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**MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS
EBOOK
JANUARY 2026**

**YOUR GUIDE TO
MOST IMPORTANT
CURRENT AFFAIRS
AND EVENTS OF THE
MONTH.**

IAS | BANKING | SSC | NDA/CDS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS

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Ladakh Red Sky Signals Rare Solar Radiation Storm

On the night of January 19-20, 2026, a gorgeous blood-red aurora appeared over Hanle in Ladakh, marveling people and social media users who likened it to the Northern Lights.

It was caused by a strong X-class solar flare on January 18 and a high speed coronal mass ejection (CME) at 1,700 km/s, which caused a G4 severe geomagnetic storm and S4 solar radiation storm the strongest since 2003.

What Caused This Storm?

The solar flare burst out at approximately 2330 UTC on January 18 in an active part of the sun and the CME was directed directly to the earth. It hit the magnetosphere on earth on January 19 at 19:38 UTC (01:08 IST) with the auroral oval extending southward to the mid-latitudes such as Hanle at 32°N.

The charged particles entered the atmosphere heating atoms of oxygen more than 300 km above the Earth to light up the red lights instead of the green light found in the normal aurora.

This was the first well documented red aurora in India captured by the Dark Sky Reserve of Hanle, at 4,500 meters, with little light pollution, and high-skilled all-sky cameras in the Indian Astronomical Observatory.

Scientific Significance of this Storm

The flare was detected by the Aditya-L1 mission in L1 Lagrange point which compressed the magnetosphere of the Earth exposing satellites to intense radiation, and gave the earth 24-48 hours notice.

With Solar Cycle 25 approaching maximum, ISRO cautions that there will be increased events, with Aditya-L1 instruments such as VELC monitoring CMEs to make more forecasts.

It is the sixth major red aurora of Cycle 25, which provides data on the low-latitude auroras and magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling.

India and Global Tech Effects

Geomagnetic storms cause the currents which pose a threat to power grids, transformers and blackouts and the heating of atmosphere raises the drag of satellites and crashes GPS, communications and banking.

The incident led to slight GPS glitches and no significant outages; the astronauts on ISS took shelter against radiation.

In the case of India, as the country increases its dependence on satellites, the alerts of Aditya-L1 secure resources in the presence of increasing risks of solar maximum.

Key Facts

- X-class flares: The strongest solar eruption.
- G4 storms: Thunderstorms with intense, growing equatorial auroras.
- Red auroras: Oxygen emissions on high altitudes, uncommon to the south of poles.
- Peaks 2025-2026 Solar Cycle 25, increasing events.

This exhibition highlights the vulnerability of the planets, increasing space weather preparedness in India by spacecraft missions such as Aditya-L1.

NITI Aayog Launches Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0

NITI Aayog has also introduced Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0, a countrywide movement to enhance development in the most underdeveloped regions in India.

This is a three months program, which will be implemented between January 28 and April 14, 2026, and aims at full saturation of critical indicators in Aspirational Districts and Blocks.

Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0 is based on the achievements of 2024 when active work resulted in rapid positive results in the social areas.

It includes 112 Aspirational Districts, which were initiated in 2018 and 513 Aspirational Blocks, which were added through the 2023 programme, so that everyone is left behind in health, nutrition, education, sanitation, and animal welfare.

The campaign was launched by NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam who complimented district leaders as torchbearers in their ownership and exhorting them to make a long-term commitment to being a torchbearer to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.

Key Performance Indicators

The motivation concentrates on saturation 100 percent achievement of customized KPIs to correct the gaps in the grassroots.

In the case of Aspirational Blocks (6 KPIs)

- Consistent additional nutrition to children between the age of 6 months and 6 years under ICDS.
- Effective enrolled Anganwadi children measurement.
- Operational Anganwadi Centres have functional toilets and drinking water.
- Sufficient toilets in schools in the form of girls.
- Vaccination of cows against Foot and Mouth Disease.

In the case of Aspirational Districts (5 KPIs)

- Percentage of live births at birth.
- Public and private notification of Tuberculosis cases.
- Village/Urban health sanitation and nutrition days held.
- School toilets of functional girls.
- The coverage of animal vaccination.

These indicators are in line with such UN Sustainable Development Goals as good health (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), and clean water (SDG 6).

What is the Implementation Strategy for Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0?

Districts and Blocks should develop three-month action plans and monitor monthly progression and initiate awareness campaigns to change behavior.

Monitoring by the officers in the field will be performed simultaneously and NITI Aayog will coordinate the Central Ministries, States and UTs to plan, build capacity and sustainable systems.

Further Secretary Rohit Kumar emphasized on mission mode implementation to intensify the effects of 2024.

The campaign reflects "Jan Bhagidari"- people's participation in governance, forcibly driving the Antyodaya ideals to the last mile. The fact that it creates inter-departmental synergy serves as an example in the creation of result-focused development in difficult regions.

Previous attempts revealed that saturation drives are able to quickly change the results, which can ensure fair development as India is on the path of Viksit Bharat.

India's First Household Income Survey Starts in 2026: Check Details Here

In order to close a long-standing disparity in income, inequality, and taxation data, India will introduce its first statewide Household Income Survey in February 2026. This survey will provide policymakers with direct data on earnings from salaries, farms, enterprises, investments, and informal jobs.

The initiative is being led by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) through the National Sample Survey (NSS). Previous attempts in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1983–84 were unsuccessful because of poor reporting and faulty methodology.

ALSO READ: [What are the New ITR Rules? Check All Details Here](#)

Who will Conduct this Survey?

This time, the process is being guided by an eight-member Technical Expert Group (TEG), which is chaired by economist Dr. Surjit S. Bhalla, a member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council and a former IMF Executive Director.

The committee comprises Dr. Tirthankar Patnaik, Chief Economist at NSE; Dr. Rajesh Shukla, Managing Director and CEO of PRICE; Prof. Ram Singh, Director of the Delhi School of Economics and an external member of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee; Prof. Sonalde Desai from NCAER; Prof. Praveen Jha from JNU; Prof. Srijit Mishra from the University of Hyderabad; and Aloke Kar, a former professor at ISI Kolkata.

How will the Survey be Conducted?

The committee must work together to establish definitions, create tools, improve sampling techniques, estimate income measures, and integrate best practices from nations such as the US, Australia, Canada, and South Africa.

The following survey will make use of digital techniques, concentrate on gathering income from both the wealthy and unorganized sector workers, and may cross-reference replies with tax records for verification.

Household Income Survey Objective

If done correctly, it will show how household incomes have been impacted by welfare programs, reforms, and digitalization. Additionally, it can reveal hidden or underreported sources of income, particularly in high-income or informal households.

The results may change how India targets welfare programs and formulates tax laws. Social support will be more accurate if low-income households are distinguished from low-spending households. Particularly in the run-up to elections, the statistics may also spark more incisive discussions on class mobility, inequality, and pay disparities.

Difficulties while Conducting this Survey

However, conducting this survey poses a lot of difficulties for the survey committee. While earnings in the informal sector are unpredictable and difficult to record, wealthy households frequently underreport their income. There is an additional layer of complexity in striking a balance between privacy and transparency. The challenge is further complicated by India's extensive informal sector and highly uneven income structures.

The Current Population Survey has been used for this purpose by the US for many years. Such data also form the basis of a large portion of South Africa's progressive social spending.

Current Affairs One-Liners 28 Jan 2026: Maharashtra declares 3-day mourning following the passing of Deputy CM Ajit Pawar

Current Affairs One-Liners 28 January 2026: Here are the important one-liner current affairs for exam preparation. These cover key topics like International Data Privacy Day 2026, India Energy Week 2026, and more.

1. Recently, India signed a Free Trade Agreement with which entity?
– European Union (EU)
2. Who has been appointed as Chairman and Independent Director of IndusInd Bank? – Arijit Basu
3. Late politician Ajit Pawar was the Deputy Chief Minister of which state? – Maharashtra
4. When is International Data Privacy Day observed every year? – 28 January
5. In which global food and beverage trade exhibition did India participate as Country Partner? – Gulfood 2026
6. Under the ongoing training deployment, the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) recently reached the port of which country? – Thailand
7. Which team will replace Bangladesh in the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup? – Scotland
8. A major landslide recently occurred on which main island of Indonesia? – Java
9. At India Energy Week 2026, India signed a joint statement on energy cooperation with which country? – Canada

[UGC Act 2026](#)

What is "Mother of All Deals"? India-EU Free Trade Agreement

India-EU Free Trade Agreement: India and European Union have officially signed a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement after 18 years of intense debate, deliberations and periodic pauses. The announcement was made at the 16th India-EU Summit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during the visit of European leaders to India.

It is often referred to as "Mother of All Deals" by trade analysts and policymakers this deal represents one of the most ambitious and expansive economic partnerships in the 21st century. By bridging the world's largest democracy with the world's largest single market, redefining the geopolitical and economic landscape of the global economy.

Why is It Called the "Mother of All Deals"?

The India-EU Free commercial Agreement is known as the "Mother of All Deals" because it creates a vast, rules-based commercial [partnership](#) between the 2nd and 4th largest economies in the world, generating a combined market of USD 24 trillion (about INR 2,091.6 Lakh Crore). India now has unprecedented privileged access to 97% of EU tariff lines, which covers an incredible 99.5% of its export value, according to the historic pact. With the removal of import taxes that formerly varied from 4% to 26%, the agreement is revolutionary for India's labour-intensive industries, including textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, and marine products. It is anticipated that this quick transition to zero-duty access for exports valued at more than USD 33 billion will significantly increase India's competitiveness in the global market and support its India@2047 developmental objectives.

Beyond physical commodities, the basis for this name comes from its profound integration of services and talent mobility, both of which are key growth drivers in both regions. The [EU](#) has made binding pledges in 144 service subsectors, including IT, professional services, and education, to provide a stable environment for Indian high-tech exports. Simultaneously, a complete mobility framework has been built for professionals, including intra-corporate transferees and independent professionals, allowing skilled workers and their families to enter and stay temporarily. The agreement redraws the map of global trade by aligning digital trade and investment protection while protecting sensitive sectors such as dairy and cereals, linking 2 billion

people via a secure, predictable, and modernised economic corridor.

Also Read: [EPFO 3.0: New UPI Withdrawal, Easy PF Access & Other Details](#)

The EU and India concluded negotiations today for an ambitious, comprehensive free trade agreement.

This is the largest trade agreement that both the EU and India have ever concluded.

More: <https://t.co/obud5ija8a> pic.twitter.com/VfP4s0jlyt

— European Commission (@EU_Commission) [January 27, 2026](#)

Key Elements of the Agreement

The finalised FTA is built on several **core pillars** designed to create a "win-win" scenario for both EU and India:

- **Tariffs Elimination:** The deal removes or significantly reduces customs duties on over 90% of tariff lines which gives Indian textiles, leather, and agricultural products easier access to European markets, while European machinery, transport equipment, and specialty chemicals enter India more competitively. The EU and India **present** trade over €180 billion worth of goods and services per year. This deal is expected to double EU goods exports to India by 2032 by eliminating or reducing tariffs in value of 96.6% of EU goods exports to India. Overall, the tariff reductions will save around €4 billion per year in duties on European products.
- **Service Sector Integration:** For India, the "Mother of All Deals" is a major win for its services sector, facilitates easier movement for Indian professionals like IT, engineering, and healthcare to work in the EU under "Mode 4" provisions, while the EU gains better access to India's financial, telecommunications, and maritime sectors.
- **Investment Protection:** India will grant the EU tariff reductions that none of its other trading partners have received. A dedicated Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) provides a stable and predictable legal framework for European investors in India, encouraging a surge in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for infrastructure and green energy projects.
- **Reducing Agri-Food Tariffs:** the agreement reduces prohibitive traffic over 36% average on EU exports of agri-food products, which opens a massive market to farmers where sensitive agricultural sectors will be fully protected as products like beef, Chicken meat, rice etc., the EU and India are currently negotiating a separate agreement on Geographical Indications (GIs), which will help traditional iconic EU farming products sell more in India, by removing unfair competition in the form of imitations.
- **Enhance Sustainability and Labor Standards:** The agreement has a dedicated trade and

sustainable development chapter, which enhances environmental protection and addresses climate change, protects workers' rights, supports women's empowerment, provides for a platform for dialogue and cooperation on trade related environmental and climate issues and ensures effective implementation.

