



JANUARY-2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

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AWARDS:

- Jan 3 – Savitribai Phule Jayanti: Honors India's first woman teacher and a pioneer of women's education.
- Jan 4 – World Braille Day: Marks the birth of Louis Braille and highlights Braille as a human right.
 - *Theme:* "Bridging Accessibility in a Digital-First World."
- Jan 5 – National Birds Day: Raises awareness about bird conservation and the value of avian species in the ecosystem.
 - *Theme:* "A Bird in Flight is Poetry in Motion."
- Jan 6 – Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti: Celebrates the birth anniversary of the tenth Sikh Guru.
- Jan 8 – Earth Rotation Day: Commemorates Leon Foucault's 1851 proof that the Earth revolves on its axis.
- Jan 9 – Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: Honors the Indian Diaspora and marks Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa in 1915.
- Jan 11 – National Human Trafficking Awareness Day: Aims to raise awareness about the plight of victims and protect their rights.
 - *Theme:* "Stronger Connections, Stronger Futures."
- Jan 12 – National Youth Day: Celebrated on Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary to encourage youth leadership.
 - *Theme:* "Ignite the Self, Impact the World."
- Jan 13 – Lohri Festival: A harvest festival celebrated primarily in Northern India by lighting bonfires.
- Jan 14 – Makar Sankranti / Pongal Festival: Signifies the end of winter and the beginning of the harvest season; dedicated to the Sun God.
- Jan 15 – Indian Army Day: Honors the day Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief.
 - *Theme:* "Year of Networking and Data Centricity."



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- Jan 16 – National Startup Day: Applauds and promotes the Indian startup ecosystem.
 - Theme: "A Decade of Startup India."
- Jan 19 – Kokborok Day: Celebrated in Tripura to foster and preserve the native Kokborok language.
- Jan 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day: A US federal holiday honoring the legacy of the civil rights leader.
- Jan 21 – Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya Foundation Day: Marks the day these states gained full statehood in 1972.
 - Theme: "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."
- Jan 23 – Parakram Diwas (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti): Honors the birth of the "Day of Courage" to inspire patriotism.
- Jan 24 – National Girl Child Day: Highlights the importance of education, health, and rights for girl children.
 - Theme: "Protection and Rights of the Girl Child."
- Jan 24 – International Day of Education: Recognizes education as a fundamental human right and a driver for peace.
 - Theme: "The power of youth in co-creating education."
- Jan 25 – National Voters' Day: Encourages young citizens to participate in the political process.
 - Theme: "My India, My Vote."
- Jan 25 – National Tourism Day: Raises awareness about the economic importance of tourism for India.
 - Theme: Encouraging mindful travel to preserve environment and heritage.
- Jan 26 – Republic Day: Marks the date the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950.
 - Theme: Paying tribute to the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram."
- Jan 26 – International Customs Day: Recognizes the role of customs officials in maintaining border security.
 - Theme: "Customs protecting society through vigilance and commitment."
- Jan 27 – National Geographic Day: Honors the long-standing history and impact of the National Geographic Magazine.
 - Theme: Exploration, geography, and environmental conservation.
- Jan 28 – Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai: Honors the "Punjab Kesari" for his role in India's freedom struggle.
- Jan 28 – K.M. Cariappa Jayanti: Marks the birth anniversary of the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army.
- Jan 28 – Data Privacy Day: Promotes awareness regarding personal data protection.
 - Theme: "Take control of your data."
- Jan 29 – Indian Newspaper Day: Commemorates the beginning of newspapers in India.
 - Theme: "Role of Print Media in the Digital Age."
- Jan 30 – Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas): Remembers Mahatma Gandhi and other revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives for freedom.
 - Theme: "Gandhism: A Voice of Humanity Amid Hatred."
- Jan 30 – World Leprosy Day: Focused on achieving zero cases of leprosy-related disabilities.
 - Theme: "Leprosy is curable; the real challenge is stigma."
- Jan 31 – International Zebra Day: Aims to raise awareness about the conservation of zebras and their habitats.

BOOKS :

- Biography of Droupadi Murmu: Chronicles the life journey of India's first tribal woman President, symbolizing social inclusion and the dignity of labor.
- "The One: Cricket, My Life and More" by Shikhar Dhawan: A personal narrative of a World Cup-winning opener focusing on sports culture and athlete mental health.
- "Chalice of Ambrosia" (Released by Jagdeep Dhankhar): An ideological and historical account of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement reflecting modern Indian cultural nationalism.
- "History That India Ignored" (Second Edition): A reinterpretation of neglected historical narratives that challenges traditional post-colonial historiography.
- "The Lonely Lions" (Released on National Startup Day): Explores the entrepreneurial struggles and innovation culture within India's evolving startup ecosystem.



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- "Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti": Examines the civilizational values and political thought of Atal Bihari Vajpayee regarding India's cultural worldview.
- "Palanivelu GUTS" (Hindi Edition): A translated leadership narrative promoting regional-to-national knowledge dissemination and linguistic inclusion.
- "Economic Empowerment of Bharat in the Modi Era": Discusses governance, welfare reforms, and the shift toward economic nationalism post-2014.
- "The Emergency Diaries – Years That Forged a Leader": Analyzes the political leadership and democratic resilience shaped during the Indian Emergency era.
- "Rukmini Aunty and the R.K. Narayan Fan Club": Contemporary Indian fiction that uses literary nostalgia to bridge modern and classic English literature.
- 500th Book of Jain Acharya Vijayaratra: A milestone religious-philosophical publication recognized for its contribution to Indian knowledge systems.
- Sahitya Akademi's Hindi Translation of "The Last Day": Promotes cultural democratization and multilingualism through high-quality literary translation.
- Kiran Desai's 2025 Booker Prize Shortlist: Marks a significant global recognition for Indian literature on the international stage.

AWARDS:

Statistical & Civilian Awards

- Sukhatme National Award in Statistics: A prestigious honor given by the Government of India to recognize outstanding contributions to statistical research, teaching, and methodology.
- Padma Vibhushan: India's second-highest civilian honor, awarded in 2026 to 5 recipients including Dharmendra (Posthumous) for Art and V.S. Achuthanandhan (Posthumous) for Public Affairs.
- Padma Bhushan: The third-highest civilian honor, awarded to 13 distinguished individuals including singer Alka Yagnik, actor Mammooty, and banker Uday Kotak.
- Padma Shri: The fourth-highest civilian honor, awarded to 113 individuals for distinguished service; notable 2026 sports recipients include Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur.

Gallantry Awards (Republic Day 2026)

- Ashoka Chakra: India's highest peacetime gallantry award, conferred in 2026 upon Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla (the first Indian to go to the International Space Station).
- Kirti Chakra: The second-highest peacetime gallantry honor, awarded to 3 personnel for conspicuous bravery away from the battlefield.
- Shaurya Chakra: The third-highest peacetime gallantry decoration, awarded to 13 recipients (including one posthumous) for acts of valor or self-sacrifice.
- Service Medals: A total of 70 personnel were honored, including 44 Sena Medals, 6 Nao Sena Medals, and 2 Vayu Sena Medals for gallantry.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2025: Awarded to Graça Machel for her lifelong humanitarian efforts in education, healthcare, and women's empowerment.
- Samurai Martial Arts Honor (Kenjutsu): Conferred upon Pawan Kalyan (Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh), making him the first Indian to receive this rare Japanese martial arts recognition.
- Selection Process: Padma awards are recommended by a committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary and approved by the President; Gallantry awards are vetted by service headquarters.
- National Significance: These honors are announced on the eve of Republic Day (Jan 26) to celebrate national excellence and inspire morale across military and civilian sectors.

