

# PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



## DAILY DOSE

### CURRENT AFFAIRS – 25/02/2026

#### 1. India Launches Nationwide Free HPV Vaccination Drive:

Recent - India is launching a nationwide free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive to combat cervical cancer.

The drive prioritises 14-year-old girls, the age at which the HPV vaccine offers maximum preventive benefit.

It will use Gardasil, a quadrivalent non-live (recombinant) vaccine targeting four HPV types:

- Types 16 and 18: High-risk strains responsible for ~70% of cervical cancers.
- Types 6 and 11: Low-risk strains responsible for ~90% of genital warts.

The vaccine will be voluntary and free at all government health facilities. Rollout will be managed via the U-WIN digital platform.

This multi-ministry programme is jointly led by the MoHFW and the MoWCD under the “Swastha Nari” vision.

#### 2. Alteration of State Name of “Kerala” to “Keralam”:

Recent - Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to alter the official name of the State from “Kerala” to “Keralam”, initiating the constitutional procedure prescribed under Article 3.

Article 3 empowers Parliament to alter the name, boundaries, or area of States through legislation.

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## 3. Him-CONNECT in the World Sustainable Development Summit:

**Recent** - The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is organising 'Him-CONNECT' during the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026 in New Delhi.

It is a platform connecting scientific research and entrepreneurship to scale innovations in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

The initiative focuses on commercialising ecological innovations developed under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS).

## 4. Lok Sabha Speaker Constitutes Parliamentary Friendship Groups:

**Recent** - The Lok Sabha Speaker constituted 64 Parliamentary Friendship Groups (PFGs) to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation.

To promote parliamentary diplomacy for continuous political, social, and cultural engagement between the Indian Parliament and foreign legislatures.

The PFGs operate under the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG); the Lok Sabha Speaker appoints the President of each Group.

Each group comprises 11 sitting MPs from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, representing various political parties.

## 5. Contarinia icardiflores:

**Recent** - Scientists at ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune, have identified a new midge species, Contarinia icardiflores.

C. icardiflores is a blossom midge species that infests commercial jasmine crops.

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The midge has been reported from major jasmine-growing states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

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