Background of India and EU Trade Relations:

The EU and India had first launched negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement(FTA) in 2007. The talks were suspended in 2013 and then [again](#) relaunched in 2022. The 14th and last formal negotiating round took place in October 2025, followed by intersessional discussions at technical and political level. At the same time the EU and India also launched negotiations for a Geographical Indications Agreement and an Investment Protection Agreement. Negotiations for these agreements are still ongoing.

Timeline of India-EU Trade Relations

Year	Outcome	Description
1962	Early Foundations	India becomes one of the first countries to establish diplomatic ties with the European Economic Community (EEC).
1994	Cooperation Agreement	A broader agreement is signed to move beyond trade into political sector-specific cooperation.
2000	First India-EU Summit	The inaugural high-level summit is held in Lisbon, establishing an annual dialogue framework.
2004	Strategic Partnership	Relations are upgraded to a "Strategic Partnership," acknowledging India's role as a global power.
2007 – 2013	BTIA Negotiations	Talks for a Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement begin but stall in 2013 over car tariffs and visa issues.
2021	Relaunch in Porto	Following a 2020 "Roadmap to 2025," leaders agree to resume formal negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
2022 – 2023	TTC & New Momentum	The Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is launched to coordinate semiconductors and green tech.
Jan 27, 2026	The "Mother of All Deals"	India and the EU officially conclude FTA negotiations at the 16th Summit in New Delhi.

Source: [PIB](#)

India Secures From the Agreement:

- India has gained preferential access to the European markets across 97% of tariff lines, covering 99.5% of trade value, in particular:
 - 70.4% tariff lines covering 90.7% of India's exports will have immediate duty elimination for important labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather and footwear, tea, coffee, spices, sports goods, toys, gems and jewellery and certain marine products, amongst others.
 - 20.3% tariff lines covering 2.9% of India's exports will have zero duty access over 3 and 5 years for certain marine products, processed food items, arms and ammunition, amongst others.
 - 6.1% tariff lines covering 6% of India's exports will have preferential access by way of tariff reduction for certain poultry products, preserved vegetables, bakery products amongst others or through TRQs for cars, steel, certain shrimps/ prawns products, amongst others.

What European Union Gets from India:

- Overall, India is offering 92.1% of its tariff lines which covers 97.5% of the EU exports, in particular:
 - 49.6% of tariff lines will have immediate duty elimination.
 - 39.5% of tariffs lines are subject to phased elimination over 5, 7, and 10 years'
 - 3% of products are under phased tariff reductions and few products are subject to TRQs for Apples, Pears, Peaches, Kiwi Fruit.
 - Imports of EU's high technology goods are expected to diversify India's import sources, thereby reducing input costs for businesses, benefit consumers and will create opportunities for Indian businesses to integrate into global supply chains.

The India-EU Free Trade Agreement marks a landmark shift in global trade, the largest such deal ever concluded by either side. It will strengthen economic and political ties between the world's second and fourth largest economies, at a time of rising geopolitical tensions and global economic challenges. It also highlights joint commitment to economic openness and rules-based trade by balancing tariff liberalization with robust protections for labor, climate, and investment.

Also Read: [Why Are the UGC 2026 Promotion of Equity Regulations Facing Supreme Court Challenges?](#)

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UGC 2026: What are New Promotion of Equity Regulations Transform Anti-Discrimination?

The Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions Regulation 2026 was recently introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the new mandate moves anti-discrimination from a moral guideline to an enforceable legal obligation which include formal inclusion of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) under protection, establishment of Equal Opportunity Centres (EOCs) in all colleges and universities, and direct accountability for institutional heads.

The New Regulations aimed to promote inclusiveness and overhaul social justice in Indian universities, however regulations have sparked concerns regarding potential misuse and the exclusion of unreserved categories from specific protections.

The UGC highlighted thje Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are no longer just places of learning under these new rules, they are now legally responsible for the "lived experience" of every student. By shifting from an advisory stance to a duty-based regulatory framework, the UGC aims to dismantle institutional casteism and ensure that dignity is non-negotiable in academic spaces.

What Are the Key Changes in the 2026 Regulations of UGC?

1. Inclusion of OBCs: The UGC new Regulation 2026 has introduced one of the most significant chnages, departures 2025 draft is the formal inclusion of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) along with SCs, STs, women, and persons with disabilities (PwBD), thereby OBCs are now explicitly protected against caste-based discrimination.

2. Broaden the Definition of Discrimination: Discrimination has defined on broader grounds such as unfair, biased or differential treatment whether explicit or implicit, as caste, religion, race, gender, place of birth, or disability, including acts that impair equality in education or violate human dignity.

2. Mandatory Equal Opportunity Centres (EOCs): Every Higher Education Institution (HEI) is now required to establish a [dedicated](#) Equal Opportunity Centre. Unlike previous "cells" which were often functional only on paper, EOCs are mandated to promote equity, social inclusion and equal access and address complaints related to discrimination on campus and

- Provide academic and financial guidance to disadvantaged groups.
- Maintain a 24/7 equity helpline and an online complaint portal.
- Submit bi-annual compliance reports to the UGC.

3. The Human Dignity Clause: introduces a broad definition of discrimination. It covers any act direct or indirect that "nullifies or impairs equality" or is "incompatible with human dignity." This includes biased treatment in classrooms, labs, hostels, and even administrative offices.

4. Removal of the False Complaint Penalty: To encourage victims to speak up without fear of retaliation, the UGC removed a controversial clause from the draft version that proposed punishing students for filing "false or frivolous" complaints.

What Are the New Powers and Enforcement Mechanisms?

The 2026 regulations arm the commission with "teeth" to ensure compliance:

- Direct Accountability of the [Head](#) of the Institution (Vice-Chancellor or Principal) is now personally responsible for any failure to address discrimination in the institutions.
- National Monitoring Committee will be setup at national-level, will oversee implementation, conduct audits, and review serious cases of discrimination twice a year.
- Strict Penalties, for the first time the UGC regulations 2026 emphasis on urgency of non-compliant institutions face severe consequences which including, Debarment from UGC funding and schemes, Prohibition from offering new degrees or online programs, Derecognition of removal from the list of UGC-recognized institutions, effectively stripping them of their authority to grant degrees.

Also Read: [Most Congested Cities 2026: Why Bengaluru and Delhi](#)

Rank at the Top

Timelines for Redressal:

To ensure the justice the new rules mandate strict timelines for the Equity Committee:

- 24 Hours: The committee must take initial steps/meet after receiving a complaint.
- 15 Working Days: A detailed inquiry report must be submitted to the head of the institution.
- 30 Days: The window allows for an appeal to an Ombudsperson if the complainant is dissatisfied.

What are the Major Concerns and Criticisms regarding the New Regulations?

- Constitutional Challenges such as petitions have already been filed in the Supreme Court (For example: Mrityunjay Tiwari vs. UGC) challenging the definition of "caste-based discrimination." Critics argue that by limiting the definition to SC, ST, and OBC categories, the law fails to protect "General Category" students who may also face bias under the new regulations.
- Some faculty groups and student unions express concern that the absence of safeguards against false accusations could create an atmosphere of "fear and distrust" on campuses.
- Experts point out that while the rules are strong on paper, many colleges lack the administrative infrastructure to run 24/7 helplines or independent "Equity Squads."
- Some activists have noted that the regulations do not explicitly detail discrimination during the high-stakes admission and viva-voice stages, where "hidden bias" is often most prevalent.

Also Read: [Census 2027: Full List of 33 Questions for Phase I](#)

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Union Minister Launches 2 Major Bamboo Projects in Northeast

On January 26, 2026, the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurated two large bamboo development projects worth Rs 82.5 crore in Guwahati.

Such efforts are being made by the North Eastern Council (NEC), and the North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) to make bamboo a sustainable livelihood and industrial driver to the Northeast.

The initiatives further combine the conventional artisanship with the contemporary production as a way of enhancing employment and green development.

Project 1: Artisan Clusters

The project Strengthening traditional Bamboo Artisan Clusters is aimed at revitalizing the clusters in all the eight Northeastern states by modernizing the tools, designs and production.

It modernizes Common Facility Centres (CFCs) and connects artisans with digital platforms, such as Amazon and Flipkart, through MoUs.

This improves access to markets by rural and tribal communities and maintains cultural crafts and increases incomes.

Project 2: Engineered Bamboo

The Promotion of Engineered Bamboo Products aims at Karbi Anglong (Assam) and Mokokchung (Nagaland) with the aim of creating high-tech manufacturing of boards, panels, furniture, and composites as timber/plastic substitutes.

It cultivates one thousand hectares of certified hectares of bamboo and educates one thousand youth on processing methods. All Time Plastics

Ltd is an MoU that helps to scale industrial.

Strategic Planning and Partnerships in the Project

Following 18-month value-chain diagnostics, cluster evaluation and consultations with states, artisans and individual partners, the projects focus on market-based development.

Scindia emphasized the notion of bamboo as a green gold part of Northeast culture that was easily taken worldwide with the development of e-commerce.

The change towards a structured ecosystem was observed by NECBC MD M.C. Omi Ningshen.

What is the Economic Impact of These Projects?

The projects will generate thousands of direct and indirect employment, stabilize the rural livelihoods, and make the Northeast a bamboo center.

They spread the idea of the circular economy by using the abundance of bamboo in the area to create green products. This will go hand in hand with the green growth agenda of India, to cut imports.

These 82.5 crore projects are a milestone in the development of the Northeast that will combine both the heritage and the innovation in order to realize the economic potential of bamboo.

Through empowering artisans, industrial development and establishing market connections they facilitate sustainable livelihoods and makes India a global leader in bamboo. The green gold of Northeast will lead to inclusive, environment-friendly development.

77th Republic Day of India, 2026: Reaffirming the Constitutional Promise

On 26 January 2026, India celebrates its 77th Republic Day, marking seventy-seven years since the Constitution of India came into force in 1950. This historic moment transformed India from a dominion into a sovereign democratic republic, anchored in the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Historical Significance: The date 26 January was deliberately chosen to honour the Purna Swaraj declaration of 1930, symbolising complete independence and self-rule. With the adoption of the Constitution, India institutionalised the aspirations of its freedom struggle into a living legal and political framework. As B. R. Ambedkar noted, constitutional morality is not merely political power, it was to guide India's democratic journey.

Republic Day Celebrations: The grand Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path showcases India's cultural diversity, military strength, and technological progress. State tableaux, marching contingents, and indigenous defence platforms reflect India's unity in diversity and growing strategic autonomy.

Constitutional Values in Contemporary India: At 77, the Indian Republic stands at a critical juncture. While India has made remarkable strides in economic growth, digital governance, and global diplomacy, challenges such as social inequality, environmental stress, and democratic accountability persist. Republic Day serves as a reminder that rights must be balanced with duties, and governance must remain people-centric.

India's Global Role: As the world's largest democracy, India increasingly acts as a bridge between the Global North and South. Its emphasis on democratic resilience, inclusive development, and rule-based international order gives renewed relevance to its republican ideals on the global stage.

