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2026, January 1-2

Market Access Support:

- ➔ To strengthen India's export ecosystem and help domestic firms compete globally, the government has launched a INR 4,531 crore Market Access Support (MAS) scheme for the period FY 2026–31.
- ➔ The scheme focuses on improving global visibility, market access, and competitiveness of Indian exporters, with a strong emphasis on MSMEs first-time exporters, and priority sectors such as agriculture, handloom, leather, and toys.
- ➔ The Market Access Support scheme is part of India's shift from direct export subsidies to market-linked support mechanisms. It comes under the INR 25,060 crore Export Promotion Mission approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2025. The focus is on long-term export competitiveness rather than short-term tariff relief.



Union government:

- ➔ The Union government has approved key judicial appointments and transfers involving three High Courts in India. Acting on the recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium, the Centre has notified new Chief Justices for the Kerala, Patna and Meghalaya High Courts, ensuring leadership continuity and smooth functioning of the higher judiciary.

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- The appointments and transfers have been made under Article 222 and Article 217 of the Constitution of India. Article 222 empowers the President to transfer High Court judges after consultation with the Chief Justice of India. While Article 217 governs the appointment of High Court judges, including Chief Justices.



Desert Cyclone II:

- India and the United Arab Emirates continue to deepen their strategic defense partnership through regular joint military exercises. Desert Cyclone II, the second edition of the bilateral army exercise, concluded successfully in Abu Dhabi, showcasing growing interoperability, trust, and coordination between the armed forces of both nations.
- Desert Cyclone II is a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces. Conducted from December 18 to 30, 2025, at Al-Hamra Training City in Abu Dhabi, the exercise reflects the growing defence ties and shared security interests of India and the UAE.

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Goa:

- Goa is set to undergo an important administrative change. The state government has decided to create a third district, aiming to bring governance closer to the people. The new district will be carved out of South Goa and will have its headquarters at Quepem focusing on better administration and development of hinterland regions.
- The Goa government has announced the formation of a third district, comprising four talukas of South Goa. The decision, approved earlier by the Cabinet is intended to improve administrative efficiency, support regional development and align with recommendations for smaller districts to enhance governance.

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Jallikattu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu is set to begin its annual Jallikattu season in early 2026. The state government has granted permission for the first event to be held on January 3. The traditional bull-taming sport will take place at Thatchankurichi village, continuing a long-standing cultural practice under regulated and safety-focused conditions.
- ➔ The event has been approved under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act, 2017. This amendment allows Jallikattu to be conducted as a traditional sport, subject to regulations. The government has made it clear that the event must strictly follow all legal provisions and court-mandated safeguards.

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Assam;

- ➔ Assam has taken a lead in government pay reforms by becoming the first state in the country to set up its 8th State Pay Commission. This proactive decision comes just before the end of the 7th Pay Commission's term on January 1, 2026.
- ➔ The move has drawn attention from state employees, pensioners, and other states, as pay commissions play a crucial role in revising salaries, allowances, and pensions of government staff. Early constitution of the panel signals Assam's intent to speed up the pay revision process.

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Space:

- ➔ The year 2026 is expected to be a defining moment for global space exploration. India and the United States are preparing two major human spaceflight missions.
- ➔ While India's Gaganyaan will test indigenous crewed spaceflight systems, NASA's Artemis-II will take humans beyond the Moon after more than five decades, shaping the future of space travel.
- ➔ India's Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are preparing for historic missions in 2026. ISRO's uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 mission and NASA's Artemis-II mission are expected to lay the technological foundation for future human missions to space and deep space.



ECTA:

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- ➔ From January 1, 2026, Australia will provide duty-free access to all Indian exports under the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), marking 100% zero-duty tariff lines.
- ➔ The ECTA was an ‘early harvest’ deal, addressing select trade-related issues, while both countries are negotiating a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) for broader trade coverage.
- ➔ India’s exports to Australia grew by 8% in 2024-25, with significant gains across manufacturing, chemicals, textiles, plastics, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, and gems & jewellery.



Global Family Day:

- ➔ Global Family Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to promote peace, unity and harmony among people worldwide.
- ➔ The day evolved from the “One Day in Peace” initiative and emphasises resolving conflicts through non-violence and understanding. It highlights the idea that the entire world is one family, encouraging compassion, tolerance and mutual respect.

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**GLOBAL
FAMILY
DAY** — JANUARY 01 —

DRDO Day:

- ➔ DRDO Day is celebrated every year on 1 January to mark the achievements of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). DRDO was established in 1958, and it has since played a key role in advancing India's defence technology.
- ➔ The day highlights India's advancements in defence technology, including missiles, radars, armaments, and aerospace systems. DRDO Day honours the contributions of scientists and engineers who strengthen India's strategic and defence capabilities.

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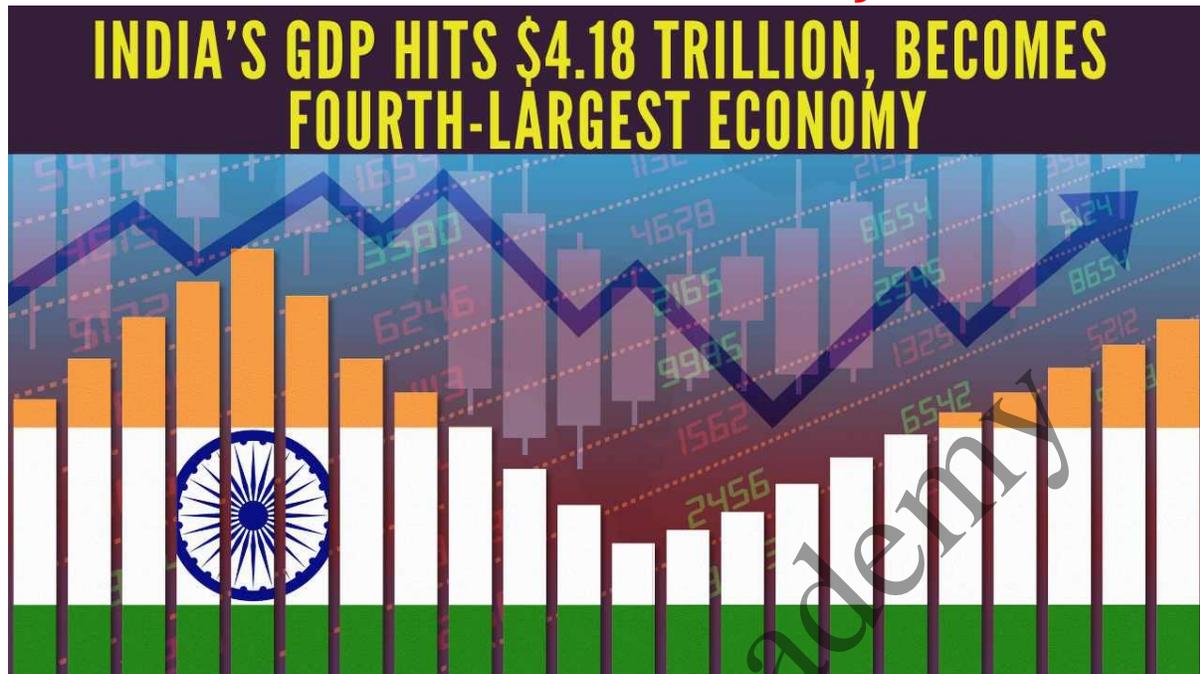
GDP:

- ➔ India became the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, overtaking Japan, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$4.18 trillion. Official projections indicate India will surpass Germany and become the third-largest economy by 2030, reaching an estimated GDP of \$7.3 trillion.
- ➔ Real GDP growth reached 8.2% in the second quarter of FY 2025–26, marking a six-quarter high, supported by strong industrial output and services sector expansion. Domestic demand, especially private consumption, has remained a key driver of growth, aided by declining unemployment and stable financial conditions.
- ➔ Policy reforms, including Income Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) rationalisation, supportive monetary conditions, and government capital expenditure, have strengthened economic momentum. India aims to achieve high middle-income status by 2047, with a favourable macroeconomic environment described as a “goldilocks period” of high growth and low inflation.

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Rare Earth Oxide:

- ➔ India ranks 3rd globally in rare earth reserves with about 6.9 million tonnes of Rare Earth Oxide (REO). India holds nearly 6–7% of global rare earth reserves, but contributes less than 1% of global production. In 2024, India produced only 2,900 tonnes, ranking 7th in the world in rare earth production.
- ➔ Most Indian reserves are in monazite-rich coastal sands, which also contain thorium (a radioactive element). Mining is regulated strictly due to radioactivity and was mainly handled by Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) earlier. India has very limited processing and refining facilities, which slows down largescale production.

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Kanger Valley National Park;

- ➔ Kanger Valley National Park is a protected forest area located near Jagdalpur in the Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. The Chhattisgarh government has intensified efforts to include the park in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
- ➔ Once approved, it will become the first site from Chhattisgarh to receive UNESCO World Heritage status. The park covers an area of about 200 square kilometres and lies in the Eastern Ghats–Central Indian highlands region. It is well known for the Tirathgarh Waterfall, limestone caves, dense forests, and rich biodiversity.

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Zero FIR:

- ➔ A 19-year-old migrant worker, Juyel Rana, from Suti in Murshidabad district, West Bengal, was killed in Sambalpur, Odisha. The West Bengal Police registered a Zero FIR at Suti police station, even though the crime occurred in another state.
- ➔ Zero FIR allows an FIR to be filed at any police station, regardless of the place of crime, and is first given the serial number “0”. After registration, the Zero FIR is transferred to the concerned police station in Odisha for further investigation. This provision helps in fast police action and avoids delay due to jurisdiction limits.

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Rohtasgarh Fort:

- ➔ Rohtasgarh Fort, also called Rohtas Fort, is located on the banks of the Sone River in Bihar. It is one of the largest forts in India and the world, spread over about 26 miles.
- ➔ The fort is situated on a hill around 1500 metres high with massive defensive walls. It was built by Raja Harishchandra of the Solar dynasty and named after his son Rohitashva.



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Tamil Nadu University of Madras Amendment Bill:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu University of Madras Amendment Bill was returned without presidential assent. The bill was passed by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in April 2022 and sent for approval.
- ➔ The bill aimed to give the Tamil Nadu state government the power to appoint the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the University of Madras. It proposed to amend the University of Madras Act by shifting this power from the Governor, who is the ex officio Chancellor, to the government.
- ➔ The Bill sought to replace the word, 'Chancellor', with the word, 'Government', in Section 11 of the Madras University Act, 1923. The bill was reserved for consideration due to concerns over conflict with UGC(University Grants Commission) regulations. After the bill was returned, the Tamil Nadu Assembly must reconsider the legislation.



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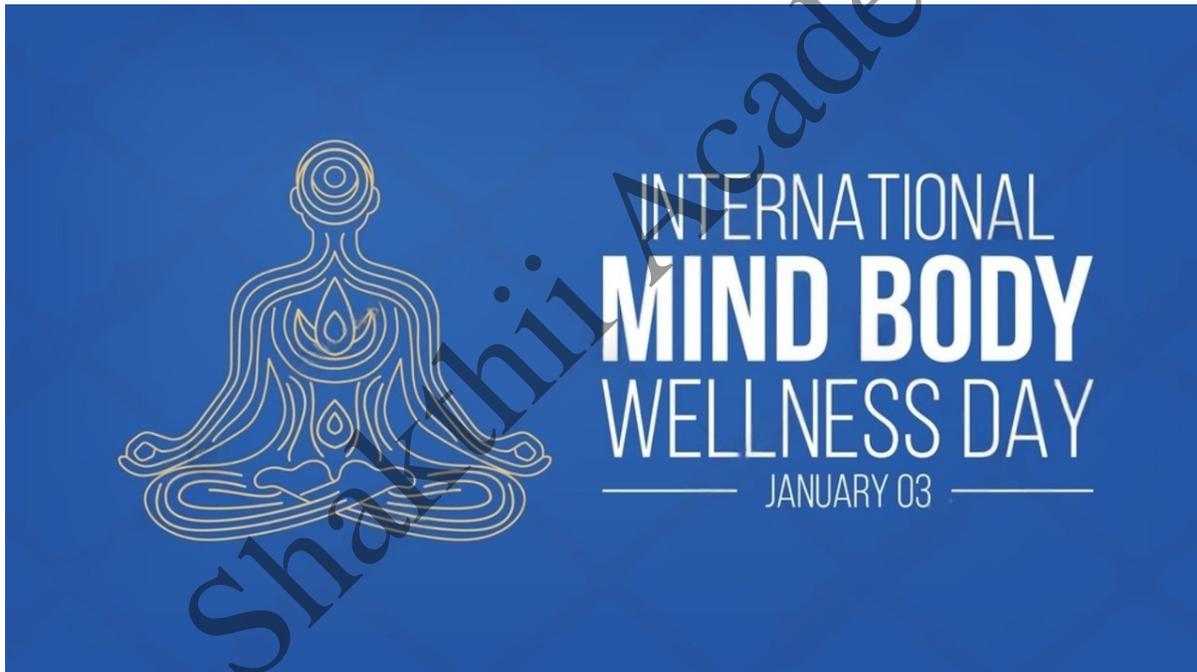
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2026, January 3

International Mind–Body Wellness Day:

- ➔ International Mind–Body Wellness Day is observed annually on January 3 to spread awareness about the deep connection between mental health and physical health and promote preventive healthcare practices. International Mind–Body Wellness Day reminds us that good health is not only about the body or the mind alone, but both working together.
- ➔ In today’s fast-paced life, stress, poor sleep, and unhealthy habits affect overall well-being. This day encourages people to focus on balanced living, preventive healthcare, and simple lifestyle changes to stay healthy in the long run.



Savitribai Phule:

- ➔ Savitribai Phule was one of the most influential social reformers in Indian history. Born in 3rd January, 1831 in Maharashtra, she challenged rigid caste systems and gender inequality at a time when educating women was considered unacceptable.
- ➔ With the support of her husband Jyotirao Phule, she became India’s first woman teacher and laid the foundation for women’s education and social reform in the country.

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Rani Velu Nachiyar:

- ➔ Rani Velu Nachiyar was a courageous and visionary ruler from Tamil Nadu who stood against British expansion much before the Revolt of 1857. Born in 1730, she became a symbol of resistance, bravery, and women's leadership.
- ➔ On her birth anniversary on 3rd January she is remembered for her role in reclaiming the Sivagangai kingdom and inspiring future generations through her fearless fight against colonial domination.

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Diamond City:

- ➔ Rapid urban growth in India has often created a sharp contrast between modern city skylines and informal slum settlements. Addressing this gap has remained a major governance challenge. Surat, Gujarat's "Diamond City" is now emerging as a national example by nearly eliminating slums through focused housing policies, efficient administration, and large-scale urban redevelopment. Surat is on track to become India's first slumfree urban zone.
- ➔ The Surat Municipal Corporation has redeveloped most slum clusters into permanent housing using central and state housing schemes, ensuring dignified living conditions for all residents.

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Hyderabad-based start-ups:

- ➔ India's private space sector continues to grow as two Hyderabad-based start-ups successfully prepare a compact Earth observation satellite for launch. Built at a fraction of the usual cost and time, this mini-satellite reflects India's shift towards affordable, indigenous, and high-tech space solutions.
- ➔ The mission also highlights strong collaboration between start-ups, private aerospace facilities, and ISRO's launch ecosystem, strengthening India's commercial and strategic space capabilities.

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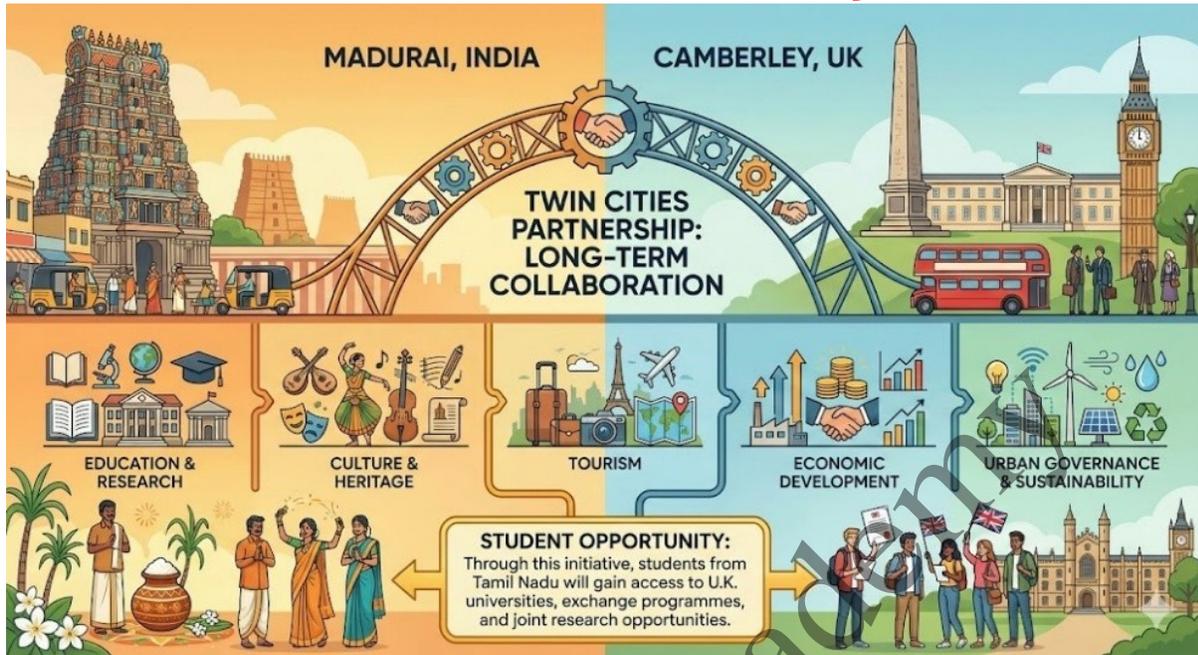
Camberley:

- ➔ Madurai is going to sign a Twin Cities Partnership with Camberley, a town in the United Kingdom. The partnership is a long-term collaboration between cities in different countries. It aimed at promoting cooperation in education and research, culture and heritage, tourism, economic development, and urban governance and sustainability.
- ➔ Through this initiative, students from Tamil Nadu will gain access to U.K universities, exchange programmes, and joint research opportunities.

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Rice:

- ➔ By overtaking China, India has reached number one in the world in terms of rice production. This is the first time India has overtaken China in rice production. India's rice production has reached 152 million metric tonnes, while China's output stands at 146 million metric tonnes.
- ➔ The country's share in total global rice production has crossed more than 28%. There are about 123,000 varieties of rice in the world, of which nearly 60,000 are found in India.
- ➔ In 2024–25, India exported agricultural produce worth a record Rs 450,840 crore, with rice accounting for the largest share of about 24%.

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Centre:

- The central government has banned manufacture, sale and distribution of oral formulations of nimesulide containing more than 100 mg. It is a commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) prescribed for pain, fever and inflammation.
- The ban has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Section 26A empowers the Centre to restrict or prohibit drugs that pose a risk to patients.

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Bihar government:

- ➔ The Bihar government has approved a revised proposal to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary into the state's second tiger reserve. Once approved, this will be Bihar's second tiger reserve after Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) of West Champaran district.
- ➔ Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The proposal must be approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

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**Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary Set
for Tiger Reserve Status After
Nod from Bihar Forests Minister**

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2026, January 4-5

National Bird Day:

- ➔ National Bird Day 2026 will be observed on January 5, drawing attention to the vital role birds play in maintaining ecological balance. From pollination to pest control, birds support healthy ecosystems.
- ➔ The day serves as a reminder that habitat loss, climate change, and illegal trade continue to threaten bird populations worldwide, making conservation efforts more important than ever.



World Braille Day:

- ➔ Every year on January 4, the world observes World Braille Day, a day dedicated to celebrating one of the most powerful tools of inclusion ever created. Braille is not just a system of reading and writing; it represents access to information, independence, and dignity for millions of people with visual impairments across the globe.
- ➔ This day reminds us that true development is possible only when knowledge is accessible to all. World Braille Day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the French educator who invented the Braille system.

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Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:

- ➔ On January 1, 2026, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) completed nine years of implementation, marking an important milestone in India's efforts to strengthen maternal health, nutrition, and women's welfare.
- ➔ Launched in 2017, this flagship maternity benefit scheme of the Government of India (GoI) has consistently supported pregnant women and lactating mothers, especially from vulnerable sections of society.
- ➔ The scheme aims to offer partial wage compensation and promote safe pregnancy and childbirth, thereby improving overall maternal and child health outcomes.



Indian Army:

- ➔ In a major step towards modernising its operational capabilities, the Indian Army (IA) has officially declared 2026 as the 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'. This

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announcement was made in January 2026 under the leadership of the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, as part of the Army's long-term vision for building a future-ready, technology-driven force.

- The initiative highlights the Army's growing focus on digital integration, real-time data sharing, and data-driven decision-making, which are essential for modern warfare. For government job aspirants and competitive exam candidates, this development is important from defence reforms, technology in security, and current affairs perspectives.



Leopard color:

- Karnataka's wildlife has once again drawn national and global attention with the discovery of an extremely rare leopard color variant. This unique big cat, nicknamed the "Sandalwood Leopard" has been documented for the first time in the state.
- The sighting highlights the remarkable genetic diversity of leopards in Karnataka and strengthens its reputation as one of India's most important landscapes for big cat conservation.
- Karnataka has recorded its first-ever sighting of an ultra-rare strawberry colored leopard, popularly named the Sandalwood Leopard. This is only the second recorded sighting in India, with the earlier one reported from Rajasthan in 2021.

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Indian scientists:

- ➔ Indian scientists have achieved a major technological milestone by developing Automatic Weather Stations using 3D-printing technology. These indigenously built stations aim to improve last-mile weather data collection, especially in cities.
- ➔ The first set of these advanced stations will be installed in Delhi from February, strengthening India's weather forecasting and climate monitoring capabilities.

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Vande Bharat Sleeper Train:

- ➔ India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train will run between Guwahati (Assam) and Howrah (West Bengal), connecting the Northeast with eastern India. The sleeper train has been designed by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) and manufactured by BEML Ltd, Bengaluru, marking a key collaboration in railway production.
- ➔ Under the ICF–BEML collaboration, 10 rakes will be built by March 2026 (the first two rakes are already ready), after which ICF will manufacture 50 more Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains.

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Punjab:

- ➔ Punjab to launch 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' on January 15, 2026, offering free cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per family for all 65 lakh families in the State. Any resident of Punjab with a valid Aadhaar card and voter ID can avail the benefits; the scheme aims to cover 100% of the state's population.
- ➔ Over 9,000 camps will be conducted for issuing scheme cards; after enrolment, beneficiaries will be eligible for free treatment covering around 2,200 medical procedures. The scheme provides cashless and paperless treatment, including hospitalisation, surgeries, ICU care, diagnostics, medicines, and pre- & post-hospitalisation treatments under approved packages.

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National Tiger Conservation Authority:

- ➔ India recorded the deaths of 166 tigers in 2025, according to the latest data released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). This number is 40 higher than the 126 tiger deaths reported in 2024. It represents the highest annual tiger mortality since the launch of Project Tiger in 1973.
- ➔ Madhya Pradesh reported the highest number of tiger deaths in the country, with 55 fatalities recorded during the year. Other States that reported significant tiger deaths include Maharashtra with 38 deaths, Kerala with 13 deaths, and Assam with 12 deaths. Among the total tiger deaths in 2025, 31 were cubs, highlighting the increased vulnerability of young tigers.

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United Nations:

- ➔ The United Nations (UN) has declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. It aims to raise awareness and advocate for the value of healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism. 2026 also declared as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026).
- ➔ It will raise awareness and promote actions to close the gender gaps and improve women's livelihoods worldwide. UN also declared 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY), to promote and recognize volunteerism as a significant force for sustainable development.

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Uttar Pradesh:

- ➔ In 2010, Uttar Pradesh had more than double the debt of Tamil Nadu. Today, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is higher than Uttar Pradesh's. As of 2025-26, Tamil Nadu's outstanding debt is estimated at 26.1% of gross state domestic product (GSDP), down from 26.4% in 2024-25 and 26.6% in 2023-24.
- ➔ Tamil Nadu's debt ratio has been on a gradual downward path since its COVID19 peak, though it remains above pre Covid levels. Uttar Pradesh, by contrast, is estimated to end 2025-26 with outstanding liabilities of 29.4% of GSDP, also declining from 30.8% in 2024-25.



Samiullah vs State of Bihar:

- ➔ The Supreme Court ruled in Samiullah vs State of Bihar on property registration and mutation rules. The Court struck down the Bihar Registration Rules (2019) that made mutation proof compulsory for property registration.

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- ➔ It held that the registration of a document is different from ownership or title of property. Questions of title and ownership can be decided only by civil courts, not by SubRegistrars.



India and Pakistan:

- ➔ India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear installations on January 1, 2026. The exchange was carried out under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities. The agreement was signed on December 31, 1988, and came into force on January 27, 1991.
- ➔ Both countries exchange these lists every year on January 1 as a confidence building measure. The exchange was conducted through diplomatic channels in New Delhi and Islamabad. India and Pakistan also exchanged lists of prisoners under the Consular Access Agreement of 2008.

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2026, January 6

World Day of War Orphans:

- World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on January 6 to draw attention to the suffering of children who lose one or both parents due to wars and armed conflicts. The day focuses on their emotional trauma, lack of care, and the urgent need for protection, rehabilitation, and social support.
- World Day of War Orphans is a global observance dedicated to children who have lost their parents due to war or armed conflicts. It aims to raise awareness about their physical, psychological, and social challenges and encourages collective responsibility to protect their rights and dignity.



Defence Research and Development Organisation:

- India's defence research ecosystem has taken another step to support troops operating in extreme and remote conditions.

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- ➔ The Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a portable water purification system that can be manually operated in the field. Designed mainly for soldiers, the system can convert saline water into safe drinking water, ensuring reliable hydration during long patrols and deployments in water-scarce regions.
- ➔ The Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a hand-operated Sea Water Desalination System (SWaDeS) to meet the drinking water needs of soldiers deployed in remote, coastal, and high-altitude areas.



Inland Rainbow Trout Farm:

- ➔ India's Largest Inland Rainbow Trout Farm Launched in Telangana. India's fisheries sector marked a major technological milestone with the launch of a large-scale trout farming project in Telangana.
- ➔ Traditionally limited to cold Himalayan regions, trout cultivation has now been successfully adapted to a warm inland climate. The initiative reflects India's push toward innovation-driven aquaculture, value addition, and export-oriented growth in fisheries.

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Prasar Bharati:

- ➔ India's public broadcaster has taken an important step toward cultural inclusion in Manipur. Prasar Bharati has begun efforts to resume live radio programmes in the Thadou language from All India Radio Imphal.
- ➔ The decision is seen as a confidence-building measure in a state affected by ethnic violence and highlights the role of public broadcasting in preserving linguistic and cultural diversity.