Padma Awards 2026 Recipients

- Padma Vibhushan:
 - Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous): Awarded for his monumental contributions to Bollywood and Indian cinema.
 - V.S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous): Honored for his veteran political leadership and service as the former Chief Minister of Kerala.
 - K.T. Thomas: Recognized for his distinguished career as a jurist and his contributions to Public Affairs.



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- N. Rajam: Awarded for her exceptional expertise as a classical violinist in the field of Art.
- P. Narayanan: Honored for his distinguished work as a scholar in Literature and Education.
- Padma Bhushan (Notable):
 - Alka Yagnik: Renowned playback singer honored for her extensive contributions to Indian music.
 - Mammooty: Iconic Malayalam film actor recognized for his distinguished service to Indian cinema.
 - Uday Kotak: Prominent banker and industrial leader honored for his contributions to Trade and Industry.
 - Shibu Soren (Posthumous): Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and tribal leader recognized for his work in Public Affairs.
 - Bhagat Singh Koshyari: Veteran administrator and former Uttarakhand CM honored for his service in Public Affairs.
- Padma Shri (Notable):
 - Rohit Sharma: Cricketing legend honored for his exceptional contributions to Indian sports.
 - Harmanpreet Kaur: Indian women's cricket stalwart recognized for her leadership and excellence in sports.
 - R. Madhavan: Popular actor and social contributor honored for his diverse impacts on Art and society.

Gallantry Awards 2026 Recipients

- Ashoka Chakra: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to go to the International Space Station, was conferred the nation's highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Kirti Chakra: Awarded to 3 recipients for conspicuous bravery in the face of danger away from the battlefield.
- Shaurya Chakra: Conferred upon 13 recipients (including one posthumous) for acts of valor or self-sacrifice.
- Sena/Nao Sena/Vayu Sena Medals: A total of 52 personnel (44 Sena, 6 Nao Sena, 2 Vayu Sena) received these medals for gallantry in diverse operational theatres.

Other Award Recipients

- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2025: Graca Machel
- Samurai Martial Arts Honour: Pawan Kalyan

INDICES:

- Corruption Perceptions Index (96th): Since this is released by Transparency International, it reflects the "perceived" level of public sector corruption. In an ethics or governance essay, use this alongside the Number Safety Index (where Mangaluru shines) to argue that decentralized, smaller cities might be managing administrative integrity better than massive metros.
- Gender Inequality Index (131st): This is a UNDP staple. A low rank here despite high GDP growth points to "jobless growth" or "social lag," where economic numbers rise but women's labour force participation stays stagnant
- Power Gap Index (3rd): This is the "big win" for 2026. Being ranked 3rd by the Lowy Institute officially moves India into the "Major Power" bracket. This is your go-to data point for GS-2 to show that India's military and economic weight now surpasses traditional powers like Japan and Russia.
- Responsible Nations Index (16th): This acts as a soft-power counterweight. While the Power Gap Index measures "hard power" (military/GDP), the RNI (developed by WIF/Dorset) measures "moral authority."
- Henley Passport Index (80th): Think of this as the "Diplomatic Mobility" indicator. Even with 55 visa-free destinations, the gap between India's 3rd place in *Power* and 80th in *Passport strength* shows that diplomatic leverage for citizens often lags behind military might.
- Financial Stability Report (RBI): This is the pulse of the banking sector. The key takeaway for 2026 is the Gross NPA (Non-Performing Asset) ratio. When NPAs are low and declining, it means banks have "cleaner" balance sheets, allowing them to fund the Asia Manufacturing Index goals (where India currently sits at 6th).
- World Inequality Report: Released by the World Inequality Lab, this provides the "reality check" to the FSR. While the banking system is stable, wealth concentration in the top 1% suggests that the "K-shaped recovery" (where the rich get richer and the poor stay the same) is still a concern.



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- Export Preparedness Index (NITI Aayog): This is an example of Competitive Federalism. By highlighting Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the index pressures other states to improve their "Logistics Ease" to match global standards.
- Global Peace Index (115th): This is often the "Achilles' heel" in India's global profile. The Institute for Economics and Peace penalizes the rank due to internal security friction and high defense spending.

DEFENCE

Defense Acquisition Council (DAC)

- Established: 2001 (Post-Kargil reforms).
- Chairman: Union Minister of Defense.
- Function: Highest decision-making body for defense procurement. It grants the AoN (Acceptance of Necessity), which is the first step toward any defense purchase.

Major Systems in the 2026 Pipeline

- Astra Mk-II: An indigenous BVRAAM (Beyond-Visual-Range Air-to-Air Missile). It uses a solid fuel motor and has a range of > 100 km, allowing Indian fighters (Su-30 MKI, Tejas) to strike enemy jets without entering their radar range.
- Suryastra Rocket System: India's first "universal" multi-calibre launcher.
 - Range: 150 km to 300 km.
 - Precision: CEP (Circular Error Probable) < 5m.
 - Manufacturer: NIBE Limited (India) + Elbit Systems (Israel).
- MPATGM: A 3rd-generation "Fire-and-Forget" anti-tank missile.
 - Specialty: Top-attack capability (hits the tank where the armor is thinnest).
- INS Vaghsheer: The 6th and final submarine of Project-75 (Kalvari-class). These are Scorpène-design conventional diesel-electric submarines.
- ICGS Sankalp: An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) used for EEZ surveillance and maritime diplomacy (e.g., recent visit to Mauritius).
- INSV Kaundinya & INS Sudarshini: These are Sailing Vessels. They are not for combat but for "Sail Training." They build leadership and "sea sense" in officers through traditional navigation.

Hypersonic Developments (The Global Race)

- India's LR-ASHM: A Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile. It reaches Mach 10 (10 times the speed of sound). It follows a Quasi-ballistic trajectory, meaning it stays in the atmosphere and maneuvers, making it nearly impossible for current missile defenses to intercept.
- IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme): Remember the P-A-T-N-A legacy (Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, Akash). Today's Akash-NG and MPATGM are the grandchildren of this 1983 program.
- Operation Pawan (1987): Often called "India's Vietnam," this intervention in Sri Lanka remains the primary case study for Indian officers on the risks of "Peace Enforcement" in foreign ethnic conflicts.

Indian Giant Squirrel (Ratufa indica):

- State Animal: Maharashtra (locally called Shekru).
- Update: Sighted in the Atwan region (Pune) during the 2026 Tiger Estimation.
- Status: IUCN Least Concern, but sensitive to habitat fragmentation.

Irrawaddy Dolphin:

- Status: Endangered (IUCN).
- Habitat: Chilika Lake (Odisha), Sundarbans, and Mekong River.
- Unique Feature: Rounded forehead, no beak, and can live in both salt and freshwater.

Chang'e-6 Mission (China):

- Goal: First mission to return samples from the Far Side of the Moon (South Pole-Aitken Basin).

Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) & Graviton Detector:

- RLV: Aims to reduce launch costs via re-entry tech.
- Graviton Detector: A theoretical leap to find the "Graviton" (the quantum particle of gravity). This would unify General Relativity with Quantum Mechanics.

V2V (Vehicle-to-Vehicle) Communication:



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- Protocol: Uses 5G (C-V2X) or DSRC.
- Logic: Cars "talk" to each other to share braking and speed data, reducing crashes by up to 80%.

NIEDDMS (National IED Data Management System):

- What it is: A centralized digital repository for all Improvised Explosive Device (IED) incidents in India.
- Purpose: To analyze "blast signatures" and track geographical patterns of terrorists/insurgents.

ICEGATE (Indian Customs Electronic Gateway):

- Role: The backbone of "Digital Customs."
- Benefit: Enables Faceless, Paperless, and Contactless customs clearance, boosting India's "Ease of Doing Business" ranking.