Theme of the 77th Republic Day: The central theme for the 2026 celebrations is the 150th anniversary of the national song “Vande Mataram”, a tribute to India’s freedom struggle and cultural unity. This theme, woven through tableaux, performances, and artistic displays along Kartavya Path, reflects the enduring spirit of national solidarity and historical memory.

Artists and cultural groups will present “Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram” alongside “Samriddhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat”, encapsulating both heritage and India’s progress towards self-reliance. Paintings from the original 1923 Bande Mataram Album and video narratives on the song’s legacy will be showcased prominently during the parade.

Special Guests and Diplomatic Significance

In a historic first, two top European Union leaders are attending as chief guests: Ursula von der Leyen, President of the [European Commission](#), and António Costa, President of the [European Council](#). Their presence underscores deepening India–EU strategic and economic ties, coinciding with high-level dialogues including the India–EU Summit being held around the same time. The invitation to the EU leadership marks a diplomatic milestone, reflecting India’s role as a global democratic partner and its engagement with multilateral frameworks.

Also Read: [Republic Day 2026: 30 Tableaux at Kartavya Path to Showcase Culture Heritage and Self-Reliance](#)

What’s New in the 2026 Parade?

The 2026 parade introduces several special features that distinguish it from past editions:

- **Rich cultural showcase:** Around 100 cultural artists will animate the parade route in a presentation celebrating “Unity in Diversity” through traditional music and performances.
- **Innovative displays:** Alongside conventional contingents and military units, parts of the parade will include special view-cutters featuring historic artwork linked to Vande Mataram.
- **Enhanced tableaux:** Thirty tableaux including 17 from States/Union Territories and 13 by Ministries/Departments, will represent the dual

themes of heritage and development.

- **Military and aerial spectacle:** The parade will feature India's defence prowess alongside commemorative elements tied to the theme, with ceremonial flypasts and coordinated displays by helicopters and airborne units.
- **New forms of participation:** There will be elevated participation from diverse segments of society and civil groups, bringing broader "Jan Bhagidari" (people's participation) into the Republic Day narrative.

Cultural and National Context

Beyond the parade, Republic Day is observed across India through flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programmes, and reflections on democratic values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. In capital cities and smaller towns alike, citizens engage with the day not only as a celebration but as a reaffirmation of India's constitutional commitments.

New Delhi, 26 January 2026, India marks its 77th Republic Day with solemn pride and spectacular celebrations, commemorating the day the Constitution of India came into force in 1950, transforming the country into a sovereign democratic republic. This year's event unites constitutional values with contemporary achievements in culture, defence, and international cooperation.

Also Read: [*Most Congested Cities 2026: Why Bengaluru and Delhi Rank at the Top*](#)

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Lucknow Becomes Uttar Pradesh's First Zero Fresh Waste Dump City

Lucknow has already reached a historic milestone by turning the city into the first in Uttar Pradesh to become a zero fresh waste dump by scientifically processing municipal solid waste 100%.

This has been successful because of the establishment of a third waste process facility at Shivri with the help of effective segregation and public-privacy.

The project complies with the Swachh Bharat Mission ideas and principles, as it has been set to encourage sustainability within the framework of the rapid urbanization of the city.

What are the Critical Infrastructure Advancements in Lucknow?

The new Shivri plant 700 metric tonnes per day (MTD) plant is an addition to two already existing plants so that they can process more than 2,100 MTD which is more than Lucknow generates at 2,000 metric tonnes per day (MTD).

The organic waste (55) is transformed into compost and biogas and inorganic (45) transforms into Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) to cement and paper industries. The efficiency of door-to-door collection is 96.53% with source segregation of over 70.

Legacy Waste Management

Almost 12.86 lakh out of 18.5 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste has been converted into RDF, bio-soil and construction materials and is able to reclaim more than 25 acres of the land to new facilities such as windrow pads and weighbridges.

Such remediation keeps the environment at bay and converts the old dumpsites into useful land. More clearance of 15 acres is to be made soon.

Future Waste-to-Energy Plans

The Waste-to-Energy facility, which will be located at Shivri, will be used to convert 1,000-1,200 MTD of RDF to electricity and reduce transportation expenses to the remote plants that are more than 500 km away.

Under the support of a 100 crore government aid and partners such as Bhumi Green Energy this progresses a model of the circle economy. Lucknow has now become a model city in India.

The experience of Lucknow turning into a zero fresh waste dump city is a good example of proper management of urban waste combining technology, citizen engagement, and policy to promote sustainability.

The scientific treatment of all new waste and addressing the old dumps make the city reduce the effect on the environment and produce new resources such as energy and compost.

This model is a stepping stone to scalable solutions throughout India and brings out the strength of integrated approaches to develop cleaner, greener urban futures.

Current Affairs One-Liners 23 Jan 2026: Republic Day 2026 Kartavya Path Tableaux

Current Affairs One-Liners 23 Jan 2026: Today's one-liner current affairs are presented in a fresh format for easy revision. These updates are important from an exam perspective and will support your preparation. Key highlights include Republic Day 2026, Parakram Diwas 2026, and National Girl Child Day.

In which IIT did the National Health Authority organize the Federated Intelligence Hackathon for the healthcare sector- IIT Kanpur

Who recently launched the Electronic Personnel Licensing (EPL) services for the Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL)- DGCA

In which city was Punjab's first Dog Sanctuary recently opened to ensure the care of stray dogs- Ludhiana

With whom did the BCCI sign a sponsorship deal worth 270 crore before the 2026 IPL- Google Gemini

On which date is Parakram Diwas celebrated every year in India- 23 January

What is the theme of the tableau of the Central Ministry of Power in the Republic Day Parade 2026- 'Prakash Ganga'

When is National Girl Child Day celebrated every year- 24 January

How many tableaux will pass through Kartavya Path on the occasion of Republic Day 2026- 30

[Republic Day 2026](#)

[Republic Day 2026: 30 Tableaux at Kartavya Path to Showcase Culture Heritage and Self-Reliance](#)

Census 2027: Full List of 33 Questions for Phase I

India's 16th Census 2027: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has released a list of 33 questions for Phase I of Census 2027, which runs from April to September 2026. The first phase focuses on "Houselisting and Housing Enumeration." Key updates include more questions on internet access and cereal eating, while the topic on financial services has been removed. This experiment represents India's transition to an entirely digital census.

The [Registrar General](#) and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) under the Ministry of Home Affairs has officially notified the questionnaire for the first phase of Census 2027, which is important for population counting and will focus on household infrastructure and socioeconomic amenities across the country.

Key Highlights of the Census 2027:

- Timeline: [Phase I](#) will be conducted between April 1 and September 30, 2026. Each State and Union Territory will choose a specific 30-day window within this period.
- **Two-Phase Process:**
 - **Phase I (2026):** House Listing and Housing Enumeration (a 30-day window per state)
 - **Phase II (2027):** Population Enumeration (scheduled for February 2027).
- **Digital Innovation:** For the first time, data will be collected via mobile applications (Android and iOS) and featuring geo-tagging of residential structures to enhance disaster response and urban planning.
- **Self-Enumeration:** Citizens will have a 15-day self-enumeration window to fill in their details online before the enumerator's visit.

Also Read: [India's First Digital Census 2027 Notification Released: All You Need to Know](#)

Census 2027 Phase I: Full List of The 33-Question

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has officially released the questionnaire for the first phase of the Census of India 2027, which allows census officers to collect data according to a scheduled digital timetable. The Questionnaire highlights India's new digital world, changing food trends, and rising standard of living.

According to a gazette notification issued by the [Registrar](#) General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI), the first phase will comprise houselisting and a housing census. It would include a comprehensive 33-question survey aiming at mapping the living conditions, amenities, and assets of Indian families.

What Are the 33 Questions for First Phase of Census 2027?

The questionnaire comprises housing infrastructure, domestic amenities, and assets. Notably, the government has included questions on internet access and cereal consumption while deleting the previous question on financial services. Here is the full list of 33-Questions

1. Building number (Municipal or local authority or census number).
2. Census house number.
3. Predominant material of floor of the census house.
4. Predominant material on the wall of the census house.
5. Predominant material of roof of the census house.
6. Ascertain use of census houses.
7. Condition of the census house.
8. Household number.
9. Total number of persons normally residing in the household.
10. Name of the head of the household.
11. Sex of the head of the household.
12. Whether the head belongs to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other.
13. Ownership status of the census house.
14. Number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household.
15. Number of married couple(s) living in the household.
16. Main source of drinking water.
17. Availability of drinking water source.

18. Main source of lighting.
 19. Access to latrine.
 20. Type of latrine.
 21. Waste water outlet.
 22. Availability of bathing facilities.
 23. Availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection.
 24. Main fuel used for cooking.
 25. Radio/Transistor.
 26. Television.
 27. Access to the internet.
 28. Laptop/Computer.
 29. Telephone/Mobile Phone/Smartphone.
 30. Bicycle/Scooter/Motorcycle/Moped.
 31. Car/Jeep/Van.
 32. Main Cereal consumed in the household.
 33. Mobile Number (for census related communications only).
- Notification of questionnaire of Phase I of Census of India 2027 -
Houselisting & Housing Census has been issued. The questionnaire for
Phase II i.e. Population Enumeration will be notified in due course.

2027 - ... pic.twitter.com/1BHbxmA8fN
— Census India 2027 (@CensusIndia2027) January 22, 2026
Also Read: [What is Trump's Board of Peace? Know its Structure, Members and India's Stand](#)

EPFO 3.0: New UPI Withdrawal, Easy PF Access & Other Details

EPFO 3.0: the Central Board of Trustees(CBT) has approved new reforms in the provident fund systems named as EPFO 3.0 a comprehensive digital transformation framework will bring a new portal which will allow Provident Fund(PF) members to withdraw their saving using ATM cards, a new software at the backend to implement the changes, and also announced the withdrawal norms and proposes a UPI-linked withdrawal facility.

Objectives:

- EPFO 3.0, [CBT](#) approved a comprehensive member-centric digital transformation framework to modernize provident fund services to provide faster and easier access to Provident Funds(PF).
- Core Banking Solution with cloud-native, API-first, micro services-based modules for account management, EPF, compliance and a unified customer experience.
- The initiative will enable faster, automated claims, instant withdrawals, multilingual self-service and seamless payroll-linked contributions, reaffirming [EPFO's](#) commitment to transparent, efficient and technology-driven service delivery for over 30 crore members.
- Implementation will proceed in phases, ensuring secure, scalable and uninterrupted services across the India.

Also Read: [Cabinet Extended the Atal Pension Yojana Till 2030-31:](#)

Key Details

What are the Key Features of the EPFO 3.0?

The EPFO 3.0 framework is built on a "Digital First" approach. Here are the core features and reforms introduced under this comprehensive digital transformation:

- **Simplified Withdrawal Framework:** [EPFO](#) brought the most member-centric change is the consolidation of complex rules to enhance Ease of Living of EPF members simplify the partial

withdrawal provisions of EPF Scheme by merging 13 complex provisions into a single, streamlined rule categorized into three types

- **Essential Needs:** illness, education, and marriage.
- **Housing Needs:** For the purchase, construction, or renovation of a home.
- **Special Circumstances:** Covers job loss, natural calamities, or unforeseen financial stress.
- **New Withdrawal Limits:** the CBT has increased the frequency and amount of withdrawals to provide better liquidity to employees for Members can now withdraw up to 100% of eligible balance including employee and employer share.**Education:** Members can now withdraw up to 10 times .**Marriage:** Facility increased to 5 withdrawals during the membership period.
- **Service Requirement:** Requirement of minimum service has been uniformly reduced to only 12 months for all partial withdrawals.
- **UPI-Linked Withdrawals:** It is a first-of-its-kind move for a retirement funds where members can
 - withdraw funds using the BHIM app.
 - The system will display the "Available Balance" vs. "Eligible Withdrawal Balance" in real-time.
 - Initial transaction caps (likely around 25,000) will be placed to ensure security.
 - UPI-linked withdrawal facility which will be expected to apply by April 2026.
- **72-Hour Turnaround & Auto-Settlement:** The new backend architecture (CITES 2.0) enables 100% auto-settlement for many claim types.
 - No Documentation is required under the "Special Circumstances" category, members no longer need to provide reasons or upload documents.
 - Claims up to 5 lakh can now be settled automatically, with funds often reaching bank accounts within 72 hours.
- **Core Banking Solution (CBS):** Moving away from decentralized databases, EPFO 3.0 uses a centralized system such as
 - **All India Service:** you can now resolve PF issues at any EPFO office nationwide.