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Judiciary:

- ➔ The judiciary in Sikkim witnessed an important development with the appointment of a new Chief Justice to its High Court. The swearing-in ceremony marks a leadership transition aimed at strengthening the delivery of justice in the state.
- ➔ The appointment brings experience from other High Courts and is expected to contribute to efficient judicial administration. The Chief Justice of a High Court is responsible for judicial administration, case allocation, and overall functioning of the court.
- ➔ Appointments are made by the President of India in consultation with constitutional authorities. Strong leadership at the High Court level plays a crucial role in ensuring access to justice and upholding the rule of law at the state level.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government will distribute free laptops to college students under the 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' scheme, with Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launching the distribution. Nearly 20 lakh laptops are planned to be distributed by February, with about 10 lakh laptops expected to be handed out by March in the current phase.
- ➔ Laptops will be procured by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu from OEMs like Acer, Dell, and HP, featuring Intel Core i3 processors, 8 GB RAM, and 256 GB SSD. The scheme has an initial allocation of around ₹2,000 crore; Tamil Nadu has already distributed 52 lakh laptops to students since 2011 at a cost of over ₹7,000 crore.

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TAPS:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government introduced the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme(TAPS), which broadly follows the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Under TAPS, the pension will be fixed at 50% of the pay drawn in the last month of service.
- ➔ The scheme includes Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG), with a maximum limit of ₹25 lakh. Family pension under TAPS will be 60% of the pension amount.
- ➔ Existing employees under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) are expected to shift to TAPS. The scheme will come into force after amendments are made to the pension rules.

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Andhra Pradesh:

- ➔ Andhra Pradesh emerged as India's top investment destination in FY26 by securing 25.3% of total proposed investments in the first nine months. A Bank of Baroda report stated that Odisha ranked second with 13.1% and Maharashtra third with 12.8% of proposed investments.
- ➔ Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra together accounted for 51.2% of total proposed investments in the country. Total investment announcements in FY26 increased by 11.5% year-on-year to ₹26.6 lakh crore.
- ➔ Telangana (9.5%), Gujarat (7.1%), and Tamil Nadu (4.9%) were other major contributors, while Uttar Pradesh (2.7%) and Karnataka (2.1%) had lower shares. The data shows that industrial investment activity is shifting towards eastern and southern India.

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India and Bangladesh:

- ➔ India and Bangladesh started talks to renew the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty, which will expire in December 2026. The treaty was originally signed in 1996 to share dry-season flows of the Ganga at the Farakka Barrage. Officials are taking joint water measurements in the Ganga and Padma rivers every 10 days until May 31.
- ➔ The Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission coordinates water-sharing matters between the two countries. India and Bangladesh share 54 transboundary rivers, and the Farakka Barrage was built in 1975. Talks aim to balance domestic water needs with regional cooperation amid growing water stress.

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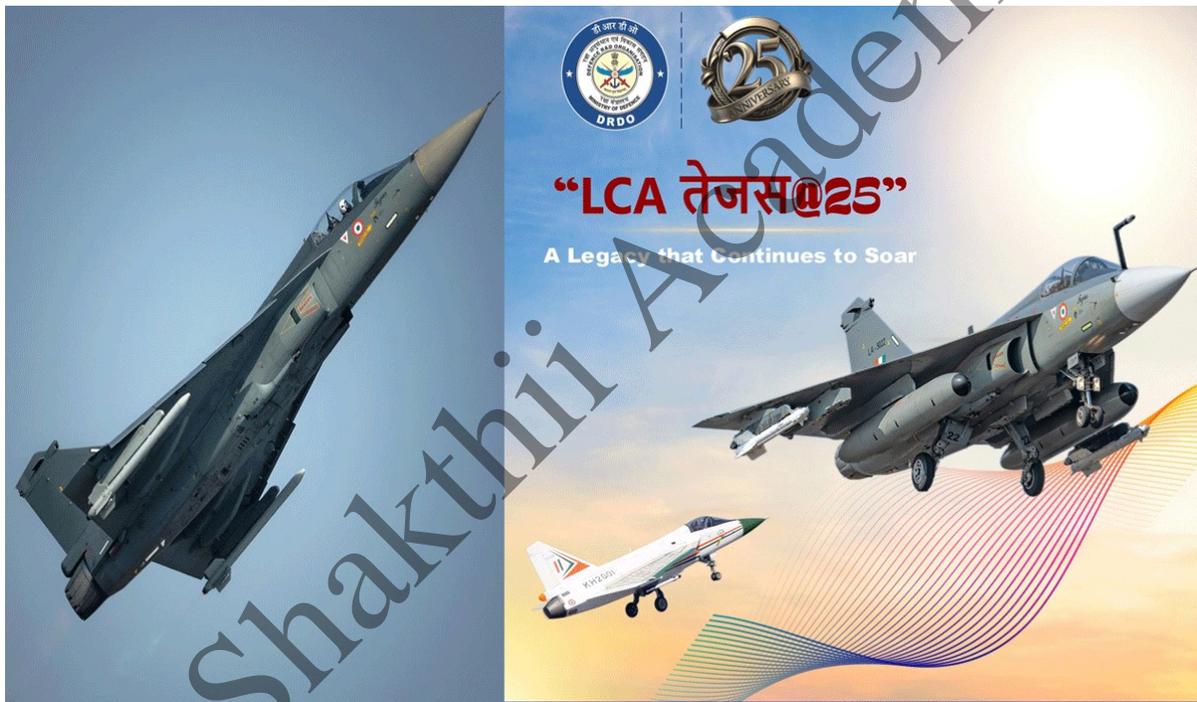
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2026, January 7

IAF:

- ➔ Recently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) proudly commemorated the 25th anniversary of the maiden flight of the indigenously developed Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA). This milestone marks a defining moment in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence aviation under the broader vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ➔ The Tejas LCA programme was launched in 1983 by the Government of India with a clear strategic objective—to replace the ageing and obsolete fighter aircraft fleet of the Indian Air Force with a modern, lightweight, multi-role combat aircraft designed and built in India.



Siddaramaiah:

- ➔ In a major political milestone, Karnataka has witnessed history in the making. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has emerged as the longest serving Chief Minister of the state, a rare achievement in a politically dynamic landscape.
- ➔ His journey reflects resilience, social justice politics, and deep grassroots connect, making his leadership tenure both politically and historically significant.

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Sanskaar Shaala:

- ➔ The Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam, inaugurated Sanskaar Shaala, a value-based education programme for children, in Guwahati.
- ➔ The initiative aims to promote moral education, Indian cultural values, and social responsibility among children, complementing formal education in a modern, technology-driven society.
- ➔ The Assam Governor launched Sanskaar Shaala, a programme focused on value-based education. He also attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Guwahati Blind High School.

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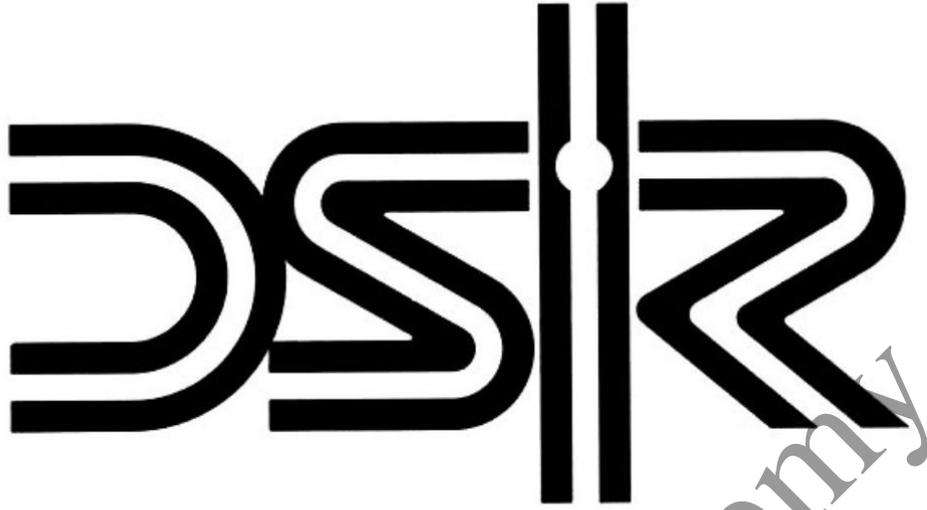
Tech – startups:

- ➔ In a major boost to India's innovation ecosystem, the government has announced a key relaxation for deep-tech startups.
- ➔ By easing eligibility norms for official recognition, the move is expected to help young technology-driven enterprises scale faster. The decision reflects growing confidence in India's startup capabilities and the government's push to position the country as a global innovation hub.
- ➔ The Government of India has removed the mandatory three-year existence condition for deep-tech startups to avail recognition under the Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program of DSIR. The announcement was made at the 41st Foundation Day (On 4th January) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi.

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Making Science Work For New Zealand

Jaipur:

- Jaipur will host the 78th Army Day Parade for the first time on January 15, with the event taking place on Mahal Road.
- For the first time in India, the parade will be organised in a public setting outside a cantonment area, marking a historic move. Army Day is celebrated across India every year on 15 January to honour the nation's armed forces.

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Gaan Ngai festival:

- ➔ The Gaan Ngai festival of the Kabui community has commenced across Manipur, marking the beginning of the New Year and being celebrated after the harvest season. The State Level Gaan Ngai Festival 2026 was held at Konthoujam Mamang Kabui Village in Imphal West district, with widespread participation of the Kabui community.
- ➔ The five-day festival marks the end of the agricultural year, symbolised by the lighting of new fire created by rubbing dry wood and bamboo, which is distributed to households to signify renewal and prosperity.



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AYUSH:

- ➔ The Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) celebrated the 9th Siddha Day. The event was held at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai, with support from national and State Siddha institutions. Siddha Day is observed every year on 6 January to mark the birth anniversary of Sage Agathiyar.
- ➔ Sage Agathiyar is known as the father of the Siddha system of medicine. The 2026 theme was “Siddha for Global Health.” Siddha medicine originated in Tamil Nadu and is part of India’s traditional healthcare systems.



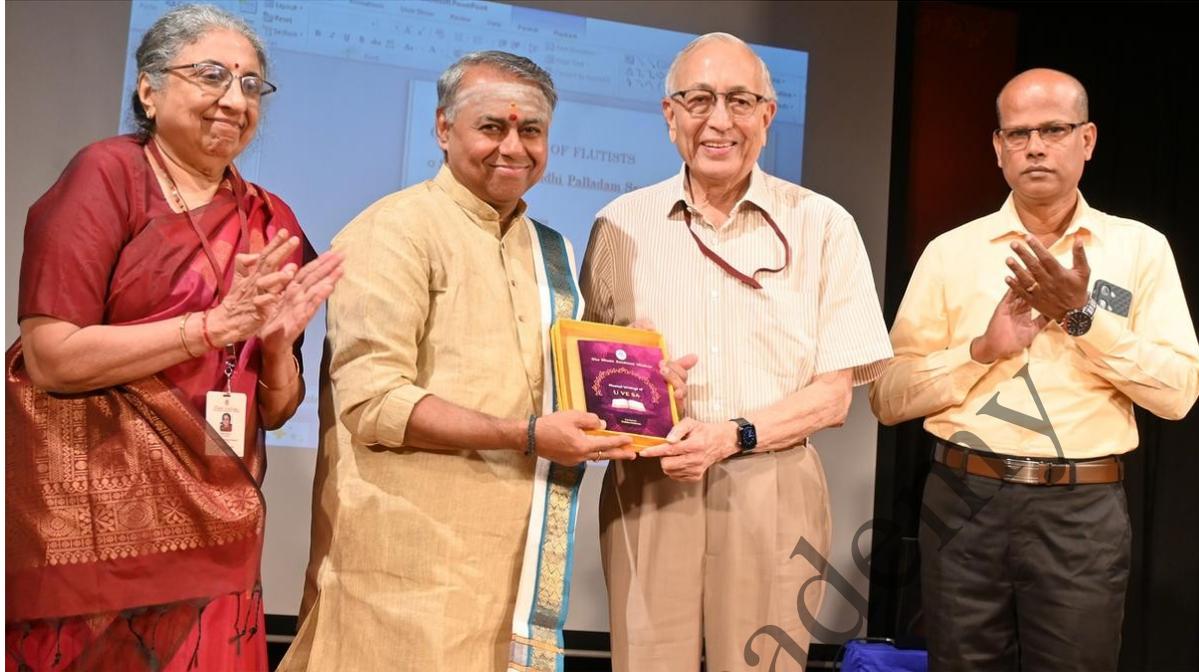
U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer:

- ➔ The English translation of the writings of U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer on musicians and music was released by The Music Academy. U. Ve. Swaminatha Iyer is known as Tamil Thatha (the grand old man of Tamil).
- ➔ The translation was done by Justice Prabha Sridevan. Justice Prabha Sridevan stated that the collection consists of 18 articles. The book includes three detailed writings on Ghanam Krishna Iyer, Gopalakrishna Bharathi, and Maha Vaidyanatha Sivan.

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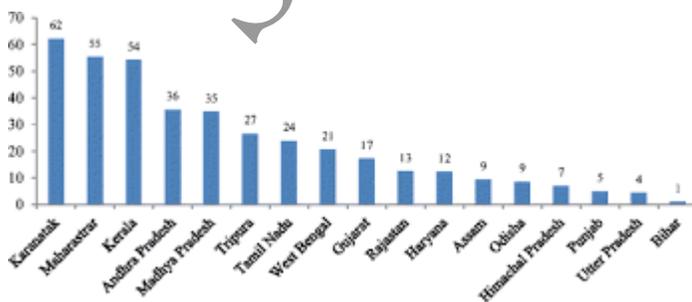
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Farmer Suicide:

- ➔ Maharashtra and Karnataka have the highest farmer suicide rates in India, about 2.5 times the national average. Between 1995 and 2023, 394,206 farmers and agricultural labourers died by suicide in India. Southern and western India account for around 72.5% of all farmer suicides.
- ➔ The rapid spread of Bt cotton and repeated crop failures increased financial stress for farmers. Agricultural labourers now account for more suicides than cultivators, especially in 2023.
- ➔ The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), crop insurance, and debt relief helped reduce suicides after 2010. In 2023, India recorded 10,786 farmer suicides, a 75% increase compared to 2022.



Sex Ratio at Birth:

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- Haryana recorded a Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) of 923 in 2025, which is the highest in the last five years. The SRB increased from 910 in 2024 to 923 in 2025. A total of 5,19,691 births were registered in Haryana in 2025.
- Panchkula district recorded the highest SRB in the State at 971. The improvement followed strict enforcement of the PC-PNDT Act (Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act).



Kerala:

- Kerala has introduced the Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025 to protect private sector employees from work communication after office hours. The Bill allows employees to ignore work-related calls, emails, messages, and virtual meetings beyond official working time. Employees cannot be penalised or disciplined for disconnecting after work hours.
- If passed, Kerala will become the first Indian State to enact such a law. Similar laws already exist in countries like France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Belgium.

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2026, January 8

Earth's Rotation Day:

- Earth's Rotation Day is observed globally on January 8 each year to highlight the profound significance of Earth's rotational motion and commemorate French physicist Léon Foucault's historic 1851 pendulum experiment, which first publicly demonstrated conclusive evidence of Earth's rotation.
- On January 8, 2026, the world observes the 175th anniversary of this groundbreaking scientific demonstration—a milestone that celebrates not only a remarkable physical achievement but also humanity's evolving understanding of our planet's motion in space.



SAMPANN:

- SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pension) is an integrated online pension management system for Department of Telecommunications (DoT) pensioners, enabling end-to-end processing, sanctioning and direct bank transfer of pensions.
- The platform provides online grievance redressal, digital profile management and transaction records, improving transparency, efficiency and service delivery for telecom retirees.
- To promote digital governance and paperless services, key pension documents such as Pension Payment Orders, Gratuity Orders, Commutation Orders and Form 16 are now

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Israel:

- Israel became the first country to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state, a move likely to impact regional dynamics and challenge Somalia's opposition to secession.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced immediate cooperation with Somaliland in agriculture, health, technology and the economy, and signed a joint declaration of mutual recognition with President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi.

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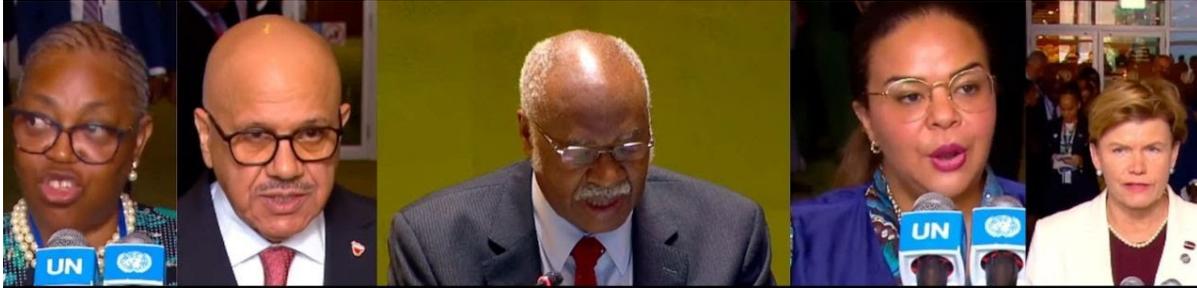
UNSC:

- ➔ Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia and Liberia have begun two-year terms as non-permanent members. They replacing Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia, whose terms ended last month.
- ➔ The election process for non-permanent seats on the UNSC involves regional groups nominating candidates.
- ➔ There are four regional groups. UNSC comprises 5 permanent (P5) and 10 non-permanent members. Out of the 10 non-permanent members, five are elected each year by the General Assembly for a two-year term.

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BAHRAIN, COLOMBIA, DRC, LATVIA, AND LIBERIA ENTERS UNSC AS NON PERMANENT

Telangana Legislative Assembly:

- ➔ The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed a Bill abolishing the two-child norm for contesting local body elections. The earlier law, enacted in 1994, disqualified candidates who had more than two children. The new law is titled the Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ➔ This Bill replaces the earlier Ordinance issued on the same subject. The Bill was introduced by the Minister for Panchayat Raj, Danasari Anasuya Seethakka. The amendment allows all eligible citizens, irrespective of the number of children, to contest Panchayat Raj elections.

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2026, January 9

RSDI:

- India has launched the Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026, a new institutional effort to strengthen the connection between science, technology, and diplomacy. The initiative is being jointly launched by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF).
- The announcement was made by Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and ORF President Dr. Samir Saran at the PSA office. The initiative will operate alongside the Raisina Dialogue from March 5-7, 2026 in New Delhi.



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, is observed every year on January 9 to recognise and celebrate the invaluable contribution of the Overseas Indian community to India's development.
- The day holds deep historical importance as it marks the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915, a moment that later shaped India's freedom struggle.
- Launched in 2003 by the Government of India, PBD aims to strengthen ties between India and its vast diaspora, estimated at over 35 million NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs).

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प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

AERB:

- In January 2026, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi appointed distinguished scientist A.K. Balasubrahmanian as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), India's premier apex nuclear safety regulator.
- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) was constituted on November 15, 1983 by Giani Zail Singh, then President of India, under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA), 1962.
- This legal framework grants AERB comprehensive authority to regulate civilian uses of atomic energy and establish nuclear safety standards. AERB is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, strategically located to oversee India's major nuclear facilities spread across the country.

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1TS:

- ➔ The First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy (IN) embarked on a Long-Range Training Deployment (LRTD) to Southeast Asia. This significant maritime mission is part of the 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC) and represents a major initiative to provide naval cadets with practical, real-world operational experience at sea.
- ➔ The deployment sends multiple naval vessels across extended distances into foreign waters, demonstrating India's growing naval capabilities and strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.

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NCRB:

- ➔ National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, released the second edition of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 rankings. Uttarakhand Police topped the national rankings with an impressive score of 93.46, demonstrating exceptional digital policing capabilities and effective crime data management.
- ➔ Haryana Police secured second position with 93.41, while Assam Police claimed third place with 93.16. This recognition highlights India's progress toward modernizing its criminal justice system. The ICJS 2.0 platform represents a transformative shift in how law enforcement and judicial institutions operate across the country.

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Keyi Panyor:

- ➔ The newly formed Keyi Panyor district (Arunachal Pradesh) is set to make history by becoming India's first Bio-Happy District.
- ➔ This pioneering initiative aims to integrate biodiversity conservation with human well-being, offering a new development model that balances ecology, livelihoods, and public health.
- ➔ The project revives the visionary concept of Bio-happiness, introduced by the legendary agricultural scientist M. S. Swaminathan.

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Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ In a major boost to India's innovation ecosystem, Tamil Nadu has unveiled the country's first dedicated Deep-tech Startup Policy, setting a national benchmark for science-driven entrepreneurship.
- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025–26 aims to transform cutting-edge research into scalable commercial solutions, positioning the State as a hub for frontier and deep science technologies.
- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025–26 reflects a clear vision to move innovations from laboratories to global markets.

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Bengaluru:

- ➔ Bengaluru has been ranked the best city for women in India in 2025, emerging as the top performer in a nationwide study on urban inclusion. The ranking highlights Bengaluru's ability to combine strong social infrastructure with robust industrial opportunities, creating a supportive ecosystem for women's safety, employment, and long-term career growth.
- ➔ The results underline the dominance of southern and western metropolitan regions in building women-friendly urban environments. While Chennai ranked highest in social inclusion due to stronger public services and safety frameworks, Bengaluru emerged as the clear leader in industrial inclusion.

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AITE-26:

- ➔ The first phase of the All-India Tiger Estimation 2026 (AITE-26) officially began on January 6, 2026, at the Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary under the Erode Forest Division.
- ➔ This large-scale wildlife census is a crucial national exercise aimed at estimating tiger populations while simultaneously assessing prey species, habitat quality, and overall ecosystem health using standardised scientific methods.



PRB:

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- The first meeting of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) was held in Mumbai. The PRB is a statutory body through which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates and supervises payment and settlement systems in India. It was established under Section 3 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- It replacing the earlier Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS). The PRB became operational from 9 May 2025, after amendments were notified by the Government of India.



Musi Riverfront Development project:

- The Musi Riverfront Development project is planned to rejuvenate the Musi River in Hyderabad, Telangana. The project focuses on ecological restoration, urban renewal, and the creation of public spaces along the river.
- The development spans a wide stretch of the river, with master planning for multiple phases, including detailed project reports (DPRs) in progress. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given an in-principal approval for a ₹4,100 crore loan to support parts of the project.

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Gujarat:

- ➔ Gujarat is the leading okra producer in India, with cultivation spread across 93,955 hectares in 2023–24, producing 11.68 lakh tonnes. The Saurashtra–Kutch region contributed 15% of the area and 13% of total okra production.
- ➔ In 2024–25, okra was grown on 14,000 hectares in 12 districts of Saurashtra and Kutch, yielding 1.5 lakh tonnes. Gujarat contributed 7.66% to India's total vegetable production in 2024–25. Horticulture in Gujarat is growing due to better productivity, improved farming practices, and supportive government policies.



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2026, January 10-11

Oscars 2026:

- ➔ The 98th Academy Awards, also known as Oscars 2026, have recognized five Indian films as eligible for the prestigious Best Picture category.
- ➔ The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) released the list of 201 feature films that qualify for Best Picture, with a total of 317 films eligible across all categories. The four Indian films eligible for Best Picture consideration at Oscars 2026 include:

Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1 (Kannada), directed by Rishabh Shetty,

Tanvi The Great (Hindi), directed by Anupam Kher,

Mahavatar Narsimha (Multilingual animated feature),

Tourist Family (Tamil), by debut filmmaker Abishan Jeevinth,

Additionally, Sister Midnight, a Hindi-UK co-production starring Radhika Apte, is also included.



World Hindi Day:

- ➔ World Hindi Day 2026 (also known as Vishwa Hindi Diwas) is observed every year on January 10 to celebrate the growing international presence of the Hindi language. More

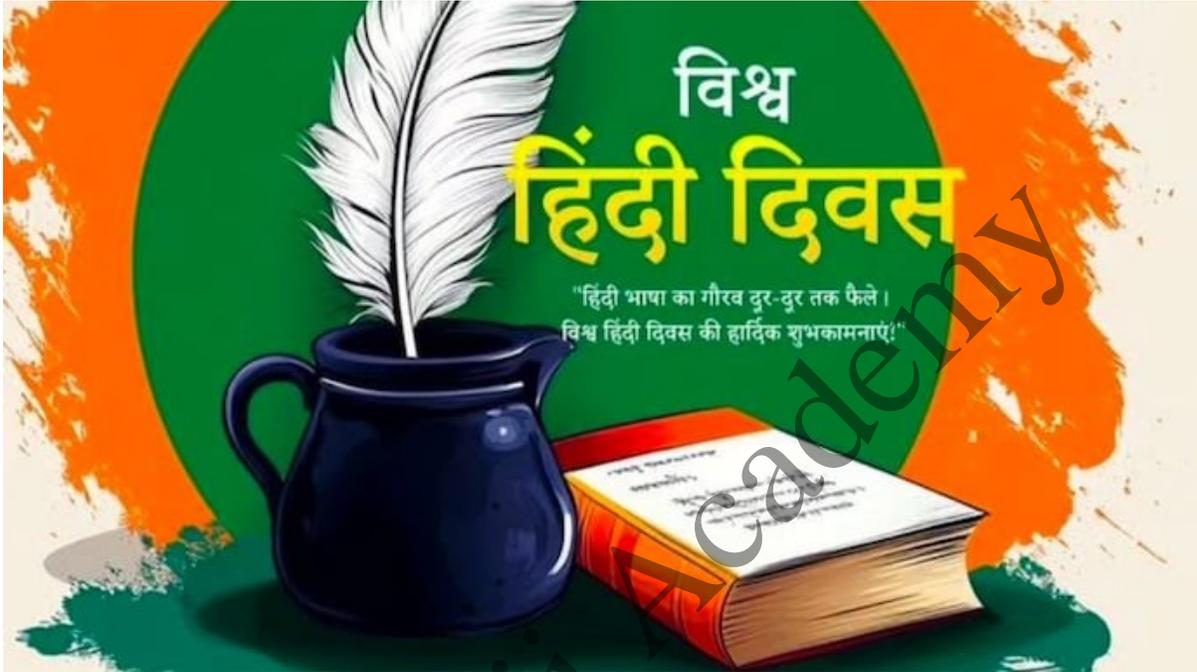
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than just a medium of communication, Hindi carries India's cultural identity, emotions, traditions, and collective memories.

- The day reminds the world that Hindi continues to connect millions across countries while evolving with modern education, diplomacy, technology, and digital media.



Gujarat:

- Gujarat has taken a major step in strengthening preventive healthcare with the launch of a mobile cancer screening unit called 'Asha Van'. The unit was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar.
- This special medical van is designed to reach people in villages and remote areas, where access to advanced health facilities is limited. Its main aim is to detect cancer at an early stage so that treatment can begin on time and lives can be saved.

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MeitY:

- ➔ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched 'PARAM SHAKTI', a powerful new supercomputing facility at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras). The facility was inaugurated on January 3, 2026, by MeitY Secretary Shri S. Krishnan.
- ➔ This centre hosts the PARAM RUDRA system, an indigenously built supercomputer developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

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MSTrIPES:

- ➔ Wildlife tracking in India is entering a new era. During the upcoming tiger and wildlife census in Anamalai Tiger Reserve, forest staff will use the advanced MSTrIPES mobile application. This digital method will replace most manual work and allow officials to collect data directly in the field.
- ➔ The upgrade is expected to make the survey faster, more accurate, and better connected with the All India Tiger Estimation Survey 2026. MSTrIPES stands for Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status.
- ➔ It is a smart digital tool designed for forest departments to record wildlife information using GPS-enabled devices. Earlier, forest guards noted animal signs on paper and later uploaded them into the app. Now, with proper training, staff will enter all details directly into MSTrIPES while walking through forest routes.

