



# Current Affairs

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## Famous Personalities

## PM Awards 2026: Three Eminent Personalities from Rajasthan to be Awarded 'PM Shri'

- **Announced:** January 25, 2026, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Three personalities from Rajasthan were selected for the 'PM Shri' award for the year 2026.
  - ◆ Piyush Pandey (born in Jaipur) posthumously awarded the 'Prabhushan' (Arts - Maharashtra)
  - ◆ Savita Poonia (born in Hanumangarh) 'Prabhu Shri' (Sports - Haryana)

## 1. Ghafuruddin Mewati Jogi

- ◆ **Resident:** Originally from Kaithwara, Deeg (present-day Alwar)
- ◆ **Art:** Memorizes over 2,500 couplets based on the Mahabharata folk singing style. Kept the vanishing Mewati folk traditions alive.
- ◆ **Special:** The only living performer of the genre of 'Pandun Ka Kada' (folk singing of the Mahabharata in Mewati language).
- ◆ **Previous Achievement :** President's Award: 2024

(Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship Award)

## 2. Tagaram Bhil

- ◆ **Resident :** Mulsagar, Jaisalmer
- ◆ **Art :** Algoja Playing (State Instrument of Rajasthan: shushir Instrument)
- ◆ **Contribution :** Artist Tagaram Bhil, known as the 'Wizard of Algoja' (Algoza Ka Zadugar) has been working to elevate Rajasthani folk music to excellence for the past 55 years.

## 3. Swami Brahmdev Ji Maharaj, Sri Ganganagar

- ◆ **Contribution:** Established Shri Jagdamba Blind School and institutions for the deaf and dumb as part of social service (social work).



## Popular Places

### Shergarh Sanctuary, Baran: Discovery of the world's smallest wild cat

- ❑ **Characteristics:** Smallest, extremely rare, very shy species.
- ❑ **Scientific Name:** Prionailurus rubiginosus
- ❑ **Protection:** Like the tiger, it enjoys the highest protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❑ Listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List.



### Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary: Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)

- ❑ The Union Environment Ministry, through a notification dated January 2026, declared the area around the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan as an Eco-Sensitive Zone, extending from 0-1 km from the sanctuary boundary.
- ❑ **Affected Area:** Total area of 243 sq km and includes 94 villages.
- ❑ **Geographical Location:** The Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary is spread over 610 sq km across Rajsamand, Pali, and Udaipur districts.
- ❑ **Prohibited Activities:** Stone crushing, commercial mining, brick kilns, polluting industries, and the establishment of new windmills.

### Keoladeo Ghana Bird National Park, Bharatpur

- ❑ Two important natural phenomena were recorded.
  - **A rare carnivorous plant -**
    - ◆ **Name :** 'Utricularia' or 'Bladderwort'.
    - ◆ A rare insectivorous/carnivorous plant has been spotted in the 'L', 'K', and 'B' blocks of the park.
  - **Return after 10 years: Common Shelduck**
    - ◆ The 'Common Shelduck' bird, which came from Europe, returned to Keoladeo this year after a long gap of 10 years.
    - ◆ **Journey :** This bird has traveled approximately 4,000 km from Europe to reach here.
    - ◆ **Identification :** Shaped like a short-necked goose, very attractive to look at.

### 'Ramsar Organic': Barmer

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned the 'Ramsar Organic Farmer Producer Company' of Panaram Saran in Barmer in 'Mann Ki Baat' (January 25, 2026).

प्रधानमंत्री  
ने रामसर  
का जिक्र  
किया,  
किसानों के  
नवाचारों  
को सराहा

प्रधानमंत्री श्री मोदी ने अपने संबोधन में श्रीअन्न (मिलेट्स) के बढ़ते महत्व पर चर्चा करते हुए राजस्थान के रामसर के किसानों के नवाचारों को सराहा। इस दौरान उन्होंने कहा कि रामसर ऑर्गेनिक फार्मर प्रोड्यूसर कम्पनी से 900 से अधिक किसान जुड़े हैं। ये किसान मुख्य रूप से बाजरे की खेती करते हैं और बाजरे को प्रोसेस करके रेडी-टू-ईट लहू तैयार किया जाता है, जिसकी बाजार में बड़ी डिमांड है। इसके साथ ही उन्होंने तमिलनाडु की महिला किसानों की भी सराहना की।

**Khejadli Kalan, Jodhpur: 40<sup>th</sup> Conservation Reserve**

- ❑ **Declaration:** Khejadli Kalan village, Luni tehsil, declared the state's 40th conservation reserve in January 2026.
- ❑ **Special:** Will serve as a protected habitat for the state animal chinkara (deer).
- ❑ **Area:** Approximately 1.5 sq km
- ❑ **Legal basis:** Notified by the Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan, under Section 36A of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
  - ◆ 39<sup>th</sup> Conservation Reserve (Buchara Main, Kotputli)
  - ◆ 38<sup>th</sup> Conservation Reserve (Mokla Parewar, Jaisalmer)
  - ◆ 37<sup>th</sup> Conservation Reserve (Asop, Bhilwara)



## Schemes/Programs/Campaign

**Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojna**

- ❑ **Launched:** By the Chief Minister on January 12, 2026, at the closing ceremony of the State-Level Youth Festival.
- ❑ **Guidelines Issued:** By Colonel Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Minister of Industries and Commerce.
- ❑ **Goal:** To provide self-employment to 1 lakh youth of the state and make them economically self-reliant, establishing them as micro-entrepreneurs.
- ❑ **Department:** Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Duration:** This scheme will remain in effect until March 31, 2029.
- ❑ **Objective:** To provide new employment opportunities to the native residents of the state by providing interest-free loans, margin money, and CGTMSE reimbursement through financial institutions.
- ❑ **Eligibility:**
  - Permanent resident of Rajasthan.
  - The applicant must be between 18 and 45 years of age.
  - In case of HUF, Society, Partnership Firm, LLP Firm and Company, they must be registered as per rules and 51 percent or more ownership of the institution must be vested in persons aged 18-45 years.
  - **Ineligible:** Applicants who are defaulters or defaulters of any financial institution/bank.
- ❑ **Provisions:** Loans and Financial Assistance
  - Interest-free loan up to Rs. 10 lakh will be provided in the manufacturing, service, and trading sectors.
  - Provision for 100% interest reimbursement by the state government, as well as reimbursement of CGTMSE (Micro and Small Enterprises Credit Guarantee Fund Trust Fee).

### मुख्यमंत्री युवा स्वरोजगार योजना

❑ मुख्यमंत्री ने कार्यक्रम में मुख्यमंत्री युवा स्वरोजगार योजना का शुभारंभ किया। योजना के माध्यम से 1 लाख युवाओं को ब्याज मुक्त ऋण देकर सूक्ष्म उद्यमी के रूप में तैयार किया जाएगा।

❑ योजना का पात्र होने के लिए राजस्थान का स्थायी निवासी होना चाहिए और आयु 18 से 45 वर्ष के बीच होनी चाहिए।

○ **Loan limit based on educational qualification:**

◆ **Youth who have passed 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> standard**

1. Service/Business sector: Maximum loan limit of Rs. 3.5 lakh.
2. Manufacturing Sector: Maximum loan limit of Rs. 7.5 lakh.
3. Margin Money: (10% of the loan amount on the loan up to a maximum of Rs. 35,000)

◆ **Graduate/ITI/Higher Educational Qualification**

1. Service/Business Sector: Maximum loan limit of Rs. 5 lakh.
2. Manufacturing Sector: Maximum loan limit of Rs. 10 lakh.
3. Margin Money: (10% of the loan amount on the loan up to a maximum of Rs. 50,000)

**Rajasthan Employment Policy: 2026**

- **Released:** By the Chief Minister at the closing ceremony of the State-Level Youth Festival on January 12, 2026.
- **Goal:** To increase entrepreneurship by creating 15 lakh employment opportunities by March 2029.
- **Objective:** Not only to provide jobs, but also to provide skill training to youth, making them self-reliant.
- **Implementation:** Rajasthan Employment Portal (EEMS 2.0) will be created by integrating employment offices.
- **E-Job Fair:** For national and international employment.
- **Key Resolutions -**
  - Creation of employment opportunities.
  - Use of technology, self-reliance.
  - Gender equality, youth leadership development

**Rajasthan Youth Policy: 2026**

- **Released:** By the Chief Minister at the closing ceremony of the State-Level Youth Festival on January 12, 2026.
- **Objective:** Expand opportunities for youth in emerging fields through education and skill development.
- **Goal:** Special focus on youth-friendly health services, expansion of sports, prevention of gender-based violence, promotion of young artists, and sustainable development.
- **Age Group:** Special focus on youth aged 15-29 years.
- **Key Pillars:**
  - ◆ **Employment to Entrepreneurship:** Transforming youth from 'job seekers' to 'job creators'.
  - ◆ **Education and Modern Skills:** Emphasis on training in artificial intelligence and digital tools.
  - ◆ **Leadership and Society:** Making youth 'active partners' in nation building.
  - ◆ **Health and Wellness:** Emphasis on mental and physical health, de-addiction, sports, and yoga.
- **Implementation Mechanism:** Three-Tier Structure
  1. High-Level Committee (Chaired by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs)
  2. State-Level Task Force
  3. Core Committee

## PM Vishwakarma Yojana: Rajasthan Ranks Second in the Country in Loan Disbursement

- ❑ State Status as of January 1, 2026
- ❑ **Loan Sanctions and Disbursements:** Rajasthan Ranks Second in the Country
- ❑ **Total Disbursements:** Loans worth Rs. 466.70 crore have been disbursed to 53,552 beneficiaries.
- ❑ **Average Loan Amount:** The state's average loan is Rs. 87,000, which is higher than the national average (Rs. 83,000).
- ❑ **Training and Toolkits:** Rajasthan ranks third in providing training and toolkits to artisans.
- ❑ **Registration:** Rajasthan ranks first in certain specific trades.
  - ◆ Goldsmiths ◆ Potters ◆ Sculptors ◆ Hammer and Toolkit Manufacturers

## Integrated Cluster Development Scheme

- ❑ **Implemented:** Under this scheme, effective from January 2025, up to 100% grant is provided for the handicraft, handloom, development and technical upgradation of MSME sector and skill development in the state.
- ❑ **In News:** The Rajasthan government will provide a grant of Rs. 58 crore for machinery and training.
  - ◆ **7 Common Facility Centers:** According to Industry and Commerce Commissioner Suresh Kumar Ola, the state government will develop:
    1. Bharatpur 2. Hanumangarh 3. Phalodi 4. Kotputli-Behror 5. Bolatara 6. Dausa 7. Jaipur
  - ◆ **Special:** Modern machinery will be installed in the developed clusters and will be used by over 100 small and micro industrial units there.