- **AI Translation (Bhashini):** The new portal will integrate Bhashini AI to provide information and services in multiple Indian languages making it accessible to workers in remote areas in their regional languages.
- **Minimum Balance:** earmarking 25% of the contributions in the Members' account as Minimum Balance to be maintained by the member at all times, will enable member to enjoy a high rate of interest offered by EPFO (presently 8.25% pa) along with compounding benefits.

Source: [EPFIndia](#)

EPFO 3.0 is a structural overhaul designed to make the Provident Fund a more flexible financial tool rather than a locked-in asset. The EPFO is bridging the gap between traditional social security and modern fintech by integrating AI, UPI, and Core Banking solutions

Also Read: [India Launched the Responsible Nations Index, Ranks Ahead of China and US](#)

77th Republic Day 2026: India's First Parade After Operation Sindoor Victory

On January 26, 2026, the parade is the first parade since Operation Sindoor, a precision strike operation that neutralized terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistan and PoK. To honor this victory, the Ministry of Defence has reimagined the military column to reflect the "Phased Battle Array," giving spectators a front-row seat to how a real-world combat operation unfolds.

India celebrated its 77th Republic Day under the themes of "Svatantrata Ka Mantr – Vande Mataram" and "Samrddhi Ka Mantr – Aatmanirbhar Bharat." This year's parade will break the tradition, it evolves into a narrative of modern warfare.

What is the Phased Battle Array Display?

The 2026 format follows a tactical sequence unlike previous years where tanks, missiles, and infantry marched in separate, grouped blocks. This "Battle Array" is designed to educate the public on the "story of a battle."

- The array begins with High Mobility Reconnaissance Vehicles (HMRV) equipped with Battlefield Surveillance Radars (BFSR) and Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM), supported by Dhruv helicopters hovering overhead. This represents the initial phase of identifying enemy positions.
- The Parade also includes the Strike Phase (The Punch) which follow the "eyes" are the heavy hitters. This section features the indigenous Arjun Main Battle Tank, the T-90, and the BMP-II Infantry Combat Vehicles. This phase demonstrates the mobilization of firepower to break enemy lines.
- In the long range precision and support shows the sequence then moves to long-range assets like the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Akash and MRSAM air defense systems, and indigenous artillery like the ATAGS and Dhanush guns.
- The Parade also showcases the logistics and modern tech which

highlights "Aatmanirbhar" (self-reliant) in Robotic Mules: For carrying loads in high-altitude terrain. Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs): For remote combat and demining. All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs): Specialized for glacier and desert movement.

Source: [PIB](#)

Also Read: [77th Republic Day 2026: EU Leaders to be Chief Guests for Parade](#)

Honoring the Operation Sindoor:

The Republic Day 2026, honoring operation Sindoor victory through jointness, a special Tri-Services Tableau by the [Department of Military Affairs](#) will be the center of attraction, titled as "Operation Sindoor: Victory through Jointness," it depicts the seamless coordination between the Army, Navy, and Air Force during the Operation Sindoor in May 2025. Prime Minister of India's praised for "Make in India" weapons and drones that proved their mettle during operation.

The Tri-services Tableau will include :

- highlights the "Zero Tolerance" policy against cross-border terrorism.
- The Hero Units of the Bhairav Light Commando Battalion, a new unit raised to bridge the gap between infantry and special forces, makes its ceremonial debut.

The Flypast will include the Air-Land Integration, grand finale will feature 29 aircraft. For the first time, the flypast will not be a separate ending but will occur in "battle sync" with the ground troops, featuring Rafales, Su-30s, and Apache helicopters simulating the air cover provided during Operation Sindoor.

Republic Day 2026 carries deep cultural and diplomatic weight such as 150 Years of Vande Mataram. The parade commemorates the sesquicentenary of the national song. Rare 1923 paintings of the song's verses will be displayed as "view-cutters" along Kartavya Path. In a strong diplomatic signal to Europe, António Costa (President of the European Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission) will be in attendance as Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day parade.

Also Read: [IICDEM 2026: ECI to Host Global Democracy Confence in New Delhi](#)

What's New at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026: Themes, Attractions And Modern Displays

The 2026 Republic Day marks the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram," and key highlights include the debut of the Bhairav Battalion, rifle-mounted robots, and a unique Phased Battle Array format by the Indian Army. In a shift toward inclusivity, VVIP enclosures have been renamed after Indian rivers, and special guests from diverse sectors will be given prime seating.

Republic Day 2026 is not just a display of strength; it is a "living legend" of India's resolve. Following the successful Operation Sindoor in May 2025. This year's parade emphasizes "Jointness" among the Tri-Services as tribute to Operation Sindoor. With 30 tableaux, a massive flypast, and a strong diplomatic presence from the European Union, the 77th Republic Day is designed to tell the story of a nation that is both rooted in tradition and ready for the future.

What is the Theme of Republic Day 2026 ?

This year is special because the 2026 parade is the [150th Anniversary](#) of "Vande Mataram" which is written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the song has been a symbol and spirit of India's freedom struggle from Britishers. The Republic day parade highlights the

- Visual Tribute: View-cutters along Kartavya Path will display rare 1923 paintings by artist Tejendra Kumar Mitra, illustrating verses of the song.
- Dual Mantras: The tableaux and performances will focus on two main pillars:
 1. "Swatantrata ka Mantra – Vande Mataram" (Mantra of Freedom)
 2. "Samridhi ka Mantra – Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Mantra of Prosperity)

- Aatmanirbhar Display: focus on indigenous technology, showcasing India's journey from "Soil to Silicon."

First Time in 2026: The Military 'Battle Array' and New Assets

For the first time in history, the Indian Army will replace the standard marching sequence with a "Phased Battle Array." This format is designed to show how the military operates in a real combat scenario, moving from surveillance to strike and other military specific introduction are

- Battle Array Sequence: The parade will follow the operational logic of war such as Surveillance, Mobilization, Strike and Support.
- Rifle-Mounted Robots: The MULE (Multi-Utility Legged Equipment), quadruped robots capable of carrying weapons and sensors will make their debut.
- New Units: The [Bhairav Light Commando Battalion](#) and the Shaktibaan Regiment will march for the first time.
- Animal Contingents: A unique display featuring Bactrian camels (double-humped) and Zanskar ponies, highlighting the Army's capability in extreme high-altitude terrains like Ladakh and Jammu.
- Flypast: A massive aerial display including Rafale, Su-30 MKI, and the Apache attack helicopters. Notably, the P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft will also participate to signify maritime strength.

Also Read: [Republic Day 2026: Tribute to Operation Sindoor Victory, Showcase Phased Battle Array](#)

Who are the 2026 Republic Day Chief Guests?

For the 2026 Republic Day parade, India has invited the top leadership of the European Union. This marks a rare occasion where two leaders from the same bloc are honored together and their presence underscores the strengthening India-EU Strategic Partnership, with the 16th India-EU Summit scheduled to take place on January 27, 2026.

1. **Ursula von der Leyen:** [President of the European Commission](#)
2. **António Costa:** [President of the European Council](#) (who also shares a personal ancestral connection to Goa)

New Public Facilities: Free Metro and Renamed Enclosures

The 2026 celebrations introduce several "People-First" initiatives to

eliminate VVIP culture and improve the spectator experience such as

River-Themed Enclosures: In a symbolic move, all seating enclosures have been renamed after major Indian rivers instead of traditional numbers or VVIP labels.

- **Southern Enclosures:** Beas, Brahmaputra, Ganga, Godavari, Sindhu, Jhelum. (Alight at Udyog Bhawan Metro)
- **Northern Enclosures:** Yamuna, Kaveri, Krishna, Narmada, Sutlej. (Alight at Central Secretariat Metro)

Special Guests: Around 10,000 special guests including farmers, entrepreneurs, and achievers from self-help groups have been invited to sit in prominent enclosures, reflecting the theme of "Jan Bhagidari" (People's Participation).

Enhanced Connectivity:

- **Free Metro Travel:** All valid ticket and digital pass holders can avail of [free travel on the Delhi Metro](#) on January 26.
- **Early Starts:** Metro services will begin as early as 3:00 AM to facilitate smooth movement.
- **QR-Based Parking:** For those driving, a new QR code-based system will guide 8,000+ vehicles to 22 designated parking lots.

Also Read: [Republic Day 2026: EU Leaders Will be Chief Guests for Parade](#)

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Current Affairs One-Liners 22 Jan 2026: Theme of Republic Day 2026

Current Affairs One-Liners 22 Jan 2026: The one-liner current affairs are presented here in a new format. These updates are important from an examination point of view and will be helpful in your exam preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to the World Economic Forum Summit 2026, Republic Day 2026, etc.

1. Who has been appointed as the new Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)? - Sanjeev Khirwar
2. What is the central theme of Republic Day 2026- '150 years of Vande Mataram'
3. On what theme is the Ministry of Culture going to present its tableau on Republic Day 2026? - '150 Years of Vande Mataram'
4. Whom did Raymond Lifestyle recently appoint as CEO? - Satyaki Ghosh
5. Which state government recently approved 4,775 crore for the Bembbla River Irrigation Project? - Maharashtra
6. Sunita Williams recently retired from which space organization? - NASA
7. Air India recently signed a commercial cooperation framework agreement with which airline? - Singapore Airlines
8. The National Highways Authority of India signed an agreement with whom to strengthen integrated infrastructure development? - Konkan Railway
9. Which is the first city in Uttar Pradesh to have zero fresh garbage dumping sites? - Lucknow

Republic Day 2026

India Launched the Responsible Nations Index, Ranks Ahead of China and US

The Responsible Nations Index(RNI) launched by the World Intellectual Foundation in [collaboration](#) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, under the aegis of the World Intellectual Foundation (WIF). The Index introduces a comprehensive global framework for assessing nations on parameters such as ethical governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship, and global responsibility, going beyond conventional indicators of power and economic prosperity.

[The Responsible Nations Index](#) is the outcome of a three-year academic and policy research initiative led by the World Intellectual Foundation with key scholarly contributions from Jawaharlal Nehru University and Indian Institute of Management Mumbai. RNI is India's first globally anchored index designed to assess countries on the basis of responsible governance, social well-being, environmental stewardship, and global responsibility moving beyond conventional power and GDP-based measures.

[Also Read: What is Malayalam Language Bill, 2025?](#)

Ranking of Responsible Nation Index, 2026:

Top Five Countries:

Country	Overall Score	Overall Rank
Singapore	0.61945	1
Switzerland	0.58692	2
Denmark	0.58372	3
Cyprus	0.57737	4
Sweden	0.57397	5

- India Ranks at 16th position with the score of 0.551513
- The United Nations of America Ranks at 66th position with the score

of 0.50880 and China Ranks at 68th with the score of 0.50547.

Top Bottom Countries:

Somalia	0.39995	150
Yemen	0.38265	151
South Sudan	0.37389	152
Syria	0.37254	153
Central African Republic	0.35715	154

Source: [PIB](#)

What are the Core Dimensions of the Responsible Nations Index(RNI)?

