

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

### WHAT IS THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS (KP)?



- It is a coalition of governments, civil society and the diamond industry to eliminate the trade in so-called conflict diamonds.
  - Conflict diamonds are defined by the relevant United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSC resolution 1459) as “**rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict** aimed at undermining legitimate governments”.
- Based on a mandate from the United Nations, the Kimberley Process **regulates the international trade in rough diamonds**.

#### Participants in the scheme are required to:

- Satisfy ‘**minimum requirements**’ and establish national legislation, institutions and import/export controls;
- Commit to transparent practices and to the **exchange of critical statistical data**;
- **Trade only with other participants in the Scheme**;
- **Certify shipments as conflict-free**.
- Currently it has 60 participants, representing **86 countries** (with the EU as a single participant) which account for more than **99% of the global rough diamond production and trade**.
- The KP **meets twice a year** at the Intersessional and Plenary meetings. It is chaired by a participating country on an annual, rotating basis.
- As a **consensus-based body**, the KP relies on the constructive engagement from all participants of the tripartite structure.

### What is the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)?

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

- It is the mechanism the KP uses to **prevent the trade of conflict diamonds**.
  - Under this scheme, the **Government implements safeguards on shipments of rough diamonds and certifies the diamond as conflict-free**.
  - According to this Scheme, **each rough diamond shipment must be accompanied by the Kimberley Process certificate and transported in a tamper-resistant container**.
  - The KP certificate states the authenticity of the rough diamond.
  - Since 2003, **India has been actively participating in the KPCS process**.
    - The **Department of Commerce** is the **nodal Department**.
    - **Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)** is designated as the **KPCS Importing and Exporting Authority in India**.
    - **GJEPC** is responsible for **issuing KP Certificates** and is also the **custodian of KP Certificates received in the country**.
- 

### WHAT IS THE HBA1C TEST?



- A **hemoglobin A1C (HbA1C) test** is a **blood test** that shows **average level of blood glucose, also called blood sugar, over the past two to three months**.
- An **A1C test measures the percentage of RBCs that have glucose-coated hemoglobin**.
- An **A1C test can show average glucose level for the past three months** because:
  - **Glucose sticks to hemoglobin for as long as the RBCs are alive**.
  - **RBCs live about three months**.
- **High A1C levels are a sign of high blood glucose from diabetes**.

**Diabetes can cause serious health problems, including heart disease, kidney disease, and nerve damage.**

- **With treatment and lifestyle changes, blood glucose levels can be controlled.**
-



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

### SWAVALAMBINI SCHEME



- It is a woman Entrepreneurship Programme which empowers young women with the skills and confidence needed to establish their own businesses.
- It introduces a **structured, multi-stage training approach** to help young women transition from ideation to successful enterprise creation.
- It aims to cultivate an **entrepreneurial mindset among female students**, equipping them with awareness of available support mechanisms, schemes, resources and networks essential for pursuing entrepreneurship as a career.
- It is implemented through **National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)**, Noida and **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)**, Guwahati.
- **Programme Structure**
  - **Target group:** 1200 female students from **Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs)** and Universities
  - **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP):** The female students undergo introductory programme on **entrepreneurial awareness** through entrepreneurial awareness programme.
  - **Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP):** It covers business aspects like **skilling, finance, market linkages, compliance, and networking**
  - This is followed by **mentorship** and handholding support to help participants translate their ideas into sustainable enterprises.
- **Support:** MSDE will oversee the **execution, supervision, and monitoring** of the programme.
  - **NITI Aayog** will **provide mentoring support**, facilitate seed funding, and recognize successful entrepreneurs through the **Award To Reward (ATR) initiative**.

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

### TRACING TAMIL'S CENTURIES-OLD PRESENCE IN MALAYSIA

During his first foreign visit of 2026 to Malaysia, PM Modi highlighted the deep-rooted presence of Tamil, underscoring that it is not just a diaspora language but a public and historical language in Malaysia.