क्षेत्र	उद्योग का प्रकार	आधुनिक मशीनें/ प्रशिक्षण	अनुदान राशि	मुख्य लाभ
फलोदी	सोनामुखी प्रसंस्करण	स्वचालित प्रोसेस चैन, एग्रो वेस्ट ब्रिकेटिंग सिस्टम	9.00 करोड़ रुपये	उत्पादन में वृद्धि और वेस्ट (कचरे) में 15% की कमी।
बालोतरा	टेक्सटाइल प्रोसेसिंग	वाटर जेट लूम, वारपिंग मशीन	8.76 करोड़ रुपये	कच्चे माल के लिए दूसरे राज्यों पर निर्भरता खत्म होगी।
दौसा	स्टोन नक्काशी	स्टोन प्रोफाइलिंग, इनग्रेविंग, पिलर टर्निंग	8.30 करोड़ रुपये	हस्तशिल्प में बारीक नक्काशी और फिनिशिंग बेहतर होगी।
हनुमानगढ़	कृषि उपकरण	लेजर कटिंग, सीएनसी टर्निंग, लेजर वेल्डिंग	8.00 करोड़ रुपये	निर्माण लागत में कमी और मजबूत कृषि उपकरणों का उत्पादन।
जयपुर	होम फर्निशिंग	रजाई व बेडशीट निर्माण की 3 आधुनिक मशीनें	7.90 करोड़ रुपये	गुणवत्ता के साथ अधिक उत्पादन।
कोटपूतली-बहरोड़	इंजीनियरिंग फैब्रिकेशन	फाइबर लेजर कटिंग, सीएनसी प्लाज्मा मशीन	7.86 करोड़ रुपये	इंजीनियरिंग उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता में सुधार।
भरतपुर	स्टोन प्रोसेसिंग	स्टोन प्रोफाइलिंग, इनग्रेविंग, पिलर टर्निंग	6.96 करोड़ रुपये	स्थानीय पत्थर उद्योग को वैश्विक पहचान और निर्यात में वृद्धि।
चूरू	लेदर फुटवेयर	100 दस्तकारों को प्रशिक्षण	47.69 लाख रुपये	जूतों की गुणवत्ता में सुधार।
जयपुर (चाकसू)	लेदर फुटवेयर	100 दस्तकारों को प्रशिक्षण	45.05 लाख रुपये	पारंपरिक जूतियां आधुनिक बाजार के अनुरूप बनेंगी।
झुंझुनूं	गोटा जरी	100 महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण	24.58 लाख रुपये	महिलाओं को रोजगार और स्वावलंबन के अवसर।

**Rajasthan Cabinet Meeting: January 21, 2026**

**Rajasthan Aerospace and Defence Policy: 2025**

- ❑ **Approved:** January 21, 2026
- ❑ **Objective:** To make the state a global hub for aerospace and defence manufacturing (investment, employment, self-reliance)
- ❑ **Target Sectors:** Aerospace equipment component manufacturing, precision engineering, MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul)
- ❑ **Key Provisions:**
  1. **Investment Subsidy:** Investment Subsidy up to 75% reimbursement of state taxes for 7 years as an asset creation incentive to eligible aerospace and defense manufacturing and service enterprises locating in A&D parks.
  2. **Investment Categories - Services Sector**

Minimum Capital : Investment	Category
◆ 25-100 crore rupees:	Large
◆ 100-250 crore rupees:	Mega
◆ More than 250 crore : rupees	Ultra Mega
  3. **Investment Categories: Manufacturing Sector**

Minimum Fixed Capital Investment:	Category
◆ 50-300 crore rupees:	Large
◆ 300-1000 crore rupees:	Mega
◆ More than 1,000 crore: rupees	Ultra Mega
  4. **Capital Subsidy:** Up to 20-28% for manufacturing and 14-20% for services sector or turnover linked incentive (1.2-2%)
  5. **Additional Incentives:** 10-15% employment booster as a top-up, 25% Sunrise Booster for the first three mega/ultra mega units, 10% Anchor Booster, and 20% Thrust Booster will also be provided.
  6. **Land Allotment from RIICO:** Mega and Ultra Mega manufacturing enterprises will also be eligible for flexible land payment for 10 years and lease rental subsidy of 25% for office space for 5 years.

**निवेशकों के लिए विशेष  
इन्सेंटिव्स के प्रावधान**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>❑ <b>पॉलिसी</b> में विशेष इन्सेंटिव्स का भी प्रावधान किया गया है।</p> <p>❑ इनमें बैंकिंग, व्हीलिंग और ट्रांसमिशन चार्ज में छूट, फ्लेक्सिबल लैंड पेमेंट मॉडल, ऑफिस-स्पेस लीज रेंटल सब्सिडी तथा कैपि्टल पावर प्लांट में किए गए निवेश का 51% पात्र स्थाई पूंजीगत निवेश में शामिल करना शामिल है।</p> | <p>❑ साथ ही, उद्योगों को दीर्घकालिक राहत देने के लिए 7 वर्षों तक विद्युत शुल्क से शत-प्रतिशत छूट, 7 वर्षों तक मंडी शुल्क अथवा बाजार शुल्क का शत-प्रतिशत पुनर्भरण, स्टाम्प शुल्क, रूपांतरण शुल्क में 75% छूट तथा 25% पुनर्भरण की व्यवस्था भी की गई है।</p> <p>❑ ग्रीन इन्सेंटिव, स्किल एवं ट्रेनिंग इन्सेंटिव तथा इंटेलिक्चुअल प्रॉपर्टी क्रिएशन इन्सेंटिव जैसे प्रावधान इस नीति को और अधिक आकर्षक बनाते हैं।</p> |
|---|--|

**Rajasthan Semiconductor Policy: 2025**

- ❑ **Approved:** January 21, 2026
- ❑ **Special:** Rajasthan's first semiconductor policy aligned with the 'India Semiconductor Mission'.
- ❑ **Objective:** To make the state a global hub for chip manufacturing, design, and packaging.

### □ Key Provisions -

- ◆ **Capital Subsidy:** The State Government will provide an additional 60% of the capital subsidy provided by the Government of India.
- ◆ **Interest Subsidy:** 5% interest subsidy on term loans.
- ◆ **Operating Discount:**
  1. 100% rebate in electricity charges for 7 years.
  2. Effectively 100% exemption in stamp duty and land conversion fees (75% exemption and 25% refund).
  3. 50% refund of the cost of environmental projects.

### Major decisions of the Rajasthan Cabinet meeting

1. **Amendment to Civil Services Rules (Definition of Child Marriage)**
  - Approval of amendment to the Rajasthan Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1971.
  - Now, the definition of child will be included in government rules, similar to the prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
  - ◆ **Female:** Under 18 years of age.      ◆ **Male:** Under 21 years of age.
2. **Change in designation of the RPSC**
  - The separate designations of 'Deputy Secretary (Examinations)' and 'Controller of Examinations' in the RPSC have now been replaced by simply 'Deputy Secretary.'
3. **Gram Uthan Shivir/Village Upliftment Camps**
  - Special camps will be organized across the state under the "Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet" (GRAM: 2026).
  - **Inauguration:** January 23, 2026, on the auspicious occasion of Basant Panchami.
  - **Total camps:** 2,839 camps will be organized across the state over 10 days, in two phases at each Girdawar circle.
  - **Participation:** A total of 12 departments, including Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Energy, Water Resources, and Panchayati Raj, will be involved.
  - **Main tasks to be undertaken at the camps:**
    - ◆ Approvals for fencing, ditches, and farm ponds, pipelines, and other approvals for agriculture.
    - ◆ Approvals for incentives under the Bullock Farming Scheme.
    - ◆ Approvals for drip irrigation, solar pumps, and soil health cards.
    - ◆ Approval for applications for Kisan Credit Cards, cooperative loans, warehouses, and agricultural equipment.
    - ◆ Approval for animal insurance, vaccination, and artificial insemination.
    - ◆ Approval for ownership cards and cooperative membership applications.
    - ◆ Women Self Help Group Loan Application and Cooperative Bank Account Opening.
    - ◆ Youth Self Employment and PM Suryaghar Yojana Registration.

**ग्लोबल राजस्थान एग्रीटेक मीट (GRAM) -2026**

प्रदेश के प्रत्येक गिरदावर सर्किल पर 23 जनवरी से ग्राम उत्थान शिविरों का आयोजन

**प्रथम चरण**  
24, 25 व 31 जनवरी, 2026 को शिविर आयोजित किए जाएंगे

**दूसरे चरण**  
1 एवं 5 से 9 फरवरी, 2026 तक आयोजन होगा

**Rajasthan: New bill for property protection in disturbed areas**

- ❑ **Draft bill approved:** January 21, 2026, by the State Cabinet chaired by the Chief Minister.
- ❑ **Bill name:** 'The Rajasthan Prohibition of Transfer of Immovable Property and Provision for Protection of Tenants from Eviction from Premises in Disturbed Areas Bill, 2026'
- ❑ **Main objective:** Protection of property in disturbed areas and protection of tenants' interests.
- ❑ **Key provisions -**
  - ◆ **Collector's permission mandatory:** Any transfer (purchase or sale) of property in an area declared as disturbed without the prior permission of the District Magistrate will be considered null and void.
  - ◆ **Category of offense:** Violation of the provisions will be a non-bailable and cognizable offense.
  - ◆ **Punishment :** 3-5 years imprisonment and fine for violating the rules.