Euratom:

- Core: EU-based organization for peaceful nuclear energy.
- India Link: Cooperation in nuclear science research and radiation safety.
- Irrawaddy Dolphin: An Endangered euryhaline (can handle salt/fresh water) dolphin found in Chilika Lake and the Sundarbans. Its survival is the primary indicator of river health.
- Dust Experiment (DEX): A Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) instrument that tracks micrometeorites. It confirmed an interplanetary dust strike every 1,000 seconds, vital data for protecting future Gaganyaan astronauts.
- V2V Communication: Uses C-V2X (Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything). Vehicles share speed and braking data instantly. If the car in front slams on the brakes, your car "knows" before you see it.
- Operation Megaburu: A 2026 milestone in internal security. The joint operation in the Saranda Forest (Jharkhand) led to the neutralisation of top LWE (Left-Wing Extremism) commanders, including Patiram Manjhi.

SPORTS

Chess

- Magnus Carlsen's Dominance: He won his 6th World Rapid title (19th World Title overall) with a record score of 10.5/13.
- The Indian Podium: Arjun Erigaisi (Bronze): Became only the second Indian male to medal at this event after Viswanathan Anand. He finished tied for 2nd (9.5/13) but took Bronze on tiebreak points.
- The Women's Champion: Aleksandra Goryachkina (Russia/FIDE) won her maiden title after a thrilling blitz tiebreak.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26

- Champion: Vidarbha (Maiden Title).
- The Final: Defeated Saurashtra by 38 runs in Bengaluru.
- Standout Performers: * Atharva Taide: Player of the Match (scored a century).
 - Aman Mokhadde: Player of the Tournament.

44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship

- Boys' Category: Karnataka (Champions) defeated Maharashtra 35-30.
 - Award: Veer Abhimanyu Award – B. Vijay (Karnataka).
- Girls' Category: Maharashtra (Champions) defeated Odisha 34-33.
 - Award: Janaki Award – Sneha Lamkane (Maharashtra).

| Event | Status / Host | Key Context |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| National Games 2027 | Meghalaya | The 39th edition; first time for the state. |
| ICC U-19 World Cup 2026 | Zimbabwe & Namibia | India's developmental pipeline for senior cricket. |
| Commonwealth Games 2026 | Glasgow, Scotland | Reduced sports list but high focus on Para-sports. |



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| Event | Status / Host | Key Context |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Winter Olympics 2026 | Milan & Cortina, Italy | Focus on sustainable "Two-City" hosting model. |

- BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year 2024: Manu Bhaker (Shooting). She became the first Indian post-independence to win two medals in a single Olympics (Paris 2024).
- National Snooker/Billiards: Pankaj Advani continues to dominate, recently securing his 2025 Asian Snooker title in Doha.
- Davis Cup (Tennis): Rohit Rajpal remains at the helm, ensuring strategic stability for India's 2026 campaign.

PERSONALITIES

Savitribai Phule: The Mother of Indian Feminism

- Legacy: India's first female teacher.
- Key Action: Opened the first girls' school in Pune (1848) at Bhide Wada.
- Satyashodhak Samaj (1873): Co-founded with Jyotirao Phule to advocate for the rights of lower castes and women.
- Literary Work: *Kavya Phule* and *Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar*.

Rani Velu Nachiyar: The "Veeramangai"

- Anti-Colonial Pioneer: The first Indian queen to wage armed war against the British (1780s), predating Rani Laxmibai by 70 years.
- Military Innovation: Formed "Udaiyaal", one of the first all-women army units.
- Key Ally: Hyder Ali of Mysore.

The "Lal-Bal-Pal" & Revolutionary Leaders

- Lala Lajpat Rai (Punjab Kesari): Founded the Servants of the People Society. His death following the Simon Commission protests (1928) triggered the revolutionary phase of Bhagat Singh.
- Subhas Chandra Bose (Netaji): Twice Congress President (Haripura & Tripuri). Formed the Forward Bloc and later the INA.
- Rash Behari Bose: The mastermind of the 1912 Delhi Conspiracy Case (Hardinge bomb case). He founded the Indian Independence League in Japan and handed over the INA to Netaji.
- Veer Surendra Sai: The "Lion of Sambalpur." He led one of the longest guerrilla wars against the British in Odisha (1827-1862).

NATIONAL

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

- Milestone: Completed 9 years in 2025-26.
- Objective: Provides a cash incentive of ₹5,000 (in three instalments) directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first living child of the family.
- Purpose: Partial wage compensation and improving maternal health/nutrition.

Aadhaar Mascot & BPAN

- Aadhaar Mascot: Launched by UIDAI to enhance trust and simplify digital identity outreach for citizens.
- BPAN (Battery Pack Aadhaar Number): A 21-character unique ID for Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries. It tracks the lifecycle from raw material sourcing to recycling, supporting a Circular Economy.

Salal Hydroelectric Project

- Location: Chenab River, Reasi (J&K).
- Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) Context: India suspended the IWT in 2025 and has now initiated major sediment removal at the Salal reservoir to improve efficiency, a move that was previously restricted under the treaty's old design concessions.

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)

- Role: Nodal agency under the Ministry of Defence (headquartered in Bengaluru) for designing combat aircraft.
- Current Projects: LCA Tejas Mk2 and the AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft), India's future 5th-generation stealth fighter.



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MahaCrimeOS AI

- Usage: Maharashtra Police's new AI tool for predictive policing. It analyses crime hotspots and identifies links between criminal activities using data analytics.

The Thadou Tribe

- Location: Second largest tribal group in Manipur.
- Identity: Belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family. There is a strong movement for a distinct identity, often distinguishing themselves from the broader Kuki cluster.
- Language: Prasar Bharati is resuming broadcasts in the Thadou dialect to preserve this linguistic heritage.

The Ho (Kolha) People

- Location: Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- Culture: Primarily practitioners of Sarnaism (nature-based religion). They speak the Ho language, related to Mundari.
- Governance: Villages have a traditional headman/priest called a Deuri.

Pench Tiger Reserve

- Location: Straddles Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- Heritage: Inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book".
- Ecology: Part of the Satpura-Maikal landscape, vital for tiger genetic flow.
- Dardanelles Strait: A narrow 61 km waterway in Turkey. It is the only link between the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara, serving as the gateway for Black Sea nations to reach the global oceans.
- Mt. Elbrus: A dormant stratovolcano in Russia's Caucasus range. At 5,642 meters, it is the highest peak in Europe.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Live Events Development Cell (LEDC): Established by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to boost the "concert economy," streamline event permissions via a single-window system, and position India as a global live entertainment hub by 2030.
- White-Bellied Heron: A "Critically Endangered" bird species whose habitat on the Lohit River (Arunachal Pradesh) is currently under review for the Kalai-II hydroelectric project.
- Sri Govindaraja Swamy Temple: A 12th-century Tirupati temple built by Cholas and expanded by Vijayanagara kings; it features a blend of Dravidian and Vijayanagara architectural styles and was consecrated by Saint Ramanujacharya.
- Rani Velu Nachiyar: Known as *Veeramangai*, she was the 18th-century Queen of Sivaganga and the first Indian queen to wage war against the British, forming a women's army called "Udaiyaal."
- Microlensing: A phenomenon predicted by Einstein's Theory of Relativity used by scientists to detect "rogue planets" and measure the mass of distant, invisible objects by observing how their gravity magnifies background star light.
- Thadou Tribe: The second-largest tribe in Manipur (after Meiteis), they primarily reside in the hills adjacent to the Imphal Valley and traditionally practice *Jhum* (slash-and-burn) agriculture.
- Cetacean Morbillivirus: A viral disease affecting dolphins, whales, and porpoises; it spreads via respiratory droplets and direct contact, impacting the animals' respiratory and neurological systems.
- Battery Pack Aadhaar System: A proposed government initiative to assign a unique 21-character Battery Pack Aadhaar Number (BPAN) to EV and industrial batteries (>2 kWh) to ensure lifecycle traceability and efficient recycling.
- RQ-170 Sentinel: A high-altitude, long-endurance stealth surveillance drone (UAV) manufactured by Lockheed Martin, recently spotted in U.S. military operations in the Caribbean/Venezuela region.
- Re-Circulatory Aquaculture System (RAS): A high-density fish farming technology that recycles water through mechanical and biological filtration, allowing for intensive cultivation with minimal land and water use.
- Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme: A MeitY initiative implemented by C-DAC to support semiconductor chip design for startups and MSMEs with incentives up to ₹15–30 crore.