#### **Before Plantations, There Were Ships: Tamil Roots in the Malay World**

- **Ancient Maritime Links** - Long before British rule, maritime routes connected India's Coromandel coast with ports along the Malay Peninsula, especially **Kedah** and the **Strait of Malacca**.
  - These links date back well before the **1st century BCE**, facilitating sustained contact across the seas.
- **Trade, Settlement, and Culture** - Commerce in spices, textiles, and forest goods moved both ways—and so did people. South Indian merchant guilds formed semi-permanent settlements, built temples, and left Tamil inscriptions, embedding culture alongside trade.
- **Religious and Social Exchange** - Cultural exchange accompanied commerce, carrying Hindu and Buddhist practices into local societies. These were durable ties, not fleeting visits, shaping local religious and social life.
- **Tamil Muslim Communities** - Tamil Muslim traders—including **Rowthers** and **Marakkayars**—settled, intermarried locally, and remained. Place names, rituals, and customs still reflect these early arrivals.
- **Before the Colonial Reorganisation** - As noted by historians, Tamil presence was already woven into the region's social fabric before European powers arrived. The British later reorganised and scaled up these movements—but did not begin them.

#### **The Political Moment: Diplomacy Built on a Deeper History**

- In his address, PM Modi framed the three million-strong Indian diaspora in Malaysia as a “**living bridge**” between the two nations.



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

- He announced practical measures—social security agreements, easier visas, and the rollout of India’s digital payment interface in Malaysia—to deepen people-to-people ties.
- The Cost of Migration and Settlement
  - Citing historian Carl Vadivella Belle, the scale and human cost of migration is stark:
    - At Merdeka (1957), Indians numbered 858,616, with 62.1% locally born
    - Between 1860 and 1957, around 4 million Indians entered Malaya and 2.8 million left
- **Strategic Signalling, Cultural Resonance**
  - Choosing Malaysia as the first foreign visit of 2026 signalled Southeast Asia’s importance to India’s Indo-Pacific strategy.
  - Yet the most resonant note of the speech was cultural, underscoring how language and lived history continue to anchor bilateral ties more powerfully than strategy alone.

### A Diaspora That Feels Local: Tamil Life in Malaysia

- In parts of Kuala Lumpur where Tamil is widely spoken, the boundary between “Indian” and “Malaysian” fades.
- Families rooted for five or six generations see their histories tied to local estates and neighbourhoods, not distant villages in Tamil Nadu. Festivals and politics are distinctly local, even as the language carries echoes of the old coast across the sea.
- Malaysia’s Tamil community stands apart from newer diasporas. Shaped first by **maritime trade**, then **empire**, and finally **nationhood**, it is a **historical community**.
- Tamil here feels **inherited rather than imported**, sustained across generations.

### A Bond Older Than States

- The Tamil–Malaysia connection predates governments: ships before steamers, temples before treaties, schools before summits.
  - Long after speeches fade, this older current endures—steady, lived, and visible in everyday language and life.
-

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

### FORM 7 CONTROVERSY AND ELECTORAL ROLL REVISIONS IN INDIA

- Electoral rolls form the foundation of India's democratic process, ensuring that every eligible citizen has the right to vote.
- Prepared and updated under the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, these rolls are periodically revised to include new voters and remove ineligible entries.
- The credibility of elections depends heavily on the accuracy, transparency, and fairness of this process. Any large-scale error or manipulation can directly impact political representation and voter confidence in the electoral system.

#### **Form 7 and Its Legal Framework**

- Form 7 is a statutory mechanism used to object to the inclusion of a person's name in the electoral roll.
- Under the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**, objections can be raised on specific grounds such as death, duplication of entries, shifting of residence, ineligibility due to age, or lack of citizenship.
- Earlier, objections could be raised only by voters from the same polling booth.
- However, a 2022 amendment expanded the scope, allowing any voter within a constituency to file objections.
- While intended to improve roll accuracy, this change also increased the risk of misuse.
- To prevent abuse, rules mandate verification by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), especially when an individual files more than five objections.