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Supreme Court of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India has signed an MoU with the Supreme Court of Bhutan to promote the exchange of young legal professionals and strengthen judicial cooperation between the two countries.
- ➔ Under the MoU, two law clerks from Bhutan will work with the Supreme Court of India for three months, receiving the same honorarium as Indian law clerks, with travel expenses borne by the Supreme Court.

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Tamil Nadu Government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Government reviewed the impact of green manuring under the Chief Minister's Mannuyir Kaathu Mannuyir Kaappom Scheme. The scheme promotes green manuring, where specific crops are grown and mixed into the soil to improve soil health. Green manure seeds were supplied to farmers across all districts of Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ Impact studies have showed an increase in soil nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. Fields using green manuring showed better soil structure and water-holding capacity, especially in paddy cultivation. The practice helped in reducing chemical fertiliser use and improving sustainable farming.

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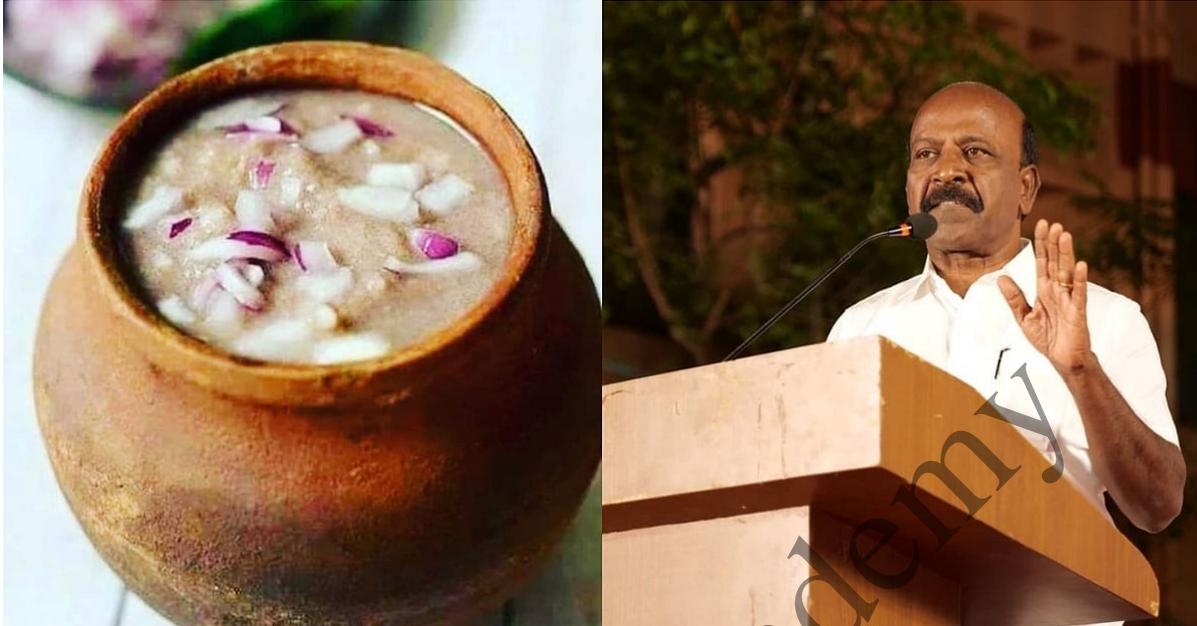
Fermented rice:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government is increasing public awareness about the health benefits of fermented rice after a five-year research study. The research was conducted by the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital(SMCH), Chennai.
- ➔ The study found that the fermented rice (Pazhaiya Soru) contains dietary fibre, resistant starch, protein, and micronutrients. It provides minerals such as iron, zinc, selenium, and B-complex vitamins.
- ➔ The food contains beneficial bacteria that support gut health. It helps in recovery from gastrointestinal disorders, including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

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UNICEF:

- ➔ UNICEF has signed a landmark partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu as its first-ever sub-national government partner globally. “Sub-National Partner” means UNICEF is officially working with a state government (Tamil Nadu) instead of only the national government.
- ➔ The agreement aims to strengthen public sector innovation and scale evidence based solutions for children and communities.
- ➔ UNICEF’s Office of Innovation will support technical capacity and innovation within Tamil Nadu’s public systems. This collaboration is the first of its kind between UNICEF Innovation and any sub-national government in the world.

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UNICEF Taps Tamil Nadu as First Sub-National Partner

The UNICEF Office of Innovation in Sweden has selected Tamil Nadu as the first sub-national entity globally for a partnership, proposing a six-month tripartite agreement with the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission.

This initiative is designed to align with Tamil Nadu's long-term vision, focusing on enhancing inclusive social development and streamlining public service delivery.

Oil:

- ➔ India's oil imports from Russia rose to a six-month high in November 2025, while imports from the US also increased. India imported 7.7 million tonnes of oil from Russia, accounting for 35.1% of total oil imports in November 2025. This was the highest level since May 2025 and was higher than imports in November 2024.
- ➔ In value terms, India imported \$3.7 billion worth of Russian oil in November 2025. Oil imports from the US rose to a seven-month high, making up about 12.6% of India's oil imports. Together, Russia and the US accounted for nearly half of India's total oil imports in November 2025.

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Donald Trump:

- ➔ US President Donald Trump invoked the Monroe Doctrine to justify a US military operation in Venezuela. The doctrine continues to affect modern geopolitics and international relations. The Monroe Doctrine was announced in 1823 by US President James Monroe.
- ➔ It stated that European countries should not interfere in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere. In return, the US declared that it would not interfere in European political matters. The doctrine aimed to protect newly independent Latin American countries from European colonisation.



Delhi Government:

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- The Delhi Government signed a historic MoU with the RBI. This brings Delhi under the RBI's full banking, cash, and debt management framework for the first time. Under the MoU, RBI will act as Delhi's banker, debt manager, and financial agent.
- The framework allows market borrowings through State Development Loans, automatic investment of surplus cash, and access to low-cost liquidity facilities. The Professional cash management practices will improve efficiency and reduce borrowing costs.



IXPE:

- NASA has, for the first time, studied the internal structure of a white dwarf system in detail. The study was carried out using the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer, which is known as IXPE. The observations focused on EX Hydrae, which is a white dwarf binary system located about two hundred light years away in the Hydra constellation.
- EX Hydrae emits strong X-rays because it pulls gas from a nearby companion star. IXPE measured the polarisation of X-rays to understand the structure of superheated gas near the white dwarf.

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Amaravati:

- ➔ The Union Home Ministry has approved Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. Amaravati officially became the state capital on June 2, 2024.
- ➔ Legal safeguards are being provided to strengthen Amaravati's status as the capital. Central institutions allotted under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, will establish offices in Amaravati.



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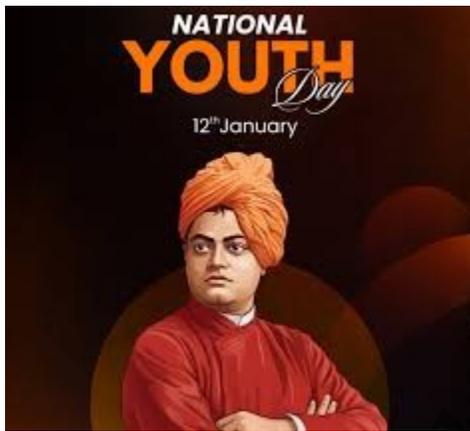
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2026, January 12

National Youth Day:

- ➔ National Youth Day is celebrated every year on January 12 across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of the country's most influential philosophers, spiritual leaders, and youth icons. More than just a commemorative date, National Youth Day serves as a powerful platform to inspire India's younger generation to embrace positive values and actively contribute to nation-building.
- ➔ The Government of India officially declared January 12 as National Youth Day in 1984, recognizing the need to link young people with the ideals and teachings of Swami Vivekananda while encouraging their active participation in shaping India's future.



Swami Vivekananda:

- ➔ The 164th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is a moment to remember a great thinker who shaped modern India's spiritual and social outlook.
- ➔ Celebrated every year on January 12, this day inspires millions to rise with confidence, discipline, and purpose. Swami Vivekananda believed that the strength of a nation lies in its youth. His message continues to guide India toward self-belief, unity, and progress.

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Virat Kohli:

- ➔ Indian cricket star Virat Kohli has once again etched his name into the record books. During a match winning innings against New Zealand, Kohli crossed a major milestone in international cricket. The achievement highlights his consistency, longevity, and dominance across formats, reinforcing his status as one of the greatest batters in the history of the game.
- ➔ Virat Kohli went past Sangakkara's tally of 28,016 international runs during his fluent 93-run knock. With this, Kohli now has 28,068 runs across Tests, ODIs, and T20 Internationals. He now stands second only to Sachin Tendulkar, who leads the list with 34,357 runs.

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Kerala government:

- ➔ The Kerala government has taken a major step towards biodiversity conservation by giving Aralam a new identity. The Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur has now been officially renamed as the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary.
- ➔ The decision recognises the area's exceptional butterfly diversity and marks a focused effort to protect fragile habitats while promoting awareness and eco-friendly development. Aralam is known for its rich abundance and diversity of butterflies, supported by dense forests and favourable climatic conditions.
- ➔ Experts observed that the region provides ideal breeding and feeding grounds for several rare and endemic butterfly species. Based on recommendations from the State Board for Wildlife, the government decided to give the sanctuary a focused conservation identity.

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Meghalaya:

- ➔ In a landmark moment for the judiciary in Northeast India, Meghalaya has appointed its first woman Chief Justice. Justice Revati Mohite Dere took oath in Shillong, creating history in the matrilineal state.
- ➔ Her appointment is seen as a step towards greater gender representation in higher judiciary and strengthening judicial leadership in the region. Meghalaya is a matrilineal society, but representation of women in top constitutional posts has remained limited.
- ➔ Justice Dere's appointment as Chief Justice carries symbolic and institutional importance. It strengthens gender inclusivity in the higher judiciary and sets a precedent for greater representation of women in leadership roles within India's judicial system.

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PSLV-C62 rocket:

- ➔ India's PSLV-C62 rocket carrying the EOS-N1 satellite encountered an anomaly during the final phase of its third stage on January 12, 2026. The launch took place from Sriharikota after a 22.5 hour countdown.
- ➔ While initial stages performed normally, deviations in roll rate and flight path were observed, prompting ISRO to begin a detailed technical analysis.
- ➔ The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission faced a technical anomaly near the end of the PS3 stage. ISRO confirmed that the issue led to deviations in the rocket's trajectory, and further assessment of mission data is in progress.

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Bio – bitumen:

- ➔ India becomes the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen for road construction, announced by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at the CSIR Technology Transfer Ceremony in New Delhi. Bio-bitumen, made from biomass and agricultural waste, reduces dependence on fossil fuels and addresses crop residue burning, a major source of air pollution.
- ➔ The initiative demonstrates successful technology transfer by CSIR, supports Viksit Bharat 2047, promotes cleaner highways, circular economy practices, and sustainable infrastructure development.

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Nagauri Ashwagandha:

- ➔ The Centre has granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Nagauri Ashwagandha, giving Nagaur district of Rajasthan a distinct global agricultural identity. Nagaur's dry climate and sandy soil produce Ashwagandha with longer, thicker roots and bright red berries, making it high-quality and the basis for the GI status.
- ➔ The GI recognition protects authenticity, prevents misuse, enhances export potential, and is expected to improve farmers' incomes through premium pricing and market security.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government launched the “Namma Arasu” WhatsApp chatbot to provide government services to citizens through WhatsApp. The chatbot was introduced at the UimageTN 2026 event.
- ➔ Citizens can access the service by sending messages to +91 7845252525 on WhatsApp. It offers 51 government services from multiple departments. Services available include certificate downloads, utility and tax bill payments, welfare schemes, grievance filing, and more.

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BRICS:

- ➔ Brazil has handed over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) presidency to India for 2026. India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026. India's chairmanship focuses on four pillars: Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Environmental Sustainability.
- ➔ India aims to reform global governance without replacing international institutions like the IMF and the World Bank. India represents the concerns of the Global South and promotes a multipolar world order. BRICS includes approximately 49.5% of the global population, 40% of global GDP, and 26% of global trade.

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Silver:

- ➔ India imported \$6.4 billion of refined silver in 2024, making it the world's largest consumer of finished silver. In FY25, India exported only \$478.4 million of silver products while importing \$4.83 billion.
- ➔ China dominates global silver processing, importing \$5.6 billion of silver ores and concentrates and exporting high-value silver products. Silver is critical for industry and energy transition, used in electronics, solar panels, electric vehicles, medical devices, and batteries.

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Cosmic dust:

- ➔ ISRO reported that cosmic dust hits Earth's atmosphere every 16 minutes. This was detected using the Dust Experiment DEX, which is India's first indigenous cosmic dust detector. DEX was launched on January 1, 2024, on the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite XPoSat mission. The particles detected are Interplanetary Dust Particles that mainly come from comets and asteroids.
- ➔ These particles form a thin meteor layer in Earth's atmosphere. The data support satellite safety and space environment studies.

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Reserved Forests:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government notified 100 forest blocks as Reserved Forests during 2021–2025. This brought about 13,495 hectares under legal forest protection in the State. The notifications were issued under Section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882.
- ➔ The new reserve forests are located across 10 districts, including Dindigul, the Nilgiris, and Theni. Dindigul district has the highest number, with 37 new reserve forest blocks. Kallakurichi district has the largest area added, with about 4,118 hectares.



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West Bengal:

- West Bengal has started a 5 km long bridge over the Muriganga River to connect Sagar Island with the mainland. The bridge will connect Lot 8 in Kakdwip with Kachuberia on Sagar Island.
- The total project cost is ₹1,670 crore. Sagar Island is the largest island in the Sundarbans delta. The island hosts the annual Gangasagar Mela during Makar Sankranti.



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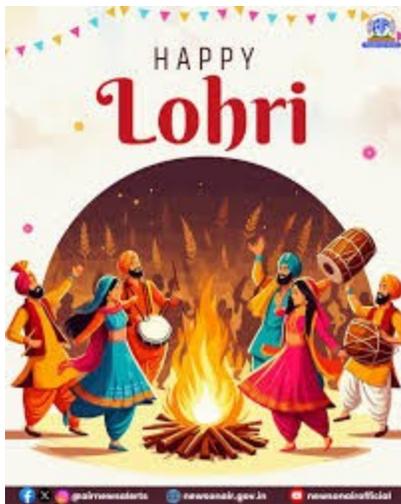
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2026, January 13

Lohri:

- ➔ Lohri is a popular winter festival celebrated mainly in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi. It marks the end of the harsh winter season and the arrival of longer, warmer days. Deeply rooted in agriculture and community life, Lohri brings families together to express gratitude for harvests and to celebrate joy, togetherness, and renewal.
- ➔ Lohri is celebrated every year on 13 January, a day before Makar Sankranti. In 2026, Lohri will be observed on Tuesday, 13 January 2026, symbolizing the Sun's northward movement and the gradual transition from winter to spring.



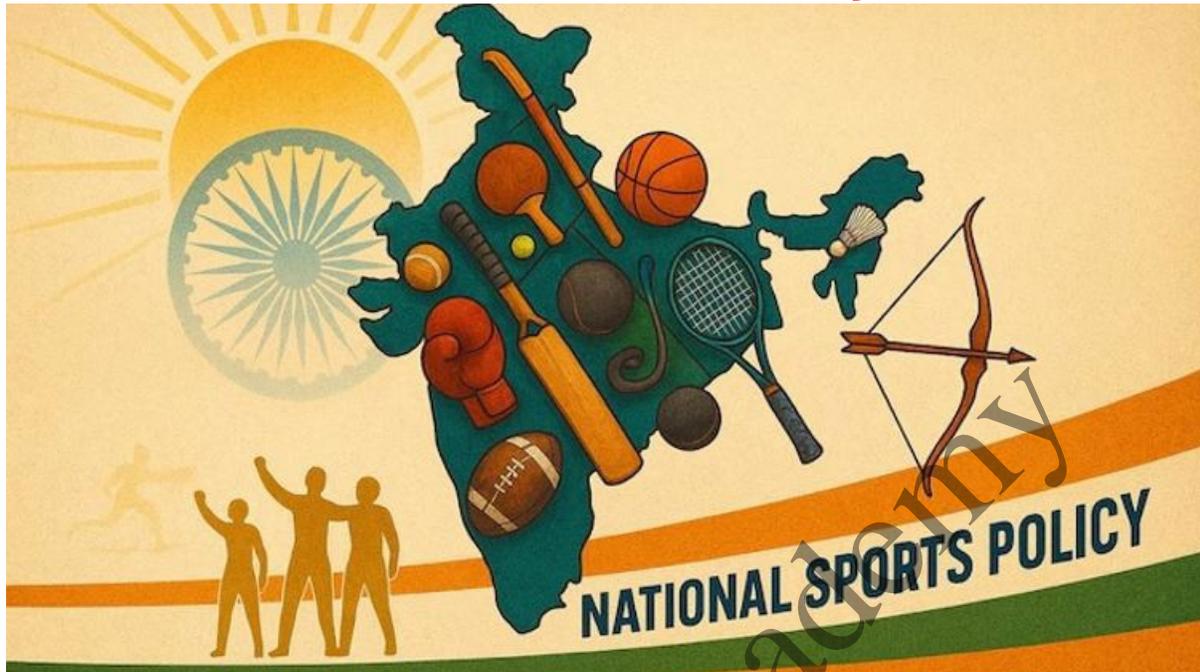
National Sports Governance:

- ➔ India has taken a decisive step towards reforming sports administration with the notification of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026. These rules aim to ensure transparency, athlete-centric governance, and gender representation in national sports bodies.
- ➔ By clearly defining election procedures, eligibility, and accountability norms, the government seeks to professionalize sports governance and align it with global best practices. The objective is to create a transparent, accountable and athlete driven sports ecosystem while ensuring smooth transition to a statutory governance framework.

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Andhra Pradesh government:

- ➔ The Andhra Pradesh government has approved the Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport project in Nellore district, marking a major step in strengthening the state's aviation and logistics infrastructure.
- ➔ The airport is expected to improve regional connectivity, support industrial growth, and integrate air transport with ports and highways, making southern Andhra Pradesh more competitive and investment-ready.

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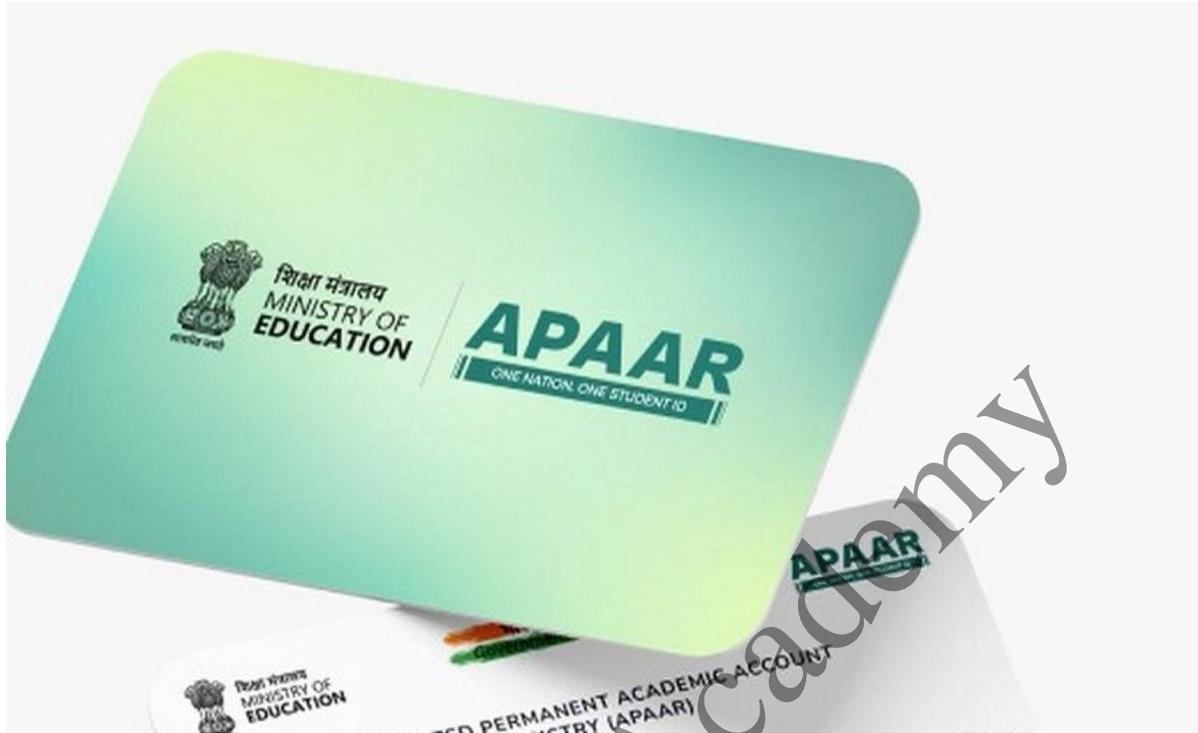
Chhattisgarh:

- ➔ Chhattisgarh has made a major stride in strengthening digital education systems by leading large states in the creation of APAAR IDs for students.
- ➔ As of early January 2026, the state has achieved nearly 89 per cent coverage, reflecting strong administrative coordination and timely implementation of a key national education reform aimed at creating secure digital academic identities.
- ➔ Chhattisgarh has emerged as the top-performing large state in generating APAAR (Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry) IDs.
- ➔ The state has covered over 88% of enrolled students, moving rapidly towards the national deadline set by the central government. APAAR ID is a permanent digital academic identity provided to students to securely store their academic records, achievements, certificates and credits.

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Uttarakhand Police:

- ➔ Uttarakhand Police secured first position nationally in the ICJS 2.0 rankings with a score of 93.46, as per the NCRB's CCTNS/ICJS Progress Dashboard, ahead of Haryana and Assam.
- ➔ The achievement reflects advanced digital adoption, strong inter-departmental coordination, and effective implementation of ICJS modules across districts under the "One Data, One Entry" principle.

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TAPS:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Government has implemented the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS) for State government employees from January 1, 2026. A Government Order (G.O.) was issued by the Finance Department on January 9, 2026, to enforce the scheme.
- ➔ All government employees joining service from January 1, 2026, will be compulsorily covered under TAPS. Employees covered under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) and retiring on or after January 1, 2026, will come under TAPS.
- ➔ Employees who were in service before January 1, 2026, under CPS can choose TAPS or CPS benefits at the time of retirement. Under TAPS, employees will get an assured pension equal to 50% of last-drawn basic pay and dearness allowance (DA), with 10% contribution by the employee and the remaining amount paid by the State Government.

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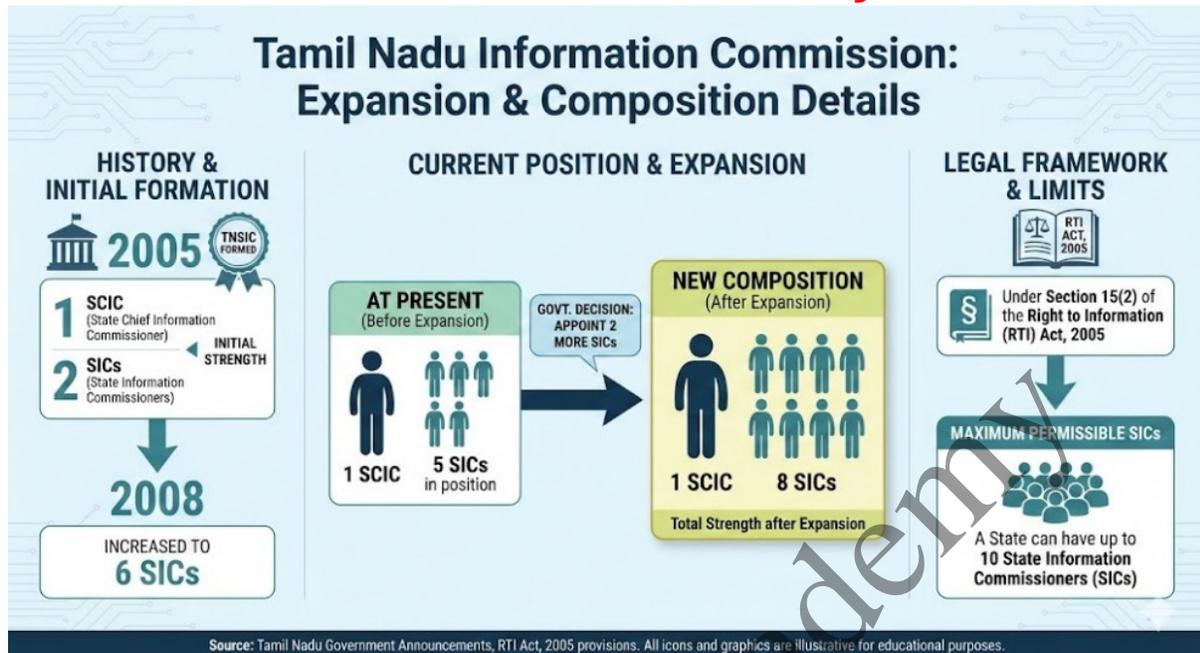
Tamil Nadu Government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to appoint two more State Information Commissioners in the Tamil Nadu Information Commission. With this, the Commission will have one State Chief Information Commissioner(SCIC) and eight State Information Commissioners (SICs).
- ➔ The Commission was formed in 2005 with one SCIC and two SICs, which was increased to six SICs in 2008. At present, there is one SCIC and five SICs in position. Under Section 15(2) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, a State can have up to 10 State Information Commissioners.

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Kalpetta judicial district:

- ➔ The Kalpetta judicial district in Kerala's Wayanad district has become India's First Fully Paperless District Court. It is to function as a completely paperless court system, marking a major milestone in India's judicial digitisation efforts. Under the new system, all courts in the district judiciary will operate entirely in digital mode, from the filing of cases to the delivery of final judgments.
- ➔ Every stage of the judicial process—including pre-trial proceedings, recording of evidence, interlocutory applications and final adjudication—will now be conducted electronically. The system also integrates Artificial Intelligence-based judicial assistance tools. The entire system has been developed in-house by the Kerala High Court.

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2026, January 14

Pawan Kalyan:

- ➔ Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has achieved a rare global distinction by being inducted into Kenjutsu, an ancient Japanese samurai swordsmanship tradition.
- ➔ This prestigious honour places him among a select few non-Japanese practitioners worldwide and highlights India's growing presence in global cultural and martial traditions.
- ➔ Pawan Kalyan has become the first Indian to be formally inducted into the Samurai martial arts tradition of Kenjutsu, a rare recognition usually reserved for Japanese practitioners and conferred outside Japan only in exceptional cases.



Makar Sankranti:

- ➔ Makar Sankranti 2026 will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 14, marking an important solar event in the Hindu calendar.
- ➔ The festival signifies the Sun's transition into the Capricorn zodiac sign, ending winter and welcoming longer days. It is widely observed across India with prayers, charity, holy baths, and harvest celebrations. Makar Sankranti is one of the few Hindu festivals based on the solar calendar, giving it a fixed date every year.