**Rajasthan AI-ML Policy: 2026**

- ❑ **Full name:** Rajasthan Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Policy, 2026
- ❑ **Announcement:** State Government Budget 2025-26
- ❑ **Approval:** Cabinet meeting, December 30, 2025
- ❑ **Official launch:** January 6, 2026, by the Chief Minister at the Regional AI Impact Conference held in Jaipur.
- ❑ **Objective:** Making Rajasthan an AI hub under the Digital India Mission, to make public services faster and transparent.
- ❑ **Provisions:** An AI nodal officer will be appointed in every department.
- ❑ An AI Center of Excellence will be established in Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Training courses:** In schools, colleges, and AI institutions.
- ❑ **Institutional framework:** Developing modern cloud, secure data storage, and testing platforms.

**Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana: Update**

- ❑ As of December 2025, **1,23,701** rooftop solar plants were installed in Rajasthan under the scheme.
- ❑ Rajasthan ranks fifth nationally.
- ❑ **Goal:** To connect 500,000 homes to solar energy by 2027 in Rajasthan.

**'Fenke Nahi, Hame De Campaign'**

- ❑ **Launch:** January 27, 2026, by the Child Welfare Committee in Bikaner.
- ❑ **Poster Release:** January 21, by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- ❑ **Objective:** To spread awareness about handing over newborns to 'cradle homes' or government shelters instead of throwing them in unsafe places (bushes/drains).

**Prerana Abhiyaan 2.0: Maternal and Child Health**

- ❑ **Event :** To be held across the state from January 19<sup>th</sup> to February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- ❑ **Organized by :** Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Directorate.
- ❑ **PRERNA** ('Pregnancy Registration and Early Childhood Education and Nutrition Awareness')

❑ **Objective:**

- ◆ Register 100% of pregnant women, children aged 0-6 years, and adolescent girls in aspirational districts and connect them with health and nutrition services.
- ◆ **Benefits of Schemes:** To connect eligible individuals with PMMVY, Chief Minister Maternity Nutrition, and the 'Amrit Aahar' scheme.
- ◆ **Pre-school Education:** To ensure registration and attendance of children aged 3-6 years at Anganwadis.

**State-Level Police Conference 2026**

- ❑ **Event :** January 8-9, 2026, at the Rajasthan Police Academy, Jaipur.
- ❑ **Inauguration by :** Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- ❑ **Theme:** "Policing in a Developed India"
- ❑ **Major Declarations of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma -**
  - ◆ **Launch :** e-Visitors Portal, e-Zero FIR, and the Rajasthan Police Priorities-2026 booklet.
  - ◆ **Crime Report:** A decrease in crimes (-15%), murders (-25%), and robberies (-50%) compared to 2023.
  - ◆ **Fund and Establishment :** Rs. 200 crore for police modernization and Rs. 350 crore for the establishment of the Sardar Patel Center for Cyber Control and technical academy.
  - ◆ **Ratan Nagar, Churu Police Station:** Awarded the "Best Police Station in Rajasthan" by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- ❑ **77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Police Honours Ceremony -** A total of 17 policemen were awarded Police Medals on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 at Sawai Man Singh Stadium, Jaipur.

Medal Name	Honored Officers
President's Medal for Distinguished Service	DIG Shantanu Kumar Singh
Excellence Medal	IG Deepak Kumar, Param Jyoti Neel Kamal, Mahavir Singh Shekhawat, Ad. SP Revant Dan, Dhanpatraj
President's Police Medal	IG Satyendra Singh, CID CB
President's Medal (Home Defence)	Ghanshyam Singh (Deputy Superintendent)

**Awards**

**Rajasthan Energy Conservation Awards**

- ❑ **Term:** Given for efforts made during the last three years (2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25).
- ❑ **Award Ceremony:** Organized by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation (RRECL) on January 20, 2026, at the Constitutional Club in Jaipur.
- ❑ **Chief Guest:** Hiralal Nagar, Energy Minister, Government of Rajasthan
- ❑ **Total Winner :** 73 winners honored for their outstanding contribution to energy conservation. (30 institutions/individuals, 43 others)
- ❑ **5 Major Categories:** Industry, Individual Building, Municipal Body Building, Government Department Office, Individual Category.
- ❑ **Winners of Major Awards**
  - ◆ **Government Category (District Collector):** Current Alwar District Collector Dr. Artika Shukla received the first prize for "Promoting Energy Efficiency in Various Districts" in the year 2022-23.
  - ◆ **Industry Category (Cement):** Shree Cement Limited's Khushkheda (KEGU) Grinding Unit won the first prize for "Lowest Specific Energy Consumption" in the cement sector.

S.No.	Major Awards	Winner/Contribution				
1.	<p><b>Jijivisha Joshi: Bhilwara</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Made history by winning two prestigious national awards in the field of writing, the 'Desh Ratna Award' and the 'Indian Glory Award'.</li> <li>Considered the youngest inspirational writer in the country.</li> <li><b>Success despite illness:</b> Suffering from an incurable disease called muscular dystrophy, she is unable to walk or stand. She uses a wheelchair.</li> <li><b>First book:</b> 'Door to the Fifth Dimension', which brought her national recognition.</li> </ul>				
2.	<p><b>All India Discoms Association (DISCOM) Annual Award</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aarti Dogra (CMD, Jaipur Discom) was honored for her outstanding work in 'Agriculture Feeder Solarization' category.</li> <li><b>Provided by :</b> Union Energy Minister Manohar Lal Khattar</li> <li><b>Achievement :</b> Jaipur Discom commissioned 899 projects of 2300 MW under the PM KUSUM Yojana (Component-C) and connected approximately 1.02 lakh agricultural consumers to solar power in the last one and a half years, enabling farmers to access electricity during the day.</li> </ul>				
3.	<p><b>26<sup>th</sup> National Youth Parliament Competition (Prize Distribution for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for 2024-25)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ceremony:</b> Held on January 15, 2026, in New Delhi.</li> <li><b>Chaired by:</b> Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice and Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal (Bikaner-MP)</li> <li>PM Shri School, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh, Sriganganagar-II (Rajasthan), won the first prize in the Jaipur region.</li> </ul>				
4.	<p><b>National Startup Award and Startup Ranking Framework (Rajasthan's Achievement)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented on the occasion of National Startup Day on January 16, 2026.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Award Category</th> <th>Startup Name/State</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rising Star Award Leaders (Category A)</td> <td>Aviotron Private Limited Rajasthan</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Award Category	Startup Name/State	Rising Star Award Leaders (Category A)	Aviotron Private Limited Rajasthan
Award Category	Startup Name/State					
Rising Star Award Leaders (Category A)	Aviotron Private Limited Rajasthan					
5.	<p><b>Republic Day: 2026 'National School Band Competition'</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh Sriganganagar School secured the second position in the 'Pipe Band Girls' category and won a cash prize of Rs 31,000.</li> </ul>				
6.	<p><b>Pandit Jhabarmal Sharma Journalism Award</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Organizer:</b> Patrika Group, Jaipur</li> <li><b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Chairman of the Central Law Commission</li> <li><b>Story Award</b> 1<sup>st</sup>: Farooq Afridi, Jaipur (Jeevan Jese Nadiya Ka Neer) 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ruchika Arun Sharma (Swadesh)</li> <li><b>Poetry Award</b> 1<sup>st</sup>: Atul Chaturvedi, Kota (Kuch Avasariye Siyaar) 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kailash Manhar, Jaipur (Yahi to Veral)</li> </ul>				

7.	<b>Gandhi Nobel Peace Prize: 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Winner:</b> Dr. Ramkaran Yadav, Kotputli-Behror</li> <li>• <b>Presented by:</b> Gandhi Peace Foundation (private organization) for his contributions to education, social reform, and nation-building.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Asia Continent Award: 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prahlad Rai Tak, Chairman of Rajasthan Yaade Mati Kala Board, was honored in Kathmandu for his outstanding contribution in the field of Mati Kala at the Global Peace Harmony Conference organized by Samrasata Manch.</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Rajkumar Verma, Jaipur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awarded the "Shiksha Shree" award for the research paper on the contribution of Colonel Sophia Qureshi, who played a role in Operation Sindoor.</li> </ul>
10.	<b>'Legal One Blue Award' to Vineet Gupta: 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jaipur-based corporate lawyer</li> <li>• The independent legal research organization Legal One has honored him with the prestigious 'Robin One Blue Award 2025' for his outstanding contribution to the legal field.</li> </ul>
11.	<b>Dr. Lakshraj Singh Mewar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member of the Udaipur royal family set his 10<sup>th</sup> Guinness World Record by distributing over 1400 earthen pots in Shikarwadi on January 22, 2026.</li> <li>• He has created 10 world records in the last 8 years by continuously working in the fields of education, environment and social service.</li> </ul>
12.	<b>Dr. Lalit Kumar Bhardwaj, Bharatpur</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maru Dairy Institute was awarded the 'World Book of Records'.</li> <li>• Participated in the 'Power of Vet' campaign organized by Italy on September 9, 2025, the world's largest awareness campaign for the conservation of vultures and the ecosystem.</li> </ul>

## Science & Technology

### Rajasthan's First Fully Organic Gram Panchayat

- ❑ Bamanwas Kankad Gram Panchayat (District Kotputli-Behror)
- ❑ **Certification:** Under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) standards.
- ❑ **Speciality:** Also the first fully organic-certified Panchayat in North-West India.
- ❑ **Support:** COFED (Cofarmin Federation of Organic Societies and Producer Companies) provided technical and market support during the certification process.
- ❑ **COFED's Future Vision:** (Founder: Jitendra Sevawat) aims to make 300 Gram Panchayats in Rajasthan's Bikaner, Alwar, Kotputli-Behror, and Bhilwara districts fully organic by 2026.

### New Millet Variety: 'RHB 273'

- ❑ **Developed by:** Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapura, in collaboration with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, Hyderabad, under the All India Coordinated Millet Research Project.
- ❑ **Features:** This new variety is not only drought-resistant but also significantly superior to older varieties in terms of yield and nutrition.

- ❑ It is the world's first three-way hybrid millet, 'RHB 273'.
- ❑ Recently, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released 184 improved varieties of 25 crops for the country. 'RHB 273' has been notified for the extremely arid regions of **Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana**, which receive less than 400 mm of rainfall annually.
- ❑ This variety is highly resistant to major millet diseases such as downy mildew and blast.

