



CROSS & CLIMB  
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# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



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## Current Affairs - 27 February 2026

### WHAT IS AVOIDANT/RESTRICTIVE FOOD INTAKE DISORDER (ARFID)?



ARFID is a genuine health issue—not stubbornness, attention-seeking or a passing problem—and with proper support, individuals can recover, live healthy and confident lives, and maintain a good relationship with food.

- It is a **mental health condition** that causes one to **limit the amount and type of food one eats**.
- It isn't the result of a **distorted self-image or an attempt to lose body weight**, which is common among other eating disorders.
- The eating problems seen in ARFID **stem from other factors, such as:**
  - **Aversions to certain food groups** or textures of foods
  - **Lack of appetite**
  - **Preferences for specific colors** of foods
  - **Fears of vomiting** or choking after eating
- Although ARFID can occur at any age, it most **commonly develops during infancy or early childhood** and may persist into adulthood. In children, ARFID **occurs more frequently in males** than females.
- **People with ARFID often have anxiety disorders, neurodevelopmental disorders** such as autism spectrum disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and developmental and/or **intellectual disabilities**.
- Additionally, there is **likely a genetic component**, as ARFID commonly runs in families.
- As well as **being selective about food**, someone with ARFID **might not eat (consume) enough calories to grow and develop**.
- **In children**, this may cause **stalled weight gain, weight loss, or even stalled vertical growth** (growing taller).
- It may lead to **life-threatening complications** if left untreated.
- The main **treatment is cognitive behavioral therapy**.



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### WHAT IS VIKKO SAT-1?



In an impressive display of scientific skill, 13 students from the Class XI batch of Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in Tamil Nadu's Sivagangai district have successfully launched a 600 gram mini satellite named Vikko Sat-1.

- It is a **mini satellite**.
  - It was **developed** by a group of students from the Class XI batch of Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in Tamil Nadu's Sivagangai district.
  - It was specifically designed to **detect fungal spores in the stratosphere** using five specialised sensors.
    - These **biological particles** play a crucial role in agricultural health and environmental cycles, and their presence in the upper atmosphere can impact crops if they descend.
  - By **sending** a compact device into the stratosphere via a **helium balloon**, the students aimed to **collect real-time data** that is often difficult to obtain through ground-based observations.
  - The students developed the mini satellite themselves over a period of six months, equipping it with **specialised adhesive surfaces to capture the samples**.
  - The mini satellite **ascended to a height of 22 km**, entering the **stratosphere**, which is the second layer of the atmosphere.
  - At this altitude, the **onboard sensors worked to identify how fungal spores behave** in thinner air and lower temperatures.
  - The **payload was recovered intact after its descent**, ensuring the air samples remained safe for analysis in the school's control room.
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### MOIST HEATWAVE



Research showed that timings and locations of the moist heatwaves are controlled by the active and break periods of the southwest monsoon (SWM) season and can be predicted weeks in advance.

- Moist heatwaves are triggered by a **combined impact of high temperatures and elevated humidity levels** in the atmosphere.

The best way to measure the combined effect of humidity and temperature is ‘**wet bulb temperature**’.

- Wet bulb temperature is the **lowest temperature to which air can be cooled** by the evaporation of water into the air at constant pressure.
- This is a process happening on human skin when people sweat.
- The globally accepted level for wet bulb temperature that **forms the limit of human survivability is 35°C**.

### **Impact of Moist Heatwaves on Human:**

- When air is already humid, sweat cannot evaporate from skin, leaving the body unable to cool itself. This can lead to **heat exhaustion and fatal heatstroke within hours**.
  - It is because **high humidity impairs evaporation**, limiting the human body’s ability to dissipate metabolic heat and regulate core temperature.
  - In such circumstances, the physiological strain on the human body intensifies, exacerbating the risks of cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses.
  - A thermoregulatory failure can lead to **hyperthermia, heat exhaustion**, and fatal heatstroke in extreme cases.
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### STATE INNOVATION MISSION



- It is part of the **approved Atal Innovation Mission (AIM 2.0)** programme, under the aegis of NITI Aayog's **State Support Mission (SSM)**.
- It is designed as a **long-term institutional mechanism** to support States and Union Territories in building robust, inclusive, and context-specific innovation ecosystems aligned with national priorities and local strengths.
- Under SIM, AIM will work **closely with the Government of Tripura** to:
  - Design and implement a **long-term innovation strategy**
  - **Strengthen policy frameworks** and regulatory support
  - Enable partnerships between **government, academia, industry, and civil society**
  - Facilitate peer learning and national-level collaboration
  - Support startups with infrastructure, mentorship, and access to funding

### What is Atal Innovation Mission?

- It is a flagship initiative set up by **the NITI Aayog in 2016**.
- **Objective:** To create and encourage an **environment of innovation and entrepreneurship** across schools, educational organisations, research institutes, and industries, including MSMEs.
- **AIM has two functions:**
  - **Promote entrepreneurship** by encouraging innovators to become entrepreneurs through financial support as well as mentorship.
  - **Promote innovation** by creating a platform where ideas are generated through like-minded individuals.
- AIM has created four programs to support these functions:
  - Atal Tinkering Labs
  - Atal Incubation Centres
  - Atal New India Challenges and Atal Grand Challenges.



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### INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE



Recently, India and Germany launched a new Large Grant project for India, which has a funding volume of up to EUR 20 million under the International Climate Initiative.