#### **Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls**

- The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is a comprehensive exercise undertaken by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to update electoral rolls in select States and Union Territories.
- The revision follows a compressed timeline, involving enumeration forms, objections, verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs), and hearings before final publication of the rolls.

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

### Nature of the Form 7 Controversy

- The controversy centres on the **bulk filing of Form 7 applications**, allegedly without the knowledge or consent of the voters concerned.
- Opposition parties have accused organised actors of misusing Form 7 to systematically delete the names of eligible voters, thereby distorting the electoral process.
- Reports from States such as Rajasthan and Gujarat have highlighted cases where individuals claimed that Form 7 applications were submitted in their names without their involvement.
- This has raised serious concerns about impersonation, procedural lapses, and administrative oversight.

### Verification Process and Safeguards

- Once a Form 7 application is submitted, Booth Level Officers are required to conduct physical verification.
- In cases of alleged death, confirmation from neighbours and a death certificate are necessary.
- If a voter is reported absent, BLOs must conduct multiple visits to confirm relocation.
- Affected voters are entitled to receive notice and attend hearings before final deletion.
- Appeals against ERO decisions can be filed with the district magistrate within 15 days of the roll publication.
- Despite these safeguards, concerns persist about their effective implementation under time pressure.

### Concerns and the Way Forward

- At the core of the controversy lies the risk of **voter disenfranchisement**, particularly among marginalised and economically weaker sections.
  - Experts suggest stricter scrutiny of bulk applications, improved digital tracking, longer verification timelines, and enhanced transparency to restore trust in the electoral revision process.
  - Ensuring balance between roll accuracy and voter protection remains crucial.
-

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

### PMO DIRECTIVES ON PM CARES

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has informed the Lok Sabha Secretariat that questions or matters related to the **PM CARES Fund**, the **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)**, and the **National Defence Fund (NDF)** are not admissible under Lok Sabha rules.

### **PM CARES Fund, PMNRF and NDF: What Are These Funds**

- The PM CARES Fund was set up on March 27, 2020, in the wake of the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- It was created to deal with emergency and distress situations and to provide relief during crises such as public health emergencies.
  - Full name: Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund
  - Legal status: Public Charitable Trust
  - Registered under the Registration Act, 1908, in New Delhi
  - Fund balance (March 2023): ₹6,283.7 crore (as per latest available report)
- **Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)**
  - The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was established in January 1948, originally to assist refugees displaced from Pakistan after Partition.
  - Over time, its scope expanded and it is now primarily used to:
    - Provide immediate relief to families affected by natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, and earthquakes
    - Assist victims of major accidents and riots
  - The fund is financed through public contributions and is controlled by the Prime Minister's Office.
- **National Defence Fund (NDF)**
  - The National Defence Fund is dedicated to the welfare of Armed Forces personnel, including paramilitary forces, and their dependents.

## Current Affairs - 10 February 2026

---

- It is
  - Used for financial assistance and welfare measures
  - Administered by an Executive Committee
  - Chaired by the Prime Minister, with the Defence, Finance, and Home Ministers as members
- **Common Feature**
  - All three funds:
    - Are controlled or administered by the Prime Minister's Office
    - Receive voluntary public contributions
    - Operate outside the Consolidated Fund of India, which has implications for parliamentary scrutiny

### Government's Stand on PM CARES Fund: Past Position Explained

- **Public Charitable Trust, Not a Statutory Body** - In January 2023, the Union government told the Delhi High Court that the PM CARES Fund is a public charitable trust, not created under the Constitution or by any law enacted by Parliament or a State legislature.
  - **Not 'State' Under Article 12** - The submission came in response to a plea seeking to declare PM CARES a "State" under Article 12 to ensure transparency.
    - The Centre argued that the trust is neither owned nor controlled by the government, and that trustees holding public office do so for administrative convenience, not governmental control.
  - **RTI Act Not Applicable** - The government's affidavit further stated that since PM CARES is not constituted under law or the Constitution, it does not qualify as a public authority under the Right to Information Act, and therefore is outside the RTI framework.
-