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- ➔ It marks Uttarayan, the northward journey of the Sun, which is considered highly auspicious. Traditionally, this phase symbolizes light, positivity, renewal, and spiritual progress, along with the start of a new agricultural cycle.
- ➔ In Tamil Nadu, Makar Sankranti is celebrated as Pongal, a four-day harvest festival. The freshly harvested rice is cooked and offered to the Sun God as a mark of gratitude and prosperity.



Rajasthan:

- ➔ Rajasthan has achieved an important milestone in sustainable agriculture. Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat has officially become the first fully organic village body in the state, covering seven hamlets.
- ➔ The achievement highlights India's growing focus on chemical-free farming, environmental protection, and farmer-friendly agricultural practices. The move strengthens rural livelihoods while promoting healthier food systems and long-term soil sustainability.

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Global Index:

- ➔ A new global index aimed at measuring responsible state behaviour will be launched later this month. The Responsible Nations Index seeks to evaluate how countries perform in areas such as citizen well-being, environmental stewardship and global cooperation.
- ➔ The initiative comes at a time when nations are facing shared challenges related to sustainability, governance and international stability. The Responsible Nations Index will be launched on January 19 by the World Intellectual Foundation.
- ➔ The launch will take place in New Delhi in the presence of Ram Nath Kovind. The Responsible Nations Index is a global assessment framework designed to evaluate how responsibly countries function in today's interconnected world. It covers 154 countries, making it one of the broader international indices in scope.



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Passport Index:

- ➔ The Henley Passport Index 2026 once again highlights the sharp divide in global travel freedom, ranking passports based on how many destinations their holders can visit without needing a visa in advance.
- ➔ The Henley Passport Index 2026 has ranked India at 80th position globally. Indian passport holders get visa free, visa-on-arrival or e-visa access to 55 destinations, up from last year's rank of 85.



Aritra Roy:

- ➔ Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy has achieved a major milestone by successfully summiting Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. Known as the highest peak outside Asia, Aconcagua is one of the toughest mountains in the world.
- ➔ Roy's feat reflects determination, physical endurance and meticulous planning, and adds to India's growing list of achievements in international mountaineering.

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SDGs:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has released the State Indicator Framework (SIF) 2.0 to track progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The framework reduces indicators from 314 to 244 across 17 SDGs and is monitored by 28 State departments.
- ➔ Tamil Nadu's multidimensional poverty rate is 2.2%, compared to 33.76% in Bihar and 22.93% in Uttar Pradesh, as per NITI Aayog. The State has an under-five mortality rate of 13 per 1,000 live births and 99.98% institutional deliveries.
- ➔ Tamil Nadu ranks second in the SDG India Index 2023–24 with a score of 78. SIF 2.0 is aligned with the UN Global Indicator Framework and India's National Indicator Framework (2025).



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NIDMS:

- ➔ The union home minister has inaugurated the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS). The NIDMS is a national digital platform for storing and analysing Improvised Explosive Device (IED) data. It has been developed by the National Bomb Data Centre of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- ➔ The system will support post-blast investigations and forensic analysis. It will enable data sharing among the State Police, Central Armed Police Forces(CAPFs), and Central agencies. NSG works under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



PANKHUDI:

- ➔ Union Minister for Women and Child Development launched the PANKHUDI portal to improve ease of living for women and children in India. The portal is an integrated digital platform that enhances coordination, transparency, and stakeholder participation in women and child development initiatives.
- ➔ It covers key areas such as nutrition, health, early childhood care and education, child welfare, and women's safety and empowerment. The portal will strengthen services

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through over 14 lakh Anganwadi centres, 5,000 child care institutions, and nearly 800 One Stop Centres.



Puri:

- ➔ Puri in Odisha officially became India's first city where tap water is safe to drink directly, without boiling or filtering. Puri's achievement complies with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the highest certifying body on food and water certification under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.
- ➔ The mission is a part of the Centre's Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2015 mission for safe water access.
- ➔ In 2017, Odisha became the first and only state in India to roll out a pioneering 'Drink from Tap' initiative. In 1908, Jersey City of USA became the first city in the world to continuously disinfect its water supply.



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2026, January 17

CVC:

- ➔ The Union government has strengthened the country's anti-corruption framework with a key appointment. Shri Praveen Vashista, a senior Indian Police Service officer, has been appointed as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ➔ The President of India has appointed Shri Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission under the provisions of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.
- ➔ Shri Praveen Vashista was appointed through a Presidential warrant dated December 12, 2025, exercising powers under Section 4(1) of the CVC Act, 2003. He made and subscribed to his oath of office on January 16, 2026, before the Central Vigilance Commission.
- ➔ The oath was administered by the Central Vigilance Commissioner, who was authorised by the President under Section 5(3) of the Act. The ceremony was attended by senior officials from vigilance and enforcement agencies.



Aaryan Varshney:

- ➔ Indian chess player Aaryan Varshney became India's 92nd Grandmaster after securing his final GM norm at the Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia.
- ➔ His achievement reflects India's growing dominance in global chess and the steady emergence of young champions.

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VSZ:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department informed the Madras High Court that the process to set up Vulture Safe Zones (VSZs) has started. The first VSZ will be created around the Moyar River Valley in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.
- ➔ It is being done under the Vision Document for Vulture Conservation (VDVC) in Tamil Nadu 2025–2030. A field-level monitoring committee has been formed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden (PCCF-cum-CWC).



IRENA:

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- India's Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy has attended the 16th Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- IRENA is an intergovernmental organization established in 2009 to promote the use of renewable energy worldwide. It supports countries in shifting to a sustainable energy future by sharing policy, technology and financial knowledge.
- IRENA headquarters Abu Dhabi, UAE and has 170 members (169 countries and the European Union (EU)); India is a founding member. IRENA is an official observer of the United Nations (UN).



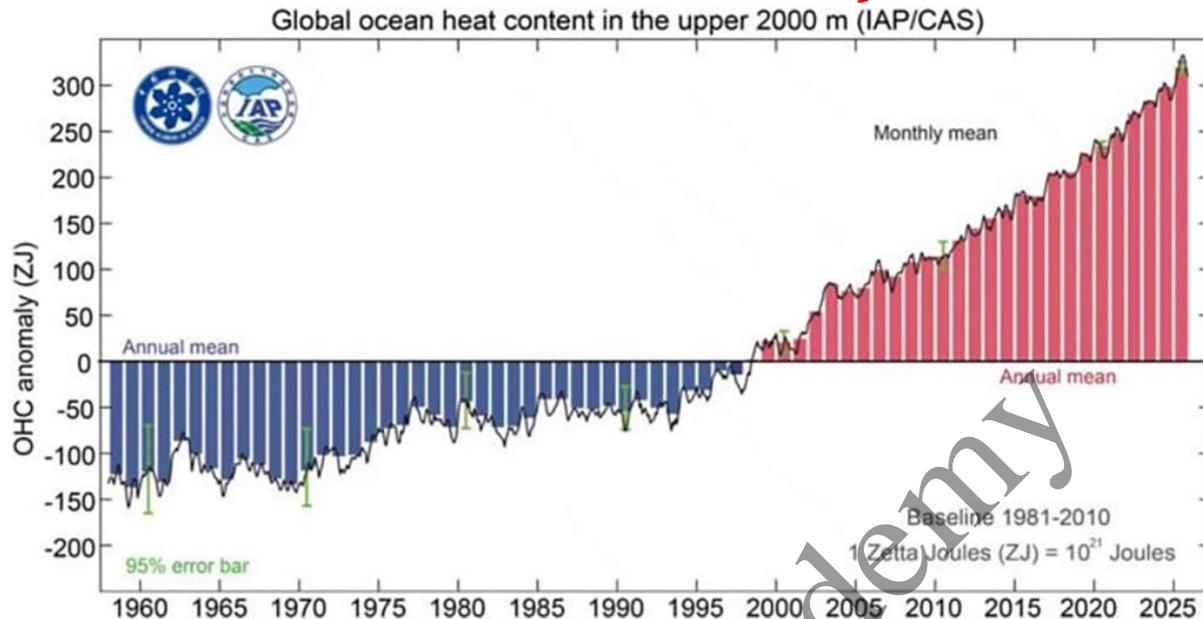
Earth's ocean heat content:

- Earth's ocean heat content (OHC) has set a new record in 2025 by absorbing an additional ~23 zettajoules (ZJ) of heat. It marking the ninth consecutive year of record-breaking warmth.
- Oceans absorbed nearly 90% of excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases, with global average sea surface temperatures ~0.5°C above the 1981–2010 average. Impacts include increased ocean stratification, marine heat waves, intense storms, coral bleaching, and threats to marine life and ocean productivity.
- The study highlights the oceans as the primary buffer of global warming and the urgent need for climate mitigation measures.

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BMC:

- ➔ The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is one of the largest spending authorities in the country. For FY 2025–26, the BMC has proposed a budget of Rs 74,427 crore, its highest ever.
- ➔ Its Capital expenditure alone accounts for about Rs 43,162 crore. Bengaluru's BBMP operates on roughly Rs 19,900 crore only. Goa's total budget for 2025–26: Rs 28,162 crore.

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Madhya Pradesh:

- ➔ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government launched Swachh Jal Abhiyan after a water contamination incident in Indore raised serious public health concerns. The campaign aims to ensure safe and clean drinking water across the state.
- ➔ The mission uses robotic technology and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to detect leakages and sewage–drinking water line intersections.
- ➔ The program includes regular water quality testing and cleaning of treatment plants and storage tanks. Citizens can report issues through ‘Jal Sunwai’ (water grievance hearings) for quick resolution.

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Kathputli:

- ➔ Kathputli, meaning wooden doll (kath = wood, putli = doll), is one of Rajasthan's oldest folk-art forms. Around 250 families in Kathputli Nagar, Jaipur, make and preserve these puppets, sewing bright costumes and painting expressive faces.
- ➔ Puppets are used by travelling performers to narrate tales of Rajput kings, warriors, folk heroes, and moral stories.
- ➔ Performances feature strings, folk music, and rhythmic narration, reflecting Rajasthan's culture and social identity. Kathputlis are showcased in local homes, cultural fairs, and stages worldwide, keeping the tradition alive.

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Kerala Legislative Assembly:

- ➔ The Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025, making Malayalam the sole official language of the State.
- ➔ The Bill mandates the use of Malayalam in government administration, education, judiciary, public communication, commerce, and digital platforms. All government schools must teach Malayalam as the first language up to Class 10. Also, provisions exist for linguistic minority students to study their mother tongue.
- ➔ Bills, ordinances, and court judgments will be introduced or translated into Malayalam, and official correspondence will primarily use the language. The Bill has faced opposition from Karnataka over concerns for Kannada speaking minorities, while Kerala maintains it protects minority rights under Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

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2026, January 17

CVC:

- மத்திய அரசு ஒரு முக்கிய நியமனத்தின் மூலம் நாட்டின் ஊழல் தடுப்பு கட்டமைப்பை வலுப்படுத்தியுள்ளது. மூத்த இந்தியக் காவல் பணி அதிகாரியான திரு. பிரவீன் வசிஷ்டா, மத்திய ஊழல் கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையத்தில் (CVC) கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையராக நியமிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளார்.
- இந்தியக் குடியரசுத் தலைவர், 2003 ஆம் ஆண்டு மத்திய ஊழல் கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையச் சட்டத்தின் விதிகளின் கீழ், திரு. பிரவீன் வசிஷ்டாவை மத்திய ஊழல் கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையத்தில் கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையராக நியமித்துள்ளார்.
- 2003 ஆம் ஆண்டு CVC சட்டத்தின் பிரிவு 4(1) இன் கீழ் வழங்கப்பட்ட அதிகாரங்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி, 2025 ஆம் ஆண்டு டிசம்பர் 12 ஆம் தேதி தேதியிட்ட குடியரசுத் தலைவர் ஆணை மூலம் திரு. பிரவீன் வசிஷ்டா நியமிக்கப்பட்டார்.
- அவர் 2026 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஜனவரி 16 ஆம் தேதி மத்திய ஊழல் கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையத்தின் முன் தனது பதவிப் பிரமாணத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்.
- சட்டத்தின் பிரிவு 5(3) இன் கீழ் குடியரசுத் தலைவரால் அங்கீகரிக்கப்பட்ட மத்திய ஊழல் கண்காணிப்பு ஆணையரால் அவருக்கு பதவிப் பிரமாணம் செய்து வைக்கப்பட்டது. இந்த விழாவில் கண்காணிப்பு மற்றும் அமலாக்க முகமைகளின் மூத்த அதிகாரிகள் கலந்துகொண்டனர்.

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ஆரியன் வர்ஷ்னே:

- ஆர்மீனியாவில் நடைபெற்ற ஆண்ட்ரானிக் மார்கரியன் நினைவுப் போட்டியில் தனது இறுதி கிராண்ட்மாஸ்டர் தகுதியை உறுதிசெய்ததன் மூலம், இந்திய சதுரங்க வீரர் ஆரியன் வர்ஷ்னே இந்தியாவின் 92வது கிராண்ட்மாஸ்டர் ஆனார்.
- அவரது இந்தச் சாதனை, உலக சதுரங்கத்தில் இந்தியாவின் வளர்ந்து வரும் ஆதிக்கத்தையும், இளம் சாம்பியன்களின் தொடர்ச்சியான எழுச்சியையும் பிரதிபலிக்கிறது.

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VSZ:

- தமிழ்நாட்டில் கழுகுகளுக்கான பாதுகாக்கப்பட்ட மண்டலங்களை (VSZs) அமைக்கும் பணி தொடங்கப்பட்டுள்ளதாக தமிழ்நாடு வனத்துறை சென்னை உயர் நீதிமன்றத்தில் தெரிவித்துள்ளது.
- முதல் பாதுகாக்கப்பட்ட மண்டலம் நீலகிரி உயிர்க்கோளக் காப்பகத்தில் உள்ள மோயார் ஆற்றுப் பள்ளத்தாக்கைச் சுற்றி உருவாக்கப்பட உள்ளது.
- இது தமிழ்நாட்டிற்கான கழுகு பாதுகாப்பு தொலைநோக்கு ஆவணம் 2025-2030-இன் கீழ் மேற்கொள்ளப்படுகிறது. முதன்மை தலைமை வனப் பாதுகாவலர் மற்றும் தலைமை வனவிலங்கு காப்பாளர் (PCCF-cum-CWC) அவர்களால் கள அளவிலான கண்காணிப்புக் குழு ஒன்று அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

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IRENA:

- இந்தியாவின் புதிய மற்றும் புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க எரிசக்தித் துறைக்கான மத்திய அமைச்சர், ஐக்கிய அரபு அமீரகத்தின் அபுதாபியில் நடைபெற்ற சர்வதேச புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க எரிசக்தி முகமையின் (IRENA) 16வது மாநாட்டில் கலந்துகொண்டார்.
- IRENA என்பது உலகளவில் புதுப்பிக்கத்தக்க எரிசக்தியின் பயன்பாட்டை ஊக்குவிப்பதற்காக 2009-ல் நிறுவப்பட்ட ஒரு அரசுகளுக்கிடையேயான அமைப்பாகும். இது கொள்கை, தொழில்நுட்பம் மற்றும் நிதி தொடர்பான அறிவைப் பகிர்வதன் மூலம், நாடுகள் ஒரு நிலையான எரிசக்தி எதிர்காலத்திற்கு மாறுவதற்கு ஆதரவளிக்கிறது.
- IRENA-வின் தலைமையகம் ஐக்கிய அரபு அமீரகத்தின் அபுதாபியில் அமைந்துள்ளது. இதில் 170 உறுப்பினர்கள் உள்ளனர் (169 நாடுகள் மற்றும் ஜரோப்பிய ஒன்றியம்); இந்தியா இதன் நிறுவன உறுப்பினர்களில் ஒன்றாகும். IRENA ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபையின் (UN) அதிகாரப்பூர்வ பார்வையாளர் அமைப்பாகும்.

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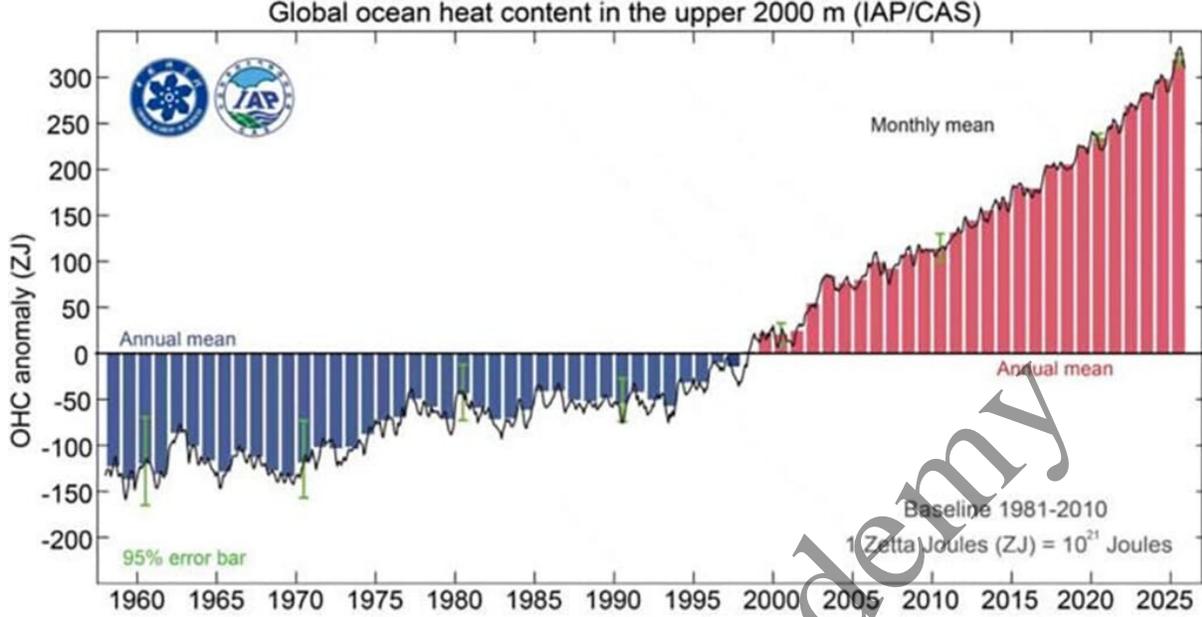
பெருங்கடல் வெப்ப உள்ளடக்கம்:

- ➔ பூமியின் பெருங்கடல் வெப்ப உள்ளடக்கம் (OHC) 2025 ஆம் ஆண்டில் சுமார் 23 செட்டாஜூல் (ZJ) கூடுதல் வெப்பத்தை உறிஞ்சி ஒரு புதிய சாதனையை எட்டியுள்ளது.
- ➔ இது தொடர்ச்சியாக ஒன்பதாவது ஆண்டாகப் பதிவான அதிகபட்ச வெப்பநிலையைக் குறிக்கிறது. பசுமை இல்ல வாயுக்களால் சிக்கவைக்கப்பட்ட அதிகப்படியான வெப்பத்தில் கிட்டத்தட்ட 90 சதவீதத்தை பெருங்கடல்கள் உறிஞ்சியுள்ளன; இதன் விளைவாக உலக சராசரி கடல் மேற்பரப்பு வெப்பநிலை 1981-2010 சராசரியை விட சுமார் 0.5°C அதிகமாக உள்ளது.
- ➔ இதன் தாக்கங்களில் பெருங்கடல் அடுக்குமயமாதல் அதிகரிப்பு, கடல் வெப்ப அலைகள், தீவிரப் புயல்கள், பவளப்பாறைகள் வெளுத்தல் மற்றும் கடல்வாழ் உயிரினங்களுக்கும் கடல் உற்பத்தித்திறனுக்கும் ஏற்படும் அச்சுறுத்தல்கள் ஆகியவை அடங்கும்.
- ➔ இந்த ஆய்வு, புவி வெப்பமடைதலுக்கு எதிரான முதன்மைத் தடையாகப் பெருங்கடல்கள் விளங்குவதையும், காலநிலை மாற்றத்தைக் குறைப்பதற்கான நடவடிக்கைகள் உடனடியாகத் தேவை என்பதையும் எடுத்துரைக்கிறது.

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பிளம்சி:

- பிருஹன்மும்பை மாநகராட்சி (பிளம்சி) நாட்டின் மிகப்பெரிய செலவின அதிகார அமைப்புகளில் ஒன்றாகும். 2025-26 நிதியாண்டிற்காக, பிளம்சி தனது வரலாற்றிலேயே இல்லாத அளவுக்கு அதிகபட்சமாக ரூ. 74,427 கோடி மதிப்பிலான வரவுசெலவுத் திட்டத்தை முன்மொழிந்துள்ளது.
- அதன் மூலதனச் செலவினம் மட்டுமே சுமார் ரூ. 43,162 கோடியாக உள்ளது. பெங்களூருவின் பிபிஎம்பி சுமார் ரூ. 19,900 கோடி பட்ஜெட்டில் மட்டுமே செயல்படுகிறது. 2025-26 ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான கோவாவின் மொத்த பட்ஜெட் ரூ. 28,162 கோடி ஆகும்.

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மத்தியப் பிரதேச (ம.பி.) அரசு:

- இந்தூரில் நீர் மாசுபாடு ஏற்பட்ட சம்பவம் பொது சுகாதாரக் கவலைகளை எழுப்பியதைத் தொடர்ந்து, மத்தியப் பிரதேச (ம.பி.) அரசு ஸ்வச் ஜல் அபியானைத் தொடங்கியது. மாநிலம் முழுவதும் பாதுகாப்பான மற்றும் சுத்தமான குடிநீரை உறுதி செய்வதே இந்த பிரச்சாரத்தின் நோக்கமாகும்.
- கசிவுகள் மற்றும் கழிவுநீர்-குடிநீர் குழாய் சந்திப்புகளைக் கண்டறிய இந்த இயக்கம் ரோபோ தொழில்நுட்பம் மற்றும் புவியியல் தகவல் அமைப்பு (GIS) மேப்பிங்கைப் பயன்படுத்துகிறது.
- இந்தத் திட்டத்தில் வழக்கமான நீர் தர சோதனை மற்றும் சுத்திகரிப்பு நிலையங்கள் மற்றும் சேமிப்பு தொட்டிகளை சுத்தம் செய்தல் ஆகியவை அடங்கும். விரைவான தீர்வுக்காக குடிமக்கள் 'ஜல் சன்வாய்' (தண்ணீர் குறை விசாரணைகள்) மூலம் பிரச்சினைகளைப் புகாரளிக்கலாம்.

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கத்புத்லி:

- கத்புத்லி, அதாவது மரப்பொம்மை (கத் = மரம், புத்லி = பொம்மை), ராஜஸ்தானின் பழமையான நாட்டுப்புறக் கலை வடிவங்களில் ஒன்றாகும். ஜெய்ப்பூரில் உள்ள கத்புத்லி நகரில் சுமார் 250 குடும்பங்கள் இந்த பொம்மைகளை உருவாக்கிப் பாதுகாத்து வருகின்றன; அவர்கள் வண்ணமயமான ஆடைகளைத் தைத்து, உணர்ச்சிப்பூர்வமான முகங்களை வரைகின்றனர்.
- பயணக் கலைஞர்கள் இந்த பொம்மைகளைப் பயன்படுத்தி ராஜபுத்திர மன்னர்கள், வீரர்கள், நாட்டுப்புற நாயகர்கள் மற்றும் நீதி போதிக்கும் கதைகளைச் சொல்கிறார்கள்.
- இந்த நிகழ்ச்சிகளில் கயிறுகள், நாட்டுப்புற இசை மற்றும் தாளத்துடன் கூடிய கதைசொல்லல் ஆகியவை இடம்பெற்று, ராஜஸ்தானின் கலாச்சாரம் மற்றும் சமூக அடையாளத்தைப் பிரதிபலிக்கின்றன. கத்புத்லிகள் உள்ளூர் வீடுகள், கலாச்சாரக் கண்காட்சிகள் மற்றும் உலகெங்கிலும் உள்ள மேடைகளில் காட்சிப்படுத்தப்பட்டு, இந்த பாரம்பரியம் உயிர்ப்புடன் வைத்திருக்கப்படுகிறது.

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கேரள சட்டமன்றம்:

- கேரள சட்டமன்றம் 2025-ஆம் ஆண்டு மலையாள மொழி மசோதாவை நிறைவேற்றியுள்ளது. இதன் மூலம் மலையாளம் மாநிலத்தின் ஒரே அதிகாரப்பூர்வ மொழியாகிறது.
- இந்த மசோதா அரசு நிர்வாகம், கல்வி, நீதித்துறை, பொதுத் தொடர்பு, வர்த்தகம் மற்றும் டிஜிட்டல் தளங்களில் மலையாளத்தைப் பயன்படுத்துவதை கட்டாயமாக்குகிறது. அனைத்து அரசுப் பள்ளிகளிலும் 10-ஆம் வகுப்பு வரை மலையாளம் முதல் மொழியாகக் கற்பிக்கப்பட வேண்டும்.
- மேலும், மொழிச் சிறுபான்மை மாணவர்கள் தங்கள் தாய்மொழியைப் படிப்பதற்கான ஏற்பாடுகளும் உள்ளன. மசோதாக்கள், அவசரச் சட்டங்கள் மற்றும் நீதிமன்றத் தீர்ப்புகள் மலையாளத்தில் அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்படும் அல்லது மொழிபெயர்க்கப்படும், மேலும் அதிகாரப்பூர்வ கடிதப் போக்குவரத்தில் முதன்மையாக இந்த மொழி பயன்படுத்தப்படும்.

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2026, January 20

Ajanta–Ellora:

- ➔ Renowned music maestro Ilaiyaraaja is set to receive a major cinematic honor in early 2026. The legendary composer will be conferred the Padmapani Award at the 11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival, recognising his timeless contribution to Indian film music. The announcement has been widely welcomed across the film and cultural fraternity.
- ➔ The Padmapani Award is one of the most prestigious honours given by the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival. It is awarded to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to cinema and the arts.
- ➔ The award includes a Padmapani memento, a citation certificate, and a cash prize of ₹2 lakh, symbolising both artistic excellence and cultural impact.



Vidarbha:

- ➔ Vidarbha achieved a landmark milestone in Indian domestic cricket by winning their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy. The team defeated Saurashtra in the final at Bengaluru with a confident all-round performance.
- ➔ Strong batting at the top and disciplined bowling later ensured Vidarbha lifted the prestigious List A title for the first time in their cricketing history. The Vijay Hazare Trophy is India's premier domestic one day tournament, played in the 50 over List A format.

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- ➔ It is named after legendary Indian cricketer Vijay Hazare. While Vidarbha have previously won the Ranji Trophy, this was their first victory in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, highlighting their growing strength in limited-overs cricket.



National responsibility:

- ➔ India has achieved a notable position in a new global assessment of national responsibility. India has been ranked 16th among 154 countries in the Responsible Nations Index, reflecting its performance in governance, environmental stewardship, and contribution to global stability.
- ➔ The ranking highlights that responsible national behavior is not determined only by economic power.
- ➔ The Responsible Nations Index is a global framework launched by the World Intellectual Foundation. It measures how responsibly countries exercise power in three key areas: towards their own citizens, towards the environment, and towards the global community.

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Asia Manufacturing Index:

- ➔ India has been placed sixth in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026, reflecting steady progress but also exposing gaps in competitiveness. The ranking compares major Asian manufacturing economies across key structural and policy indicators.
- ➔ While India remains an important manufacturing destination, the index suggests that stronger reforms and faster execution are needed to keep pace with leading Asian peers.
- ➔ India ranked sixth among 11 Asian countries in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026. The index highlights rising competition in Asia and the need for India to accelerate manufacturing reforms.

