which have been upgraded to Technology Translational Research Parks (TTRPs).
- **Pillars of Bharat GenAI:** The Mission's four pillars include **technology development, entrepreneurship, human resource development, and international collaboration**.

#### It has four key Features:

- Multilingual and multimodal models
  - Bhartiya dataset-based training
  - Open-source platform
  - Generative AI research ecosystem in India
-

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

### RAT-HOLE MINING TRAGEDY IN MEGHALAYA - A GOVERNANCE AND REGULATORY FAILURE

- A deadly explosion in an illegally operating rat-hole coal mine in East Jaintia Hills district, Meghalaya, has resulted in the death of 25 miners.
- The incident has once again highlighted the persistence of **illegal mining** in the state despite a ban by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the **Supreme Court**.
- It raises serious **concerns** about regulatory enforcement, governance failure, labour safety, and disaster management preparedness.

#### Rat-Hole Mining - Structural and Environmental Concerns:

- **What is rat-hole mining?**
  - A **primitive** and **hazardous** coal extraction method, which involves digging narrow pits and horizontal tunnels to manually extract coal.
  - It is widely prevalent in Meghalaya due to unique land ownership patterns (community/private ownership).
- **Why is it problematic?**

Because it violates the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act). It was banned by the NGT (2014) and the ban was upheld by the Supreme Court.

- These violations leads to -
  - Severe environmental degradation
  - Acid mine drainage
  - Water contamination
  - Land instability
  - Loss of biodiversity
- There is a complete absence of worker safety mechanisms.

#### Challenges Highlighted:

- **Governance deficit:** Weak enforcement of NGT and Supreme Court orders. Lack of political and administrative will. Local complicity and informal protection networks.

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

---

- **Terrain and accessibility:** Remote location (25 km takes around 3 hours by road). Difficult terrain requiring 4WD vehicles. Slows both regulation and rescue.
- **Informal labour exploitation:** Migrant and economically vulnerable workers. Absence of safety nets or formal contracts. Occupational hazards without social security.
- **Disaster management constraints:** Hazardous confined spaces. Waterlogging and collapse risk. Inadequate early detection and monitoring systems.
- **Constitutional and federal complexity:** Meghalaya's **Sixth Schedule** Community land ownership under Autonomous District Councils. Regulatory ambiguity exploited for illegal mining.
- **Broader issues:**
  - Sustainable Development vs livelihood concerns
  - Environmental governance and rule of law
  - Judicial activism vs executive inaction
  - Cooperative federalism in resource regulation
  - Disaster risk reduction in informal sectors
  - **Internal security** linkages (illegal mining networks and criminal economy)

### Way Forward:

- **Strict enforcement and monitoring:** Real-time satellite surveillance of illegal mining. Independent regulatory authority for mining oversight. Strengthened coordination between State Government, Autonomous Councils, and Centre.
  - **Institutional accountability:** Fix responsibility of district officials. Time-bound compliance reporting to High Court. Strengthen implementation of MMDR Act provisions.
  - **Formalisation of the mining sector:** Introduce regulated, scientific, and environmentally compliant mining models. Alternative livelihood programs for affected communities. Skill development and employment diversification.
  - **Environmental restoration:** Mine closure plans. Rehabilitation of degraded land and water bodies. Polluter Pays Principle implementation.
-

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

### RBI'S PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR COMPENSATION IN DIGITAL FRAUD CASES

- India has witnessed an unprecedented expansion in digital payments over the past decade, driven by initiatives such as UPI, Aadhaar-based authentication, and financial inclusion programmes.
- While this shift has enhanced convenience and transparency, it has also led to a rise in digital fraud cases, including phishing, OTP-based scams, unauthorised electronic transactions, and social engineering attacks.
- According to regulatory assessments, fraudsters increasingly exploit gaps in user awareness, delayed reporting, and weak authentication mechanisms.
- Senior citizens and first-time digital users are particularly vulnerable.
- This evolving risk landscape has necessitated stronger regulatory safeguards to protect customers while maintaining trust in digital payment systems.

#### **Key Features of the Proposed RBI Compensation Framework**

- The newly proposed framework seeks to introduce a structured compensation mechanism for victims of small-value digital fraud. Its major features include:
  - **Compensation Cap:** Customers may be compensated for losses up to Rs. 25,000 per fraudulent transaction.
  - **Scope:** The framework applies primarily to small-value digital frauds, where recovery through existing mechanisms is difficult.
  - **User Error Consideration:** Compensation may be available even in cases where customers shared OTPs or credentials under coercion or deception, subject to conditions.
  - **Public Consultation:** Draft instructions will be placed in the public domain to invite stakeholder feedback before finalisation.
- This approach marks a shift from a purely liability-based framework to a consumer-protection-oriented compensation model.

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

---

### Additional Safety Measures for Digital Payments

- Alongside compensation, the RBI has proposed several preventive measures to reduce fraud incidence:
  - **Lagged Credits:** Introducing time delays before crediting funds in high-risk transactions.
  - **Enhanced Authentication:** Additional verification layers for vulnerable groups, such as senior citizens.
  - **Targeted Risk Profiling:** Differentiated safeguards based on user behaviour and transaction patterns.
- These measures aim to balance user convenience with systemic security, especially in high-volume digital ecosystems.

### Related Consumer Protection Reforms by RBI

- The compensation proposal is part of a broader regulatory push to strengthen consumer rights in financial services. The RBI has announced draft guidelines in three key areas:
  - **Mis-selling of Financial Products:** Ensuring the suitability of third-party products sold by banks.
  - **Loan Recovery Practices:** Harmonising rules governing recovery agents and borrower treatment.
  - **Customer Liability Norms:** Updating rules on unauthorised electronic transactions to reflect current risks.
- Together, these reforms indicate a shift towards outcome-based consumer protection rather than procedural compliance.

### Challenges and Implementation Concerns

- Despite its benefits, the framework raises certain challenges:
    - **Moral Hazard:** Risk of reduced user caution if compensation is perceived as guaranteed.
    - **Operational Burden:** Banks must establish clear, fast, and fair grievance redressal mechanisms.
-

## Current Affairs - 07 February 2026

---

### INDIA'S RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS: LIKELY TO DIP, NOT DISAPPEAR

US President Donald Trump announced a sharp **reduction in tariffs** on Indian goods from 50% to 18%, claiming that India has agreed to stop buying Russian crude oil and instead increase purchases from the US and Venezuela. While India welcomed the trade deal, it has not confirmed any commitment to halt Russian oil imports.

#### Why a Complete Halt Is Unlikely?

- Completely stopping Russian oil imports is not feasible in the current context due to:
  - **Technical** challenges in quickly switching crude grades
  - **Commercial** constraints, including pricing and long-term contracts
  - **Logistical limitations** in ramping up supplies from the US and Venezuela
  - Strategic autonomy concerns in energy trade decisions
- Experts note that increasing imports from alternative suppliers is easier said than done, and cannot happen overnight.

#### Russian Oil to Remain a Major Part of India's Import Basket in the Near Term

- Indian refiners have already booked Russian crude cargoes through March and parts of April, making any abrupt cancellation impractical.
  - Even if the government advises a reduction, refiners will need several months to gradually scale down purchases, given existing contracts and supply-chain constraints.
  - A complete halt is especially unfeasible due to **Nayara Energy**, which processes about 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) and is almost entirely dependent on Russian oil.
    - Rosneft, Russia's national oil company, is a major shareholder in Nayara Energy.
    - Nayara has been sanctioned by the European Union, while Rosneft faces US and EU sanctions.
    - These sanctions have severely limited access to alternative crude sources.
-