The Responsible Nations Index(RNI) evaluates 154 countries and is built on transparent, globally sourced data to ensure credibility and comparability. It is considered 7 dimensions, 15 aspects and 58 indicators and focus on three primary pillars such as

- 1. Internal Responsibility:** focus on a nation's duty towards its own citizens which examines the quality of life, dignity and justice delivery to citizens, it includes key indicators such as Equity and Equality, Governance and quality of life.
- 2. Environmental Responsibility:** emphasis on stewardship of natural resources and climate action, focusing on sustainable and intergenerational Planning of the government policies and executions.
- 3. External Responsibility:** measures a country's contribution to peace, cooperation and global stability, evaluates peaceful Co-existence during the international stability, conflict resolution and Global Cooperation in shared global challenges like food security and sustainable dvelopment.

Institutions in Collaboration with The World Intellectual Foundation:

- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU): Academic collaboration and research depth.
- Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai):

Methodological validation and data integrity.

- Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC): Key collaborative partner and the official host for the launch of the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) on January 19.

Source - [PIB](#)

Significance of the Responsible Nations Index, 2026

The World Intellectual Foundation's Responsible Nations Index, 2026 represents a "paradigm shift" in existing indices that often reward countries for their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Trade Competitiveness and volumes, regardless of the ethical cost. It fills this gap by prioritizing restraint and stewardship.

RNI is designed to be an academic and moral framework. It aims to foster a global dialogue on "Responsible Leadership," encouraging policy learning where nations can adopt best practices from those ranking high in social and environmental ethics.

The RNI is called to action by placing ethics, environment and cooperation at the centre of global evaluation unlike the traditional one, the WIF is providing a new compass for progress in the 21st century. The Index will be launched in the presence of the former president Ram Nath Kovind.

[Also Read: India Launches BRICS 2026: Logo, Theme and Website](#)

Current Affairs One-Liners 20 Jan 2026: World Economic Forum 2026

Current Affairs One-Liners 20 Jan 2026: Today's one-liner Current Affairs are presented here in a new format. These updates are very important from the examination point of view and will be helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to the World Economic Forum Summit 2026, PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026, etc.

1. Which state signed Memorandums of Understanding for an investment of Rs 14.5 lakh crore on the inaugural day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit - Maharashtra
2. Which company recently set a record by completing the world's longest HDD crossing for a 26-inch pipeline below the Brahmaputra river - EIL
3. Who inaugurated the PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026 in New Delhi - Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi
4. Which state government recently launched the 'Aame Padhiba Ama Bhasare' scheme - Odisha
5. Who recently launched state-of-the-art electric catamarans in Kolkata, built by Cochin Shipyard for zero-emission river transport - PM Narendra Modi
6. Who has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador for the international multi-level professional cycling race, Pune Grand Tour 2026 - MS Dhoni
7. Which team recently won the Vijay Hazare Trophy for the first time - Vidarbha
8. What rank did India achieve in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 - Sixth

BRICS Summit 2026

IICDEM 2026: ECI to Host Global Democracy Conference in New Delhi

International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026: The Election Commission of India (ECI) is going to host a high-level Global Democracy Conference starting on the 21st of January will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It aims at bringing together electoral management bodies (EMBs) from across the world.

The core theme of the summit was the unveiling and implementation of the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) Initiative. This framework aims to combat misinformation, leverage AI for fair polling, and foster digital literacy among voters to protect the sanctity of democratic processes in the digital age.

Democracy is more than just a system of governance; it is a global commitment to the voice of the people. However, in an era where digital narratives can shift overnight, the pillars of fair elections face unprecedented challenges. To address this, the [Election Commission of India](#) (ECI) recently hosted a landmark Global Democracy Conference, serving as a collaborative hub for international election experts.

Key Highlight of the Global Democracy Conference:

- The [India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management](#) (IIIDEM) starting on the 21st of January will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- It will showcase the magnitude and complexity of conducting elections in India along with the recent initiatives taken by ECI to strengthen the two pillars of elections:
 - preparation of electoral rolls and
 - conduct of elections will also be held alongside the events.
- The largest global conference of its kind hosted by India in the field of democracy and election management. Nearly 100 international

- delegates, representing over 70 countries from across the world.
- The three-day programme includes general and plenary sessions of [Election Management Bodies](#) (EMBs) including the Inaugural Session, EMB Leaders' Plenary, EMB Working Group Meetings, besides thematic sessions focusing on global electoral issues, model international electoral standards, and innovations and best practices in electoral processes.
 - The State/UT's, 4 IIT's, 6 IIM's and 12 National Law Universities(NLUs) and IIMc will also participate in the conference along with thematic groups to contribute to in-depth deliberation.
 - The ECI will also formally launch [Election Commission of India Network](#) (ECINET), a one-stop digital platform and app for all election related information and services.
 - The docuseries "India Decides", highlighting the making of the largest election in the world, the Lok Sabha 2024 elections will also be showcased on day-one of IICDEM2026.

Source: [PIB](#)

A global platform. Shared purpose. [#IICDEM2026](#) brings together EMBs from across the world to drive international cooperation, enable the exchange of best practices, and co-create solutions that strengthen democratic processes.

21–23 Jan 2026

Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi pic.twitter.com/QfeMhqOrMy

— Election Commission of India (@ECISVEEP) [January 19, 2026](#)

Also Read: [Henley Passport Index 2026: Know the India's Rank](#)
[Singapore Retains Top Spot](#)

What is the SIR Initiative?

The [Special Intensive Revision](#) (SIR) Initiative is a large-scale time bound house to house voter verification to be done to ensure enrolment of all eligible citizens are included in the Electoral Roll. The SIR is constituted under the [Article 324](#) of the Indian Constitution and Section 21(3) of the [Representation of the People Act, 1950](#). It's a proactive *toolkit designed to bridge the gap between technological advancement*

and ethical campaigning. The ECI outlined three core pillars of the initiative:

1. **Transparency in Algorithms:** Encouraging social media platforms to provide clearer insights into how political content is prioritized.
2. **Rapid Response Systems:** Establishing a "Global Desk" for EMBs to flag and neutralize viral misinformation in real-time during active polling periods.
3. **Voter Empowerment:** Moving beyond simple "fact-checking" to deep digital literacy, ensuring citizens can discern authentic information from AI-generated deceptions.

Global Participation:

IICDEM 2026 is poised to be the largest global conference of its kind hosted by India in the field of democracy and election management. Nearly 100 international delegates, representing over 70 countries from across the world, are expected to participate, along with representatives of international organisations, foreign missions in India, and academic and practicing experts in the electoral domain.

It also includes representatives from the [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance \(I-IDEA\)](#) and the [Association of World Election Bodies \(A-WEB\)](#). The consensus was clear: Electoral integrity is no longer a domestic issue; it is a global security concern.

Panels discussed the varying landscapes of democracy, from the paper-ballot systems in parts of Europe to the robust [Electronic Voting Machine \(EVM\)](#) framework used in India. By sharing "Success Stories," the ECI demonstrated how the SIR framework helped manage the scale of the world's largest electorate while maintaining public trust.

Also Read: [What is Gaza's Board of Peace? Structure, Members and India's Invitation Explained](#)

IMF Raises Global Growth Forecast for 2026

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has increased its growth projection worldwide by 3.3 percent in 2026, an increase of 0.2 percent points on its previous projection of 2025.

This positive update is a sign of economic strength in the face of trade wars, geopolitical issues, and supply problems, which is mainly driven by a surge in artificial intelligence (AI) investments.

AI as Growth Catalyst

The optimism is supported by AI-related investment in data centers, more sophisticated semiconductors and power infrastructure to counter protectionist drag.

Chief Economist of IMF Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas observed that the world economy was adapting to shocks, where companies had diversified their supply chains and trade was also being diverted through selective agreements.

In case the AI provides productivity returns, it will increase the growth by up to 0.3 percentage points in 2026 and beyond in the medium term.

What are the Regional Forecasts for IMF Growth?

The United States is forecasted to experience a growth upgrade of 2026 of 2.4% due to the fast technology investments but in 2027 the growth rate declines to 2.0%.

The Chinese perspective increases to 4.5% with some US tariffs (current rate of 18.5) and exports to Southeast Asia and Europe following a robust 5.0% in 2025.

Eurozone growth is boosted to 1.3% by German expenditure and Spanish/Irish power, Spain at 2.3, UK at 1.3, the advanced economy at 1.8 and the emerging market at more than 4%.

Inflation and Policy Environment

By 2026, world inflation will be reduced to 3.8 percent compared to 4.1

percent in 2025 to 3.4 percent in 2027, which the monetary policy can afford to do.

The 2021 IMF World Economic Outlook, which was published twice a year, indicated what the post-July 2025 tariffs would be under President Trump, who will hit the highest impositions in April 2025.

The unabated AI enthusiasm will lead to the asset bubble and volatility in case of poor productivity. New trade wars, energy disrupting conflicts, and supply problems are disadvantages.

Although AI has a positive side, the IMF emphasizes balanced policies to achieve gains that are sustainable.

What is the UN High Seas Treaty? Objective, Provisions and Significance Explained

The High Seas Treaty formally known as the "Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement" marks a pivotal moment in international environmental law. This treaty aims to protect and conserve marine life in the high seas, which comprise nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans.

The BBNJ Agreement [agreement](#) was ratified in September 2025 and officially entered into force on January 17, 2026, ratifying countries are legally bound by the agreement to [support](#) conservation and sustainable management of highseas biodiversity.

What are the High Seas?

Before delving into the treaty itself, it's essential to understand what constitutes the "high seas." Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the [Sea](#) (UNCLOS), the high seas are defined as all parts of the sea that are not included in the [Exclusive Economic Zone](#) (EEZ), territorial sea, or internal waters of a State, or in the archipelagic waters of an archipelagic State. Essentially, these are international waters beyond the jurisdiction of any single nation.

The Need for the High Seas Treaty:

Existing legal frameworks were insufficient to address these threats effectively. The UNCLOS provides a general framework, but it lacks specific mechanisms for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Thus, the High Seas Treaty was negotiated to fill this crucial gap. The high seas, despite their vastness, are facing increasing threats from:

- **Overfishing:** Unsustainable fishing practices deplete fish stocks and disrupt marine ecosystems.

- **Pollution:** Plastic waste, chemical runoff, and other pollutants contaminate the waters, harming marine life.
- **Climate Change:** Ocean acidification, rising sea temperatures, and changing currents impact marine biodiversity.
- **Mining:** Potential deep-sea mining operations could devastate fragile ecosystems.

Also Read: [Environment Protection Act, 1986: Objectives, Key Provisions and Significance](#)

Key Provisions of the High Seas Treaty:

The treaty establishes a framework for:

- 1. Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):** The treaty enables the establishment of [Marine Protected Areas](#) (MPAs) in the high seas to conserve biodiversity. These MPAs can restrict certain activities, such as fishing or mining, to protect vulnerable ecosystems and species. ABMTs can also be implemented to manage specific areas for conservation purposes.
- 2. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs):** The treaty mandates [Environmental Impact Assessments](#) (EIAs) for activities that could potentially harm marine biodiversity in the high seas. This ensures that potential environmental consequences are thoroughly evaluated before activities such as deep-sea mining or large-scale fishing are approved. This provision is crucial to preventing irreversible damage to vulnerable marine environments.
- 3. Capacity Building and Transfer of Marine echnology:** Recognizing the disparities in resources and expertise among nations, the treaty emphasizes capacity building and the transfer of marine technology to developing countries. This ensures that all countries can effectively participate in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the high seas. Technology transfer could include sharing knowledge on sustainable fishing practices or marine monitoring techniques.
- 4. Benefit Sharing:** The treaty addresses the issue of benefit sharing from the utilization of [marine genetic resources](#) (MGRs) found in the high seas. This ensures that benefits derived from the commercialization of

MGRs are shared fairly and equitably, particularly with developing countries. Benefit sharing can include monetary benefits, technology transfer, or capacity building initiatives.