- It is an important part of the **German government's** international climate finance commitment.
- It was **established in 2008**.
- It operates within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- It finances **climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation** in developing, emerging and transition countries to implement and ambitiously **develop the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** anchored in the Paris Agreement.
- **Priority Countries:** The IKI priority countries include Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, **India**, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

The funding programme combines the following four funding areas:

- **Mitigating greenhouse gas emissions:** Setting the course for global climate neutrality by 2050;
- **Adaptation to the impacts of climate change:** Strengthening resilience, making use of interconnections with mitigation and biodiversity approaches;
- **Preserving and restoring carbon sinks:** Combating the causes of global warming and the destruction of natural ecosystems;
- **Conserving biological diversity:** Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework



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### e- RAILWAY CLAIMS TRIBUNAL SYSTEM



- It will enable end-to-end computerisation and digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal.
- **Objective:** It will transform the **filing, processing and adjudication of claims** by making the process faster, more transparent and accessible from anywhere in the country.
- Under the new system, aggrieved passengers will be able to **file claims electronically**, irrespective of their location, even while travelling or upon reaching their destination.
- The entire process, from e-filing to case information systems will be digitised and AI-enabled.
- The platform comprises three core components
  - **E-Filing:** It helps in **24x7 online filing of claims and legal documents** from any location and uploading of petitions, affidavits, annexures and supporting records.
  - **Case Information System (CIS):** It is a **centralised database of all cases** for auto-allocation, case registration and real-time tracking from filing to final to final disposal.
  - **Document Management System (DMS):** It is the **digital storage of pleadings, notices, summons, orders and judgements** along with digitally signed records.

### **Key Facts about Railway Claims Tribunal**

- It was constituted under the **Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987**.
- **Functions:** It adjudicates **claims against railway Administration** relating to compensation for death or injury in railway accidents and untoward incidents, loss or non-delivery of goods, and refund of fares and freight.
- At present, RCT functions through **23 Benches located in 21 cities across India** with **principal bench at Delhi**
- **Composition:** Each bench comprising a **Judicial Member** and a **Technical Member**.

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### INSIDE PRAHAAR: KEY FEATURES OF INDIA'S UNIFIED COUNTER-TERROR DOCTRINE

- PRAHAAR frames India's terrorism challenge as multi-dimensional, shaped by decades of cross-border violence, global jihadist networks like Al-Qaeda and ISIS, and the growing misuse of advanced technologies such as drones, encrypted platforms, dark web tools, crypto-financing, cyberattacks, and potential access to CBRNED materials.
- It avoids limiting the threat to any single region or group.

#### **The Seven-Pillar Response Framework**

- **Intelligence-Led Prevention** - Focus on proactive disruption of propaganda networks, sleeper cells, funding channels, and arms supply chains through real-time inter-agency coordination.
- **Swift and Proportionate Response** - Local police-led action backed by specialised counter-terror forces to ensure rapid and calibrated operational response.
- **Capacity Aggregation** - Modernisation of police forces, standardised training, and enhanced coordination across agencies to strengthen preparedness.
- **Rule of Law and Human Rights** - Firm commitment to legal safeguards, due process, and protection of civil liberties while combating terrorism.
- **De-radicalisation and Community Engagement** - Graded interventions targeting vulnerable groups, especially youth and women, alongside community outreach and rehabilitation efforts.
- **International Alignment** - Strengthened global cooperation through intelligence sharing, legal assistance, extradition treaties, and multilateral designations.
- **Recovery and Resilience** - A whole-of-society approach involving civil administration, professionals, NGOs, and communities to rebuild and enhance societal resilience.



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- **Guiding Principle** - PRAHAAR is anchored in a political stance of zero tolerance for terrorism, while explicitly avoiding the association of terrorism with any religion or identity.
- **Oversight and Accountability**
  - PRAHAAR stresses adherence to the rule of law but does not commit to public reporting or independent review mechanisms.
- **Ideological Scope**
  - PRAHAAR primarily focuses on cross-border and jihadi terrorism.
  - Western strategies explicitly address a wider ideological spectrum, including extreme right-wing and hybrid forms of extremism.

### Strengths and Weaknesses of PRAHAAR

- **Strengths**
  - Explicit rejection of religious profiling.
  - Formal recognition of human rights and rule of law as core pillars.
  - Integration of security and development approaches.
- **Weaknesses**
  - Limited operational detail in the public document.
  - Absence of clear oversight and measurable benchmarks.
  - Challenge of converting aspirational goals into routine practices at district and police station levels.

### Conclusion

- PRAHAAR's impact will ultimately depend on effective implementation, clear division of responsibilities, capacity-building at the grassroots, and robust coordination across agencies and states.
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### INDIA-ISRAEL SPECIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

- Prime Minister Modi's 2026 visit marked a new phase in bilateral ties. The two countries elevated their relationship to a "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation and Prosperity."

#### **Technology and Emerging Domains**

- Technology was central to the visit. A Critical and Emerging Technologies Partnership was launched, covering artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, cybersecurity, and critical minerals.

#### **Defence and Counter-Terrorism**

- Both sides acknowledged the significant expansion of defence cooperation and laid out a roadmap for joint development, joint production and transfer of technology.
- The joint statement strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism.

#### **Trade and Economic Cooperation**

- An agreement was reached for the use of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Israel, expanding digital public infrastructure cooperation.
- Cooperation was also expanded in digital health, civil nuclear energy, space, and financial dialogue mechanisms.

#### **Agriculture and Rural Development**

- India set a target of expanding Centres of Excellence to 100 and moving towards creating "Villages of Excellence" to bring Israeli agricultural technology directly to Indian villages.
- An India-Israel Innovation Centre for Agriculture will support research and future-ready farming solutions.

#### **Connectivity and Regional Cooperation**

- The two sides agreed to work closely on the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** and the **I2U2 initiative**.
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