#### Rajasthan's First: Defective Meter-Free Distribution Corporation

- ❑ **Achievement:** Jaipur Discom replaced 100% of domestic, industrial, and commercial consumers' faulty meters with functional meters in all 18 circles, both in urban and rural areas.
- ❑ **Category:** Defective meter-free Discom in 'Non-Agricultural'.
- ❑ **Benefits:** Consumers will receive accurate bills based on their actual electricity consumption instead of average bills, and billing-related complaints will be reduced.
- ❑ **Revenue Savings:** Discoms previously had to pay a 5% discount to consumers due to faulty meters. This initiative resulted in a financial burden of Rs. 16 lakh (approximately \$1.6 million) for the financial year 2025-26, compared to crores previously.

#### Indigenous Digital Address System 'Bharat Pin'

- ❑ **Developed by :** Deepak Sharda, Barmer.
- ❑ **Bharat Pin:** Digital maps of any area of India can be generated with 1 meter accuracy.
- ❑ **Unique Digital ID:** Converts long and complex addresses (street number, house number) into a short digital code of just 8-10 characters.

**Note :** India's first indigenous digital address system: DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number)

**Developed by:** India Post in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO.

#### My Career Advisor - App

- ❑ **Launched by:** Rajasthan Education Department.
- ❑ **Developed by:** Union Ministry of Education, NCERT-PSSCIVE (Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education) and Wadhvani Foundation.
- ❑ **Objective:** Provides personalized career guidance to students in grades 9-12 based on their interests and skills through Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❑ **Features:** Over 1500 career options are available, and students can self-evaluate through aptitude, interest, and values tests.

#### Nagauri Ashwagandha: GI Tag

- ❑ Nagauri Ashwagandha was officially granted the GI tag on January 8, 2026, by the Geographical Indications Registry (GI Registry) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- ❑ **Registration:** The tag is registered in the name of the 'Nagauri Welfare Society'.
- ❑ This is the second product from the state to receive the GI tag in the '**Agriculture Category**' after Sojat (Pali) Mehndi. With this, the total number of GI tagged products in Rajasthan has increased to **22**.

- ❑ **Scientific name of Ashwagandha :** Withania somnifera
- ❑ **Characteristics:** It is also known as 'Indian Ginseng' due to its long, thick roots and high alkaloid (medicinal) content.

#### Asteroid (2021 DB5) has been named PRAMISHKA

- ❑ Asteroid (2021 DB5) has been named PRAMISHKA in memory of the seven children who lost their lives in the government school building collapse in Piplodi, Jhalawar.
- ❑ **PRAMISHKA :** Payal, Priyanka, Meena Harish, Kundan, Kanha, Satish
- ❑ **Discovery:** Government Higher Secondary School, Unhel: Sugandha Kumari, Komal Kanwar, Harshita Dangi, Sanjay Kumar. The asteroid was discovered in 2020-21 and recognized by NASA.
- ❑ The discovery was made under the IASC-NASA Asteroid Search Mission under the guidance of Dr. Dibyendu Sen.

#### Nazar App - Skoch Award

- ❑ Rajasthan Police's Nazar App was awarded the Skoch Award at the 104<sup>th</sup> Skoch Summit held in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Category:** Technology Innovation Category.
- ❑ **Nazar App:** A citizen-based digital platform through which people can easily share details of their domestic servants, tenants, and employees with the police.

#### Rajasthan: An Effective Model for Cyber Security

- ❑ **Success:** In 2025, Rajasthan achieved success in combating cybercrimes and preventing fraud.
- ❑ **Ranking:** In 2025, Rajasthan ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the country.
- ❑ Due to the proactiveness and prompt action of the Cyber Crime Branch of the Rajasthan Police, Rajasthan has emerged as an effective model for cybersecurity across the country.
  - **Rajasthan Cyber Crime Coordination Center (R4C)**
    - ◆ **Announcement:** Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma on January 10, 2026, at (RPA), Jaipur.
    - ◆ **Objective:** To develop a robust and centralized structure in the state, modeled after the Centre's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

#### Rajasthan Digifest TiE Global Summit 2026

- ❑ **Held:** January 4-6, 2026, at the (JECC Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre), Sitapura, Jaipur.
- ❑ **Organized by:** Department of Information Technology and Communications, Government of Rajasthan + TiE Global
- ❑ **Pillars :** 'Technology, Growth and Sustainability'
- ❑ **Theme :** Sustainable Entrepreneurship in the AI Era: Innovation, Impact, and Inclusion
- ❑ **Participation :** Founders/investors from 1,200 global companies and 20 unicorn/multicorn startups.
- ❑ **Key Sessions:**
  - ◆ **Smriti Irani:** "Leadership Beyond Labels" (Women's Empowerment)
  - ◆ **Virender Sehwal:** "No Fear, No Limits" (Courage and Leadership)

## Famous Festivals/Celebrations/Conferences/Fairs

### 19<sup>th</sup> Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) 2026

- ❑ **Organized:** January 15-19, 2026, by the Vedanta Group at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur.
- ❑ **Scale:** Over 266 sessions across six major forums, with 350 speakers from around the world participating.
- ❑ **Key Speakers :** Internet founder Tim Berners-Lee, former Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, lyricist Javed Akhtar, Viswanathan Anand, and former Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar (Speaking My Mind - session discussed).
- ❑ **13<sup>th</sup> Jaipur Bookmark:** A forum for the publishing world. This time, the focus was on Marathi language, translation, and publishing.
- ❑ **Politics Session:** A session on "Legenda: The Real Women Behind the Myths" was held, featuring historian Janina Ramirez and author Narayani Basu.
- ❑ **Book Launch:** Release of the novel "The Unbecoming" by Kartikeya Bajpai, son-in-law of former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar.
  - **11<sup>th</sup> Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Award**
    - ◆ **Winner :** Yatindra Mishra (Poet/Music Scholar)
    - ◆ **Contribution :** Poetry Collection "Bina Kalinga Vijay Ke"
  - **Dwarka Prasad Agarwal Award**
    - ◆ **Winner :** Piyush Mishra (Writer/ Actor)
    - ◆ **Contribution:** Book "Tumhari Okaat Kya H? Piyush Mishra"



S.No.	Festivals/Festivals/Conferences/Fairs	Specific Details/Information
1.	<b>1008 Kundiya Hanuman Mahayagna Event :</b> 8-16, 2026, Neendar (Jaipur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It concluded on January 16, 2026, in the presence of President Smt. Draupadi Murmu.</li> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Ramanand Mission and in the presence of Jagadguru Swami Rambhadracharya Ji Maharaj.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Forest Fair: 2026 Event:</b> 17-18, January 2026 Sajjanganrh (Udaipur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme :</b> "Forest Heritage - A Celebration of Life"</li> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan</li> </ul>
3.	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Jaipur Bird Festival: 2026 Event :</b> 31 January -1 February 2026 Kanota Camp Resort, Jamdoli (Jaipur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Green People Society, (Jaipur Chapter) + Rajasthan Forest Department + WWF India</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> "Join the celebration of wings &amp; wetlands"</li> </ul>
4.	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Udaipur Bird Festival</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> January 16, 2026, at the Ramsar site 'Menar'.</li> <li>• <b>Inaugurated by :</b> Chittorgarh MP CP Joshi.</li> <li>• A bird-themed photo exhibition and a short film on the Menar Wetland were screened.</li> </ul>

5.	<b>Maru Mahotsav-2026</b> Events: 30 January -1 February 2026 in Pokhran, Jaisalmer, Sam Lakhmana, and Khuhri.	<b>Winners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turban Tying Competition: Bhomsingh Jodha, Phalsund</li> <li>• Mr. Pokhran: Manish Sen</li> <li>• Miss Pokhran: Varsha Bhati</li> <li>• Miss Moomal: Kusum Panwar, Bikaner</li> <li>• Mr. Desert: Manish Panwar, Jaisalmer</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Maheshwari Global Convention and Expo: 2026</b> Event : 20 January 2026 Jodhpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Address :</b> Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation Amit Shah</li> </ul>
7.	<b>32<sup>nd</sup> International Camel Festival: Bikaner</b> Event : January 9-11, 2026 in Bikaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Rajasthan Tourism Department and Bikaner District Administration</li> <li>• Miss Marwan - Ankita Suthar</li> <li>• Mr. Bikaner - Lakhan Parik</li> <li>• Dhola Marwan - Kishore Kalla and Swati Kalla</li> </ul>
8.	<b>State Level Youth Festival:</b> Event : January 7-12, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finale:</b> January 2026 at the SMS Stadium, Jaipur</li> <li>• <b>Prize Distribution:</b> On the lines of the National Youth Icon Award, the "Rajasthan Youth Icon Award" was presented to talented youth aged 15-29 in the state. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yash Vyas - Banswara</li> <li>2. Kuldeep Verma - Jaipur</li> <li>3. Naresh Kumar Meena - Dausa</li> <li>4. Hiralal Mahawar - Dausa</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
9.	<b>State-Level Health Fair, 2026</b> Event : January 15-18, 2026 at Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by :</b> Department of Ayurveda</li> </ul>
10.	<b>Division-Level Pantgotsav,</b> Event : January 14, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Rajasthan Tourism Department</li> <li>• For the first time, the event was held in all seven divisions of Rajasthan (Jaipur, Jodhpur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur).</li> </ul>
11.	<b>Conference of Labor, Employment, and Industry Secretaries</b> Event : January 14-15, 2026 in Jaipur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Partners:</b> Labor and Industry Secretaries of Northwestern States/Union Territories.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To ensure smooth implementation of the four new labor codes through a web-based monitoring system.</li> </ul>
12.	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Tribal Youth Exchange Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Ministry of Home Affairs and Youth Sports, Government of India.</li> <li>• A team of tribal youth visited the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly in Jaipur on January 19, 2026 and interacted with Speaker Vasudev Devnani.</li> <li>• Coordinated by 'My Bharat, Jaipur', the team comprised a total of 250 participants, including 200 youth from 8 districts of 5 states - Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.</li> </ul>

13.	<b>Amrit Mahotsav-2026</b> Event : 21 January 10-April 2026, Baran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inaugurated by:</b> Dr. Manju Baghmar, Minister of State for Women and Child Development.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.</li> <li>• <b>Special:</b> With the support of 'Beti Bachao' brand ambassador Dr. Sudhira, the 'Beti Library' was launched at the Government Girls College.</li> </ul>
14.	<b>Shri Ramdev Animal Fair</b> Event : Maskara village of Nagaur district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaugurated by District Collector Arun Kumar Purohit on January 19, 2026</li> <li>• <b>Duration:</b> The fair is held every year from Magh Shukla Ekam to Magh Shukla Purnima.</li> </ul>

## Sports Activities

### 69<sup>th</sup> National School Games Cricket Championship

- ❑ **Held:** January 19-24, 2026, in Sikar
- ❑ **Organized by:** Directorate of Elementary Education (Bikaner) and School Games Federation of India.
- ❑ **Final Results**
  - ◆ **Winner:** Rajasthan
  - ◆ **Runner-up:** Jammu and Kashmir
- ❑ **Cricketer Mukul Choudhary:** Special Recognition
  - ◆ A contract worth Rs. 2.60 crore with the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) team in the IPL 2026 mini-auction.
  - ◆ **Award:** The District Cricket Association, Sikar, presented him with a cash prize of Rs. 51,000.