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- Industrial R&D Promotion Program: The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) relaxed norms for deep-tech startups to avail R&D recognition and support.
- Notifiable Diseases: In India, state governments hold the authority to declare a disease "notifiable," requiring mandatory reporting by medical practitioners to help prevent outbreaks.
- Suryastra Rocket System: India's first indigenous multi-calibre, long-range rocket launcher (range 150–300 km) developed by NIBE Ltd in collaboration with Israel's Elbit Systems.
- Taimoor Missile: Pakistan recently flight-tested this indigenous air-launched cruise missile with a range of up to 600 km.
- Justice Mission 2025: A large-scale inter-service military drill conducted by China around Taiwan involving sea-air combat readiness and blockade simulations.
- Madhav Tiger Reserve: Located in Madhya Pradesh, it was officially declared a new Tiger Reserve in the 2025 review.
- Project Cheetah: The project entered its expansion phase in 2025 with the introduction of cheetahs into Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary, MP.
- Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology: Tripura has identified 10 river sites to generate 185 MW of power using this emerging "zero-head" renewable technology.
- Chilika Lake: Asia's largest brackish water lake in Odisha; government is launching a new action plan for its biodiversity protection.
- Dnyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary: Part of Maharashtra's Melghat Tiger Reserve, it recently received a rescued tiger cub for rewilding.
- C-Reactive Protein (CRP): New evidence suggests this liver-produced protein (a marker for inflammation) is a better predictor of heart disease risk than cholesterol.
- Spina Bifida: A birth defect of the spinal cord preventable by folic acid; calls have increased for India to launch a national awareness program.
- Archaea: New research shows certain archaea (ancient single-celled organisms) use specific DNA sequences to encode rare amino acids rather than stopping protein synthesis.
- Somnath Swabhiman Parv: Celebrated from 1026–2026 to mark a millennium of the Somnath Temple's resilience following its destruction by Mahmud of Ghazni.
- Savitribai Phule: Her 194th birth anniversary was celebrated on January 3rd, 2026; she was India's first female teacher and a pioneering social reformer.
- Sunrise Festival 2025-26: Inaugural cultural tourism festival held at Dong Village (Anjaw, Arunachal Pradesh), the easternmost point of India.
- Socotra Island: A Yemeni UNESCO site in the Indian Ocean, known as the "Galápagos of the Indian Ocean" for its unique endemic species, saw tourists stranded due to regional clashes.
- Double-Humped Bactrian Camel: Native to the Gobi desert and Ladakh's Nubra Valley; set to debut at the 77th Republic Day parade.
- Monroe Doctrine Revival: The US military operation in Venezuela (Operation Absolute Resolve) to capture President Maduro is seen as a revival of this 1823 doctrine.
- Anti-Dumping Duty: India imposed duties on "low ash metallurgical coke" (essential for steelmaking) to protect domestic producers from unfair import pricing.
- e-Sanjeevani Update: The national telemedicine platform has crossed a new milestone in 2026, significantly reducing the "out-of-pocket expenditure" for rural patients.
- PRITHVI Scheme: The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) emphasized the PRITHVI Vgyan scheme to improve long-range weather forecasting and deep-ocean exploration.
- SMART 2.0: The "Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research among Teaching professionals" (SMART 2.0) program was highlighted to boost clinical studies in priority areas like anemia and hypertension.
- Global South Center of Excellence: India reaffirmed its commitment to the DAKSHIN (Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative) to provide technical solutions to developing nations.
- Logistics Efficiency: New reports indicate that India's dedicated freight corridors have reduced turnaround times for cargo by 30% as of early 2026.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) Technology: The government is pushing for D2M broadcasting, which allows video content to be streamed on mobile phones without an active internet connection
- Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary: Located in Assam, this sanctuary is in focus as the second habitat for the endangered Golden Langur in India.
- Sea-Lettuce (Ulva): Researchers highlighted the potential of this green algae in coastal India for carbon sequestration and as a sustainable biofuel source.
- Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO): India's formal ratification as a full member of SKAO (the world's largest radio telescope) was discussed for its impact on domestic high-tech manufacturing.
- Huntington's Disease: Recent breakthroughs in gene-silencing therapy for this neurodegenerative disorder have moved into Phase-II clinical trials in India.
- PRASHAD Scheme: The Ministry of Tourism added new sites to the "Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive" to boost heritage tourism and local livelihoods.
- Section 124A (Sedition): Legal discussions intensified regarding the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and how it replaces the colonial-era sedition law with provisions targeting "acts endangering sovereignty."
- Great Nicobar Port Project: Environmental concerns were raised regarding the impact of the Galathea Bay transshipment port on the nesting grounds of the Giant Leatherback Turtle.
- Kanger Valley National Park: Located in Chhattisgarh, this park is in the news due to the sighting of the rare "Painted Bat" (*Kerivoula picta*).
- LVM3-M4 Mission: ISRO shared data from its latest heavy-lift vehicle performance, crucial for upcoming Gaganyaan (human spaceflight) uncrewed modules.
- Deepfakes & AI Regulation: MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) issued updated advisories to social media intermediaries to use "watermarking" for AI-generated content to curb misinformation.
- India-UAE CEPA: The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement completed another year, showing a significant jump in non-oil trade, particularly in gems and jewelry.
- Hoysala Temples: Following their UNESCO World Heritage status, a new integrated management plan was launched to preserve the intricate soapstone carvings at Belur and Halebidu.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD): Celebrated annually on January 9th to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community; it commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to Mumbai in 1915.
- Nagauri Ashwagandha (GI Tag): This medicinal crop from the Nagaur district of Rajasthan was recently granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag due to its superior alkaloid content.
- Vera C. Rubin Observatory: Scientists using this Chilean-based observatory (named after the astronomer who provided evidence for dark matter) discovered the fastest-spinning asteroid, 2025 MN45.
- Vande Bharat Sleeper: India's first-ever Vande Bharat Sleeper train is set to debut in West Bengal, modernizing long-distance overnight rail travel.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) Davos 2026: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren is the first Indian CM to address the Blavatnik School of Government (Oxford) during his visit to the WEF meeting.
- Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB): Distinguished scientist A.K. Balasubrahmanian was appointed as the new Chairman for a three-year term.
- Bio-Bitumen: India has become the first country to use bio-bitumen on a commercial scale for road construction to reduce carbon emissions.
- Indian Railways History: The first train ran in 1853 from Bombay to Thane; Lord Dalhousie is known as the "Father of Indian Railways."
- NALSA: The National Legal Services Authority was established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to provide free legal aid to the weaker sections.
- Pali Language: Recognized as a Classical Language by India in 2024; it was the primary language used for early Buddhist scriptures (Tripitakas).
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY): Launched in 2015, it provides a guaranteed minimum pension ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month for workers in the unorganized sector.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Sports Authority of India (SAI): Established in 1984 to manage the infrastructure legacy of the 1982 Ninth Asian Games held in New Delhi.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2026: Celebrated on January 9 to mark Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa (1915); the 2026 theme focuses on the role of the Indian Diaspora in "Viksit Bharat @ 2047."
- Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN): A progress review of the mission targeting Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) with essential infrastructure like housing and clean water.
- Green Hydrogen Hubs: The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) identified specific coastal regions for dedicated Green Hydrogen hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*): Conservation status of this bird (IUCN: Endangered) in the news due to habitat loss in the Chambal river ecosystem.
- World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas): Celebrated annually on January 10 to commemorate the first World Hindi Conference (1975) and promote Hindi globally; different from Hindi Diwas (Sept 14).
- Tribal Health & Sickle Cell Anemia: The government reviewed progress on the Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission 2047, focusing on screening in tribal-dominated districts.
- Mission Karmayogi: New digital modules launched on the iGOT platform to enhance the "civil services capacity building" framework for mid-level bureaucracy.
- Lantana Camara Invasion: Discussions on the ecological impact of this invasive species in the Shivalik hills and new biological control methods being tested.
- Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) 2026: Preliminary data shows a steady population of migratory birds in the Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan, but a decline in certain duck species.
- Banni Grasslands: Located in Kutch, Gujarat, these grasslands are in focus for a restoration project aimed at reviving the local pastoral economy and the Maldhari community's lifestyle.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC): Recent amendments proposed to simplify the "Pre-packaged Insolvency Resolution Process" for MSMEs to ensure faster debt recovery.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri's 60th Death Anniversary: Celebrated on Jan 11; remembered for his role in the Green Revolution, the White Revolution (Amul), and the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" during the 1965 war.
- National Youth Day Prep: Final preparations for Jan 12 (Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary) focused on the "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" youth outreach program.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) 79th Foundation Day: BIS highlighted new quality standards for Electronic Vehicles (EVs) and AI-driven consumer electronics to ensure global competitiveness.
- Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR): In the news due to a successful census showing a rise in the tiger population; it is the largest tiger reserve in India by area, located across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Great Indian Bustard (GIB): The Supreme Court reviewed the installation of bird diverters in Rajasthan and Gujarat to protect the GIB (IUCN: Critically Endangered) from high-tension power lines.
- Sponge Cities: A renewed focus on the "Sponge City" concept in urban planning for Indian metros to combat urban flooding by increasing permeable surfaces.
- National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM): The government approved new research projects for "Meditech" (medical textiles) and "Agrotech" to reduce import dependency.
- Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrB): The RBI announced the auction calendar for 2026, targeting funding for public sector projects that reduce the carbon intensity of the economy.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Global Expansion: New MoUs signed to integrate UPI with digital payment systems in South American nations, following successful launches in France and UAE.
- Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Awareness: Scientific journals and health ministries emphasized the rising incidence of PCOS in India, calling for its inclusion in the National Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) program.
- Solid-State Batteries: Research updates on high-energy-density batteries.
- National Youth Day 2026: Observed on January 12 to mark the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda; the 2026 theme emphasizes "Youth as the Architects of a Sustainable Future."