What is the Significance?

The treaty is a significant development in international environmental law and is frequently discussed in news and policy circles.

- **Environment and Ecology:** The treaty directly addresses issues related to biodiversity conservation, pollution, and sustainable resource management.
- **International Relations:** The treaty highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing global environmental challenges.
- **Law of the Sea:** Understanding the treaty requires a good grasp of the UNCLOS and other relevant international legal instruments.

Source: [United Nations](#)

Also Read: [What is Gaza's Board of Peace? Structure, Members and India's Invitation Explained](#)

What are the challenges and Future Prospects?

However, the High Seas Treaty represents a significant step forward in protecting marine biodiversity in the high seas. With effective implementation and international cooperation, it can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient ocean environment.

The High Seas Treaty faces several challenges:

- **Ratification:** The treaty needs to be ratified by a sufficient number of countries to enter into force.
- **Enforcement:** Effective enforcement of the treaty's provisions will be crucial to achieving its objectives.
- **Balancing Interests:** Balancing the interests of different stakeholders, such as fishing industries, mining companies, and conservation groups, will be a complex task.

Also Read: [India's First Open-Sea Marine Fish Farming Project: Locations, Objectives, and Features](#)

Current Affairs One-Liners 16 Jan 2026: Hot Air Balloon Festival

Current Affairs One-Liners 16 Jan 2026: The one-liner current affairs for today are presented here in a new format. These updates are important from the examination point of view and will be helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to the world's largest Green Ammonia Project, etc.

India recently signed a Joint Declaration to enhance cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture with which country - Israel

The Hot Air Balloon Festival was recently started in which state - Telangana

Who will be the chief guests at the 77th Republic Day celebrations - President of the European Council, António Luís Santos da Costa, and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

India recently signed a Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on telecommunications cooperation with which country - Germany

Which state government recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) - Madhya Pradesh

The India Electricity Summit 2026 will be organized from March 19 to 22 in which city - New Delhi

The world's largest Green Ammonia Project will be set up in which state - Andhra Pradesh

BRICS Summit 2026

Current Affairs One-Liners 15 Jan 2026: New Director General of NIA

Current Affairs One-Liners 15 Jan 2026: Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are important from the examination point of view and will prove helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to Army Day, INSV Kondinya, New Director General of NIA, etc.

1. Which senior police officer has recently been appointed as the Director General of NIA- Rakesh Agrawal
 2. Who recently laid the foundation stone for the BSL-4 Bio-Containment Facility of the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Center in Gandhinagar- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah
 3. The USA has recently imposed a visa ban on how many countries- 75
 4. Which central ministry has recently launched a national campaign to support the 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative- Ministry of Rural Development
 5. The Indian Navy's sailing vessel INSV Kondinya reached which port after its maiden voyage from Gujarat- Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat
 6. Recently, Justice Revati Mohite Dere took oath as the first woman Chief Justice of which state- Meghalaya
 7. The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) is being organized in which country- India
 8. Which Union Minister recently inaugurated the National Conference on Ecological Restoration of Aravalli Landscape- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav
 9. Which is the first rural bank in the country to start a solar-powered ATM van- Tripura Gramin Bank
 10. When is Army Day celebrated every year in India- 15 January
- BRICS Summit 2026**

Tripura Gramin Bank Launched India's First Solar-Powered ATM Van

Tripura Gramin Bank introduced a country's first solar powered mobile ARM van named after 'TGB On Wheels' to bring innovation to mobile banking units designed to provide uninterrupted banking services to remote and electricity- deficient areas. This is a landscape set by the Tripura Gramin Bank to green transformation in rural banking.

The initiative of the Tripura Gramin Bank is a vital lifeline for the 'last mile' of the population and a technological upgradation, ensures geography and power outages are no longer barriers to accessing essential financial services.

Key Features of "TGB On Wheels":

Tripura Gramin Bank has created a national milestone by becoming the first [gramin bank](#) of India to introduce a solar powered ATM Van, a major step towards sustainable and financial inclusion in the state. The solar-powered ATM Van is a mobile unit equipped to handle various banking needs on the go which includes:

- It is fully operational through solar panels by utilizing the rooftop to power the ATM and internal systems.
- TGB has 24/7 uninterrupted banking availability. It is specifically designed for the hilly and remote terrains where electricity is limited.
- The mobile unit assists with basic banking transactions and financial literacy awareness.
- The bank significantly reduces its carbon footprint and operational costs associated with diesel generators by switching to Solar.

[Also Read: Responsible Nation Index: Redefining Global Success Beyond GDP](#)

What is a Vision for Financial Inclusion?

The foundation for the project "TGB ON WHEELS" was laid on 21 July 2023 inaugurated by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Since

then, TGB has scaled the initiative to include three fully operational solar-powered vans. The Gramin Bank has a total number of 150 branches in the nooks and corners of Tripura, many in the most interior pockets of the state, TGB is using these mobile vans to bridge the digital divide in rural areas. This move aligns perfectly with India's broader goals of achieving 100% financial inclusion and transitioning toward a greener economy.

More About Tripura Gramin Bank:

The 'TGB ON WHEELS' initiative of [Tripura Gramin Bank](#) with the strategic and financial support of NABARD & PNB to provide easy access to Banking across the remotest corner of the state. The initiative was recently recognized on a national stage when Tripura Gramin Bank was honored with the SKOCH Silver Award for the first time. The award highlights the bank's commitment to "Best Innovative Practices" in the banking sector, particularly for its efforts in rural upliftment.

The launch of India's first solar-powered ATM van by Tripura Gramin Bank is a proud moment for the state and a model for Regional Rural Banks across India. It proves that with innovation and the right partnerships, sustainable technology can solve the oldest challenges in rural development.

[Also Read: India Launches BRICS 2026: Logo, Theme and Website](#)

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Army Day 2026: This City Hosts Its First-Ever Public Parade Outside Cantonment Area

Jaipur will etch its name into military history On January 15, Army Day. Army Day has been celebrated annually since 1949 to honor [General K.M. Cariappa](#) taking command. This year represents a paradigm shift. Moving beyond the traditional barracks of Bengaluru, Lucknow, or Pune. The 2026 Indian army day parade is a public spectacle designed to bring the Indian Army's prowess directly to the citizens of Rajasthan.

Army Day Parade 2026

Mahal Road, Jaipur | 15 Jan 2026

The Pink City is Ready. [#LtGenManjinderSingh](#), [#ArmyCommander](#), [#SaptaShaktiCommand](#), took the salute during the successful Full Dress Rehearsal of the 78th Army Day Parade 2026 conducted on 13th January 2026, marking a... pic.twitter.com/yggKbMrXsd — SouthWesternCommand_IA (@SWComd_IA) January 13, 2026

[Also Read: What is the Bhairav Commando Battalion?](#)

A Historic Shift: From Cantonments to Civilian Spaces

For the first time in the history of independent India, the main Army Day Parade was moved out of military cantonments and held on a public urban route (Mahal Road, Jaipur) to foster a closer bond with the public.

The [Sapta Shakti Command](#) (South Western Command) has undertaken to manage an estimated 8 lakh civilians on 15 January in Jaipur. The event mimics the Republic Day format. It aims to foster a deeper emotional and patriotic bond between the armed forces and the youth, allows unrestricted public viewing.

Key Highlights:

The event is set to be a blend of traditional grit and futuristic technology and

- **Debut of the Bhairav Battalion:** Debut of Bhairab Battalion on the Army Day parade is a major talking point of the Army's recent

restructuring. These units occupy the strategic space between Special Forces and regular Infantry, specialized for rapid, precision offensive operations, maneuvering across hostile terrains and applying modern battlefield

- **Introduction of AH-64E Apache Helicopters:** The AH-64E Apache attack helicopters will make their Army Day debut. Equipped with Longbow fire-control radar, they will perform a flypast alongside the indigenous LCH Prachand.
- **Technological Prowess on Display:** The parade will feature over 30 marching and mechanized contingents, showcasing BrahMos and Pinaka rocket systems, M777 ultra-light howitzers, indigenous defence system Akashteer system and Drones, loitering munitions, and Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGVs).

What is the Theme of the 78th Indian Army Day?

January 15, 2026 is celebrating 78th Indian Army Day, the primary theme "**Year of Networking and Data Centricity**", emphasizes the Army's shift toward advanced digitalization, secure modern communication, and data-driven decision-making systems for modern warfare.

The scale of the 2026 celebrations extended far beyond the parade ground. In the weeks leading up to the event, the Army organized 'Know Your Army' exhibitions and band displays, The Shaurya Sandhya programme at SMS Stadium and Medical camps for veterans and blood donation drives. It is reflecting India's growing defense diplomacy, Ambassadors and defense attachés from over 40 countries are expected to witness the display, underscoring India's role as a major military power on the global stage.

[Source](#)

[Also Read: 77th Republic Day 2026: EU Leaders to be Chief Guests for Parade](#)

India Launches BRICS 2026: Logo, Theme and Website

India's External Minister Dr. S Jaishankar launched the logo, theme and website of India's chairmanship in New Delhi. India officially took over the mantle of BRICS economic Bloc seeking to redefine its presidency of the grouping to tackle the changing global challenges at a time when the world is battling geopolitical volatility. India officially took over the presidency from Brazil on January 1 this year for the fourth time.

In 2026, BRICS will complete its 20 year of inception meanwhile the BRICS grouping has evolved as a significant platform for cooperation for emerging markets as developing economies.

(source: <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?>)

Launched preparations for BRICS India 2026 with the unveiling of website, theme and logo, alongside MoS' [@KVSinghMPGonda](#) and [@PmargheritaBJP](#).

's chairship of BRICS will adopt a 'Humanity-first' and 'people-centric' approach to build for resilience, innovation, cooperation and...

pic.twitter.com/zhLlIzrokf

— Dr. S. Jaishankar (@DrSJaishankar) [January 13, 2026](#)

What is BRICS 2026's logo, theme, and website?

BRICS 2026 Logo

The BRICS India 2026 Logo '**the Lotus**' which symbolises inclusivity, dialogue and shared growth. The logo blends tradition with modernity, with petals reflecting the vibrant colours of all BRICS members and symbolising collective strength and unity. At the centre, the "Namaste" gesture conveys warmth, respect, and harmonious collaboration.

BRICS 2026 Theme

The theme for India's 18th BRICS Chairship is "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**". It draws

inspiration from Prime Minister's "Humanity First and People-centric" vision for BRICS and reflects a forward-looking agenda to address contemporary global challenges.

BRICS 2026 Website

The BRICS India website brics2026.gov.in was also launched by the External Affairs Minister. It will serve as a platform for disseminating information regarding India's BRICS Chairmanship and digital hub for the presidency.

BRICS 2026 Representatives

BRICS is a group of 10 member countries, and other representatives includes International Organizations, Senior Officials of the Government of India, Resident Commissioners of States, Think-tanks, Media amongst other distinguished participants participated in the launch programme.

What are the Four Priorities of India's Chairmanship?

The four broad priorities of India's Chairmanship - Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability. They will provide a coherent and balanced framework across the three foundational pillars of BRICS: political and security, economic and financial, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Source: <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/40586>)

Dr. Jaishankar emphasized during the launch highlighted the India's chairmanship is a "critical moment." He noted that BRICS has evolved into a significant platform for emerging markets to challenge "discriminatory sanctions" and work toward a more multipolar global order.

Current Affairs One-Liners 13 Jan 2026

BRICS 2026 Chairship

Current Affairs One-Liners 13 Jan 2026: Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are very important from the examination point of view and will prove helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to India's chairmanship of BRICS in the year 2026.