### 69<sup>th</sup> National School Games Boxing Championship

- ❑ **Held:** December 26-31, 2025, in Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- ❑ Rajasthan won the team championship in the National School Games Boxing Championship for the first time.
- ❑ Rajasthan U-14 School Team Performance:
  - ◆ TOTAL 8 medals [3 G, 2 S, 3 B]
  - ◆ 1st place in the medal tally.
  - ◆ Medal-winning boxers: Gold medal
    1. Yash Kumar (28-30 kg weight category)
    2. Chhatrapal Singh (36-38 kg weight category)
    3. Aniraj Chaudhary (38-40 kg weight category)

### 69<sup>th</sup> National School Archery Championship

- ❑ **Held:** January 6-10, 2026, at the Tikit Umraon Shooting Stadium in Khelgaon, Ranchi.
- ❑ **Hosted by:** Jharkhand Education Project Council
- ❑ **Rajasthan's performance -**
  - ◆ Rajasthan Compound Team overall champion.
  - ◆ **Medal tally:** Total 8 medals (5 G, 2S, 1B)
  - ◆ **Girls' category:** The team of Kumkum, Manika, Kanishka, and Madhu defeated Maharashtra in the final to win the gold medal.
  - ◆ **Aryan Parik** - Individual ranking score of 698/720 (gold medal)
  - ◆ **Mixed team** - The pair of Kumkum and Aryan won the bronze medal.



S.No.	Famous Players/Competitions	Why in the News?/Achievements
1.	Divyanshi Jain, Jaipur Sports - Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won the title in the Under-13 Girls category at the 'Scottish Open: 2025' competition held in Edinburgh, Scotland.</li> </ul>
2.	Hemraj Sarawata, Jaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won the bronze medal at the 6<sup>th</sup> Mr. India Bodybuilding Competition organized by the Indo Body Builders Fitness Association (IBBFA) in Mansarovar, Jaipur.</li> </ul>
3.	Dr. Suman Kalra Sriganganagar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won the bronze medal at the 2025 International Kettlebell World Championship held in Czegled, Hungary.</li> </ul>
4.	Arundhati Choudhary, Kota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won the gold medal at the 9<sup>th</sup> Senior National Boxing Championship held from January 4-10, 2026, in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.</li> <li>Arundhati won the gold medal by defeating Anastasia Taran of Ukraine at the BBG Elite International Competition held in La Nucia, Spain on February 8, 2026.</li> </ul>
5.	Palash Barber, Udaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected for the 2026 SAFF Futsal Championship held in Thailand.</li> <li><b>Championship Result :</b> Palash Barber was part of the Indian team in Thailand from February 3-6, 2026, which won the gold medal by defeating Malaysia in the final.</li> </ul>
6.	Dr. Ashok Kumar Sharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-elected as Vice President of the Indian Amateur Baseball Federation.</li> <li>Currently President of the Rajasthan Baseball Association.</li> </ul>
7.	Sunita Dhobi, Jaipur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won two gold medals in the 79 kg weight category, performing exceptionally well.</li> <li><b>1. National Championship:</b> National Para Powerlifting Championship held in Roorkee in January = Gold Medal</li> <li><b>2. State Championship:</b> Rajasthan State Para Powerlifting Championship organized by SAI in January = Gold Medal</li> </ul>
8.	Rajasthan Youth and Sports Festival: 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event: SMS Stadium, Jaipur from January 7-12, 2026</li> <li><b>Basis:</b> 'Viksit Bharat-Viksit Rajasthan' concept</li> <li><b>Winner Prizes:</b> First - 50K, Second - 25K, Third - 10K</li> </ul>
9.	Rajasthan State Inter-District Civil Services Tennis Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Held:</b> Srinathpuram, Kota from January 15-19, 2026.</li> <li>The Jaipur district team performed exceptionally well and won the gold medal.</li> <li><b>Captain:</b> Yogamitra Dinkar (Additional Director, Insurance)</li> </ul>
10.	Rajasthan State Kabaddi Association Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unopposed President:</b> Jitendra Singh elected.</li> <li><b>Vice President:</b> Harjeet Singh Brar, Bhik Singh Baira, Surendra Singh Khanduja, Nemi Chand, and Reena Kumari.</li> </ul>
11.	Rao Raja Hanut Singh Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artemis Achievers won the trophy by defeating Team Jaipur By 8-7 in the final of the Rao Raja Hanut Singh Cup (12 goals) played on January 11, 2026, as part of the Jaipur Polo Season.</li> </ul>

## Miscellaneous Activities

### 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day: Rajasthan Tableau on the Kartavya Path

- ❑ **Republic Day:** Bikaner's Usta art was the main attraction in Rajasthan's tableau on the Kartavya Path in New Delhi on January 26, 2026.
- ❑ Themes of the Rajasthani Tableau:
  1. Rajasthan: Golden Touch of the Desert (Sujas)
  2. Golden touch of the Desert: Bikaner's Gold Art (Usta Kala) (PIB)
    - ◆ **Award:** Won third prize in the Popular Choice category.
    - ◆ **Award Received:** Praveen Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary for Tourism, Art, Literature and Culture, Rajasthan, from Sanjay Seth, Minister of State for Defence, India, at the Defence Institute in Mahipalpur, New Delhi.
- ❑ **Tableau Features:**
  - ◆ **Front:** 180° rotating statue of an artist playing the ancient musical instrument, Ravanhattha
  - ◆ **Center:** Traditional Usta Kala decorated kupi
  - ◆ **Back:** Statue of a camel and rider, symbolizing desert culture.
  - ◆ **Presentation:** 'Gair' folk dance performed by artists around the tableau.

### National Road Safety Month: Rajasthan

- ❑ **Duration:** January 1-31, 2026, across the state, as directed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India (Theme: Road Safety - Life Saving).
- ❑ **Implementation:** Transport Road Safety Department, Government of Rajasthan
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Safety through Learning, Change through Technology'
- ❑ **Objective:** Reducing road accidents, creating awareness about traffic rules among the public, and distributing road safety related publicity material.

- ❑ **Special:** Zero Fatality Resolution: 'Zero Fatality Month' across the state

### IIT Jodhpur files IPR for the year 2025

- ❑ IIT Jodhpur filed 86 intellectual property rights applications for 2025.
- ❑ This is a 150% increase compared to the previous year.
- ❑ Of the 86 applications, 77 include patent applications, 5 design registrations, and 4 copyrights.

### Justice Sangeet Lodha Committee

- ❑ **Formation :** As per the Supreme Court order (Bench of Justice Abhay S. Oka)
- ❑ **Name:** Ecosystem Oversight Committee.
- ❑ **Jurisdiction:** Jodhpur, Pali, and Balotra (Western Rajasthan).
- ❑ **Chairman and Key Members**
  - **Chairman:** Justice Sangeet Raj Lodha (Retired Judge, Rajasthan High Court)
  - **Expert Member:**
    - ◆ Water experts from IIT Jodhpur and MNIT Jaipur.
    - ◆ Representatives from the CPCB (Central) and RSPCB (State) Pollution Control Boards.
    - ◆ District Collectors of the respective districts (Jodhpur, Pali, Balotra).
    - ◆ Scientists from NEERI.
- ❑ **Main Functions:**
  - **River Rejuvenation:** Prevent factory wastewater from discharging into the Luni, Jojri, and Bandi rivers.
  - **Scientific Treatment:** Develop action plans for treating polluted groundwater and soil.
  - **CETP Monitoring:** Monitor and upgrade the efficiency of Common Effluent Treatment Plants.
  - **Budget Management:** Ensure proper use of funds collected under the 'Polluter Pays Principle'.

❑ **Key Decisions and Powers**

- **Supreme Court Takes Tough Stand:** The Court stated that the government has failed to curb pollution, so this committee will now report directly to the Court.
- **Reporting Deadline:** The Committee must submit its first detailed action plan and status report to the Supreme Court by February 27, 2026.

**1<sup>st</sup> Kota Hadoti Travel Mart: 2026**

- ❑ **Held:** January 2-4, 2026, in Kota.
- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at Shaurya Ghat on the Chambal River Front.
- ❑ **Organizers:** Rajasthan Tourism Department, Hotel Federation of Rajasthan (Kota Division)
- ❑ **Book Release:** 'Magical Hadoti' (by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla).

**Known Bird Species in Rajasthan**

- ❑ According to the latest data from the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board (January 2026), the number of known bird species in Rajasthan = **510**.
- ❑ **Migratory Species:** Of these, approximately 100 species are migratory, arriving from regions like Siberia, Europe, and Africa during the winter. (Siberian Crane, Demoiselle Crane, Greater Flamingo, Black-winged Stilt, Rosy Pelican, Common Greenshank, Gadwall, and White Wagtail)
- ❑ **3 species listed as Critically Endangered-**
  1. Great Indian Bustard (Godavan)
  2. White-rumped Vulture (White-backed Vulture)
  3. Indian Vulture (Long-billed Vulture)

**'Kaushal Rath'**

- ❑ **Launched:** January 7, 2026, in Sikar by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education.
- ❑ **Foundation:** 'Skill India' Campaign

- ❑ **Objective:** To provide industry-based certified training and employment generation to youth from rural, small towns, and backward areas by connecting them to government skill development schemes.