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Swami Vivekananda's Legacy: Notable for his 1893 Chicago speech and the founding of Ramakrishna Mission (1897); he introduced the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world.
- National Career Service (NCS) 2.0: The Ministry of Labour and Employment launched an upgraded portal to better link youth with AI-driven job matching and vocational training.
- Aditya-L1 Data Release: ISRO released a new set of data regarding solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) captured by the SUIT (Solar Ultra-violet Imaging Telescope) payload.
- Deepor Beel Restoration: An integrated project was launched to restore this Ramsar Site in Assam, focusing on removing encroachments and protecting its elephant corridors.
- State of Forest Report (Advance Findings): Preliminary data for the 2025-26 cycle suggests a marginal increase in "Very Dense Forest" (VDF) but continued degradation in "Open Forest" areas.
- Black Carbon Mitigation: A new policy framework was discussed to reduce black carbon emissions from traditional brick kilns, which significantly contribute to Himalayan glacier melting.
- CPI Inflation Data: Retail inflation for December 2025 showed a slight cooling trend, though "food inflation" (specifically pulses and vegetables) remains a concern for the RBI's monetary policy committee.
- Quality Control Orders (QCOs): The government issued new QCOs for various industrial chemicals and toys to curb sub-standard imports and promote domestic manufacturing under Atal Innovation Mission.
- World Bank's Global Economic Prospects: The 2026 report projects India to remain the fastest-growing major economy, supported by strong domestic demand and public investment.
- Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D4): ISRO is preparing for the D4 mission, aimed at placing multiple commercial nano-satellites into Low Earth Orbit (LEO) with a turnaround time of just 72 hours.
- Web 3.0 Adoption: The Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) released a draft paper on a "National Strategy on Blockchain" to secure citizen data in digital health and land records.
- Lyme Disease in India: Medical reports highlighted a rise in cases in the Western Ghats, urging better awareness of this tick-borne bacterial illness.
- Lohri, Makar Sankranti, and Pongal: The nation prepares for these harvest festivals; Makar Sankranti marks the transition of the Sun into the zodiac sign of Capricorn (Makara) and the start of Uttarayan (the northward journey of the sun).
- Classical Language Status: Recent discussions on the inclusion of Prakrit and Pali in the classical language list, emphasizing the criteria of high antiquity and original literary tradition.
- National Startup Day Prep: With January 16 approaching, the government reviewed the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) and its impact on Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP): Updated reports on the progress of India's first major Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR) project; it aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken (MP) to the Betwa (UP) to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
- Vulture Conservation: New sightings of the White-rumped Vulture (Critically Endangered) in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve were reported, highlighting the success of "Vulture Safe Zones."
- Xenotransplantation: Further discussions on the ethics and medical progress of transplanting organs from genetically modified pigs into humans, following successful short-term trials in late 2025.
- Dark Sky Reserve: Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in Ladakh, aimed at promoting astro-tourism and protecting the nocturnal environment for astronomical observations.
- Carrier Aggregation in 5G: Telecom giants demonstrated "Carrier Aggregation" to combine multiple frequency bands, significantly boosting 5G data speeds for rural connectivity.
- Makar Sankranti & Harvest Festivals: Celebrated across India under various names: Pongal (Tamil Nadu), Magh Bihu (Assam), Uttarayan (Gujarat), and Lohri (Punjab); it marks the sun's entry into the Capricorn zodiac.
- Classical Language Promotion: The government emphasized the preservation of the newly added classical languages (Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali, and Marathi) through dedicated research centers.
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Review: Seven years since its launch (2019), the 2026 review highlights a 25% reduction in particulate matter in several non-attainment cities.
- Project Nilgiri Tahr: Tamil Nadu reported a 15% increase in the population of its state animal, the Nilgiri Tahr, following intensive conservation efforts in the Anamalai Hills.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD): Meteorologists are tracking a "Positive IOD" phase, which is expected to influence rainfall patterns across the Indian peninsula during the early part of 2026.
- E-Waste Management Rules 2026: New stringent guidelines were enforced, making it mandatory for manufacturers to ensure 80% recycling of end-of-life electronics.
- Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP): The platform integrated 10 new private logistics players to provide real-time tracking, reducing the "hidden costs" of road transport.
- Interim Budget 2026 Preparations: The Finance Ministry held pre-budget consultations, with a heavy focus on "Green Growth" and "Atmanirbhar" defense manufacturing.
- Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme: The RBI announced the final tranche for the 2025-26 series, citing high demand as an alternative to physical gold.
- NISAR Mission Update: The ISRO-NASA joint mission (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) began its final calibration phase before its mid-2026 operational start.
- Deep Tech Policy: The Union Cabinet reviewed the implementation of the National Deep Tech Startup Policy, aimed at boosting indigenous capabilities in AI, Robotics, and Space-tech.
- Cervical Cancer Vaccine: A major drive was launched to provide indigenous HPV vaccines (Cervavac) to girls aged 9–14 across government schools.
- 78th Indian Army Day: Celebrated on January 15 to honor Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief in 1949; the 2026 parade was held in the Central Command (Lucknow) to decentralize national events.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G): The government announced an extension of the scheme to achieve "Housing for All" in remote tribal belts by late 2026.
- Trade Deficit Trends: December 2025 data shows a narrowing trade deficit due to a surge in service exports and a dip in gold imports.
- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC): The platform reached a milestone of 15 million monthly transactions, significantly empowering small-scale "Kirana" stores against e-commerce giants.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI): A new river-cruise circuit was announced connecting Varanasi to Haldia via National Waterway-1, aimed at boosting religious and eco-tourism.
- State of the World's Birds Report: Highlighting that nearly 48% of bird species globally are undergoing population declines; in India, the Great Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican remain the most "at-risk."
- Global Risks Report 2026 (WEF): Ranked "Extreme Weather Events" and "AI-generated Misinformation" as the top two threats to global stability over the next decade.
- Bhitarkanika National Park: The annual census of salt-water crocodiles in this Odisha park showed a stable population, reaffirming it as one of the best-managed mangrove ecosystems.
- Genomic Sequencing for Rare Diseases: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched a mission to sequence the genomes of 10,000 individuals with rare genetic disorders to develop localized therapies.
- Light-Fidelity (Li-Fi): Successful pilot tests in Indian smart cities showed Li-Fi (using light waves instead of radio waves) providing 100 times faster data speeds than traditional Wi-Fi in high-security zones.
- Moxie (Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment) Legacy: Updates on how NASA's successful oxygen production on Mars is being adapted for terrestrial deep-sea exploration technologies.
- National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG): New updates to the NJDG showed a 15% improvement in case disposal rates in 2025, emphasizing the role of AI in reducing the pendency of court cases.
- Classical Language Infrastructure: The Ministry of Culture announced the establishment of a "Bhasha Bhavan" to house research wings for the five newly added classical languages (Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali, and Marathi).
- Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs): India's largest PSP (1680 MW) in Madhya Pradesh was reviewed for its role in grid stability; PSPs act as "giant batteries" by moving water between reservoirs to generate power during peak demand.
- World Economic Outlook (IMF): The IMF kept India's growth forecast steady at 6.3% for 2026, citing strong investment and private consumption as the primary drivers.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): India and the African Union discussed a framework to export India's "India Stack" (Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker) to help African nations digitize their economies.
- Red Sea & Blue Economy: Ongoing maritime security discussions highlighted the vulnerability of Indian energy imports through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait and the impact on the "Blue Economy" objectives.
- Silent Valley National Park: Scientists recorded a new species of "dancing frog" in the park (Kerala), underscoring the Western Ghats as a global biodiversity hotspot.
- Microplastics in Clouds: A new study by Indian atmospheric scientists found microplastics in cloud water samples over the Himalayas, raising concerns about their role in accelerated snow melting.
- Project Dolphin Phase II: The Ministry of Environment launched the second nationwide estimation of riverine and estuarine dolphins, including the first-ever census of Irrawaddy dolphins in the Sundarbans and Odisha.
- India's Winter Peak Power Demand: A historic record of 245 GW was reached on January 9, 2026, surpassing the previous summer's peak (242 GW) due to extreme cold and increased heating usage.
- National Youth Day Follow-up: Continued focus on the "Viksit Bharat @ 2047" initiative, emphasizing youth-led development in digital governance and entrepreneurship.