Which member country will chair BRICS in the year 2026 - India

Who launched the official website and logo for India's BRICS chairmanship 2026 - External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

APEDA recently inaugurated a regional office in which city to promote exports - Raipur

'Viksit Bharat Yuva Samvad 2026' was organized in which city - New Delhi

Which joint military-civil fusion exercise was recently conducted by the Indian Army under the aegis of the Southern Command - 'Sanjha Shakti'

PM Modi recently inaugurated Metro Phase 2 of which city - Ahmedabad

The Union Ministry of Agriculture has recently proposed the merger of how many different ongoing schemes into its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri-Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Three

Who recently inaugurated the 'Drug-Free Campus Campaign' at Delhi University - Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan

[PM Kisan Yojana 22nd Kist Status](#)

India Post Launches Speed Post 24 and 48: Check Details Here

Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia introduced the new Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48, two high quality express post services, which assured delivery at 24 and 48 hours of business respectively, along major routes within the country.

The launch is accompanied by the infrastructure improvements, such as the opening of a renovated sub-post office (2 lakh cost) and laying a foundation stone of a new one (1.11 crore).

These programs highlight how India Post has transformed itself to become a competitor within the dynamic e-commerce and logistics industry by focusing on its origin as a traditional mail service.

The services are aimed at businesses, government transactions and individual users that require the reliability of parcel movement in time-sensitive services which make India post compete with the likes of FedEx, DHL, and domestic giants such as DTDC and Blue Dart.

What are the Specifications and Coverage of New Services?

Speed Post 24 offers next business day delivery of high priority products, which mostly include:

- Metro-level shipments (e.g. Delhi to Gurgaon).
- Large metro-metro connections (Delhi-Mumbai, Bengaluru-Hyderabad).
- Hopscotch city pairs with direct flights/rail connectivity (Key Tier-1).

Speed Post 48 is expanded to include two-business-day guarantee over extended domestic routes, such as:

- Metro to the Tier-2 cities (e.g., Mumbai to Lucknow).
- Local hubs (e.g. Chennai to Coimbatore).

The first rollout will cover more than 1000 pin codes and further rollout will be done on a quarterly basis depending on the performance of the routes.

The two services have end-to-end tracking through India Post mobile application, SMS alerts and web portal. There can be a refund policy in case of delays beyond any of the promised schedules, and supported by service-level agreements (SLAs).

Pricing is still high end, estimated 20-30 percent over standard Speed Post, (50-200 base), and comes with insurance up to 1 lakh, and reverse logistics choices.

The current network of 1.36 lakh post offices (90% is rural) and 3.5 lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks that India post has guaranteed last-mile coverage that competitors can only penetrate 20-30% of rural India.

Local Infrastructure Concentration

India Post rural revitalization on the Pichhor event:

- New Facility: New counters, digital kiosk integration (2 lakh investment).
- New Build: 1,500 sq ft building with parcel hubs, training centers (1.11 crore).
- Minister Scindia highlighted Madhya Pradesh as a logistics pilot state by connecting its services with PM Gram Sadak Yojana and ONDC e-commerce.

This goes in line with a 5,000 crore national modernisation fund with a 10,000 refurbished post offices by 2028.

Strategic Environment During Logistics Boom

The Indian logistics market is estimated to be worth 215 billion (2025), and it is expanding by 10-12% a year due to e-commerce (4.5 lakh crore GMV) and MSMEs.

India Post is the one that processes 10 crore Speed Post annually (3,000 crore revenue), securing 15 percent express market. The new services include pain points:

- **Punctuality:** 95% on time target compared to the current 85%.
- **Competition:** I undercuts the private players on rural access/cost.
- **E-Governance:** Provides assistance to e-way bills, DBT proofs, judicial documents.

Scindia called them new standards of reliability and they are combined

with DakPay (digital payments) and IPPB banking.

Current Affairs One-Liners 09 Jan 2026: Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM)

Current Affairs One-Liners 09 Jan 2026: Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are very important from the examination point of view and will be helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to IndusFood 2026, LR-ASHM Missile, etc.

Which Union Minister recently inaugurated the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS) of NSG through video conferencing - **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah**

Where was a national-level workshop recently organized on the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) scheme - **Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh)**

Which Union Minister recently inaugurated IndusFood 2026 at Expo Mart in Greater Noida - **Food Processing Industries Minister Chirag Paswan**

Who recently took charge as the Chairman of the Leather Export Council - **Ramesh Kumar Juneja**

Who was recently appointed as the CEO of the General Insurance Council - **Dr. S Prakash**

In which state was the Sanskar Shala Value Based Education Program recently launched - **Assam**

India's indigenous LR-ASHM missile will be displayed at the Republic Day parade on January 26, it was manufactured by - **DRDO**

[India's Census 2027](#)

[PM Kisan Yojana 22nd Kist Status](#)

Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile Makes Landmark Republic Day Debut

The Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM) is a hypersonic glide missile developed by the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation). For the first time, India is showcasing its LRAShM ('modern-day Brahmastra') to the world in celebration of the 77th Republic Day. It is an indigenously developed hypersonic glide vehicle that represents a quantum leap in India's maritime strike capabilities and stands as a potent symbol of India's transition from a regional power to a global leader in advanced missile technology.

[Also Read: India's Suryastra Rocket Launcher System](#)

What is the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LRAShM)?

The LRAShM is a sophisticated boost-glide hypersonic anti-ship system designed to neutralise high-value naval targets, including aircraft carriers and destroyers, from stand-off distances. Its debut of the LRAShM is a strategic signal to the international community. By successfully developing a "carrier-killer" class missile, India joins an elite club of nations such as the US, Russia and China.

LRAShM, developed by the DRDO in collaboration with various industry partners at the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, is a triumph of indigenous engineering. It is also known as the 'New Sentinel of the Seas'. It has the following key features:

- **Developed:** It is developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) with the various industry partners.
- **Type:** Long-range Hypersonic Glide Missile (HGVs)
- **Purpose:** Built for anti-ship roles
- **Payloads:** both conventional and nuclear warheads
- **Speed:** Travelling at a blistering Mach 10 (approx. 3.37 km/sec), far ahead of the present missile defence systems.

- **Range:** It can target the adversary up to 1500 km, which allows the Indian Navy to project power far beyond.
- **Precision:** Equipped with advanced X-band synthetic-aperture radar and monopulse homing seekers, it also has 'terminal manoeuvres' to strike moving targets with pinpoint accuracy
- **Sea Denial:** Strengthens India's "Sea Denial" strategy in the Indian Ocean Region and ensures a countable threat.
- **Countering A2/AD:** a direct counter to Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) strategies employed by adversaries to maintain freedom of navigation,
- **Special Heat-Resistant Materials:** It has the ability to survive extreme temperatures (exceeding 2,000°C) during hypersonic flight.
- **Deployment:** LRAShM is a heavyweight in terms of dimensions and it has dual-deployment capabilities
- **Land-Based:** Mobile Autonomous Launchers (MAL) stationed along the coastline to provide a "protective umbrella" over the Indian Ocean Region. **Sea/Naval Based:** Future integration into frontline warships and Vertical Launch Systems (VLS), which provide a mobile offensive edge.

The appearance of the LRAShM at the Republic Day 2026 parade is more than just a display of military hardware; it is a declaration of India's technological sovereignty. As it glides past the saluting base. It also reinforces message that India's maritime borders are guarded by the very cutting edge of 21st-century science.

Also Read: [Samudra Pratap: India's First Indigenously Designed Pollution Control Vessel](#)

India Becomes First to Produce Bio-Bitumen Commercially

India has pioneered in commercial production of bio-bitumen, which is an environmentally friendly substitute of petroleum-based bitumen in the construction of roads. The milestone was announced by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at the CSIR Technology Transfer Ceremony in New Delhi and credited the breakthrough to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The innovation will transform agricultural byproducts and biomass into a feasible binder to decrease the use of fossil fuels and address the issue of burning crop residues.

What is Bio-Bitumen?

Crude oil is a major consumer of petroleum in infrastructure because asphalt is bonded by Bitumen, a sticky black hydrocarbon that is an ingredient of the road surfaces.

Instead of using biomass, e.g. crop stubble, sugarcane bagasse, rice husk, bio-bitumen is produced by procedures such as pyrolysis and hydroprocessing to produce similar performance with lower carbon emissions.

Key advantages:

- Reduces greenhouse gases up to 60-70 percent as compared to conventional bitumen.
- Managing the stubble-burning pollution, a seasonal crisis in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.
- Increases self-sufficiency using massive waste of agriculture (more than 500 million tonnes per year).

Technological Breakthrough of CSIR

The Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) based in Dehradun, by CSIR, led the development in a period of five years, scaled down lab prototypes to commercial viability through pilot plants.

The industrial transfer of the technology allows mass production with the first output aimed at national highway projects within the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

The move was welcomed by Union Minister of Science and technology Jitendra Singh as the beginning of clean and green highways, which went hand in hand with the Waste to Wealth mission.

Congruency with National Initiatives

The launch will help the government in several ways:

- Viksit Bharat 2047: Sustainable infrastructure to a developed India.
- Atma Nirbhar Bharat: Native technology to lessen reliance on imports of bitumen (India imports 40 percent of the bitumen requirements).
- Circular Economy: Turns waste into 10, 000 crore+ value chain potential.
- Net-Zero Roads: Pilot blends (10-20% bio-bitumen) that was tested on durability in high traffic areas.

Gadkari observed that it would save it 5,000 crore per year in imports and reduce pollution of millions of vehicles.

Scalability and Production Process

Bio-bitumen is manufactured by the following steps:

- Pretreatment of biomass and pyrolysis to bio-oil.
- Hydrodeoxygenation upgrading to asphalt-grade.
- Combining with petroleum bitumen to make hybrid mixes.

The patented approach by CSIR-IIP guarantees such properties to correspond to BIS, such as penetration, softening point, and viscosity (IS 73:2018).

The commercial plants with the support of the public-private collaboration are to reach 1 million tonnes/year capacity by 2030, which will serve 20% of the 5 million tonnes annual demand in India.

International and Economic Effects

Being the pioneer commercial manufacturer, India will become a frontrunner in green infrastructure technology, which they will potentially

export to Southeast Asian and African asphalt markets.

On the economic front it provides employment in the rural bio-refineries, increases the level of farmers' incomes through waste buyback (1,500-2,000/tonne) and reduces logistics expenses.

Current Affairs One-Liners 08 Jan 2026: What Is the Name of the 'Aadhaar' Mascot?

Current Affairs One-Liners 08 January 2026: Here are today's one-liner current affairs in a new format. These updates are very important from an examination point of view and will be helpful for your preparation. Today's key highlights include topics related to the 'Aadhaar' mascot, Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, and more.

What is the name of the 'Aadhaar' mascot launched by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)- **Udai**

With whom did the Ministry of Agriculture sign an MoU to provide all-India logistics facilities for testing agricultural inputs- **Department of Posts**

Who signed an MoU with Sri Sathya Sai Health and Education Trust to establish a Health Skill Development Centre in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**

With whom did the Ministry of Rural Development sign an MoU to promote financial inclusion and livelihoods in villages- **Department of Posts**

Who inaugurated the grand international exhibition of the sacred Piprahwa relics related to Lord Buddha in New Delhi recently- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

Researchers from which country joined the Maitri Research Station under India's 45th Antarctic Expedition recently- **United Arab Emirates**

Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, recently in the news, is located in which state- **Tamil Nadu**

The recently discussed WaveX initiative comes under which Union Ministry- **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

In which city is the Sports Authority of India (SAI) organizing a four-day

sports science workshop for combat sports coaches- **New Delhi**

Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, recently in the news, is located in which state- **Maharashtra**

PM Kisan Yojana 22nd Kist Status

India Launches e-B-4 Business Visa for Chinese Professionals

The Government of India has also introduced a new category of electronic visa called e-B-4 Production Investment Business Visa which is developed to allow the Chinese nationals to carry out certain industrial and commercial activities in the nation.