**78<sup>th</sup> Indian Army Day: Rajasthan**

- ❑ On January 15, 2026, the Indian Army Day was celebrated for the first time outside the main cantonment area in Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Award Distribution:** Army Day Parade and Operation Sindoor - Posthumous Sena Medal (Gallantry) Award for Bravery.
  - ◆ Subedar Major Pawan Kumar ◆ Havaldar Sunil Kumar Singh ◆ Lance Naik Dinesh Kumar ◆ Lance Naik Subhash Kumar ◆ Lance Naik Pradeep Kumar
- ❑ **Know Your Army Exhibition:**
  - Held from January 8-12, 2026 at Bhawani Niketan Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur
  - **Theme:** "Indian Army - A Tradition of Valor and Sacrifice"
  - **Shaurya Sandhya:** Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, chaired by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh
  - **100<sup>th</sup> Naman Center:** Virtual inauguration in Suratgarh, Sri Ganganagar, under Project Naman by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.

**First International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM-2026) : New Delhi**

- ❑ **Sponsor:** India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)
- ❑ **Rajasthan's Role -**
  - ◆ The Rajasthan Election Department presented on the topic "Elections, Media, and Voter Awareness."
  - ◆ **Focus Areas:** Rajasthan's innovations in the areas of media's role in the electoral process, voter education (SVEEP activities), and awareness were shared on a global platform.

- ◆ **Partner Countries:** Croatia and Kazakhstan were selected as partner countries for Rajasthan.

**Rajasthan Industry and SME Summit: 2026**

- **Held:** January 20, 2026, in Jaipur, Governor Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde honored entrepreneurs and institutions that have made outstanding contributions to Rajasthan's economy with the "**Pride of Rajasthan Award.**"
- **Ashapura Buildcon Limited:** Awarded Best Enterprise of the Year in the Real Estate Sector for the year 2024-25. The award was received by company Director Harshvardhan Singh.

**263<sup>rd</sup> Sawai Madhopur Foundation Day**

- On January 18-19, 2026, the country's first Guava Festival and Advanced Agricultural Technology Fair was held at Dussehra Grounds in a grand manner, inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- **Objective :** To encourage local farmers and promote Sawai Madhopur's guava (renowned for its sweetness and quality)

globally under the "One District One Product" (ODOP) initiative.

- A Guava Centre of Excellence and at a cost of Rs. 150 crore a Guava Processing Plant will be established in the district .
- Established by Sawai Madho Singh I on January 19, 1763.

**Vikasit Rajasthan Young Leaders Dialogue: 2026**

- **Objective:** To empower youth to become active participants in governance and policymaking and to provide a platform for innovative ideas from youth aged 15-29.
- **Initiative:** Part of the Vikasit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue.
- **Category-wise selection of Rajasthan's youth:**
  - ◆ Vikasit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue = 44
  - ◆ Cultural (Folk Dance, Folk Song, Writing) = 29
  - ◆ Hack for Social Cause Event = 02

**Important Agreements of Rajasthan: January 2026**

1. **Rajivika + MNIT Jaipur**
  - ❖ **Objective:** To promote academic collaboration to strengthen effective evaluation, study, and research of Rajivika's various schemes and programs.
2. **Bikaner Technical University (BTU) + Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**
  - ❖ **Objective:** A 'Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reference Station' will be established on the BTU campus.
3. **IIT, Jodhpur + National Law University (NLU), Jodhpur**
  - ❖ **Objective:** The country's first joint law and technology center will be established.
4. **Hindustan Zinc Limited + Silox India: Udaipur**
  - ❖ **Objective:**
    - ❖ Silox India will manufacture their product on the line of HZL's low-carbon zinc brand, EcoZen.
    - ❖ HZL launched EcoZen in 2024, claiming to be "Asia's first low-carbon green zinc brand."
5. **Rajivika + Barefoot College, Tilonia-Ajmer**
  - ❖ **Objective:** Signed a non-financial agreement to train women in rural areas as 'Solar Didi' and empower them as community-level solar repair and technicians.
6. **Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurveda University + National Institute for Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases, Jodhpur**
  - ❖ **Objective:** To jointly conduct research and provide training in the fields of medical health research, public health, and Ayurveda.

## Possible Objective Questions

- ❑ **'Wetland Cities' under the Ramsar Convention**
  - ◆ On September 9, 2025, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and Udaipur (Rajasthan) were issued certificates recognizing them as 'Wetland Cities' under the Ramsar Convention.
- ❑ **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**
  - ◆ A pilot project on real-time safety alert system for animals living on national highways was implemented on the Jaipur-Agra and Jaipur-Rewari National Highway Corridors.
- ❑ **Avika Nagar (Tonk)**
  - ◆ The Central Wool Development Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in collaboration with the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, organized a one-day brainstorming session on 'Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Prospects of the Indian Wool Sector.'
- ❑ **NITI Aayog, Government of India: January 22, 2026 (Jaipur)**
  - ◆ NITI Aayog launched three important reports focused on strengthening the circular economy in India at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) 2026 held in Jaipur on January 22, 2026.
    1. Discarded Vehicles (MSTE) in India after use (ELVs)
    2. Waste Tires, E-Waste
    3. Management of Lithium-Ion Batteries.

**Commission for Air Quality Management**

- ◆ On January 27, 2026, a high-level review meeting was held at the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board headquarters in Jaipur under the chairmanship of Rajesh Verma, Chairman of the Commission for Air Quality Management.
  - ◆ **Area of Review:** The meeting reviewed air pollution reduction measures and the Annual Action Plan 2026 for the National Capital Region of Rajasthan - Alwar, Bharatpur, and Bhiwadi.
  - ◆ **Target for Pollution Reduction:** The Commission directed the Rajasthan government to set a clear target of at least 10% annual reduction in air pollution in the revised action plans.
- ❑ Rajasthan's first **State Genetic Testing Lab** was established at Sawai Mansingh Hospital, Jaipur.
  - ❑ **National Level 'Saharkaar Se Samridhi' Workshop: Udaipur**
    - ◆ **Organized:** January 8-9, 2026.
    - ◆ **Participants :** Senior representatives from states and union territories.
    - ◆ **Inaugurated :** Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation.

- **Bhupal Nobles Institute: Udaipur**
  - ◆ **104<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day** – Celebrated on January 2, 2026, with Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh as the chief guest.
  - ◆ **Organized by:** Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Chittorgarh-Udaipur
  - ◆ **Founded** on January 2, 1923
- **Save Oran Padyatra:** A 725-km-long foot march will begin on January 21, 2026, from the Shaktipeeth Tanot Mata Temple in Jaisalmer and reach the Jaipur Assembly. Its objective is to have Oran lands registered in revenue records.
- **International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB)**
  - ◆ It was celebrated on May 22, 2025, in Udaipur, Rajasthan, with an exhibition on biodiversity and bioresources.
  - ◆ **Theme 2025:** "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development."

**पंचायतीयज को मजबूत करने के लिए ठोस कदम**

- ▷ 8 नई जिला परिषदों का गठन
- ▷ 94 नई पंचायत समितियां एवं 3 हजार 467 नई ग्राम पंचायतें बनाई गईं
- ▷ पंचायत जनप्रतिनिधियों के मानदेय में वर्ष 2024-25 में 10 प्रतिशत और वर्ष 2025-26 में 10 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि
- ▷ 475 ग्राम पंचायत भवनों एवं 117 अंबेडकर भवनों का निर्माण कार्य पूर्ण

77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day 2026

- ❑ The main theme of the Republic Day : '150 years of Vande Mataram'
- ❑ The main theme of tableaux : 'Svatantrata Ka mantra - Vande Mataram' and 'Samriddhi Ka Mantra - Aatmanirbhar Bharat'
- ❑ **Chief Guests:** Mr. Antonio Costa, President of the European Council, and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.
- ❑ A total of 18 marching contingents and 13 bands participated in the parade. A total of seven Army marching contingents participated.
- ❑ A total of 30 tableaux were displayed on the path of duty.
- ❑ For the first time, the Indian Army demonstrated the '**Battle Array Formation**', i.e., battlefield formation, instead of the traditional marching form.
- ❑ The 61<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment, known for its traditional regalia and distinctive turban, was seen in combat battle gear for the first time.
- ❑ The animal contingent, the newly formed Bhairav Light Commando Battalion, the Shaktibaan Artillery Regiment, and a contingent of mixed scouts in heavy thermal uniform marched in the parade for the first time.
- ❑ The Universal Rocket Launcher System (URLS) 'Suryastra' and the DRDO's hypersonic glide missile were displayed for the first time in the parade.
- ❑ The animal contingent included Zanskar ponies, Bactrian camels, raptors (birds of prey), and Indian Army dogs.
- ❑ The flypast featured Rafale, Sukhoi-30, P8I, C-295, MiG-29, Apache, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH), Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and Mi-17 in various formations.
- ❑ **Simran Bala:** The first female officer to lead an all-male contingent of the CRPF.
- ❑ **The Indian Armed Forces tableau title :** 'Operation Sindoor: Victory through Jointness'
- ❑ A banner depicting 'Vande Mataram' was unveiled at the conclusion of the parade.
- ❑ Spectators' galleries for the Republic Day parade were named after rivers flowing across the country.

Base	Winners selected by a panel of judges	Popular Choice Award based on a survey by the MyGov portal
<b>Best Marching Contingent in the Three Services</b>	Indian Navy	Assam Regiment
<b>Best Marching Contingent in the CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces</b>	Delhi Police	Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
<b>Top Three Tableaux (States/Union Territories)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maharashtra (Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta)</li> <li>2. Jammu &amp; Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu &amp; Kashmir)</li> <li>3. Kerala (Water Metro &amp; 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gujarat (Mantra of Swadeshi - Self-Reliance - Freedom: Vande Mataram)</li> <li>2. Uttar Pradesh (Culture of Bundelkhand)</li> <li>3. Rajasthan (Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Art (Usta Art))</li> </ol>
<b>Best Tableau in Central Ministries/Departments:</b>	Ministry of Culture (Vande Mataram - The Soul Cry of a Nation)	Deptt. of School Education & Literacy (National Education Policy 2020: Rocketing Indian School Education on the Path to Viksit Bharat)

○ **Special Awards (selected by a panel of judges):**

- (i) Central Public Works Department  
(Vande Mataram : Commemoration of 150 years)
- (ii) 'Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India' Dance Group.