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University of New South Wales:

- ➔ University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia, to open its Bengaluru campus at Manyata Tech Park in August 2026, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the presence of Ministers M.B. Patil and M.C. Sudhakar.
- ➔ The campus will initially offer undergraduate programmes in commerce, media, computer science, and data science, along with a postgraduate programme in cyber security.

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Literary awards:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced annual literary awards in 7 languages including Tamil, Bengali and Marathi. In the first phase, award will be given in the name of 'Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu'.
- ➔ It is for the best works in the languages of Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali and Marathi. The award for each language carries Rs 5 lakh cash prize.

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Supreme Court:

- ➔ The Supreme Court upheld the Lok Sabha Speaker's formation of an Inquiry Committee to investigate the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma. Rejection of a motion in one House (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha) does not prevent the other House from forming an inquiry committee.
- ➔ Articles 124 (Supreme Court judges) and 218 (High Court judges) deal with the removal of judges. Judges can be removed only for proven misbehaviour or incapacity. The Inquiry Committee comprises a Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice, and a distinguished jurist, and is formed by the Speaker or Chairman after admission of the motion.
- ➔ The motion requires a special majority in both Houses of Parliament, and removal is executed by the President of India. No judge of the higher judiciary has been successfully removed so far.

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Delhi High Court:

- ➔ The Delhi High Court observed that the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES Fund) has a right to privacy under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The bench noted that privacy protections may extend to juristic or government linked entities.
- ➔ This observation came during an appeal against a single-judge ruling that had set aside the Central Information Commission (CIC) order on disclosure of PM CARES tax exemptions.
- ➔ The Income Tax Department had challenged the CIC order, which sought details of donors, contributions, tax exemptions, and expenditures of the fund. The court will continue hearing the appeal on February 10, 2026, and no information will be disclosed until a final decision.

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Israel:

- ➔ Israel announced its withdrawal from seven United Nations (UN) agencies and affiliated bodies in January 2026. The agencies include UN Women, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UN Alliance of Civilisations, UN Energy, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
- ➔ The decision follows a review after the United States exited 66 international organisations. Israel cited alleged political bias against Israel and bureaucratic inefficiency as reasons for its withdrawal.
- ➔ Israel had previously cut ties with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict in 2024. Countries can withdraw from UN agencies without leaving the UN itself.

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Finke River:

- ➔ The Finke River has been recognised as the world's oldest flowing river based on geological evidence. It is believed to be 300–400 million years old, older than the age of dinosaurs. The river flows through the Northern Territory and South Australia in central Australia. It is also known as Larapinta by the Arrernte people.
- ➔ The river cuts through the MacDonnell Ranges due to a geological process called antecedence (river existed before mountain uplift). Despite being intermittent, it remains part of the same ancient river system.

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Odisha:

- ➔ Odisha will become the first Indian state to launch a comprehensive chronic kidney disease (CKD) registry by March 31, 2026. The registry will generate reliable data on CKD prevalence and aid evidence-based policymaking. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is developing dedicated software for the registry.
- ➔ The registry will cover CKD cases from primary health centres to medical colleges, filling gaps in existing data. Odisha reported 19,888 CKD cases and 4,718 deaths over the last three years.

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Odisha government:

- ➔ The Odisha government launched the 'Aame Padhiba Aama Bhasare' scheme to provide early childhood education in the mother tongue. The scheme is a five-year initiative for children aged 3–6 years. It will be implemented first in Keonjhar, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Rayagada, Nabarangpur and Malkangiri districts.
- ➔ The scheme aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Article 350A of the Constitution (instruction in mother tongue at the primary level).



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2026, January 21

21 January:

- ➔ Every year, 21 January holds special importance in India's political and cultural calendar. On this day, Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya celebrate their Foundation Day, commemorating their elevation to full-fledged states in 1972.
- ➔ In 2026, the occasion marks 54 years of statehood, reflecting the journey of these northeastern states toward self-governance, cultural preservation and regional development. Prior to this, Tripura and Manipur functioned as Union Territories, while Meghalaya was part of Assam.
- ➔ Statehood granted greater political autonomy, legislative powers and administrative control. It also allowed the states to safeguard their distinct cultures, languages and traditions. The celebration symbolizes democratic empowerment and balanced regional development within the Indian Union.



DOSTI:

- ➔ India, Maldives and Sri Lanka have launched Exercise DOSTI in Male to enhance maritime cooperation and collective security in the Indian Ocean. The trilateral naval drill focuses on search and rescue, communication, and coordination to address shared regional security challenges.

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- ➔ A new phase of regional maritime cooperation has begun in the Indian Ocean region with the launch of Exercise DOSTI-17. The joint naval drill involving India, Maldives and Sri Lanka is being held in Male, aiming to enhance coordination among the three neighbouring countries.
- ➔ The exercise reflects a shared commitment to ensuring safety, stability and cooperation in strategically important sea lanes.



ESZ:

- ➔ Environmental conservation efforts have received a boost with the declaration of an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan.
- ➔ The notification focuses on protecting the fragile ecology of the Aravalli mountain range while ensuring that conservation goes hand in hand with community welfare and sustainable development in surrounding areas.

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Punjab:

- ➔ Punjab has taken a significant step towards animal welfare and public safety by opening its first Dog Sanctuary in Ludhiana. Launched as a pilot project, the initiative aims to manage stray dog populations humanely while reducing dog bite cases in urban areas, setting a model for replication across the state.
- ➔ The dog sanctuary will operate in accordance with Supreme Court directives related to stray animal management.

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NASA:

- ➔ NASA is set to historic launch for human space exploration. The US space agency is preparing to launch Artemis II, a historic mission that will send astronauts around the Moon for the first time in over 50 years.
- ➔ The mission is also special because people from across the world can send their names to the Moon aboard the spacecraft, making the mission globally symbolic and inspiring.

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Supreme Court of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India ruled that unreserved (general) category seats are open to all candidates based on merit. Candidates from SCs, STs, and OBCs who qualify on general standards must be counted in unreserved seats. The Court clarified that unreserved seats are a merit-based open category, not a separate quota for the general category.
- ➔ The ruling explained the concept of merit-induced shift (selection without availing reservation benefits). The judgment arose from a 2013 Airports Authority of India (AAI) recruitment case. The decision is based on Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution (equality and equal opportunity).

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Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority:

- ➔ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has formed a high-level Committee to design a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS).
- ➔ The committee has 15 members and is chaired by MS Sahoo, former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Its goal is to create market-based, legally enforceable guidelines for retirement income under NPS.
- ➔ NPS is a contributory, market-linked pension scheme launched in 2004, with contributions from employees (10%) and the government (14%).
- ➔ NPS Vatsalya Scheme 2025 provides long-term pension savings for minors, with partial withdrawals allowed for education and medical purposes. The initiative aims to ensure income certainty after retirement and promote financial security.

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Deflation:

- India's food prices slipped into deflation (-0.2%) in 2025 for the first time since 2014, contributing to a 12-year low retail inflation of 2.2%. Deflation is a persistent fall in the general price level, which increases the purchasing power of money.
- Major causes include weak demand, oversupply due to high productivity, and tight credit or high interest rates. It can trigger a deflationary spiral, causing delayed purchases, reduced business profits, higher unemployment, and increased real debt burden.
- Policy measures to tackle deflation include expansionary monetary policy (lowering repo rate, quantitative easing, injecting liquidity via Open Market Operations – OMOs) and expansionary fiscal policy (increasing public spending, cutting taxes).

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Crocodile population:

- ➔ The latest crocodile census showed an increase in crocodile numbers in Similipal National Park, Odisha. The total crocodile population increased from 81 in 2025 to 84 in 2026. The Deo River recorded the highest number with 60 crocodiles.
- ➔ The park is located in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha, in the Eastern Ghats, and covers about 2,750 square kilometres. The park has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 2009.

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EPI:

- ➔ NITI Aayog has released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 to assess the export readiness of Indian States and Union Territories. The Export Preparedness Index (EPI) is a composite index that measures export infrastructure, business ecosystem, policy support, and export performance.
- ➔ EPI 2024 is the fourth edition of the index and was first launched in August 2020. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat ranked among the top large states, while Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir led among smaller states and Union Territories.

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2026, January 22

Uttarakhand:

- ➔ Uttarakhand took an important step in promoting inclusive sports in January 2026. The state hosted the National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship, an event dedicated to showcasing strength, resilience, and determination of para-athletes.
- ➔ The championship reflects India's growing focus on sports for persons with disabilities and Uttarakhand's emergence as a leading destination for national-level sporting events.



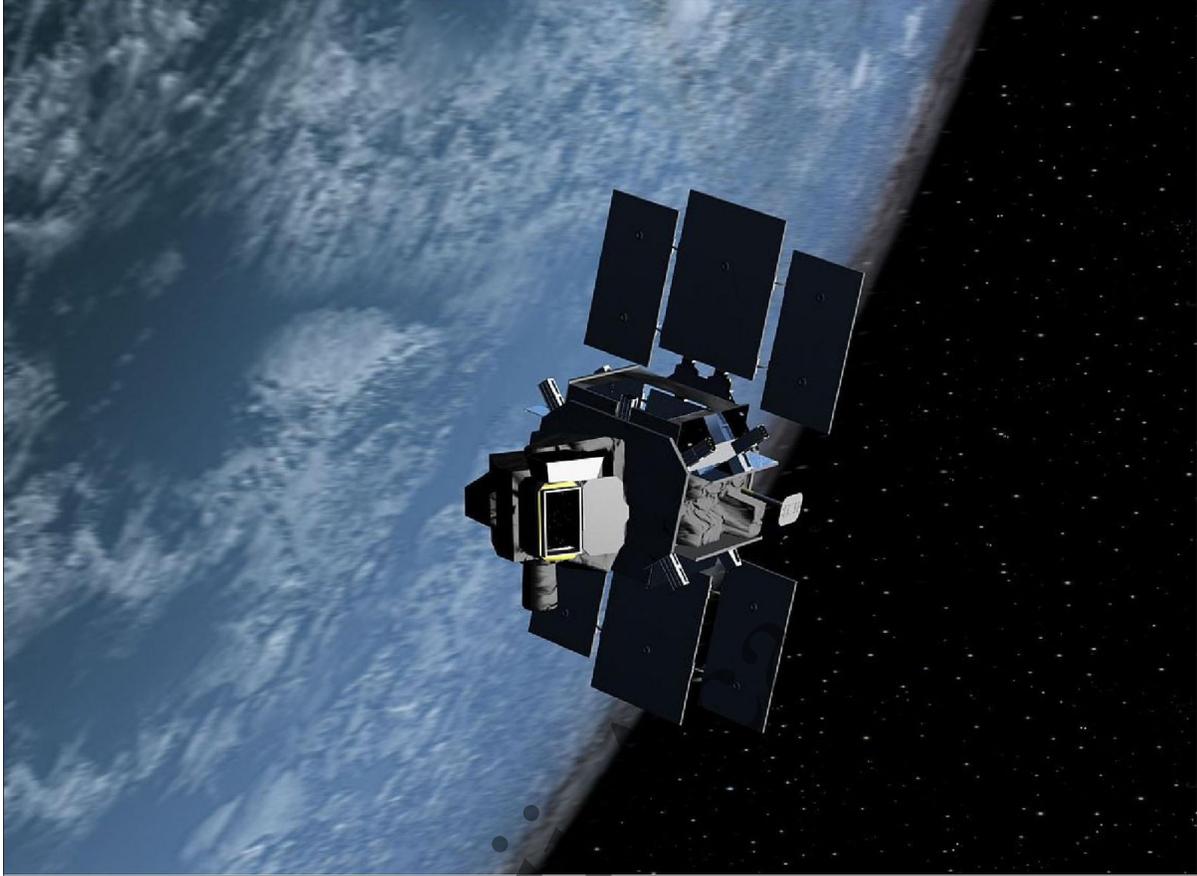
Operation Sindoor:

- ➔ India is preparing a major upgrade of its space-based intelligence capabilities after gaps were exposed during a recent military standoff. Following lessons learnt from Operation Sindoor, the government plans to launch more than 50 new spy satellites with night-time and all-weather imaging capabilities.
- ➔ The move aims to strengthen surveillance, improve battlefield awareness, and enhance national security.

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Odisha and Meghalaya:

- ➔ The governments of Odisha and Meghalaya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen Early Childhood Care, Education and Development (ECCED) through inter-state cooperation and mutual learning.
- ➔ The partnership focuses on sharing experiences, building capacities, and strengthening services related to health, nutrition, and early learning, recognizing that the early years are critical for lifelong well being.

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Telangana:

- ➔ Telangana has taken a major step towards global urban development by engaging international partners at the World Economic Forum 2026.
- ➔ In a key outcome, the UAE and Telangana agreed to explore collaboration for developing Bharat Future City, envisioned as a net-zero, future-ready smart city and a cornerstone of the state's long-term growth strategy.

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Andhra Pradesh:

- ➔ India's space infrastructure is set to expand further with Andhra Pradesh announcing a new spaceport. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu confirmed that Hope Island will host a launch facility primarily for private missions, marking a significant step in supporting commercial space activities and strengthening India's position in the global space economy.
- ➔ The government of Andhra Pradesh has announced plans to establish a new spaceport at Hope Island, aimed mainly at supporting private launch providers. The announcement was made by N. Chandrababu Naidu on January 17, 2026.

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Numbeo Safety Index 2026:

- ➔ The Numbeo Safety Index 2026 rankings have been released, providing a global snapshot of city level safety perceptions. Covering 304 cities worldwide, the index ranks cities based on crime and safety-related survey responses.
- ➔ Notably, Mangaluru in Karnataka emerged as the safest city in India, while Qingdao in China topped the global list, reflecting varying urban safety conditions across regions.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government announced a state-sponsored annual award called the Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award) to recognise outstanding works in major Indian languages other than Hindi, with a cash prize of ₹5 lakh.
- ➔ In its first phase, the award will recognise works in seven Indian languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali, and Marathi, with the potential to expand to other languages in future phases.

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ASEAN-India:

- ➔ The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting was held virtually under the theme “Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence”, focusing on regional digital cooperation, inclusion, and integration.
- ➔ The meeting was co-chaired by Telecom Secretary Amit Agrawal (India) and Vietnam’s Minister Nguyen Manh Hung, and approved the ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan 2026, covering ICT training, regulators’ conferences, and telecom ICT deployment. ASEAN Established- 1967.

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Electricity consumption:

- ➔ A study reported that solar energy use reduced grid electricity consumption by about 46% in Tamil Nadu government schools. The report was prepared in collaboration with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS).
- ➔ It studied 97 government schools under the State's Green Schools initiative. Each school saved an average of 3,572 electricity units and about ₹26,000 per year. The Green Schools programme has been expanded to 300 government schools across almost all districts.

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2026, January 23

Parakram Diwas:

- ➔ Parakram Diwas 2026 is observed on 23 January to remember and honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of India's bravest freedom fighters. This day highlights his courage, strong leadership, and deep love for the nation.
- ➔ It is a special occasion to inspire citizens, especially students and youth, to be fearless, disciplined, and devoted to the country, just like Netaji was throughout his life. Parakram Diwas means the "Day of Courage."
- ➔ It is celebrated every year on 23 January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The Government of India observes this day to recognise his bold efforts and sacrifices made for India's freedom. The day reminds people of the power of determination and patriotism.



Work force:

- ➔ India has taken a significant step towards building a future ready workforce by strengthening global cooperation in skill development. A new partnership aims to align vocational education and training with the changing demands of industry and the global economy. This initiative focuses on improving employability, promoting lifelong learning, and positioning India as a global hub for skilled talent.
- ➔ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Economic Forum to deepen cooperation in

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vocational education, training, and skill development through the launch of the India Skills Accelerator.



Rajasthan:

- ➔ Rajasthan is set to add a major attraction to its wildlife tourism with a new biological park coming up in Alwar. Planned in the scenic Kati Ghati area, this park will combine wildlife conservation, animal care and tourism in one place.
- ➔ Once completed, it will become the first biological park of its kind in the National Capital Region (NCR), offering safaris, a rescue centre and a modern veterinary hospital.
- ➔ The proposed biological park will be developed between Kati Ghati and Jaisamand in Alwar district. It will spread across nearly 100 hectares of land. Around 30 percent of the area will be used as a zoo for animals, while the remaining 70 percent will be kept as green space to maintain a natural environment.

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Lucknow:

- ➔ Lucknow Becomes Uttar Pradesh's First City to Scientifically Process 100% Fresh Waste. Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is growing very fast. With around 40 lakh people and nearly 7.5 lakh shops, offices, and establishments, managing daily waste is a big challenge.
- ➔ To handle this responsibly, the Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) has adopted a modern and scientific waste management system that focuses on cleanliness, recycling, and environmental safety.

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Governor R.N. Ravi:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi declined to read out his customary speech prepared by the State government on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly on January 20, and walked out of the House.
- ➔ This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Governor has exited the House during the opening session. But the house passed a resolution only the Government prepared text read out by Speaker M Appavu in Tamil would go on record.
- ➔ As per Article 176 of the Constitution, a special address by the Governor to State legislatures at the commencement of the first session after a General Election to the Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year.
- ➔ There is no scope for the Governor to include his personal comments or to remove parts of the speech prepared by the State government.

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Green Ammonia Project:

- ➔ India's First Green Ammonia Project is being developed at Kakinada(Andhra Pradesh) which is planned as a Green Hydrogen Valley. It is the world's largest green ammonia project under development.
- ➔ The project will produce 1.5 million tonnes of green ammonia per year from June 2027. It involves an investment of about ₹84,000 crore. Green ammonia is made using green hydrogen from renewable energy sources.

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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:

- ➔ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) amended forest conservation guidelines under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.
- ➔ It aims to allow non-government participation in restoring degraded forest land. Plantation and afforestation activities on forest land are now treated as “forestry activities” and do not require Compensatory Afforestation or Net Present Value(NPV) payments. The non-government entities can participate in restoration work under approved Working or Management Plans of State Forest Departments.
- ➔ States have discretion over the utilisation of plantations and revenue sharing, but forest ownership remains with the government.
- ➔ The amendment aims to restore about 2.08 lakh sq. km of degraded forest, achieve India’s 33% green cover target, and reduce import dependence on paper and timber. Risks include monoculture plantations, reduced biodiversity, and potential marginalisation of forest-dependent communities.

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2026, January 24

Indira Gandhi Prize:

- ➔ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025 has been awarded to Graca Machel, a renowned human rights activist from Mozambique. The Indira Gandhi Prize is one of India's most respected international awards.
- ➔ It recognises individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions to peace, development and social justice. The award includes a cash prize of ₹1 crore, a trophy, and a citation.



National Girl Child Day:

- ➔ National Girl Child Day is observed every year on January 24 in India to raise awareness about the rights, education, health, and overall well-being of girls.
- ➔ The day highlights the importance of creating equal opportunities for girls and addressing the challenges they face in society. It reminds citizens that empowering girls is essential for building a strong and progressive nation.
- ➔ The Government of India initiated National Girl Child Day in 2008 through the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The primary aim was to address the growing concerns about gender discrimination and the declining child sex ratio in certain parts of the country.
- ➔ The date January 24 holds historical significance because it marks the day in 1966 when Indira Gandhi became India's first woman Prime Minister. Her leadership symbolized the

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strength and potential of women in positions of power, making the date meaningful for celebrating the girl child.



International Day of Education:

- The International Day of Education is observed every year on January 24 to recognize the transformative power of education in building a better, more equal world.
- The day emphasizes that education is not merely a service but a fundamental human right and a key driver of social, economic, and cultural development. In 2026, the observance continues to reinforce the global commitment to ensuring that every person, regardless of background, has access to inclusive, equitable, and quality education.

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Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:

- ➔ Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana marks 11 years since its launch, continuing to empower the girl child through a secure savings scheme offering high interest, tax benefits, and long-term financial support for education and marriage needs.
- ➔ Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) is a popular government savings scheme created to support the future of the girl child in India. Launched in January 2015 under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative, the scheme encourages parents to save for their daughter's education and marriage.
- ➔ With high interest, tax benefits, and full government security, SSY has become one of the most trusted long-term investment options for families. Currently, the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana offers an interest rate of 8.2% per annum.
- ➔ The government reviews and announces the interest rate every quarter. Since SSY is a government-guaranteed scheme, both the principal amount and interest are completely safe.

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India's First Integrated Private Satellite:

- ➔ Gujarat Witnesses Launch of India's First Integrated Private Satellite Manufacturing Unit at Sanand. India has taken a big step in space technology with the start of its first integrated private satellite manufacturing facility.
- ➔ The foundation stone was laid at Khoraj in Sanand, Gujarat, marking a new chapter in the country's growing space sector. This development highlights the increasing role of private companies in strengthening India's space capabilities.

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Punjab government:

- ➔ The Punjab government has started a major healthcare scheme called Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana. Under this scheme, every family in the state will get free and cashless medical treatment worth up to ₹10 lakh. The aim is to make quality healthcare available to all residents without worrying about hospital expenses.
- ➔ The scheme was officially launched in Mohali by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann along with AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal. Both leaders said the scheme would bring a big change in Punjab's healthcare system and help people from all income groups.

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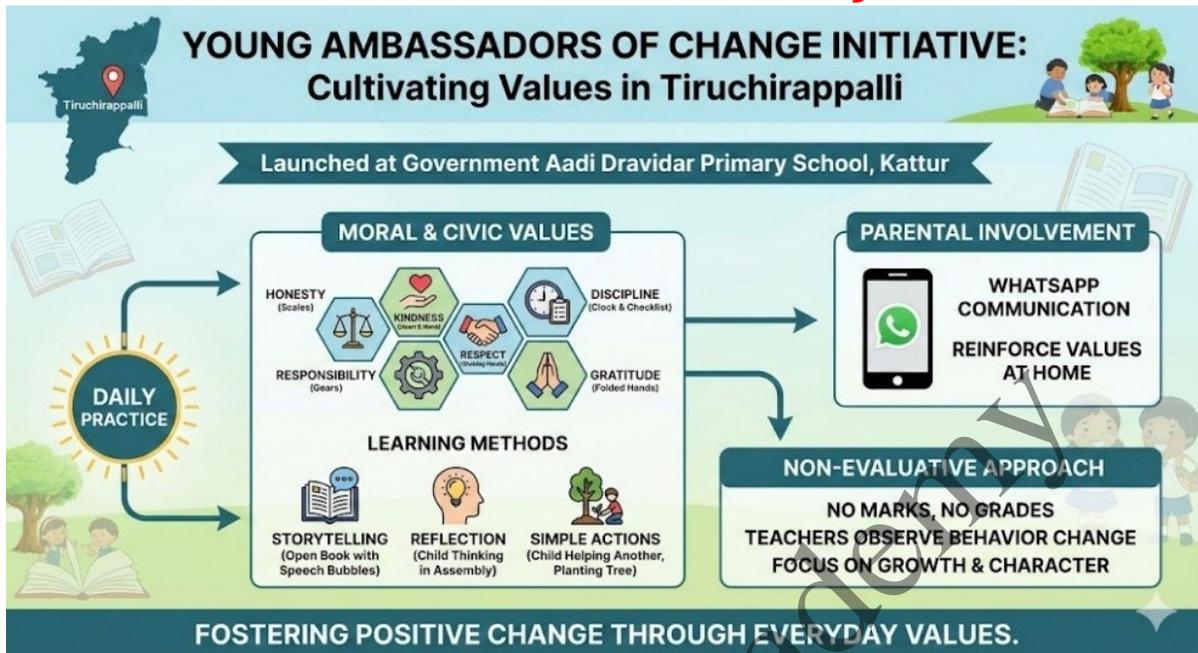
Young Ambassadors of Change initiative:

- ➔ A government school in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu has launched the Young Ambassadors of Change initiative. The programme was introduced at the Government Aadi Dravidar Primary School, Kattur, to teach moral and civic values through daily practice.
- ➔ It focused on values such as honesty, kindness, respect, responsibility, discipline, and gratitude. Students learned through storytelling, reflection during morning assemblies, and simple value-based actions at school and home.
- ➔ Parents were involved through WhatsApp communication to reinforce values outside the classroom. The initiative followed a non-evaluative approach, with teachers observing behaviour change instead of giving marks.

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Coal-fired power generation:

- ➔ India's coal-fired power generation declined year-on-year in 2025 for the first time in about 50 years. Electricity from coal fell by nearly 3 % in 2025 compared with 2024. This drop is only the second full-year annual decline in at least half a century, the first being in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ➔ The decline was mainly due to record growth in clean energy (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear) meeting more of India's electricity demand. Milder weather and slower demand growth also contributed to the reduced coal generation. This change reflects a broader shift in India's electricity mix toward non-fossil sources.

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India and the United Arab Emirates:

- ➔ India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a long-term agreement for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply. Under this deal, the UAE will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes of LNG per year to India.
- ➔ This makes the UAE India's second-largest LNG supplier after Qatar. LNG is a cleaner fossil fuel used for power generation, industry, and cooking gas.
- ➔ The agreement strengthens energy security and diversifies India's energy sources. The countries also plan to expand cooperation in trade, defence, food security, and nuclear energy.

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Sunita Williams:

- ➔ Sunita Williams retired from NASA on 27th December 2025. She worked for 27 years and completed three space missions aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Williams spent a total of 608 days in space, including nine spacewalks lasting 62 hours and 6 minutes.
- ➔ She was the first person to run a marathon in space and also commanded Expedition 33 on the ISS. Williams participated in NASA training programs like NEEMO and helped prepare astronauts for Moon missions.

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2026, January 25

Padma Awards:

- ➔ Ahead of Republic Day 2026, revealed a provisional list of Padma Awards 2026 awardees. The list highlights individuals who have made sustained contributions across healthcare, education, social service, traditional arts, environment, and livelihood generation.
- ➔ The Padma Awards are among India's highest civilian honors, announced annually on the occasion of Republic Day. Instituted in 1954, the awards are given in three categories Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- ➔ They recognize exceptional service in fields such as art, literature, science, medicine, social work, public affairs, sports, and civil service. The awards aim to honour excellence as well as selfless service, often spotlighting individuals whose work has remained outside mainstream attention.



National Voters Day:

- ➔ National Voters Day is observed every year on January 25 across India. In 2026, the day will fall on Sunday, January 25. The date is significant because it marks the foundation

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day of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections in the country.

- National Voters Day was first celebrated in 2011. The Government of India decided to observe this day to increase awareness about the importance of electoral participation and to encourage more citizens to register as voters.
- The day commemorates the establishment of the Election Commission of India on January 25, 1950, just one day before India became a Republic. Since then, the Election Commission has played a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and transparency of elections in the world's largest democracy.