- Record Fish Production: India solidified its position as the world's second-largest fish producer, reaching approximately 198 lakh tonnes, a 106% increase over the last decade driven by the PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana).
- Crypto Regulation (FIU-India): The Financial Intelligence Unit strengthened KYC (Know Your Customer) norms for cryptocurrency exchanges to align with anti-money laundering (AML) standards.
- Inland Waterways Expansion: New feasibility studies were discussed for expanding cargo movement on National Waterway-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly) to reduce logistics costs for the cement and steel industries.
- Environment & Geography
- Ocean Warming Record: Research indicates that oceans absorbed a record +23 zettajoules of heat in 2025, intensifying climate feedback loops and marine heatwaves.
- Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary: Bihar's largest sanctuary (Kaimur) began its latest wildlife census, a precursor to its potential notification as the state's second Tiger Reserve (after Valmiki).
- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary: Located in Odisha, the Indian Bison (Gaur) population here saw a robust jump, recording 848 individuals in the latest headcount.
- Chandrayaan-3 Propulsion Module: Scientists analyzed an orbital shift of the propulsion module, providing data on gravitational perturbations and the "three-body problem" in space mission planning.
- Indigenous Semiconductor Units: Updates on four major semiconductor units (including Tata Electronics and Micron) confirmed they are on track to begin commercial production in 2026.
- Project Tiger: Launched in 1973; currently managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- Project Dolphin: Announced on August 15, 2020; the Gangetic Dolphin is India's National Aquatic Animal.
- Article 21: The Supreme Court (in *Common Cause v. Union of India, 2018*) recognized the "Right to Die with Dignity" as a fundamental right, permitting passive euthanasia under strict guidelines.
- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day: Celebrated on January 19; the force was constituted in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to provide specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
- Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP): The government reviewed the "Tiranga" (KPI-based) ranking of blocks, focusing on healthcare and nutrition improvements in the most backward areas.
- e-Sanjeevani & AI Integration: The Health Ministry announced the integration of AI-based diagnostic tools into the e-Sanjeevani platform to assist doctors in rural areas.
- Methanol-Blended Petrol (M15): India expanded the rollout of M15 fuel in selected states to reduce crude oil imports and carbon emissions.
- Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Habitat: The Supreme Court sought a status report on the underground cabling in GIB habitats in Rajasthan to prevent electrocution of the critically endangered bird.
- Green Finance: RBI discussed a framework for "Green Deposits" to ensure that funds are directed specifically toward sustainable projects like renewable energy and waste management.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- India-Egypt Strategic Partnership: On the anniversary of the strategic partnership (2023), both nations discussed expanding defense cooperation and the use of the Suez Canal Economic Zone for Indian manufacturing.
- Exercise Desert Knight: A joint air exercise involving India, France, and the UAE took place over the Arabian Sea to enhance interoperability and regional maritime security.
- IAEA & Nuclear Medicine: India signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to enhance the use of radioisotopes in cancer treatment under the "Rays of Hope" initiative.
- Science & Technology
- Human Genome Project (India): The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) announced the completion of 15,000 genome sequences, creating a comprehensive database for indigenous genetic research.
- Liquid Mirror Telescope (LMT): Located at Devasthal (Uttarakhand), the telescope identified a new class of variable stars, marking a milestone for Indian observational astronomy.
- Quantum Communication: ISRO successfully demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 500 meters, a precursor to satellite-based quantum key distribution (QKD).
- Sagar Parikrama Phase-XII: The coastal outreach program reached the shores of West Bengal, focusing on the welfare of fisherfolk and the promotion of the "Blue Economy."
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve: A new "Vulture Restaurant" was inaugurated near the reserve (UP) to provide diclofenac-free carcasses to the declining vulture population.
- Kachchh Embroidery (GI Tag): The traditional craft from Gujarat was highlighted in a global cultural exchange for its unique "Mirror Work" and geometric patterns.
- Statehood Day (Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya): Celebrated on January 21 to mark the anniversary of their full statehood in 1972 under the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971.
- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP): The government reviewed the digital integration of old-age pensions to eliminate "ghost beneficiaries" using Aadhaar-linked facial recognition.
- Rule of Law Index 2025/26: Discussions centered on India's performance in "Civil Justice" and "Fundamental Rights," with an emphasis on the need for faster judicial mediation.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) Davos 2026: India showcased its "Green Hydrogen Hubs" and "Digital Public Infrastructure" (DPI) to global investors, aiming to attract \$100 billion in annual FDI.
- T+0 Settlement Cycle: SEBI provided an update on the transition toward "Instant Settlement" in the Indian stock market to enhance liquidity and investor security.
- PM-DevINE Scheme: New projects were sanctioned for the North-East to improve "livelihood activities" specifically for women and youth in border villages.
- Great Nicobar Island Project: Environmentalists raised concerns over the "Transshipment Port" affecting the habitat of the Megapode (a unique mound-building bird).
- Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building: A workshop was held for the 100th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention (upcoming context) to promote "Wetland Tourism" at sites like Chilika and Sultanpur.
- Red Sea Geo-Politics: The impact of shipping disruptions in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait on India's fertilizer imports (specifically Potash) was analyzed.
- Cervical Cancer Screening: The Ministry of Health launched a "point-of-care" HPV DNA test that provides results in 60 minutes, aimed at scaling up screening in rural health centers.
- Generative AI Ethics: MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) released a draft paper on "Safe and Trusted AI," proposing mandatory watermarking for AI-generated deepfakes.
- Havana Syndrome: Recent medical research findings were discussed in the context of "Directed Energy Weapons" (DEW) and their potential impact on national security personnel.
- Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana (Anniversary): The government reviewed the one-year progress of the scheme, which aims to install rooftop solar on 1 crore households to reduce electricity bills and achieve energy self-reliance.
- Justice for All (Aspirational Districts): A new report highlighted that digital legal aid clinics have reached 90% of the Aspirational Districts, improving access to justice for marginalized communities.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- National Voter's Day Prep: In anticipation of January 25, the Election Commission launched a new "e-Voter" portal for seamless registration and address changes for the youth.
- Green Hydrogen Pipeline: India and the EU discussed a "Green Hydrogen Corridor" to facilitate the export of Indian-produced green ammonia to European markets by 2030.
- Market Capitalization Milestone: The Indian stock market (NSE/BSE) hit a new high, maintaining its position among the world's top 5 markets by total market cap.
- FDI in Space Sector: The government streamlined the "single-window clearance" for foreign investments in satellite manufacturing and launch vehicle development.
- Great Hornbill Conservation: The Nishi tribe in Arunachal Pradesh was recognized for their "Hornbill Nest Adoption Program," which has led to a 20% increase in nesting success in the Pakke Tiger Reserve.
- Coral Bleaching Alert: The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) issued a warning for the Lakshadweep Islands due to rising sea surface temperatures in the Arabian Sea.
- Deepor Beel (Eco-Sensitive Zone): The Ministry of Environment finalized the boundaries for the ESZ around this Assam wetland to balance urban development and biodiversity protection.
- LIGO-India Project: Construction progress at the Hingoli (Maharashtra) site was reviewed; it is set to become the world's third advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory.
- Brain-Computer Interface (BCI): An Indian startup successfully tested a non-invasive BCI headset designed to assist paralyzed patients in controlling digital devices via neural signals.
- Bharat 6G Alliance: The alliance announced a roadmap for "6G-standardization," aiming for India to hold 10% of the world's 6G patents by 2030.
- Parakram Diwas (Day of Valour): Celebrated on January 23 to mark the 129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; the 2026 celebrations centered on the theme of "*Viksit Bharat and Netaji's Vision.*"
- Netaji's Legacy: Notable for his leadership of the Indian National Army (INA) and the slogan "*Chalo Delhi*"; he famously took over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1943, renaming them Shaheed and Swaraj Islands.
- Bharat Parv 2026: Launched at the Red Fort, Delhi, to showcase India's diverse culture, cuisine, and handicrafts in the lead-up to Republic Day.
- Security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR): Discussions intensified regarding the "Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region" (IFC-IOR) and its role in tracking piracy and "dark shipping" in the Arabian Sea.
- Global Firepower Index 2026: India maintained its position as the 4th most powerful military in the world, following the US, Russia, and China.
- India-UN Cooperation: India proposed a new "UN Peacekeeping Museum" to honor the sacrifice of Blue Helmets, being one of the largest troop contributors globally.