**Beating Retreat Ceremony 2026**

- **Held :** every year on January 29 at the iconic Vijay Chowk in New Delhi.
- This ceremony marks the culmination of the Republic Day celebrations.
- In this, bands of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) perform their tunes.
- This year, the seating areas at Vijay Chowk have been named after Indian musical instruments (such as the flute, damru, sitar, and shehnai).

**Prime Minister's Assam-West Bengal Visit**

**Assam**

- **Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project:** The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the 86-km-long corridor (four-lane construction of the Kaliabor-Numaligarh section of NH-715) at Kaliabor, Assam, built at a cost of Rs. 6,950 crore.
  - This road project will pass through the Kaziranga National Park.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the operation of two new Amrit Bharat Express trains - the Guwahati (Kamakhya)-Rohtak Amrit Bharat Express and the Dibrugarh-Lucknow (Gomti Nagar) Amrit Bharat Express.

**Bagurumba Dahou**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the "Bagurumba Dahou 2026" festival held in Guwahati on January 17, 2026.
- Bagurumba Dahou is an ancient dance festival of the Bodo community of Assam, symbolizing nature worship and cultural unity.
- It involves dances like Thavura and Junabili to pray for the prosperity of nature.

**Guwahati-Howrah Vande Bharat Sleeper Train**

- **Inauguration:** January 17, 2026, by the Prime Minister from Malda Town Railway Station (West Bengal).
- This is India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train.
- Indigenously designed and manufactured by Indian Railways.
- **Operation:** Between Guwahati (Assam) and Howrah (West Bengal).
- **Initial trials:** On the Kota-Nagda section of the railway.
- **Semi-high-speed train:** It can reach speeds of up to 180 km/h.
- **Total capacity:** Approximately 823 passengers.
- **KAVACH technology:** Equipped with modern anti-collision systems for safety.

**Reconstruction of the Dhupguri-Falakata section**

- Laid the foundation stone for the reconstruction of the Dhupguri-Falakata section and construction of four laning on National Highway-27 (old NH-31A).

**Prime Minister's visit to Kerala**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for the following development projects in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- **Foundation stone laying ceremony:**
  1. CSIR-NIIST Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship Hub
  2. Radiosurgery Centre: at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST).
- **Inauguration:** Poojappura Head Post Office
- **Launch:** Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Credit Card Scheme: January 23, 2026.

**Features -**

- **Eligibility:** All street vendors who have repaid the second installment of the loan under the PM SVANidhi Scheme are eligible for the third installment.
- **Credit limit:** A maximum withdrawal of Rs. 30,000 is permitted.

- This will be a credit card directly linked to the UPI.
- It will provide an interest-free revolving loan facility.

**50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the PRAGATI Platform held**

- ❑ **PRAGATI** : Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation
- ❑ **Chaired by** : the Prime Minister.
- ❑ **Origin**: A three-tier system launched in 2015.
- ❑ **Three tiers**: Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Central Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of States.
- ❑ **Objective**: To accelerate and monitor the implementation of major infrastructure projects and to ensure real-time monitoring and resolution of public grievances.
- ❑ During this period, five important infrastructure projects (roads, railways, power, coal, and water resources) costing over Rs. 40,000 crore were reviewed.
- ❑ In this meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed the progress of PM Shri schools and emphasized on making them 'national benchmarks' for the future.

**PRAGATI Achievements**

- ❑ Over the past decade, projects worth over Rs. 85 lakh crore have been accelerated by removing bottlenecks through this platform.
- ❑ A total of 377 projects have been reviewed so far under PRAGATI, of which approximately 94% of the issues have been successfully resolved.

**Release of 55 literary works in 5 classical languages**

- ❑ **Release** : By Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- ❑ **Languages** : Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Odia.
- ❑ **Books published** : By the Central Institute of Indian Languages.

**Classical Languages in India**

- ❑ **Total Classical Languages**: 11 (Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali)
- ❑ **Classical Language Criteria**: Determined by the Ministry of Culture
  - **Antiquity**: Its earliest texts or written history must date back 1,500-2,000 years.
  - **Literary Corpus**: A collection of ancient literature or texts, considered a legacy by generations of speakers.
  - **Knowledge Texts**: Specifically prose texts, poetry, epigraphic and epigraphic evidence.
  - A classical language and its literature may differ from its current form.

**Granth Kutir inaugurated at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

- ❑ **Inauguration** : January 23, 2026, by President Draupadi Murmu
- ❑ Granth Kutir houses a rich collection of manuscripts and books in 11 classical languages of India.
- ❑ The collection includes epics, philosophy, history, science, and devotional literature, as well as the Constitution of India in these 11 classical languages.
- ❑ The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) provides professional expertise in the management, preservation, translation, and display of manuscripts.
- ❑ The Granth Kutir has been developed with the support of the Central Government, State Governments, universities, research institutions, cultural organizations, and individual donors from across the country.
- ❑ This initiative supports the vision of the 'Gyan Bharatam Mission', a national initiative to preserve and digitize manuscript heritage.

**Indian Constitution in Santhali Language**

- ❑ President Draupadi Murmu released a copy of the Indian Constitution in the Ol Chiki script of the Santhali language on the occasion of Good Governance Day (December 25, 2025).
- ❑ **Ol Chiki script**: Developed by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925.
  - The year 2025 is the centenary year of the Ol Chiki script.

**International Exhibition of Piprahwa Relics**

- ❑ **Inauguration :** January 3, 2026, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ❑ **Venue:** Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi
- ❑ This is an international exhibition of Piprahwa relics related to Lord Buddha.
- ❑ **Title:** "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One"

**Piprahwa Relics**

- ❑ **Discovered:** In 1898 by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppe.
- ❑ **Location:** Piprahwa Buddhist Stupa, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ **Significance:** Archaeological evidence links the Piprahwa site to ancient Kapilvastu, where Lord Buddha spent his early life.
- ❑ Through a public-private partnership between the Government of India and the Godrej Industries Group, these relics were successfully repatriated to India on July 30, 2025.

**Jehanpora Buddhist Complex**

- ❑ **Why in the news?** Recently, an important Buddhist complex, believed to be part of a Kushan-era Buddhist settlement, was discovered dating back approx 2000 years.
- ❑ **Location:** Jehanpora, District-Baramulla (Jammu and Kashmir)
- ❑ Excavations have uncovered the remains of stupas, monastery-like structures, and walls.
- ❑ The site is considered to be the largest known Buddhist center in **Kashmir**.

**NHAI's Cattle Alert Pilot Initiative**

- ❑ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched a pilot initiative to provide real-time safety warnings to national highway users.
- ❑ **Objective:** To reduce accidents caused by sudden movement of cattle, especially in fog and low visibility conditions.
- ❑ This pilot project was implemented on the Jaipur-Agra and Jaipur-Rewari National Highway corridors, which are vulnerable areas for stray cattle.

- ❑ Location-based alerts will be issued approximately 10 kilometers in advance of identified risk areas.

**Aadhaar Mascot 'Uday'**

- ❑ Unveiled by Nilakanta Mishra, Chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), at a ceremony held in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❑ This mascot will communicate with people to explain Aadhaar services in a simple way.
- ❑ It will simplify communication for services such as updates, authentication, and offline verification.
- ❑ It was selected through a national competition held on the My Gov platform.
  - **First winner of the Mascot Design Competition:** Arun Gokul, Kerala.
  - **First winner of the Mascot Naming Competition:** Riya Jain, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

**New Aadhaar App**

- ❑ **Launched by:** Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry
- ❑ This app is a next-generation mobile application developed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- ❑ It is designed to enable Aadhaar number holders to share, display, and verify their digital identity securely and confidentially.
- ❑ It allows the management of up to five Aadhaar profiles on a single device, realizing the concept of "one family, one app."

**Center of Excellence (CoE) for Regulatory Affairs in the Power Sector**

- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Union Power Minister Manohar Lal.
- ❑ **Location:** IIT Delhi
- ❑ **Development:** IIT Delhi, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and Grid Controller of India Limited
- ❑ **Objective:** The Centre will collaborate with the CERC and Grid Controller of India Limited to identify key regulatory and sectoral challenges.

2<sup>nd</sup> CISF Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon-2026

- ❑ **Objective:** To create awareness among coastal communities about threats like drug and arms trafficking and strengthen national unity.
- ❑ **Start:** On January 28, 2026, two teams of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) commenced their journey from Lakhpat Fort (West Coast) in Gujarat and Bakkhali (East Coast) in West Bengal.
- ❑ **Conclude:** Both teams will conclude together in Kochi, Kerala on February 22, 2026.
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Secure Coasts, Prosperous India'

DGCA Launches Electronic Personnel License Service

- ❑ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) launched the Electronic Personnel License (EPL) services for Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL).
- ❑ EPL is a secure digital license that incorporates International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) compliant security features to ensure authenticity, prevent fraud and enable quick timely verification.
- ❑ EPL can be obtained through the eGCA mobile application.