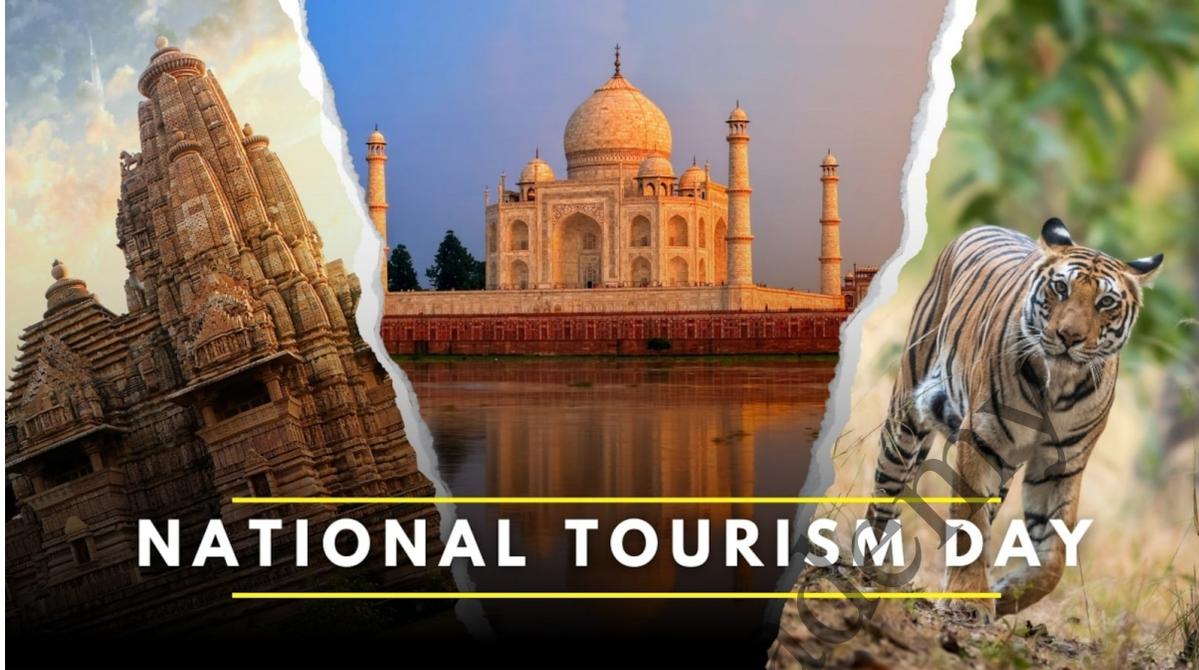
National Tourism Day:

- National Tourism Day is observed every year in India on January 25 to recognize the importance of tourism in the country's growth and development. Tourism is not just about travel and leisure—it plays a major role in boosting the economy, preserving heritage, and promoting cultural exchange.
- This day encourages people to explore the rich diversity of India while promoting responsible and sustainable travel practices. In 2026, National Tourism Day once again draws attention to how tourism connects communities and strengthens India's identity on the global stage.

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Republic Day:

- ➔ Republic Day is celebrated every year on 26 January. In 2026, it will mark the 77th Republic Day of India. This day is very special because it celebrates the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950, which made India a sovereign democratic republic.
- ➔ Schools, government offices, and institutions across India and abroad observe this day with flag hoisting, parades, and cultural programs, showing respect for the nation and its democratic values. Republic Day is celebrated to remember that India adopted its Constitution on 26 January 1950.
- ➔ Although India became independent on 15 August 1947, it did not have a permanent Constitution until 1950. The date 26 January was chosen to honor the Purna Swaraj Declaration of 1930, when India first demanded complete independence from British rule.

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ECINET:

- ➔ During the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management in New Delhi, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar launched ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating 40+ election-related apps and web services to enhance citizen participation.
- ➔ ECINET connects citizens, candidates, political parties, and election officials on a single platform and has been developed in 22 Indian languages along with English. Election Commissioner of India is a constitutional body to conduct and regulate elections in the country. Founded – 25 January 1950.

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Wings India:

- ➔ Hyderabad to host Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, at Begumpet Airport, bringing together aviation leaders, aircraft manufacturers, and government delegations from over 20 countries.
- ➔ The event will be inaugurated by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu and has been held in Hyderabad since 2008 as a biennial event organized by the Indian government.

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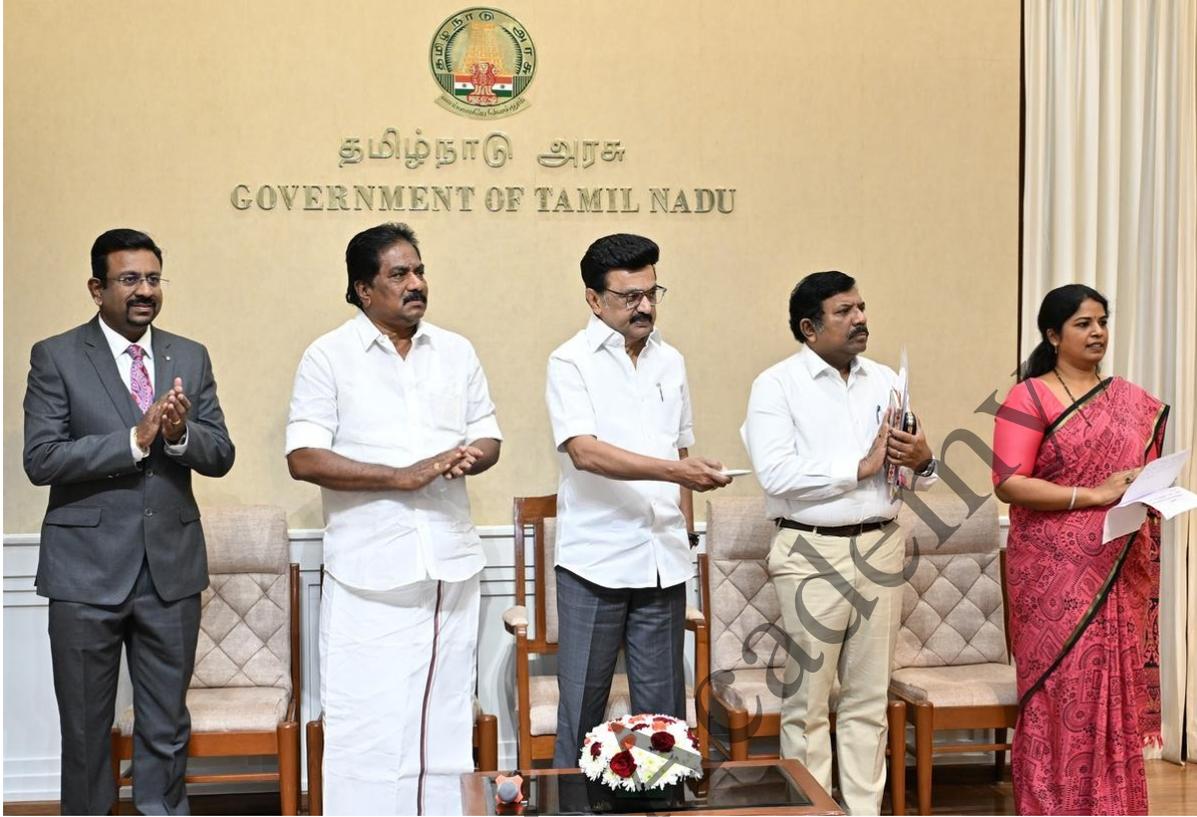
Sprint 1:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched Sprint 1 to make the property registration fully digital. Sprint 1 was launched under the STAR 3.0 (Simplified and Transparent Administration of Registration). It provides paperless registration for all 30 deed types without carrying physical documents.
- ➔ Presence less registration is available for 10 document types, including sale and lease deeds. Citizens can complete end-to-end registration online without visiting the Sub Registrar Office (SRO). The services are available through the TNREGINET portal and mobile application.

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Union Government:

- ➔ The Union Government notified detailed rules 2026 for the utilisation and administration of the Environmental (Protection) Fund. The fund is provided under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ➔ It was strengthened through the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which decriminalised offences but retained monetary penalties. The fund uses penalties collected for pollution control, environmental restoration, and monitoring.

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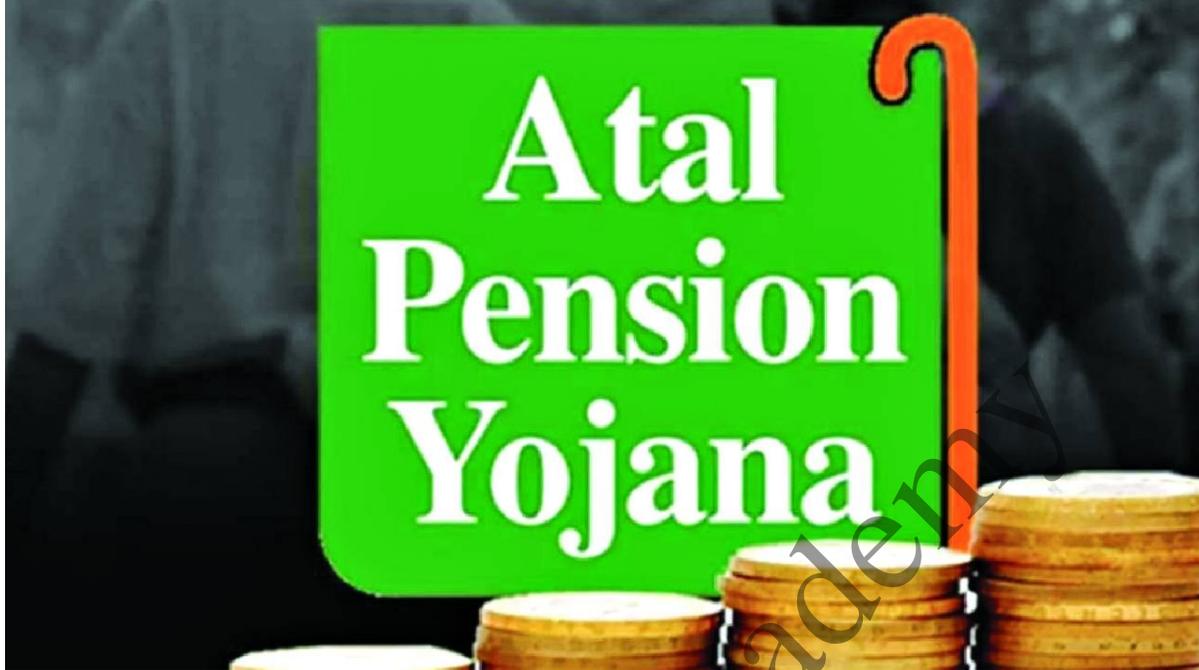
Atal Pension Yojana:

- ➔ The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) until the financial year 2030–31. APY is a government-backed pension scheme for unorganised sector workers, including labourers, vendors, and domestic helpers. The scheme was launched on May 9, 2015, and provides a fixed monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after the age of 60.
- ➔ The government will continue funding awareness programs, training, and gap support to make the scheme sustainable. As of January 19, 2026, more than 8.66 crore people have subscribed to the scheme. APY helps workers save regularly, ensures income security in old age, and promotes financial inclusion.

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Birth incentive:

- ➔ China's population declined again in 2025 despite new birth incentive policies. China's population fell by about 3 million in 2025, marking the fourth straight year of decline. Births dropped to a record low of 7.92 million in 2025.
- ➔ The birth rate fell to 5.63 births per 1,000 people, the lowest ever recorded. China's fertility rate is estimated to be around 1, below the replacement level of 2.1. The decline continues despite cash incentives and policy changes to encourage childbirth.

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IPOI:

- ➔ Spain has joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) by handing over the Declaration of Accession to India's External Affairs Minister. IPOI is a voluntary, non-treaty framework for maritime cooperation, launched by India in 2019 under the SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.
- ➔ The aim is to promote a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. It focuses on practical cooperation in maritime security, ecology, resources, disaster management, science & technology, trade, and connectivity. Countries can voluntarily lead individual thematic pillars, and the initiative takes a non-military, non-bloc approach.

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India:

- ➔ India is projected to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and the third largest economy by 2028. The World Bank's classifies low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income and high-income countries by their per capita Gross National Income(GNI) in US dollar.
- ➔ The threshold for upper-middle income country is per capita GNI of around \$4,500. As of 2024 data, only 26 countries remain low-income, 50 are middle-income, 54 are upper-middle income, and 87 are high-income. India moved from lower-middle income category in 2007, when its per capita GNI jumped from \$90 in 1961 to \$910 in 2007.

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2026, January 26

Bharat Ratna Award:

- ➔ The Bharat Ratna Award is the highest civilian honour of India, instituted in 1954 to recognise exceptional service or performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. Conferred by the President of India, the award is given without distinction of race, occupation, position, or gender.
- ➔ It acknowledges outstanding contributions in areas such as art, literature, science, public service, sports, and social work, reflecting the nation's gratitude to individuals who have made a lasting impact on society.



International Customs Day:

- ➔ International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated every year on 26 January to acknowledge the vital contribution of customs authorities in managing international trade and safeguarding borders.
- ➔ In 2026, the observance once again draws attention to the role of customs officials in ensuring secure supply chains, preventing illegal trade, collecting revenue, and supporting global economic integration in an increasingly interconnected world.
- ➔ International Customs Day traces its origin to the establishment of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) in 1952, which was later renamed the World Customs Organization.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government tabled a Bill in the State Assembly to create a Special Area Development Authority.
- ➔ The Bill aims to ensure the planned development of areas with historical, ecological, archaeological, or tourism importance. Areas such as Mamallapuram and Kanniyakumari have been identified for setting up the Special Area Development Authority.
- ➔ The proposed Authority will prepare a Special Area Master Plan for sustainable infrastructure development. The Bill states that existing laws like the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, are inadequate for such special areas. The new framework will function without affecting the powers of local bodies or the Heritage Commission.

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Ministry of Power:

- ➔ The Ministry of Power released the Draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) 2026 for public consultation. The policy replaces the NEP 2005 and sets a roadmap to transform India's power sector by 2047.
- ➔ India has achieved universal household electrification by March 2021 and has operated a unified national grid since 2013. Targets include raising per capita electricity consumption to 2,000 kWh by 2030 and 4,000 kWh by 2047.
- ➔ India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.
- ➔ Key reforms: increase renewable energy, promote battery energy storage systems, reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, and modernise the power grid. Nuclear power capacity target is 100 GW by 2047, including small and modular reactors, with a focus on storage-based hydro and thermal integration.

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Mumbai:

- ➔ Mumbai will host India's first city-led climate action initiative, Mumbai Climate Week 2026, from February 17 to 19. The aim is to promote citizen-driven climate solutions with a focus on children and youth, linking climate action to child rights.
- ➔ UNICEF India and YuWaah will engage young people in climate policy and action. Campus Climate Roadshows will be held from February 9 to 16 to mobilise college students and highlight e-waste management under Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).
- ➔ A Youth Green Innovation Challenge will allow innovators aged 16–24 to present solutions on food systems, urban resilience, and energy transition.

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WHO:

- ➔ The United States formally exited the World Health Organization (WHO) on 23 January 2026, leaving unpaid dues of about 260 million US dollars. The decision follows an executive order signed by President Donald Trump at the start of his second term. The US has halted all funding to the WHO and withdrawn its personnel from WHO offices and bodies.
- ➔ The US was the largest contributor to the WHO, providing nearly 1.3 billion US dollars during 2022–2023. Under a 1948 US Congressional resolution, a one-year notice and payment of dues are required to exit WHO.

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Carney Doctrine:

- ➔ The Carney Doctrine was proposed by Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney at the World Economic Forum, Davos. It suggests a “Third Path” for middle powers to avoid choosing sides in the U.S.- China rivalry. The approach promotes strategic autonomy while still encouraging global cooperation, not isolationism.
- ➔ Carney emphasized that middle powers must act together to protect sovereignty and strengthen their influence in global affairs.
- ➔ Canada has implemented this doctrine through strategic partnerships with China, Qatar, India, ASEAN countries, and Mercosur. The doctrine is particularly relevant for countries like India navigating great power competition.

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Scheduled Tribe:

- ➔ The issue of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status of the Lambada community in Telangana has reached the Supreme Court again. Lambadas, also called Banjaras, are a tribal community found in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- ➔ They were traditionally nomadic traders who transported goods like grain and salt. They speak Gor Boli, also known as Lambadi, which is an Indo-Aryan language. Lambadas live in separate hamlets called Tandas, led by a village head known as Naik. They are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe in some states, while classified as Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in others.

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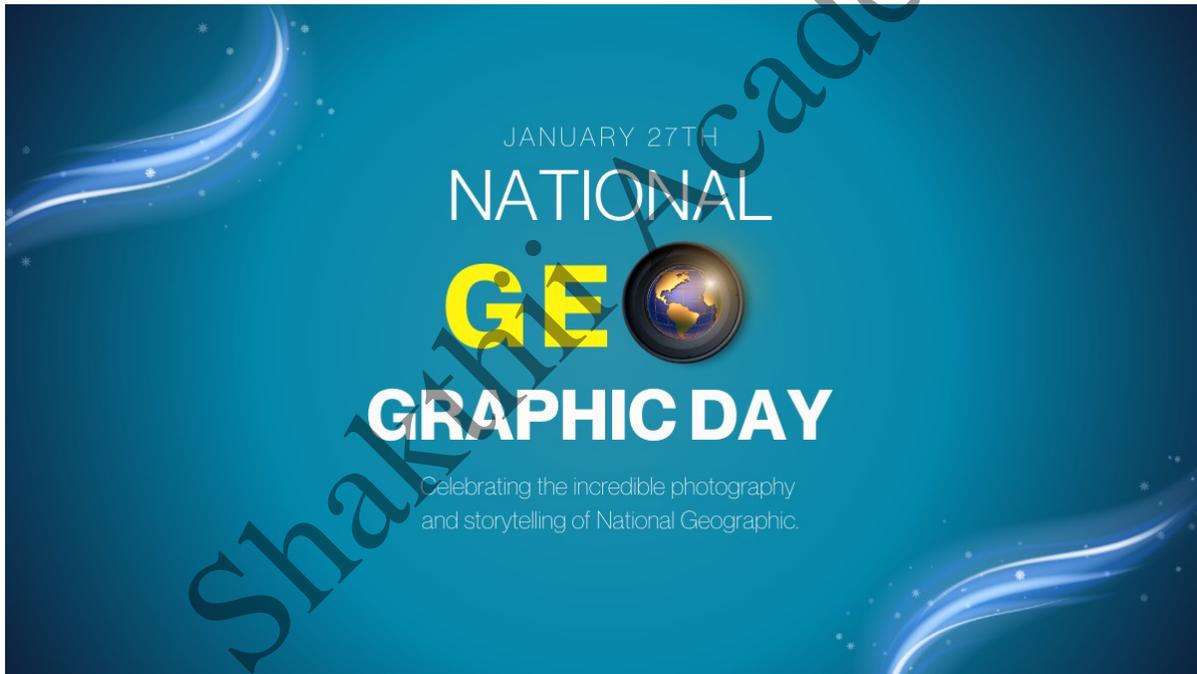
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2026, January 27

National Geographic Day:

- ➔ National Geographic Day 2026 is observed on 27 January to celebrate exploration, geography, science, wildlife, and environmental conservation. The day honours the legacy of the National Geographic Society and inspires curiosity, global awareness, and sustainable living through knowledge.
- ➔ The National Geographic Society was founded on 27 January 1888 in Washington, D.C. with the mission to increase and diffuse geographic knowledge.
- ➔ Over time, it evolved into a global leader in exploration, science, education, conservation, and storytelling. Its iconic magazine, documentaries, photography, and research expeditions have shaped how the world views nature and humanity. National Geographic Day commemorates this long tradition of curiosity, discovery, and knowledge-sharing.



ICC T20 World Cup 2026:

- ➔ The ICC T20 World Cup 2026 is set to bring cricket fever back to South Asia. Scheduled from February 6 to March 8, 2026, this edition will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, marking a landmark collaboration between two cricket-loving nations.
- ➔ After the 2024 T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA, the upcoming ICC T20 tournament promises even greater excitement, fresh talent, and world-class cricketing action.

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Modern artillery:

- ➔ Modern artillery has moved far beyond traditional cannons. Today's militaries rely on rocket artillery that combines precision, mobility, and long range to shape battlefield outcomes.
- ➔ Two such systems drawing attention are India's Suryastra and the U.S. Army's HIMARS. Suryastra is India's first indigenous modular rocket artillery system, developed by NIBE Limited in partnership with Elbit Systems of Israel. Designed to be a multi-calibre universal launcher, it can fire different rocket and missile types from a single platform.
- ➔ The goal is to enhance India's precision firepower and reduce reliance on imports. HIMARS stands for High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, produced by Lockheed Martin for the U.S. Army and allied forces.
- ➔ It is a high-mobility, wheeled rocket launcher mounted on a standard military truck chassis. HIMARS has seen extensive use in conflicts such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, proving its operational value in diverse combat environments.

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Republic Day:

- ➔ India's defense modernisation was on full display at the 77th Republic Day parade with the debut of an advanced hypersonic missile system. At the 77th Republic Day parade, Defence Research and Development Organisation showcased its hypersonic glide missile system, the LR-AShM, along with its launcher, marking its first public appearance.
- ➔ The Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LR-AShM) is a hypersonic glide missile developed to meet the coastal battery requirements of the Indian Navy. Hypersonic glide vehicles travel at speeds greater than Mach 5, following a low and manoeuvrable trajectory that makes detection and interception extremely difficult.
- ➔ The system is designed for land-based deployment, allowing rapid response against hostile naval assets approaching India's coastline.

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Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles:

- ➔ In today's strategic environment, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) represent the highest level of land-based military deterrence. These missiles can travel thousands of kilometers and deliver nuclear warheads with high precision.
- ➔ Two major Asian powers — India and China — have developed advanced long-range missile systems to strengthen their nuclear deterrence capabilities. India's Agni-V and China's Dongfeng-41 (DF-41) are among the most powerful missiles in their respective arsenals. Understanding the differences between them is important for students preparing for defence, international relations, and security-related exams.
- ➔ An ICBM is a long-range ballistic missile designed to carry nuclear warheads over distances greater than 5,500 km. It travels in a high arc, briefly exiting the Earth's atmosphere before re-entering to strike its target.
- ➔ The Agni-V is India's most advanced long-range ballistic missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It significantly strengthens India's land-based nuclear deterrent. The DF-41 (Dongfeng-41) is one of the most advanced and longest-range ICBMs in the world. It represents a key pillar of China's rapidly modernizing nuclear forces.

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Sikkim Police:

- ➔ In a moment of pride for the northeastern region, the Sikkim Police has been conferred with the President's Police Colour Award for its outstanding service, professionalism, and dedication to duty. The honour, regarded as one of the highest distinctions for police forces in India, recognises sustained excellence and commitment to public service.
- ➔ The President's Police Colour Award, popularly known as the Nishaan, is a ceremonial honour granted to police forces for exceptional service, bravery, discipline, and professionalism.
- ➔ The award is symbolised by a flag and insignia, which is worn with pride on the left sleeve of the uniform. It reflects not individual acts, but the collective performance and legacy of a police force over the years.

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Lakkundi:

- ➔ India's rich archaeological heritage has gained fresh momentum with new discoveries from Karnataka. Recent excavations at Lakkundi have revealed relics from the Neolithic period, pushing the site's history far beyond its famed medieval temples.
- ➔ These findings are now expected to significantly strengthen the long-pending proposal to secure global recognition for this historic settlement.

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AI:

- ➔ In a major development in the global technology and artificial intelligence race, Microsoft has unveiled the next generation of its in-house AI chip, Maia 200. The announcement signals Microsoft's intent to reduce dependence on external chipmakers and directly challenge Nvidia, which currently dominates the AI hardware and software ecosystem.
- ➔ The Maia 200 is Microsoft's second-generation custom-built artificial intelligence chip, following the original Maia introduced in 2023. The chip has gone live in a Microsoft data centre in Iowa, with plans for deployment in Arizona.
- ➔ Designed for large-scale AI workloads such as chatbots and generative AI systems, Maia 200 aims to improve performance, reduce costs, and enhance control over Microsoft's cloud-based AI infrastructure.



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Indian Railways:

- ➔ Indian Railways has deployed a humanoid robot named 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Railway Station, marking a first-of-its-kind initiative to enhance passenger safety, security, and service delivery.
- ➔ ASC ARJUN has been fully designed and developed in Visakhapatnam using home-grown technology, with a dedicated team working over a year to integrate advanced systems into daily railway operations.
- ➔ The robot is equipped with Face Recognition System (FRS) for intrusion detection, AI-based crowd monitoring, real-time alerts to RPF control rooms, and can make automated announcements in English, Hindi, and Telugu to guide passengers and improve safety awareness.



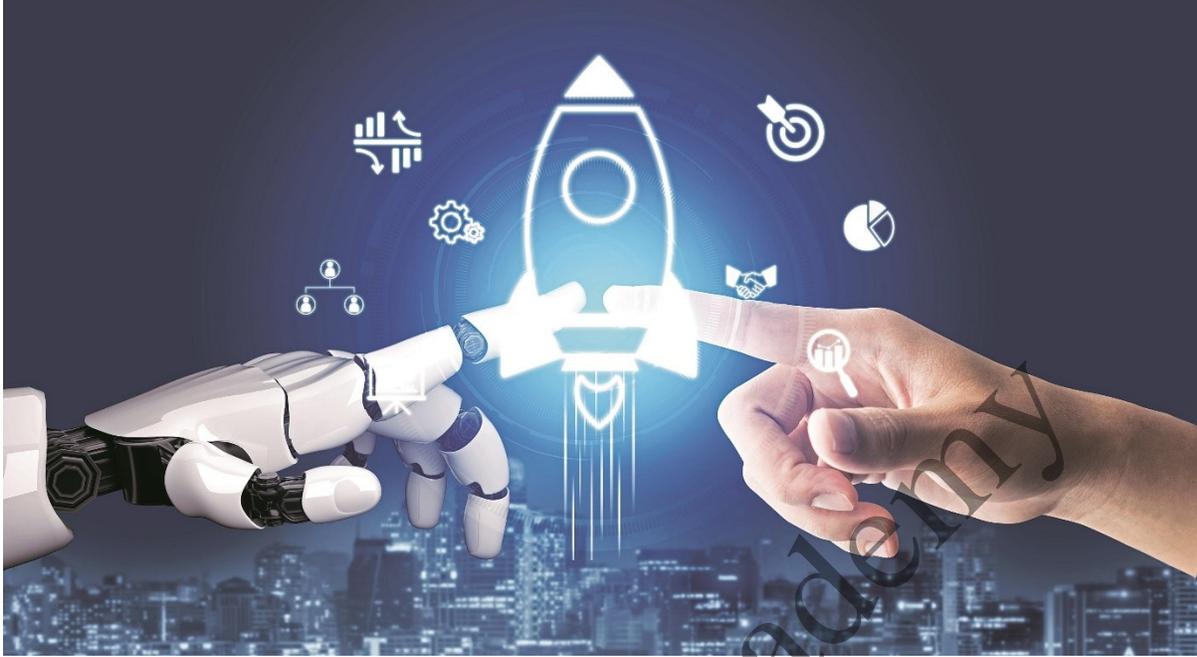
AI:

- ➔ India ranks 8th among 11 countries in terms of historical accumulated investments in the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem between 2010 and 2024, measured as a percentage of 2024 GDP. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper "Rethinking AI Sovereignty", India's AI investments since 2010 accounted for 1.2–1.8% of its 2024 GDP, lower than the US (3.4–5.1%), Singapore (3.1–4.6%), South Korea (2.2–3.3%), and China (1.7–2.6%).
- ➔ Countries performing below India include Europe (excluding the UK) and Brazil, while those above include UAE, Japan, Canada, and the UK; globally, most AI investments were concentrated in hardware by TSMC and UMC.