The visa is announced through an advisory of the Indian Embassy in Beijing on January 1, 2026, and it allows applying online in full, without visiting embassies or using intermediaries.

It will serve the ancient requests of Indian businesses to have easier access to foreign technical skills, especially in the fields that are in line with the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) program and the overall investment plans.

This progress is in line with the continuous attempts of balancing bilateral economic activity between China and India, after the lapses of diplomatic strife. The visa allows stays of up to six months and is done in 45 to 50 days, which is a fast track to the former employment visa requirements which usually entailed lengthy approvals.

Extensive Visa Specifications and Authorized Operations

The e-B-4 visa is aimed at project-specific, time-limited operations necessitating the continuity of operations in the manufacturing sphere and other industries. Based on the embassy advisory, eligible tasks include a list of comprehensive hands-on contributions:

- Installation, commissioning and quality assessment of manufacturing equipment.
- Much-needed maintenance and production support services.
- Introducing and upgrading IT systems, such as Enterprise Resource Planning software (ERP).
- Developing the workforces locally through training to develop operational capacities.

- Supply chain development such as vendor empanelment and sourcing.
- Commissioning, engineering and plant design.
- Strategy visits to the site by top management and executives.

The above activities will assist Indian companies in industries like electronics, renewable energy, automobiles, and pharmaceuticals where foreign companies can use the expertise to bring about projects on schedule as well as improving the efficiency.

Application Process

Application is a process that consists of the liaison between foreign applicants and Indian sponsoring companies. The Indian organizations have to submit applications in the National Single Window System portal of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) nsws.gov.in.

Companies create a digital version of a sponsorship letter using the 'Business User Login' option and this is a major supporting document.

Chinese professionals access the e-Visa portal of the Bureau of Immigration at the indianvisaonline.gov.in portal. They choose the e-Visa alternative, go to e-Business and select the e-B-4 sub-category.

To upload, one will be required to have the NSWS sponsorship letter, passport (valid not less than six months), evidence of intention (contract or invitation) and other usual documents. On entry to India, biometric enrolment takes place and one has to undergo mandatory e-registration with the Foreigners Regional registration office (FRRO) within 14 days.

It is an end-to-end digital procedure that removes physical submissions and third party agents in line with the greater agenda of India towards paperless governance in immigration services.

Two-Sided Effects

The e-B-4 visa is one of the indications of the pragmatic approach to the relations between India and China, as it focuses on the people-centric approach, which has been agreed to during the recent diplomatic debates.

It is based on reforms proposed in a Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) circular of August 2025, which re-categorises some activities related to production in business visas to eliminate administrative bottlenecks.

India's 15-Year Plan to Induct 1,500 Aircraft and Build Global Aviation Hubs

India's civil aviation sector is poised for a dramatic scale-up, with the government projecting that domestic airlines will induct about 100 new aircraft every year for the next 10-15 years. This expansion is tied to a broader strategy of building powerful Indian hubs, boosting direct long-haul connectivity, and reclaiming international traffic from foreign transit centres.

Ambitious Fleet Expansion Over 10-15 Years

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has indicated that Indian carriers plan to add roughly 100 aircraft annually over the next decade-and-a-half, backed by massive existing orders from major airlines.

India's commercial fleet currently stands at about 843 aircraft, and in calendar year 2025 alone, airlines inducted around 80 planes, with about 106 more expected in 2026.

This long-term pipeline is driven by the Air India group's large orderbook, IndiGo's aggressive expansion, newer entrants like Akasa Air, and regional players such as Star Air, all of which are preparing to scale up their fleets.

The minister has also articulated a policy vision of having at least five Indian airlines operating 100 or more aircraft each to avoid excessive market concentration and to strengthen competition.

What is the Hub-Centric Connectivity Strategy?

The fleet growth is being matched by rapid airport development, with the minister noting that every 40-50 days India is either opening a new airport or expanding an existing one.

The government's strategy is to shift from a dependence on bilateral seat increases alone to a model where Indian airports emerge as strong global hubs offering direct hub-to-hub connectivity.

Rather than routing a large share of international passengers via Dubai, Doha, Singapore, or European hubs, the plan is to funnel traffic from Indian tier-2 and tier-3 cities into domestic mega-airports, and then operate non-stop or one-stop long-haul services to key global destinations.

This includes targeting travellers from neighbouring countries to use Indian hubs as preferred transit points, thereby improving yields and route viability for Indian carriers.

Also Read: INSV Kaundinya: Indian Navy's Stitched Ship Sails for Oman to Revive Ancient Maritime Heritage

International Traffic from Foreign Hubs

For decades, a significant portion of India-world traffic has been carried by foreign airlines via Gulf, Southeast Asian, and European hubs. The minister pointed out that since 2014, policy has tried to reverse this by strengthening Indian airlines and airport infrastructure so that more Indians and regional travellers fly on India-based networks.

A key bottleneck is the limited number of wide-body aircraft in Indian fleets, which constrains the ability to offer non-stop long-haul routes to North America, Europe, Africa, and the Pacific. Global competitors operate large twin-aisle fleets, while India is still catching up, though new wide-body orders by Air India and others aim to close this gap.

At the same time, bilateral air service agreements for some high-demand routes are already fully utilised, prompting a debate on recalibrating entitlements without undermining Indian carriers' growth prospects.

Bhogapuram Airport: Symbol of the New Growth Phase

Ram Mohan Naidu outlined this vision at Andhra Pradesh's upcoming Bhogapuram Greenfield International Airport, which recently saw its first commercial validation (proving) flight operated by Air India from Delhi.

The successful validation marks a crucial regulatory step before the airport's targeted commercial opening, expected around mid-2026, with about 96% of construction already completed.

Bhogapuram is planned as a modern hub featuring an aerotropolis, aviation hub, and a dedicated cargo terminal, supported by upgraded highways and new access corridors from Visakhapatnam to ensure 40-60 minute connectivity.

The minister also highlighted the Global South and Africa as priority regions for expanding direct air links from India, aligning airport development, fleet induction, and foreign policy objectives.

Strategic Significance for India's Aviation Future

If the 100-aircraft-per-year trajectory holds, India could cross a 2,000+ aircraft fleet within 15 years, placing it in the league of the US and China in terms of scale.

This would support rising domestic demand, deepen regional connectivity, and empower Indian carriers to compete more effectively on long-haul routes.

The combination of strong fleet growth, new greenfield airports like Bhogapuram, and a deliberate hub-building strategy positions India's civil aviation sector as a central pillar of economic growth, tourism, and global connectivity in the coming decades

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Karnataka Records First Sighting of Ultra-Rare ‘Sandalwood Leopard’

The first ever recorded sight of the ultra-rare Sandalwood Leopard, a spectacular pale reddish-pink colour morph of the Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) has been made in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka, a great milestone of wildlife conservation.

It is the second confirmed sighting in India, after one at Ranakpur, in the state of Rajasthan, in 2021, and highlights the high genetic biodiversity of the state. This discovery has led to a world wide focus on the need to continue camera-trap surveys on poorly studied landscapes.

The Uniqueness and Discovery of Rare Morph

The captive photographed female leopard of the age 6-7 years was taken to camera traps when a leopard population study was done in arid forests of Kalyana-Karnataka region. This one, unlike the usual stocky tawny, with black rosettes, is pale in colour, sandalwood, touched off with some light-brown rosettes--and is thus known by conservationist nicknames.

The finding was done by wildlife biologist Dr. Sanjay Gubbi and his team of Holematthi Nature Foundation (HNF) as they mapped the density and habitat of leopards.

This is in line with hypomelanism or erythrism, which as Gubbi pointed out, are genetic traits that can naturally occur and thus DNA analysis in the form of scat or hair would be necessary to confirm the existence of the visual evidence alone.

Scientists explain the coloration by pigmentation abnormalities: hypomelanism (less melanin to make light fur) or erythrism (surplus of the red substance). The recessive traits are uncommon in the wild mammals of the world, with only five records in the world that include two in South Africa and two in Tanzania, and the two in India.

This is a genetic treasure unlike normal melanistic "black panthers" (common in Karnataka).

Leopard Hotspot of Karnataka.

Karnataka is a big cat conservation center, home to the largest leopard population in India, due to the work of HNF that has served to identify important areas. The arid regions of Vijayanagara, which belong to the little known Kalyana-Karnataka, contain a variety of species, such as honey badgers, dholes, which were never documented here before. The observation supports why habitats must be preserved in the face of such dangers as habitat fragmentation and human-wildlife conflict.

This finding underscores the importance of genetic diversity to species resilience, which calls on non-invasive surveillance and molecular investigations. It enhances the potential of eco-tourism and demands long-term use of efforts to preserve the rare morphs.

Such characteristics are what conservation will add to the natural heritage and ecosystem wellbeing of India, as Gubbi emphasizes.

Himachal Village Gets First Public Bus After 78 Years

In a festive event that reverberated across the Mandi district Tumman village in the subdivision of Karsog witnessed first Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) bus on December 31, 2025 almost eight decades after India was granted Independence. The arrival was turned into a festival of hope and inclusion with residents garlanding the vehicle, cutting ribbons, and handing out sweets. This incident represents the effort of the state to close connectivity verges in distant Himalayan regions.

Long Wait to Get Connected by Tumman

Located roughly 15 km away from the location of the Ani bus stand, Tumman has been a remote area since there are no smooth roads and only rough terrain, which means that the inhabitants have to walk or pay expensive prices to private vehicles to get the things they need.

The aging citizens, women and students were the worst sufferers who at times would take hours of walking to get to markets, schools, hospitals or government buildings in Karsog or Mandi town. With the success of the trial run, this isolation comes to an end and the regular services are awaiting final approvals.

The Contribution of HRTC in Expansion in Rural Areas

The Himachal state owned HRTC, which has more than 3,200 buses, is more concerned with loss-making country routes in order to meet its obligations of providing a service to the people. Recent fleet improvements are 1,000 new buses, 297 electric and 250 diesel with 37-42 seat capacities to serve hilly areas on the last mile.

This program subsidizes the replacement of old vehicles, electrics will cost half of the current price 25/km and the funding of green targets with charges in the amount of 110 crore.

Systematic progress can be illustrated with an example of Tumman after

Talaihan village (2023) in Karsog that became the first village to receive a bus after 70 years.

Influence on Everyday Lifestyles and Growth

The bus will reduce travel time and expenses, enhance access to health care, school attendance, and market connections to the families who are dependent on agriculture. It contributes to economic boost by facilitating movement of goods and tourism in applemandi. The hailing of the government by the Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was in support of social inclusion that was aligned to the Viksit Himachal visions.

Larger Environment of a Transport Push in Himachal

The problematic geography of Himachal requires such innovations; HRTC operates important routes with losses, which are now supported by Volvo services and e-buses (more than 200 are added recently). Such incidents as the celebration of Tumman highlight the transformation of rural India which is characterized by infrastructural support that promotes equity and development.

Current Affairs One-Liners: Vice Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force

Current Affairs One-Liners 02 Jan 2026: Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are very important from the examination point of view and will prove helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to the new Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Force, etc.

The 9th Siddha Day is being organized at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai by whom - **Ministry of AYUSH**

Who recently flagged off the maiden flight of the Dhruv NG Civil Variant Helicopter - **Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu**

Where did DRDO conduct the first successful flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket - **Integrated Test Range, Chandipur**

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will set up how many inclusive technology business incubators (i-TBIs) in universities and higher education institutions across different parts of the country - **15**

Who recently took charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force - **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**

Which European Union country recently adopted the Euro currency - **Bulgaria**

The center has approved how many new proposals under the third installment of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme - **22**

Who recently took charge of the South Western Air Command of India - **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh**

India's First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train