- Nano-DAP (Di-Ammonium Phosphate): The government reviewed the widespread adoption of Liquid Nano-DAP, which has reduced conventional fertilizer imports and improved soil health across 10 million hectares.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agri: The "Agristack" project reached a milestone, providing 5 crore farmers with a digital ID to access credit, insurance, and high-quality seeds.
- Logistics Performance Index (LPI): India's rank improved in the 2026 World Bank report, credited to the PM GatiShakti and National Logistics Policy.
- Gaganyaan - Vyommitra: ISRO confirmed that the female robot astronaut, Vyommitra, is scheduled for an uncrewed flight in late 2026 to test life-support systems.
- Supercomputing Mission: The 3rd phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) was launched, focusing on "Exascale Computing" for weather prediction and drug discovery.
- National Girl Child Day (January 24): Celebrated to promote awareness about the rights of the girl child and address issues like child marriage and education; the 2026 theme is "*Empowering Girls for a Sustainable Tomorrow.*"
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Progress: The Ministry of Women and Child Development reported a significant improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), which has stabilized at 950+ in over 200 districts.
- International Day of Education (January 24): Observed globally; India highlighted the success of the PM-SHRI Schools in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at the grassroots level.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Inland Waterways Development Council (IWDC): New guidelines were issued to promote "River Cruise Tourism" and the use of electric catamarans on National Waterway-1 (Ganga).
- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Efficiency: A 2026 report stated that DBT has saved the government over ₹3.5 lakh crore since its inception by eliminating leakages and intermediaries.
- Green Bonds for Urban Bodies: Several municipal corporations in India issued Sovereign Green Bonds to fund sewage treatment plants and urban afforestation projects.
- Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Conservation: The Supreme Court discussed the creation of a "Special Conservation Zone" in the Desert National Park (Rajasthan) to protect the last 150 remaining GIBs.
- Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS): India finalized the operational framework for its domestic carbon market, allowing industries to trade "Carbon Credit Certificates" to meet emission targets.
- Kaziranga National Park: A successful habitat expansion project for the One-Horned Rhinoceros was reported, with new corridors established between Kaziranga and Orang National Park.
- Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D4): ISRO successfully completed the static test of the third stage of SSLV-D4, aimed at making India a global hub for "Launch on Demand" services.
- Generative AI in Healthcare: The Ministry of Health launched a pilot project using AI to scan X-rays and MRIs for early detection of Tuberculosis (TB) in rural health centers.
- Deep Ocean Mission (DOM): The MATSYA 6000 submersible underwent high-pressure testing; it is designed to carry humans to a depth of 6,000 meters for deep-sea mining exploration.
- 16th National Voters' Day (NVD): Celebrated on January 25 to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (1950); the 2026 theme is "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure."
- Election Commission of India (ECI): A multi-member constitutional body established under Article 324; it manages elections for the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the offices of the President and Vice President.
- Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day: Celebrated on January 25 to commemorate the day in 1971 when Himachal Pradesh became the 18th state of the Indian Union (formerly a Union Territory).
- Padma Awards 2026 Announcement: On the eve of Republic Day, the government announced the list of Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awardees, highlighting "Unsung Heroes" from rural and tribal backgrounds.
- Lesser Florican Conservation: Focus on the "Grassland Ecosystem" in Rajasthan and Gujarat, as the Supreme Court emphasized the need for habitat protection for this shy bird (IUCN: Critically Endangered).
- Green Railways Goal: Indian Railways reviewed its progress toward becoming the world's largest "Net Zero Carbon Emitter" by 2030, citing 100% electrification in several southern and eastern zones as of 2026.
- Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI): A new update on the census indicated stable populations in Ladakh and Spiti, but raised concerns over habitat fragmentation due to linear infrastructure.
- Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs): The government announced a fresh tranche of green bonds specifically for financing "Waste-to-Energy" projects across 50 major Indian cities.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Health: The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) crossed the milestone of 60 crore linked health accounts, facilitating seamless data sharing between hospitals.
- Logistics Performance Index (LPI): India's "Track and Trace" capabilities showed significant improvement in the 2026 mid-term review, reducing the average delay at major ports to under 24 hours.
- Solar Corona Studies: Data from Aditya-L1 (India's solar mission) provided new insights into "Coronal Mass Ejections" (CMEs) that could impact Earth's satellite communications in 2026.
- Indigenization of Defense: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) released the 6th "Positive Indigenisation List," banning the import of several high-tech components for submarine propulsion.
- Generative AI in Judicial Systems: The Supreme Court is piloting an AI-based transcription tool to provide real-time vernacular translations of court proceedings.
- Republic Day 2026 Recap: Highlights included a focus on "Nari Shakti" (Women Power) and the participation of the French Foreign Legion; the Chief Guest (Brazilian President) emphasized the G20 "Troika" (India-Brazil-South Africa) cooperation.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- Padma Awards 2026 Analysis: Analysis of the awardees showed a record 40% of winners being "Unsung Heroes" from tribal and grassroots backgrounds, focusing on social work and traditional medicine.
- India-Brazil Strategic Partnership: Following the Republic Day visit, several MoUs were signed in the fields of Bio-fuels, sustainable agriculture, and joint defense production for transport aircraft.
- West Bank & Two-State Solution: UN reports discussed the escalating humanitarian crisis; India reaffirmed its support for a "negotiated two-state solution" for lasting peace in the Middle East.
- Gobi Desert Dust Storms: Massive dust storms in East Asia were linked to abnormal "jet stream" fluctuations, causing air quality issues as far south as the northern Indian plains.
- Olive Ridley Turtles: The mass nesting (Arribada) at Rushikulya and Gahirmatha (Odisha) began early in 2026, with record numbers of turtles arriving due to favorable wind and current patterns.
- 6G Standardization: India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) officially registered over 100 patents in 6G technology, aiming to lead the global standards for "sub-terahertz" communication.
- Direct-to-Mobile (D2M) Broadcasting: The government announced a pilot for D2M in 20 cities, allowing citizens to watch video content on mobile phones without data or internet.
- Fiscal Deficit Targets: Pre-Budget reports suggested the government is on track to meet the 4.5% fiscal deficit target for FY26, supported by high GST collections and non-tax revenues.
- Data Protection Day (January 28): Commemorated globally to raise awareness about privacy; in India, discussions focused on the full enforcement of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, particularly regarding "Right to Erasure" and parental consent for minors.
- Supreme Court on "Right to be Forgotten": The Court observed that while the right to be forgotten is part of the Right to Privacy (Article 21), it must be balanced against the public's right to information and judicial transparency.
- Lala Lajpat Rai Birth Anniversary: Born Jan 28, 1865; remembered as "Punjab Kesari." He was a pillar of the Lal-Bal-Pal trio and founded the Servants of the People Society. He died protesting the Simon Commission in 1928.
- Project Cheetah 2.0: A new batch of Cheetahs from South Africa arrived at Kuno National Park (MP); the government announced the development of the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary as a second alternative habitat to reduce density in Kuno.
- E-flow (Environmental Flow) Norms: The Central Water Commission (CWC) reviewed e-flow norms for the Yamuna River, aiming to maintain a minimum water level during lean winter months to support aquatic biodiversity.
- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to DESH: The transition from the SEZ Act to the DESH (Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs) Bill was discussed, focusing on allowing SEZ units to sell in the domestic market with simplified duties.
- India's Blue Economy 2.0: The government emphasized "Deep Sea Mining" and "Marine Spatial Planning" to double the contribution of the maritime sector to the GDP by 2030.
- Indigenization of Drone Technology: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) conducted trials of "Kamikaze Drones" (Loitering Munitions) developed by Indian startups for high-altitude warfare in Ladakh.
- Lab-Grown Diamonds (LGD): India emerged as the world's largest exporter of polished LGDs in 2025-26, supported by the removal of basic customs duty on "seeds" used in their manufacturing.
- Beating Retreat Ceremony: Held on January 29 at Vijay Chowk, marking the formal end of the Republic Day celebrations; it features tunes played by the military bands of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day: Prep for the Jan 31 anniversary; discussions focused on the "Digital Shakti 5.0" campaign to empower women in cyber safety.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Review: Data showed that 95% of the rural housing targets have been met, with a shift toward "Green Housing" using sustainable materials in the final phase.
- Fiscal Deficit Outlook: Economists analyzed the "Glide Path" toward a 4.5% fiscal deficit by FY 2025-26, noting that robust tax buoyancy has provided the government with extra fiscal room.
- Snow Leopard Conservation: A report on the SECURE Himalaya project highlighted successful community-based tourism in Ladakh, which has reduced man-animal conflict.



JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS-ONELINERS

- **Blue Carbon Initiative:** India announced a pilot project to map Seagrass Meadows in the Gulf of Mannar to quantify their role as carbon sinks.
- **Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas):** Observed on January 30 to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (1948); the nation observes a two-minute silence at 11 AM to honor those who laid down their lives for India's freedom.
- **Gandhian Philosophy:** Discussions on the relevance of *Sarvodaya* (Universal Uplift) and *Antyodaya* (Uplift of the Last Person) in modern social welfare schemes like MGNREGA.
- **Leprosy Awareness Day:** Also observed on Jan 30; India highlighted the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) aim to achieve "Zero Transmission" by 2027.
- **National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day:** Observed on January 31 to mark the day it was established as a statutory body in 1992 under the NCW Act, 1990; the 2026 focus is on "Legal Literacy for Rural Women."
- **Economic Survey 2025-26 (Tabled):** The Finance Minister tabled the Survey, projecting a GDP growth of 6.5–7.0% for FY27, citing "resilient domestic demand" and "robust services export" as key drivers.
- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** The survey lauded ULIP for reducing India's logistics cost to roughly 8.5% of GDP, moving closer to the global benchmark of 7-8%.
- **Project Great Indian Bustard (GIB):** The government announced a "Satellite Conservation Center" in Rajasthan to monitor the movement of GIBs across the International Border with Pakistan.
- **Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2026:** New rules came into effect mandating 100% biodegradable packaging for e-commerce deliveries by the end of the year.
- **Mount Etna Eruption:** International news analyzed for Geography; the volcano in Sicily (Italy) showed increased activity, impacting Mediterranean air corridors.
- **High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellites (HAPS):** India successfully tested a solar-powered HAPS that can stay in the stratosphere for months, acting as a "bridge" between drones and conventional satellites for border surveillance.
- **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR):** The Ministry of Health released the "National Action Plan on AMR 2.0," focusing on the "One Health" approach to regulate antibiotic use in livestock and aquaculture.