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Payment Aggregator – Cross Border:

- ➔ Payoneer India, a subsidiary of Payoneer Global, has received in-principle approval from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB), enabling it to facilitate cross-border transactions for merchants.
- ➔ The approval comes as 19 entities are now fully authorised with a PA-CB licence, while Payoneer’s global parent is a regulated entity in countries including the US, UK, Europe, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, China, and Australia.

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Tamil Nadu Chief Minister:

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced special marks for part-time teachers and an increase in pensions for several worker groups. Part-time teachers will get special marks based on experience in exams for permanent teacher recruitment, and a government order will be issued soon.
- The State government has already given part-time teachers a salary hike and the May month salary, which was earlier given only to regular teachers.
- An additional 1.80 lakh people will receive a monthly pension under the Ungaludan Stalin scheme from 4 February 2026. The pension for noon-meal organisers, anganwadi workers, and panchayat union clerks has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹3,400, with retirement benefits raised to ₹2 lakh.

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PSTM:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government introduced a Bill to restrict government servants from using preferential appointment benefits again.
- ➔ The amendment is related to the Tamil Nadu Persons Studied in Tamil Medium(PSTM) Act, 2010. N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj Minister for Human Resources Management in Tamil Nadu, introduced this amendment in the assembly. Under the Act, 20 percent of the direct recruitment vacancies are reserved for candidates who studied in the Tamil medium.
- ➔ The Bill states that persons who already used PSTM preference and got a government job cannot use it again for the same pay level. Such candidates can use the preference only for posts with a higher level of pay. The change follows a Madras High Court ruling that serving government employees are not eligible for PSTM preference again.

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Marine fish farming:

- ➔ India has started its first open-sea marine fish farming project in the Andaman Sea. The project is located near North Bay, Sri Vijaya Puram, in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
- ➔ The project uses indigenously designed open-sea cages for marine finfish farming and deep-water seaweed cultivation. It aims to create coastal livelihoods, strengthen marine food security, and support India's Blue Economy vision. The pilot project will test technical feasibility and provide a model for future public-private partnership (PPP) scale-ups.

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Brazil and Nigeria:

- ➔ Brazil and Nigeria have emerged as major destinations for Indian pharmaceutical exports in 2025–26. India's pharmaceutical exports rose by 6.5%, reaching \$20.48 billion from April to November 2025–26. Nigeria contributed nearly \$179 million (14% of growth), while Brazil added about \$100 million.
- ➔ The US remains the largest market, accounting for 31% of total pharma exports. Indian pharma products, mainly generic medicines, are exported to over 200 countries. Growth reflects rising global demand, public procurement expansion, and broader access to affordable Indian medicines.

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CD ratio:

- ➔ Indian banks' credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio reached a record 81.75% in 2025, showing strong lending demand. The CD ratio measures loans given by banks compared to deposits collected. A ratio of 81.75% means banks lend ₹81.75 for every ₹100 deposited.
- ➔ Bank credit grew 11.4% in 2025, while deposits increased only 10.1%. Deposit growth slowed due to lower interest rates after the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) policy cuts. A high CD ratio indicates liquidity pressure and reliance on alternative funding sources like bonds.

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LENDERS SEEK ALTERNATIVES Rising loan demand and falling deposit rates strain liquidity buffers

Banks' Credit-to-Deposit Ratio Hits Record 81.75% as Mobilisation Lags

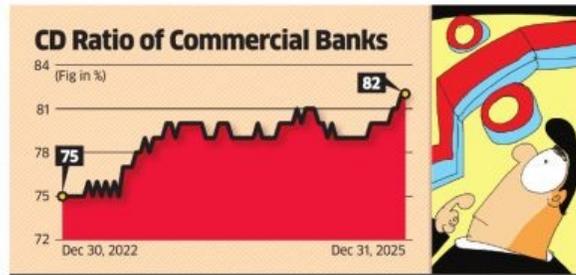
Sangita Mehta

Mumbai: Indian banks' credit-to-deposit (CD) ratio climbed to an all-time high of 81.75% as of December 31, indicating pressure on lenders to shore up deposits amid rising loan demand, Reserve Bank of India data showed.

The ratio means banks lent ₹81.75 for every ₹100 of deposits mobilised. While the RBI does not prescribe a cap, it has urged lenders to maintain adequate liquidity buffers to meet unexpected withdrawals.

Banks have asked the RBI to include bond borrowings in the CD ratio calculation, which would help bring it below 80%. Currently, only deposits and certificates of deposit are considered for computing the ratio.

Typically, out of every ₹100 in deposits, banks set aside ₹3 for cash reserve requirements, ₹18 for statutory reserves and hold ₹3-5 in additional government securities to comply with liquidity coverage rules. After these allocations, the amount available for lending



works out to ₹75-76.

The elevated CD ratio reflects challenges in mobilising deposits as investors seek higher returns elsewhere. Small savings schemes currently offer 7.10% for three-year deposits, compared with 6.40-6.50% offered by banks.

The challenge intensified after the RBI cut its policy rate by 125 basis points since February 2025, prompting lenders to reduce deposit rates. The weighted average rate on outstanding term deposits fell to 6.73%, the lowest since Sep-

tember 2023, while fresh deposits averaged 5.59%, the lowest since October 2022.

Deposit mobilisation has lagged credit growth. Bank credit rose 11.4% in 2025, while deposits grew 10.1%. Outstanding deposits were ₹248.5 lakh crore, while credit was ₹202 lakh crore as of December 31.

"To overcome this challenge, banks will have to explore alternative sources such as bond issuance to finance credit growth," said Saurabh Bhalerao, associate director and head of BFSI Research at Care

Ratings. "The pace of investments in government securities has slowed, implying banks are deploying funds for lending," he added.

Fresh investments in government securities dropped to ₹1.87 lakh crore on a YTD basis until December, compared with ₹4.89 lakh crore in the same period a year earlier.

"Ideally, one should look at a broader denominator that includes borrowings and owned funds when calculating the CD ratio," Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said. "That said, a high CD ratio indicates efficient use of resources, as the number is derived after meeting CRR, SLR and LCR requirements," he noted. Banks have maintained nearly 8% higher SLR, mostly to comply with LCR regulations.

"Looking ahead, the ratio is expected to moderate as deposit growth picks up, supported by substantial liquidity infusion by the RBI," a senior bank official said. "Durable liquidity infusion has pushed reserve money growth to 9.4% (adjusted for CRR cut) as of December 2025, from 6% a year earlier," the official said.

Gegeneophis Valmiki:

- ➔ The Indian scientists have discovered a new blind caecilian species named Gegeneophis valmiki in the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra. The species was first collected in 2017 on the Valmiki Plateau in Satara district, Maharashtra.
- ➔ Blind caecilians are limbless subterranean amphibians that spend most of their life underground and are often mistaken for earthworms. The species is named after the historic Maharshi Valmiki Mandir near the discovery site.

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Bagurumba Dwhou 2026:

- ➔ The Prime Minister attended the Bagurumba Dwhou 2026 cultural programme in Guwahati, Assam. Bagurumba Dwhou is a mass cultural performance of the traditional Bagurumba dance of the Bodo community.
- ➔ It is called the “butterfly dance” because the movements are graceful, inspired by butterflies, birds, leaves, and flowers. Bodo women wear colorful handwoven Dokhna, Jwmgra (Fasra), and Aronai while performing in groups.

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2026, January 28-29

Republic Day Parade:

- ➔ The results of the Republic Day Parade 2026 awards have been officially announced, highlighting the best marching contingents and most impactful tableaux displayed on Kartavya Path.
- ➔ In the States and Union Territories category, Maharashtra secured first place for its tableau titled “Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta”, highlighting cultural self-reliance. Jammu and Kashmir followed in second place with “Handicrafts and Folk Dances of J&K”, showcasing regional heritage. Kerala ranked third for “Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy”, linking technology with inclusive growth.
- ➔ These tableaux were judged on theme relevance, visual impact and storytelling. Among the three Armed Forces, the Indian Navy was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent, praised for discipline and synchronization.
- ➔ In the category of Central Armed Police Forces and auxiliary forces, the Delhi Police won the top honour. Separate panels of judges evaluated marching units from the Services and CAPFs to ensure fairness.
- ➔ The Assam Regiment was voted Best Marching Contingent among the Services, while the CRPF topped the CAPFs category. In tableaux, Gujarat ranked first with “Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance – Freedom”. Uttar Pradesh came second for “Culture of Bundelkhand”, and Rajasthan third for “Bikaner Gold Art (Usta Art)”. The Department of School Education and Literacy won among ministries for its NEP 2020 tableau.



International Data Privacy Day:

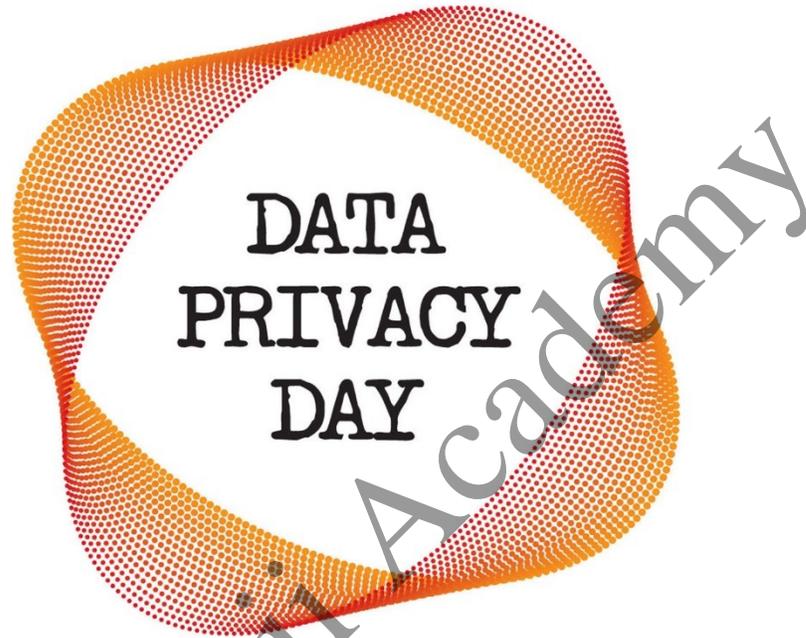
- ➔ International Data Privacy Day, observed on 28 January, has once again brought data protection into the national spotlight. The day reminds governments and citizens that privacy is central to trust in digital systems.
- ➔ For India, one of the fastest-growing digital economies, this observance underlines the importance of protecting personal data while expanding digital services that millions rely on daily.

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- International Data Privacy Day began in 2006, initiated by the Council of Europe to mark the signing of Convention 108, the world's first binding data protection treaty. The day focuses on awareness about protecting personal information in a digital world.



Indian Newspaper Day:

- Indian Newspaper Day is observed every year on 29 January. The date commemorates the launch of Hicky's Bengal Gazette by James Augustus Hicky in 1780 in Calcutta, now Kolkata.
- It was India's first newspaper and played a pioneering role in challenging authority and promoting freedom of expression. Over time, newspapers became powerful tools during the freedom struggle, spreading nationalist ideas, political awareness, and unity among people across regions.

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Ballistic missiles:

- ➔ Submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) are among the most powerful and survivable components of modern nuclear arsenals. Launched from stealthy nuclear submarines hidden deep underwater, these missiles form the sea-based leg of a country's nuclear triad.
- ➔ For both India and China, strengthening SLBM capability is essential to ensuring a credible second-strike capability — the ability to retaliate even after absorbing a nuclear attack. Two important missiles in this domain are India's K-5 SLBM and China's JL-3 SLBM. While both serve similar strategic purposes, they differ significantly in range, development stage, and global reach. The K-5 is an advanced long-range SLBM under development by India's defense research agencies.
- ➔ The K-5 represents a major upgrade over India's earlier SLBMs like K-4 (3,500 km range). With its longer range, Indian submarines can remain in safer patrol zones in the Indian Ocean while still being able to reach strategic targets deep inside adversary territory. The JL-3 (Julang-3) is China's latest generation SLBM, designed to provide intercontinental strike capability from submarines.
- ➔ The JL-3 significantly improves China's global strike capability. With its extended range, Chinese submarines can potentially strike targets across continents, including far-off regions, without leaving relatively protected waters.

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Bombardier Learjet 45:

- ➔ The Bombardier Learjet 45 is a mid-size business jet aircraft. It is mainly used by corporate leaders, private companies, and government officials for short and medium-distance travel.
- ➔ The aircraft is known for its speed, comfort, and reliability. The Learjet 45 was developed by Bombardier Aerospace under its Learjet division. It first flew in 1995 and entered service in 1998. The aircraft can carry 6 to 9 passengers, depending on the seating layout. Bombardier is a Canadian aerospace and transportation company. It is well known for making business jets, regional aircraft, and railway equipment.
- ➔ The Learjet brand became part of Bombardier after it acquired Learjet Corporation in 1990. Bombardier aircraft are used worldwide and are known for advanced technology and safety standards. Although Bombardier later stopped producing Learjet aircraft, many Learjet models, including the Learjet 45, are still in service.

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Girls education:

- ➔ Girls education in Gujarat has received a major boost with a large-scale financial support announcement. To ensure that economic hardship does not interrupt schooling after primary education, the state government has expanded direct assistance for adolescent girls. The move reflects Gujarat's continued focus on educational access, gender equity, and overall empowerment of girl students.
- ➔ The Gujarat government has announced ₹1,250 crore financial aid under the Namo Laxmi Scheme for the 2025-26 academic year, benefiting over 12 lakh girls studying in Classes 9 to 12.
- ➔ The Namo Laxmi Scheme is a state-sponsored initiative aimed at supporting secondary and higher secondary education of girls. Launched under the guidance of Bhupendra Patel, the scheme ensures that financial constraints do not force girls to drop out after primary schooling. It provides structured monetary assistance over four years, linking education with improved health, nutrition, and long-term empowerment.

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Lonar Lake:

- ➔ India's only meteor impact lake, Lonar Lake, is facing a silent but serious environmental threat. Located in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, the ancient lake is witnessing an unprecedented rise in water levels due to freshwater inflow.
- ➔ This change is submerging centuries-old temples and disrupting the lake's unique chemical and biological balance.
- ➔ Lonar Lake has recorded a sharp rise in water levels over the past year, submerging several ancient temples and drastically altering its highly alkaline nature. Experts warn that unchecked freshwater inflow may permanently damage the lake's rare ecosystem and cultural heritage.

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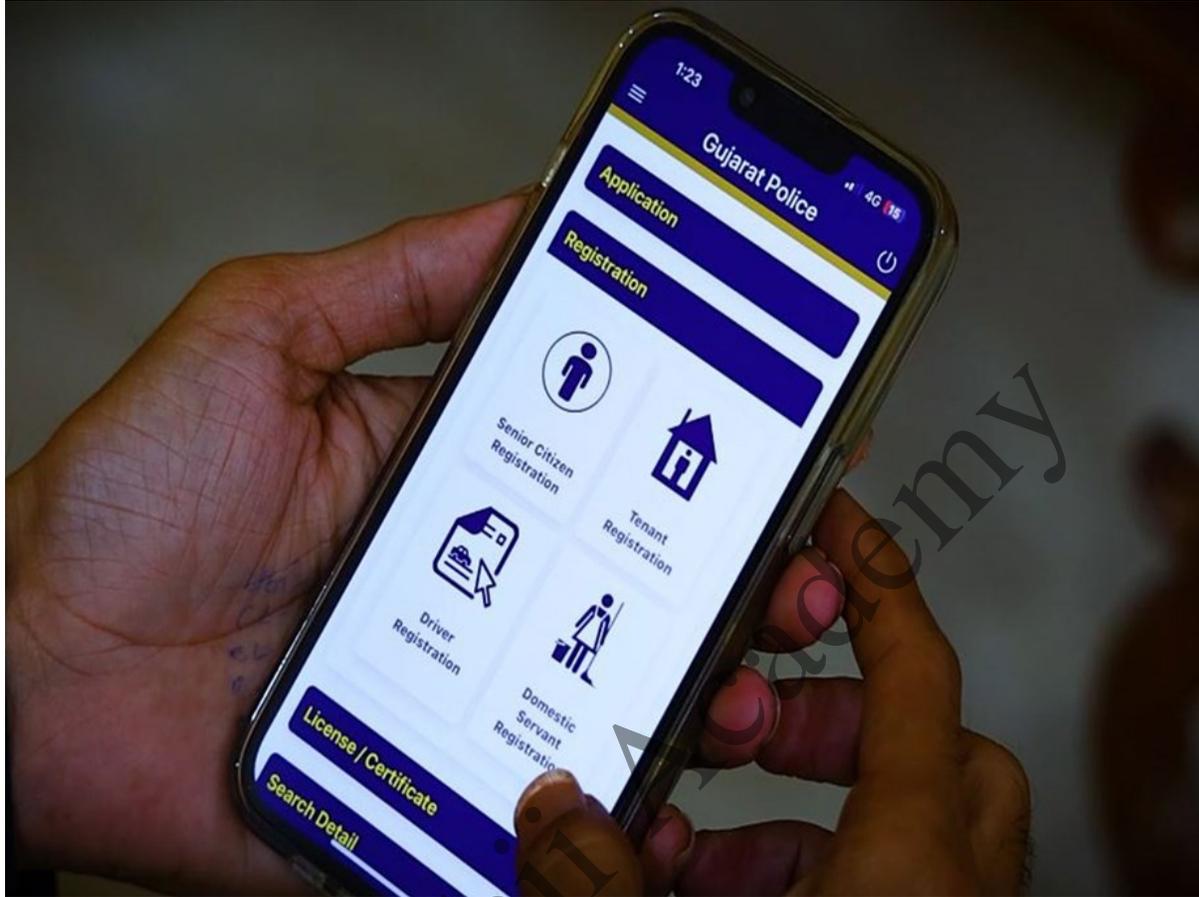
Digital initiative:

- ➔ India's journey towards smart policing has achieved a major milestone with a pioneering digital initiative from Gujarat. By blending technology with privacy safeguards, a city police force has demonstrated how law enforcement can modernize security systems while protecting citizen rights and promoting transparent governance.
- ➔ PATHIK is a guest monitoring software used by hotels, PG accommodations, and homestays to record visitor details for security purposes. With Aadhaar integration, the system now allows instant identity verification through QR-code scanning, using the Aadhaar App.
- ➔ Importantly, the system is consent-based and does not store Aadhaar numbers, ensuring privacy. Only digitally signed demographic details and photographs are used, making the process secure, paperless, and efficient.

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Union government:

- ➔ The Union government has taken a fresh step to support farmers in Tamil Nadu by setting up a dedicated high-level committee for Farmer Producer Organisations. The decision comes soon after ground-level feedback from farmers highlighted several operational and market-related issues.
- ➔ The move signals a focused effort to improve how FPOs function, earn profits and support small farmers. By addressing governance, marketing and crop-specific challenges, the Centre aims to make FPOs stronger, more sustainable and better connected to markets in Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ The committee was formed after the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare reviewed concerns raised by farmers and FPO members in Tamil Nadu. During a recent visit to Erode, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan interacted with farmers and stakeholders.
- ➔ They highlighted problems such as weak management, limited market access, lack of technical guidance and low value addition. Acting on these inputs, the Centre decided to study the issues in detail and design practical solutions.

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Karnataka government:

- ➔ The Karnataka government has officially moved to protect gig and platform workers by notifying a dedicated welfare board. The decision brings a long-discussed law into action and creates a formal system for social security in the gig economy.
- ➔ With app-based work expanding rapidly, the move is being seen as a milestone for labour reforms. The board will oversee registration, welfare funds and benefit delivery, aiming to give gig workers identity, security and institutional support in a fast-changing employment landscape.

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2026:

- ➔ Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangu Bhai Patel announced that 2026 will be observed as the Year of Agriculture while addressing the State-level Republic Day function in Bhopal. The Governor highlighted the sharp rise in the State's agriculture and allied sector budget, which has increased from ₹600 crore in 2002–03 to over ₹27,000 crore in 2024–25.
- ➔ This reflects the government's vision of "prosperous farmers, prosperous State". Madhya Pradesh has adopted a multifaceted agricultural development model covering ten focus areas, including technology transfer, income enhancement, natural farming, innovation, digital transparency, marketing, and exports.
- ➔ These reforms aim to make agriculture more profitable, resilient, and market-oriented.

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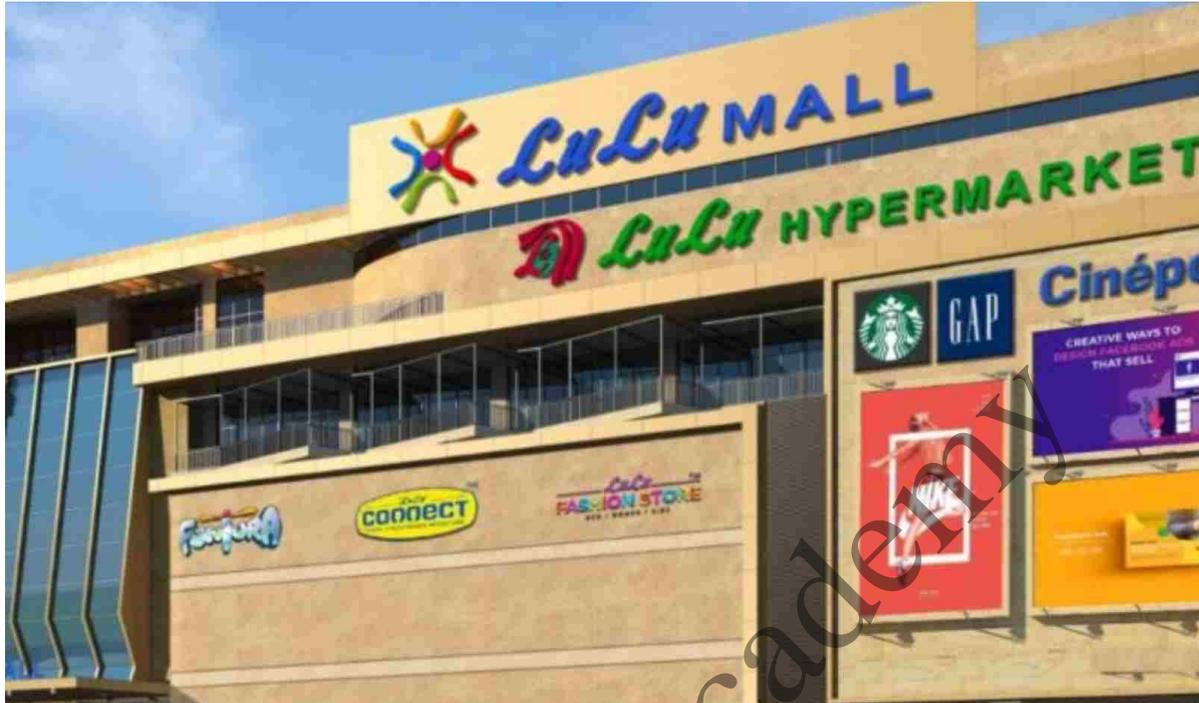
Meghalaya:

- ➔ Meghalaya is making a fresh push to expand its agriculture-based economy by directly entering India's biggest commercial market. The state government will organise its first-ever Meghalaya Spice Festival in Mumbai from January 30 to February 1, 2026.
- ➔ The event is aimed at promoting Meghalaya's premium spices, building strong buyer linkages, and opening new national and export markets for farmers, cooperatives and small enterprises from the state.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu government marked a major milestone in its vision to transform the State into a hub of education, research, and innovation. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for the Tamil Nadu Knowledge City, a large-scale, integrated knowledge ecosystem. The initiative aims to bring together higher education institutions, research and development, technology, and entrepreneurship to drive long-term economic growth and position Tamil Nadu as a global knowledge destination.
- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Knowledge City is envisioned as a comprehensive, knowledge-driven ecosystem that integrates education, research, innovation, and enterprise.
- ➔ The project seeks to foster collaboration between universities, research institutions, startups, and industry players. By creating a single platform for learning and innovation, the State aims to enhance skill development, promote cutting-edge research, and encourage entrepreneurship, thereby supporting sustainable economic development and strengthening Tamil Nadu's global competitiveness.

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UNESCO:

- ➔ India has officially nominated Meghalaya's famous living root bridges for UNESCO's 2026–27 World Heritage evaluation cycle. These unique bridges, grown naturally from the roots of rubber fig trees, reflect centuries-old indigenous knowledge and sustainable living. Created by the Khasi and Jaintia communities, the bridges are strong, eco-friendly, and deeply connected to local culture.
- ➔ Their nomination brings global attention to Meghalaya's natural beauty and highlights India's rich cultural heritage.

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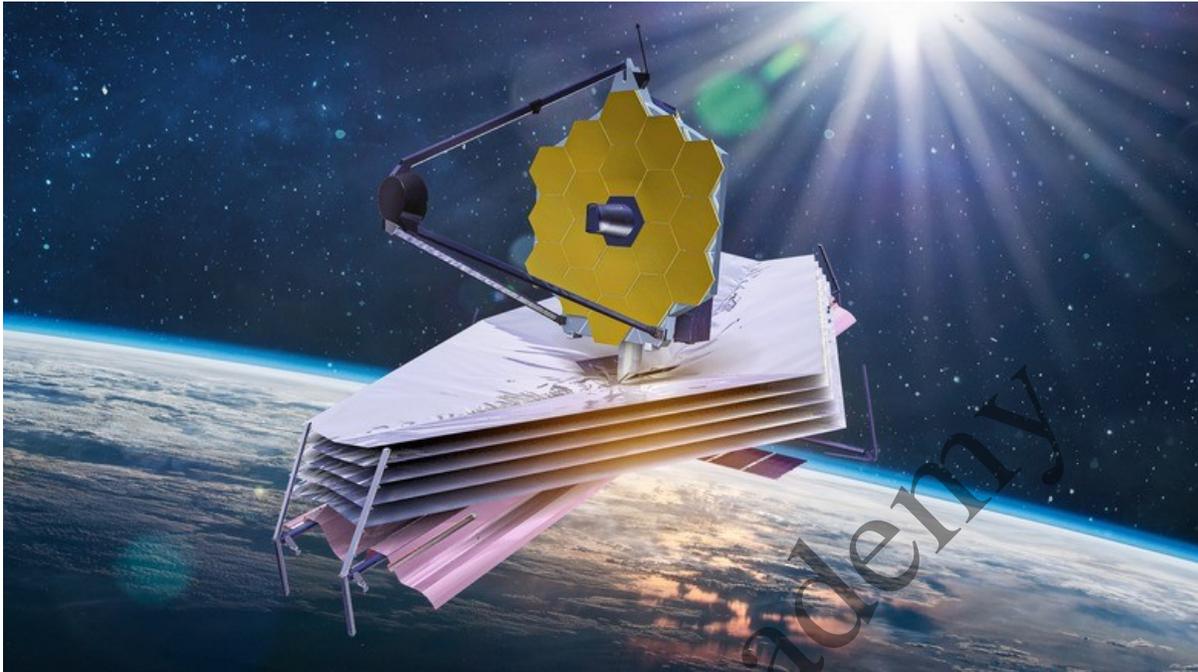
IIT Guwahati:

- ➔ In a major scientific breakthrough, researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati have developed a new method to predict glacial hazards in the fragile Eastern Himalayan region. The study identifies hundreds of locations where glacial lakes may form in the future, raising concerns about floods, infrastructure safety, and climate resilience in high-mountain areas.
- ➔ IIT Guwahati researchers have developed a predictive framework that has identified 492 potential glacial lake formation sites in the Eastern Himalayas. The findings were recently published in Scientific Reports, highlighting new risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs).

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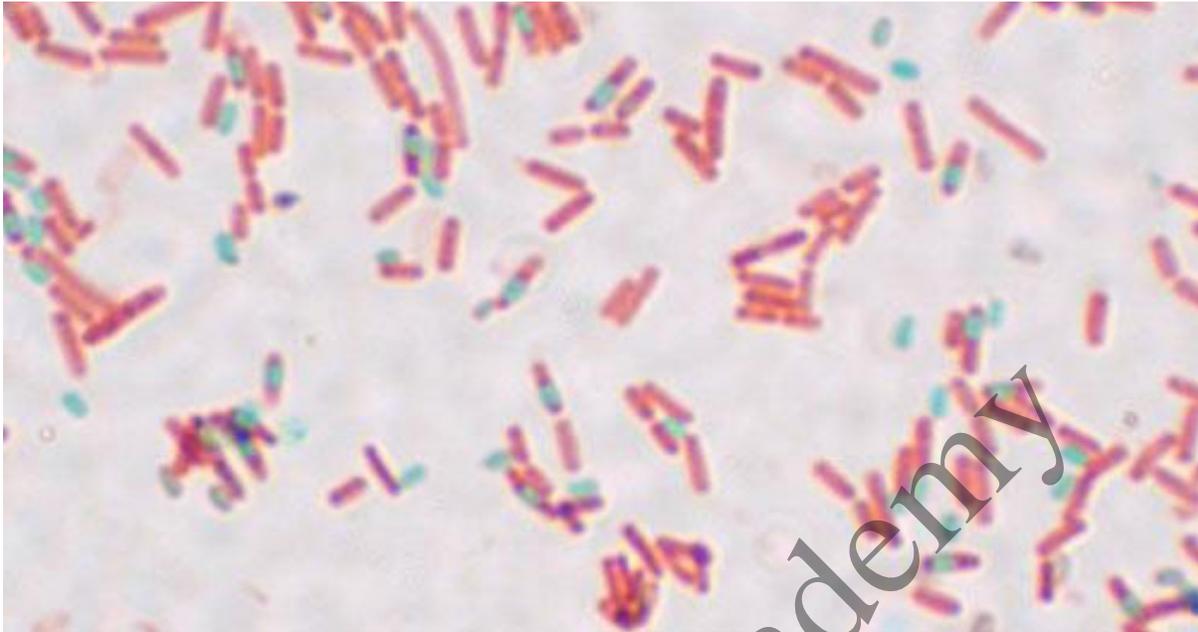
Kerala:

- Kerala has taken a unique and science-driven step by officially recognizing a microorganism as part of its state identity. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, the State government has highlighted the importance of microbes in everyday life, ranging from human health to agriculture and environmental sustainability.
- Kerala has officially declared *Bacillus subtilis* as its State Microbe, becoming the first Indian state to accord such recognition to a microorganism. *Bacillus subtilis* is a beneficial probiotic bacterium commonly found in soil, fermented foods, and the human gut. It is widely studied for its role in improving gut health, boosting immunity, enhancing soil fertility, and controlling plant diseases.

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Uttarakhand:

- ➔ Scientists have discovered a previously unknown species of mushroom in the Himalayan forests of Uttarakhand. Found growing beneath oak trees at high altitude, the new species adds a fresh chapter to India's fungal diversity and marks the first official record of its genus in the country.
- ➔ Researchers have identified a new pitted-spore mushroom species named *Hemileccinum indicum* in the oak forests of Uttarakhand. The discovery, made during field studies in 2022–23, represents the first time the genus *Hemileccinum* has been recorded in India.

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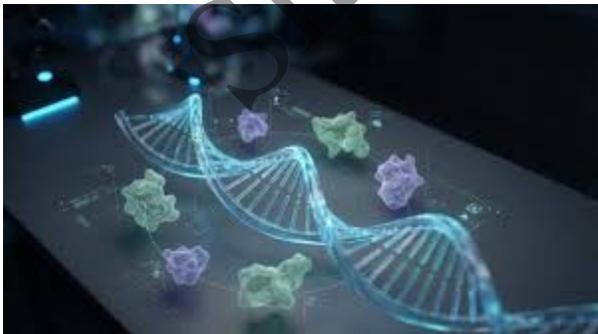
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DNA:

- ➔ Artificial intelligence is now entering one of the most complex frontiers of science human DNA. In a major breakthrough, Google DeepMind has unveiled AlphaGenome, an advanced AI tool capable of analysing DNA at unprecedented scale. The innovation could transform disease research, gene therapy, and personalised medicine by helping scientists understand and even design genetic sequences.
- ➔ AlphaGenome is an advanced artificial intelligence model designed to read and interpret extremely long stretches of DNA. It can analyse up to one million base pairs at a time, allowing researchers to see how subtle genetic mutations affect biological processes.



Granth Kutir:

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- ➔ President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan, housing around 50 manuscripts and 2,300 books in 11 Indian classical languages covering subjects like epics, philosophy, science, history, governance, devotional literature, and the Constitution.
- ➔ The Granth Kutir aims to enhance awareness of India's rich cultural and literary heritage, promote the spirit of unity in diversity, and support the preservation and promotion of classical languages through universities, libraries, and youth engagement.



Government e-Marketplace:

- ➔ Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai signed an MoU to enhance outreach and strengthen MSME participation in public procurement.
- ➔ Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is India's national public procurement portal. Launched on August 9, 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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Kashiwazaki–Kariwa:

- ➔ Japan restarted Reactor No. 6 at the Kashiwazaki–Kariwa nuclear plant, the world's largest nuclear power plant, nearly 15 years after the Fukushima nuclear disaster led to a nationwide shutdown of reactors.
- ➔ The Kashiwazaki–Kariwa plant is located northwest of Tokyo, and the reactor restart was delayed by one day due to an alarm malfunction, with commercial operations expected to begin next month.
- ➔ Before 2011, nuclear energy contributed about 30% of Japan's electricity, and the country had planned to increase this share to around 50% by 2030, highlighting the importance of nuclear power in Japan's energy strategy.

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SpaceX:

- ➔ SpaceX, led by Elon Musk, successfully conducted the first-ever medical evacuation mission from the International Space Station (ISS), safely returning four astronauts to Earth. The returning crew included NASA astronauts Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, JAXA astronaut Kimiya Yui, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Platonov, who landed aboard SpaceX's Dragon capsule off the coast of San Diego, USA.
- ➔ The astronauts concluded a 167-day mission, travelling nearly 71 million miles and completing over 2,670 orbits around Earth, returning earlier than scheduled due to medical reasons.

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World Economic Forum:

- ➔ The World Economic Forum (WEF) is setting up five new Centres for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), including one in Andhra Pradesh, India. India already hosts two such centres in Mumbai and Telangana.
- ➔ These centres will focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) innovation, energy transition, cyber resilience, and frontier technologies. The aim is to provide policy frameworks, pilot projects, and foster international cooperation for emerging technologies.
- ➔ The network collaborates with governments and industries to ensure the responsible and safe development of new technologies. Other new centres will be located in France, the United Kingdom (U.K.), and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

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BRICS:

- ➔ India skipped the BRICS Plus naval exercise “Will for Peace 2026”, stating it is not an institutionalised BRICS activity. The BRICS Plus naval exercise is a host-led and non-institutionalised maritime drill conducted outside the formal BRICS framework.
- ➔ The exercise was hosted by South Africa off the coast of Simon’s Town near Cape Town. Participating navies included China, Russia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and South Africa, while India opted out.
- ➔ The theme focused on joint actions to ensure the safety of key shipping lanes and maritime economic activities.

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ECOSOCL:

- ➔ The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) commemorated its 80th anniversary on 23 January 2026. ECOSOC is one of the six principal organs of the UN. It was established in 1945 under the UN Charter and held its first meeting on 23 January 1946 in London.
- ➔ ECOSOC coordinates global economic, social, and environmental development policies. It reviews progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the High-Level Political Forum. ECOSOC provides consultative status to over 6,500 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to support inclusive development.



ECOSOC



Building
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European Union:

- ➔ The European Union (EU) is considering the use of its trade 'Bazooka' (Anti Coercion Instrument – ACI) for the first time to counter United States (US) tariff threats linked to Greenland tensions.

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- ➔ The Anti-Coercion Instrument (ACI) is a legal tool that allows the EU to respond to economic pressure or coercive trade actions by other countries.
- ➔ The ACI was created by the European Commission in 2021 after China imposed trade restrictions on Lithuania over Taiwan-related ties. Under ACI, the EU can restrict imports and exports, block public procurement, limit foreign investment, and deny market access. Activating the ACI is a slow process and may take at least six months due to assessments and approvals.



State Finances: A Study of Budgets:

- ➔ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2025-26” highlights demographic transition in India. India’s median age is 28 years, with the working-age population at a historical peak.
- ➔ States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a high share of young population, creating growth opportunities. States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have ageing populations, a shrinking labour force, and rising pension and interest expenditures.
- ➔ Ageing states face higher debt-to-Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratios and higher interest payment-to-revenue receipt ratios. RBI suggests investing in education, skilling, and healthcare for young states, and promoting flexible work, raising retirement ages in ageing states.

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Dhole:

- ➔ A rare Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole) was spotted for the first time in Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. Dholes are highly social predators that hunt in packs of 14–20, feeding on deer, sambar, and chital.
- ➔ This is the sixth rare wildlife species recorded in Ratapani in 2026. The Dhole is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Previously, Dholes were mainly found in reserves such as Kanha, Bandhavgarh, and Pench, but now they are expanding to new forest landscapes like Ratapani.



Padma Shri:

- ➔ Veteran police officer K. Vijay Kumar was awarded the Padma Shri for excellence in policing. He led the Special Task Force that neutralised forest brigand Veerappan in Operation Cocoon (2004).

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- He served as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) after the 2010 Dantewada ambush.



Kitna:

- Adivasi artist R. Krishnan (popularly known as 'Kitna') was posthumously awarded the Padma Shri. R. Krishnan belonged to the Alu Kurumba Adivasi community of the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.
- He was known for cloth paintings inspired by ancient rock art sites, especially at Vellaricomбай in the Nilgiris. He used organic paints made from natural dyes and fibres in his artworks. He passed away in March 2025, and his work contributed to preserving Alu Kurumba art and culture.

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Tamil Nadu Forest Department:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has begun its first-ever study on the Madras Hedgehog in the Theri forests of Thoothukudi district. The Madras Hedgehog (*Paraechinus nudiventris*), locally called Mulleli, is a rare nocturnal mammal endemic to southern India.
- ➔ The study is led by the Advanced Institute for Wildlife Conservation (AIWC) across Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Salem, and Kallakurichi districts.
- ➔ Radio telemetry will be used to track movement, habitat use, and threats such as urbanisation and pesticide exposure. The study aims to prepare a conservation action plan and support reclassification of the species from “Least Concern” to “Threatened” in the IUCN Red List.

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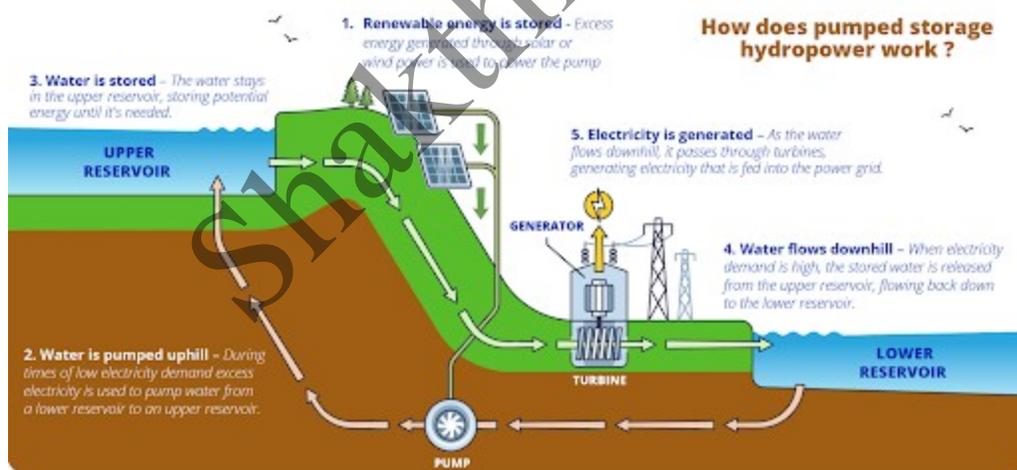
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100 gigawatts:

- ➔ India is planning 100 gigawatts of hydro pumped storage by 2047. Hydro pumped storage uses extra electricity to pump water uphill and generate power during peak demand. It will help manage electricity supply and support renewable energy like solar and wind.
- ➔ The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has identified 120 potential sites for these projects. About 22 GW of projects are already under development, and 50–60 GW are shortlisted for phased rollout.



UPI:

- ➔ India's digital payment system, called UPI (Unified Payments Interface), will start in Japan in 2026. It will be tested first with Indian tourists so they can pay directly from their Indian bank accounts.

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- The project is a partnership between Japan's NTT Data and India's National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- UPI is already operational in eight countries, including Bhutan, Singapore, Nepal, the UAE, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Mauritius, and France. UPI was started in India in 2016 and is the world's biggest real-time payment system.



Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority:

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has formed a committee to modernise National Pension System investment rules. The committee is named Strategic Asset Allocation and Risk Governance (SAARG). Narayan Ramachandran has been appointed as the chairperson of the committee.
- The committee is expected to submit its recommendations within 9 months. It aims to strengthen the NPS investment framework and align it with global pension practices. The committee will review existing asset classes, suggest optimal allocation, improve risk management and governance, and integrate sustainability measures.

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2026, January 30-31

State Film Awards:

- ➔ After years of anticipation, the Government of Tamil Nadu has finally unveiled the State Film Awards for 2016 to 2022, recognising one of the most socially conscious and artistically rich phases of Tamil cinema. From hard-hitting courtroom dramas to raw portrayals of marginalised voices, the awards celebrate films and performances that reshaped mainstream storytelling.
- ➔ Instituted by the Tamil Nadu government, the State Film Awards are among the oldest and most prestigious state-level cinema honours in India, recognising artistic merit, technical excellence and socially meaningful storytelling in Tamil cinema.



Martyrs Day:

- ➔ On January 30 every year, India pauses to remember the immense sacrifices made for its freedom. Martyrs Day 2026 holds special significance as it marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, whose life and ideals shaped India's non-violent freedom struggle and continue to inspire the nation.
- ➔ Martyrs Day, also known as Shaheed Diwas, is unique because it is marked on two important dates. 30 January commemorates the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948. 23 March remembers the execution of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev in 1931 by the British colonial government.

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- The observance of Martyrs' Day serves as a reminder that India's independence was achieved at a great human cost. It reinforces the values of non-violence, truth, courage, and patriotism that Gandhi stood for.
- By honouring martyrs, the nation reflects on its moral responsibilities and the need to uphold democratic ideals. The day also encourages citizens, especially the youth, to appreciate freedom and contribute positively to society.



International Zebra Day:

- International Zebra Day is observed every year on 31 January to spread awareness about one of the most unique animals on Earth the zebra. Known for its black-and-white stripes, the zebra is facing serious threats in the wild.
- International Zebra Day was initiated by a group of wildlife conservation organizations to draw attention to the shrinking zebra population. It is believed to have been supported by conservation institutions working on African wildlife protection.
- Over the last few decades, zebras have faced severe population decline due to poaching, habitat destruction, climate stress, and human-wildlife conflict. The day was created to highlight these challenges and to promote sustainable practices that allow zebras to survive peacefully alongside human populations.

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Pechora missile:

- ➔ India has taken another strong step toward defense modernization. In January 2026, the Indian Air Force's Pechora missile system, inducted in the 1970s, was successfully fully digitized through an indigenous upgrade.
- ➔ The modernisation has significantly enhanced its operational performance and extended its service life. This achievement highlights India's growing capability to upgrade legacy defence systems domestically while strengthening the country's layered air defence network against modern aerial threats.

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AI:

- ➔ India has taken a decisive step towards transforming higher education with artificial intelligence. In a first-of-its-kind initiative, an Indian university will now test AI-powered teaching, learning, and administration systems. The pilot project aims to build a scalable national model that could reshape how students learn and how universities function in the AI era.
- ➔ The initiative is being led by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with Google Cloud and Chaudhary Charan Singh University. CCSU has been selected as the pilot campus where AI tools will be tested before being scaled to institutions across India. The project was announced at Google's AI for Learning Forum in New Delhi.

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State of Assam:

- ➔ The State of Assam has taken a significant welfare step for its tea garden communities by announcing a new financial support scheme. The Assam government has launched the Mukhya Mantrir Eti Koli Duti Paat Scheme to provide one-time financial assistance to tea garden workers across the state.
- ➔ The initiative acknowledges the historic contribution of tea workers to the state's economy and aims to strengthen social security, dignity and inclusive growth across Assam's tea-growing regions.

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Gujarat:

- ➔ Gujarat took a major step toward strengthening village-level governance. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched the Mukhyamantri Gramotthan Yojana, a scheme aimed at transforming rural infrastructure across the state. Under this initiative, foundation stones were laid for 2,666 new panchayat offices.
- ➔ The move is designed to bring government services closer to villagers and reduce the growing pressure on cities by making villages more self-reliant and better equipped.

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Rüsoma:

- ➔ A small village in Nagaland has once again turned the spotlight on rural prosperity through agriculture. On January 30, 2026, the 5th edition of the Rüsoma Orange Festival began at Rusoma village, located just 10 kilometres from Kohima.
- ➔ What started as a local celebration has now become a symbol of community-driven development, sustainable farming, and rural entrepreneurship. By celebrating its famous oranges, the village is showcasing how horticulture can strengthen livelihoods, preserve culture, and boost the local economy—an important example for current affairs and competitive exams.

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Ladakh's Hanle:

- ➔ In mid-January 2026, the night sky over Ladakh's Hanle region shocked observers. Instead of its usual deep black, the sky glowed an eerie blood-red. Photos flooded social media, many calling it "Northern Lights over India." But scientists quickly clarified that this was not just a beautiful natural show.
- ➔ It was the visible impact of one of the strongest solar storms since 2003, raising serious concerns about satellite safety, power grids, and space weather preparedness.
- ➔ The unusual red glow was observed over Hanle in Ladakh, a region famous for its dark skies and astronomical observatories. Instead of the usual starlit darkness, the sky turned a deep crimson. This phenomenon occurred when charged particles from the Sun collided with Earth's magnetic field.

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Maharashtra:

- ➔ In an unprecedented and emotionally charged development, Maharashtra witnessed a historic political moment as Sunetra Pawar took oath as the first woman Deputy Chief Minister of the state.
- ➔ The transition comes just days after the tragic plane crash in Baramati that claimed the life of senior leader Ajit Pawar, reshaping Maharashtra's political landscape overnight.



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Karnataka:

- India's Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) ecosystem is expanding at record speed, and Karnataka has emerged as its undisputed leader. According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, the state hosts nearly 39% of India's GenAI startups, underlining its role as the country's deep-tech powerhouse and a global innovation hub.
- Karnataka's dominance is driven by a unique combination of talent, infrastructure, and policy support. The state leads India in deep-tech concentration, supported by a strong academic base with 43 State Public Universities, the highest in the country.
- This ensures a continuous pipeline of skilled engineers, researchers, and AI professionals. Bengaluru, in particular, provides dense networks of startups, global tech firms, venture capital, and research institutions, making innovation faster and more scalable.



ONGC:

- India's largest energy explorer ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas) has taken a decisive step towards embedding artificial intelligence into everyday operations. Pragya-AIX is a centralized digital platform that brings together ONGC's AI applications into one integrated system.
- Instead of isolated tools working in silos, the platform creates a working AI ecosystem that supports day-to-day decision-making across ONGC's work centres. It marks a shift

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from experimental AI pilots to enterprise-wide deployment, enabling faster execution and consistent use of data-driven insights.



Gaganyaan:

- ➔ India's long-awaited human spaceflight dream is entering its most critical phase. With safety and reliability taking centre stage, the Indian Space Research Organization is intensifying preparations for Gaganyaan. Gaganyaan is India's flagship human spaceflight programme, led by Indian Space Research Organization
- ➔ The mission aims to send Indian astronauts, known as Gaganyatris, to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) for a short-duration mission and return them safely to Earth. It will make India the fourth nation, after the US, Russia, and China, to independently achieve human spaceflight capability.

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Jeevan Raksha:

- ➔ President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards-2025 on 30 persons. Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards is given to individuals for meritorious acts of human nature in saving the life of a person.
- ➔ The awards are given in three categories, namely, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. Persons of all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred posthumously.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government amended the Tamil Nadu Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1959, to regulate mining of sand and other minerals from government lands and tanks. Permission-holders must pay a refundable security deposit equal to two times the seigniorage fee, along with the application fee.
- ➔ District Collectors can cancel mining permission if conditions are violated and recover the difference in fees and restoration costs.
- ➔ Authorities will inspect compliance after expiry of permission or exhaustion of quantity and refund the security deposit accordingly. Excess mining or damage costs will be recovered under the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890, if they exceed the security deposit.



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Archaeological Survey of India:

- ➔ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) began excavation at an Iron Age burial site in Kamanur, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ The project is part of a three-year excavation plan covering several sites in the Palani Hills. Archaeologists have identified cists, dolmens, urn burials, and pit burials in the region.
- ➔ This is the first ASI-led excavation in Kodaikanal; earlier excavations were conducted at Thandikudi in 2004 and 2006.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the Tamil Nadu Women Employment and Safety (TNWESafe) Project and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme at a Tamil Nadu Global Women Summit 2026.
- ➔ The TNWESafe Project is financed by a World Bank loan to improve women's safety and employment. The HPV vaccination drive will begin in Ariyalur, Dharmapuri, Perambalur, and Tiruvannamalai districts.
- ➔ The vaccination programme will benefit 3,38,649 girls above 14 years of age. Tamil Nadu became the first state in India to launch a state-wide free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme for 14-year-old girls to prevent cervical cancer. India's first indigenously developed, affordable quadrivalent vaccine, CERVAVAC, was developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII).

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UGC:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has opposed the UGC (University Grants Commission) circular on introducing a third language in higher education institutions. The State said the circular is against its long-followed two-language policy.
- ➔ Tamil Nadu has followed the two-language formula of Tamil and English since 1968. The State rejected the three-language formula proposed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ➔ Education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution, leading to Centre–State differences. Earlier, in 2022, the Tamil Nadu Assembly opposed steps to promote Hindi in central institutions.

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Coimbatore and Tiruppur:

- Coimbatore and Tiruppur Municipal Corporations raised funds through municipal bonds in January 2026. Coimbatore Municipal Corporation raised ₹150.85 crore, while Tiruppur Municipal Corporation raised ₹100 crore through bonds.
- Chennai Municipal Corporation has raised ₹205.59 crore through municipal bonds. The funds will be used for underground drainage and urban development projects. Indore was the first Municipal Corporation in India to raise funds through bonds for a solar energy project.

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RVC:

- ➔ The Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) of the Indian Army made a debut at the Republic Day Parade 2026. The RVC is responsible for breeding, training, and maintaining Army animals such as horses, mules, camels, and dogs.
- ➔ The corps was originally set up as the Stud Department in Bengal in 1779 and formally named RVC in 1960. The RVC supports military operations, logistics, reconnaissance, combat support, and disaster relief across India.



Akashlabdhi:

- ➔ Indian startup Akashlabdhi is preparing to launch the country's first inflatable space habitat, named AntarikshHAB. The project is incubated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

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- ➔ AntarikshHAB allows a compact module to be launched and inflated in orbit, increasing usable living space from 70 cubic metres initially to 300 cubic metres in final configuration. Tests include pressure, leak, thermal cycling, impact, and deployment trials, reaching Technology Readiness Level 6, meaning system validation in a relevant environment.



Uttarakhand government:

- ➔ The Uttarakhand government has implemented the Uniform Civil Code(Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, to improve transparency, digital registration, and women's empowerment. The ordinance was promulgated under Article 213 of the Constitution of India, giving it immediate legal effect.
- ➔ It introduces procedural, administrative, and penal reforms to the existing UCC Act, 2024, to remove ambiguities and align with new criminal laws. The amendments strengthen digital marriage registration, registration-related powers, and the appellate mechanism. Since the original UCC implementation, over five lakh marriages have been registered online within one year.

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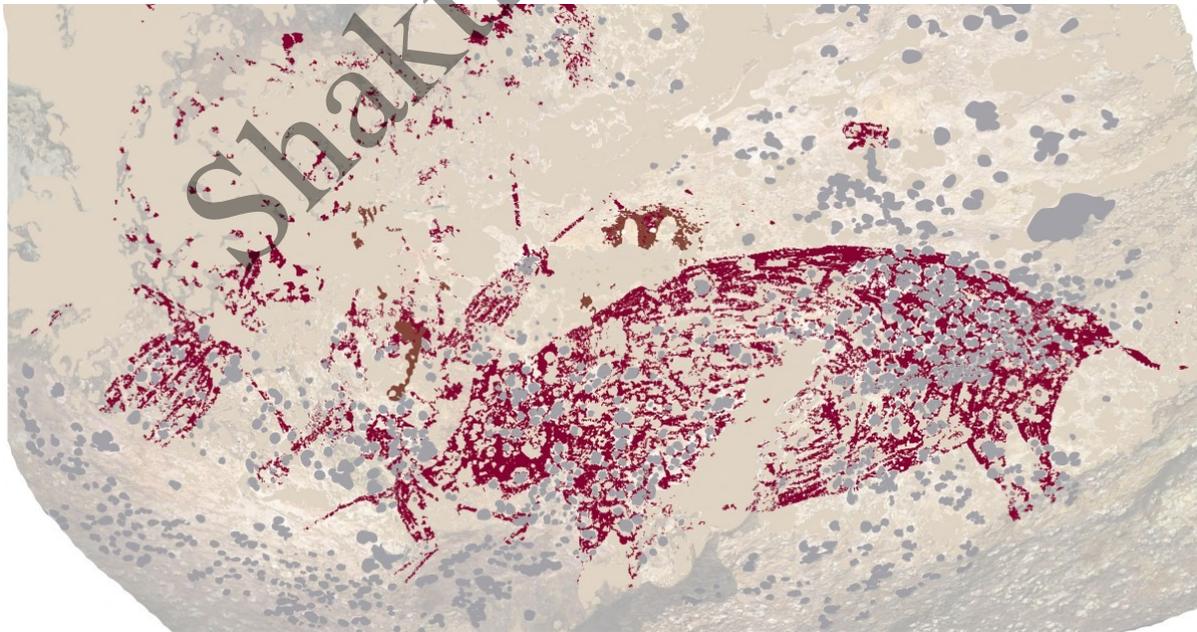
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Cave artwork:

- ➔ Researchers reported the world's oldest known cave artwork discovered in Indonesia. The artwork is a red hand stencil found in limestone caves of Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- ➔ Scientific dating using uranium-series analysis showed the handprint is about 67,800 years old. It predates the oldest known European cave art by nearly 30,000 years.



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