Appointment

Praveen Vashisht

- ❑ Appointed Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- ❑ Mr. Vashisht is a 1991 batch IPS officer from the Bihar cadre.
- ❑ He served as Superintendent of Police and DIG in the CBI and as Joint Secretary and Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003

- ❑ **Appointment:** By the President under Section 4(1) of the CVC Act, 2003.
- ❑ **Oath:** Before the President or any other person appointed by him under Section 5(3).
- ❑ **Tenure:** 4 years or until the age of 65.
- ❑ **Composition:** 1+2
- ❑ **Central Vigilance Commissioner** - P.K. Srivastava
- ❑ **Other Vigilance Commissioners** - Shri A.S. Rajeev

Name	Appointment	Description
Sunetra Panwar	First woman Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra	Wife of the late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and leader of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) legislative party. Earlier, she was a Rajya Sabha member from Maharashtra.
Rakesh Agarwal	Assigned additional charge of Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).	A 1994 batch IPS officer, from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, and a native of Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
A.K. Balasubramanian	Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).	Replaced Dr. D.K. Shukla.
Shatrujit Singh Kapoor	Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).	A 1990 batch IPS officer, currently posted in the Haryana cadre.
Praveen Kumar	Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).	A 1993 batch IPS officer of the West Bengal cadre, he previously served as the Director General of the IPS.
Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor	Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Force	Replaced Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari

High Court	New Chief Justice	Previous Position/Details
Sikkim High Court	Justice A. Mohammad Mustaque	Judge of the Kerala High Court
Uttarakhand High Court	Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta	Judge of the Allahabad High Court
Kerala High Court	Justice Soumen Sen	Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court (Transferred)
Patna High Court (Bihar)	Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo	Judge of the Odisha High Court
Meghalaya High Court	Justice Revati Prashant Mohite Dere	Judge of the Bombay High Court

## Person in News

### Kamya Karthikeyan

- 18-year-old Kamya Karthikeyan is the **youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman in the world** to ski to the South Pole.
- Kamya covered a distance of approximately 60 nautical miles (approximately 115 kilometers) from 89° South latitude to the South Pole in adverse weather conditions.
- The young mountaineering talent is aiming to complete the "Explorers Grand Slam," which involves climbing the highest peaks on all seven continents and skiing to both poles.
- Previously, Kamya has also completed the **Seven Summits Challenge**.
- She is the youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman in the world to climb Mount Everest.

### 'Veeramangai' Queen Velu Nachiyar

- Velu Nachiyar was the queen of the Sivagangai kingdom (Tamil Nadu) during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1730-1796).
- She was the first queen to actively oppose Britishers colonial rule.
- Her husband was killed by the British during an attack on the Sivaganga kingdom.
- She reclaimed the kingdom in 1780 with the support of neighboring kingdoms.
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time she formed an army of trained women soldiers.

### Tilka Manjhi (February 11, 1750 - January 13, 1785)

- Tribal freedom fighter Tilka Manjhi led an armed rebellion against the atrocities of the British East India Company.
- Real name** : Jabara Paharia.
- He was a prominent leader of the Santhal and Paharia communities.
- In 1784, she assassinated Augustus Cleveland, the British collector of Bhagalpur.
- She was hanged in Bhagalpur on January 13, 1785.

### Captain Hansja Sharma

- The first female pilot of the Indian Army to qualify to fly the Rudra armed helicopter.
- Resident**: Jammu and Kashmir
- Led the 251<sup>st</sup> Army Aviation Squadron during the Army Day Parade 2026 held in Rajasthan, where she demonstrated the Helina missile system.

### Shubhanshu Shukla

- On the occasion of the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, President Draupadi Murmu honored Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force with the **Ashoka Chakra**, the country's highest peacetime gallantry award.
- This highest peacetime gallantry award was awarded for exceptional courage, quick decision-making, and devotion to duty during the Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station.

## Demise

### Shri Kabindra Purkayastha

- BJP leader in the Northeast (Assam), Kabindra Purkayastha, has passed away.

- ❑ He served as Union Minister of State for Communications in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government (1998-1999).
- ❑ Recently, the Padma Shri (posthumous) has been announced for social service.

**Ajit Pawar**

- ❑ Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar died in a plane crash in Baramati.
- ❑ He was the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra six times.

**Suresh Kalmadi**

- ❑ Former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi passed away in Pune.
- ❑ He was the Minister of State for Railways during the tenure of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.
- ❑ He was the President of the Indian Olympic Association.

**Madhav Gadgil**

- ❑ Eminent ecologist Madhav Gadgil passed away on January 7, 2026.
- ❑ He was the Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP), 2011 (Godgil Committee).
- ❑ **Awards:** Padma Shri (1981), Padma Bhushan (2006) and Champions of the Earth Award.

**Mark Tully**

- ❑ Former senior journalist of BBC and renowned broadcaster Mark Tully passed away in New Delhi at the age of 90.
- ❑ **Born:** October 24, 1935 in Kolkata.

**Campaign/Week**

**Sampoornata Campaign 2.0**

- ❑ **Launched by:** NITI Aayog CEO Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam on January 28, 2026.
- ❑ **Organized by:** NITI Aayog.
- ❑ **Duration:** January 28 to April 14, 2026.
- ❑ **Main objective:** Achieve 100% target of key performance indicators (KPI) in 112 aspirational districts and 513 aspirational blocks across the country.

- ❑ Six KPIs have been set for spirational blocks, including child nutrition, drinking water and toilet facilities in Anganwadi centers, etc.
- ❑ Five KPIs have been set for aspirational districts, such as child birth weight, TB case reporting, and animal vaccination.
- ❑ Under the campaign, districts and blocks will develop a 3-month specific action plan to track their progress.

**National Entrepreneurship Mission**

- ❑ Launched by the Ministry of Rural Development on January 12, 2026, under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ❑ **Goal:** To provide enterprise promotion training to 50,000 Community Resource Representatives (CRPs) and enterprise development training to 5 million Self Help Group (SHG) members under the DAY-NRLM .

**Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat (BVMB) Abhiyan**

- ❑ **Launched:** November 27, 2024 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❑ **Main Goal:** To make India completely free of child marriage by 2030.
  - To reduce the rate of child marriage to 10% by 2026.
  - To achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3.
- ❑ Despite progress in India, 23% of women aged 20-24 were married before the age of 18.

- ❑ **Balod** district of Chhattisgarh became India's first child marriage-free district in 2025.
- ❑ **Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006:**
  - According to the law, marriage of a girl under 18 years of age and a boy under 21 years of age is considered child marriage.

- Punishment: Rigorous imprisonment up to 2 years and/or a fine of up to ₹1 lakh.
- States appoint 'Child Marriage Prohibition Officers' (CMPOs) to prevent child marriage.
- Under the Indian Penal Code 2023, sexual acts with a wife under 18 years of age are considered rape.
- Child Marriage Free India Portal

**Drug-Free Campus Campaign**

- **Launched by** Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan on January 13, 2026, at Delhi University.
- **Objective:** To make educational institutions drug-free as part of the Drug-Free India Campaign.

**4<sup>th</sup> India Energy Week (IEW) 2026**

- **Held:** January 27-30, 2026, in Goa
- **Organizer:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Inauguration :** Virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Main objective:** To strengthen energy security, encourage investment, and develop practical, widely applicable solutions to reduce carbon emissions.
- India Energy Week Launched in 2023 has evolved into a platform for international dialogue across the global energy value chain.

**Events/Conferences/Meetings**

**India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management-2026 (IICDEM-2026)**

- **Event :** January 21-23, 2026, New Delhi.
- **Organized by:** India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM-2026).
- **Theme:** Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient, and sustainable world.
- Prestigious institutions such as 4 IITs, 6 IIMs,

and 12 National Law Universities participated to provide expert insights into electoral processes.

- The documentary "India Decides" was screened, highlighting the efforts behind the 2024 Lok Sabha elections (the world's largest Election) .
- **The 5 pillars of the Delhi Declaration 2026 :** Accuracy in electoral rolls, Conduct of elections, Research and publication, Use of technology, and Training and capacity building.
- India is chairing the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in 2026.

**ECINet**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) launched ECINet, a 'one-stop' digital platform for all election-related information and services, at the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management 2026.
- This platform, built by integrating **over 40 apps and portals of the Election Commission**, is the world's largest electoral services platform.
- ECINet connects citizens, candidates, political parties, and election officials on a secure platform.
- Services such as voter registration, searching the electoral roll, tracking applications, knowing your candidate, and downloading e-EPIC are available on this platform.

**28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC)**

- **Held:** January 14-16, 2026, in New Delhi
- **Inaugurated by :** the Prime Minister in the Central Hall (formerly the Chamber of Princes) of the Old Parliament House.
- **Chaired by :** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla
- **Objective:** To ensure impartiality of presiding officers, to enhance knowledge related to parliamentary democracy, and to strengthen parliamentary institutions.
- 61 Speakers and Presiding Officers from 42 Commonwealth countries and 4 semi-autonomous parliaments participated in it.

- ❑ Previously, this conference was held in India in 1971, 1986, and 2010.
- ❑ The main conference of the CSPOC is held biennially.

**86<sup>th</sup> All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC)**

- ❑ **Event:** January 19-21, 2026, at the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Lucknow.
- ❑ **Inaugurated by :** Anandi Ben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Strong Legislature - Prosperous Nation'
- ❑ **Objective:** To brainstorm on the use of technology for transparent, effective, and citizen-centric legislative processes, capacity building of legislators, and accountability of the legislature to the public.
- ❑ **Six resolutions were passed at the conference:** creation of a National Legislative Index, holding a minimum of 30 meetings of legislative bodies annually, strengthening the use of technology, etc.
- ❑ Prior to the 86<sup>th</sup> AIPOC, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Conference of Secretaries of All India Legislative Bodies was also held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Global Buddhist Summit (GBS)**

- ❑ **Event :** January 24-25, 2026 New Delhi
- ❑ **Organized by:** International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Collective Wisdom, United Voice, and Mutual Coexistence'
- ❑ **Kalyan Mitra:** A Neural Operator for Responsible Buddhist Understanding (NORBU) language-learning and dialogue model was showcased during the summit.
  - This AI tool is based on the ChatGPT algorithm and trained on data from Buddhist texts to deliver teachings in the right context.

- The IBC has adopted the NORBU as a global initiative and named it 'Kalyan Mitra'.

- ❑ The first conference was held in New Delhi in April 2023.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue**

- ❑ **Event :** January 9-12, 2026, New Delhi.
- ❑ **Organized by:** Department of Youth Affairs, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❑ **Objective:** To provide a dynamic national platform for youth aged 15-29 years to present new ideas and solutions to achieve the vision of a Viksit Bharat@2047.

**CSR Conference on Nutrition**

- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Amit Shah, in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Organized by:** National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- ❑ **Title :** Role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Nutrition Security and Malnutrition Prevention.
- ❑ **Objective:** To deliberate on collaborative, innovative, and sustainable strategies to address child malnutrition.
- ❑ The Union Minister of Cooperation also launched the 'Shishu Sanjeevani program' under the CSR initiative of IDBI.
- ❑ **Sanjeevani:** An energy-rich, semi-solid, ready-to-eat nutritional supplement developed by NDDB.

**Jan Shikshan Sansthan Regional Conference**

- ❑ **Event :** January 19-20, 2026, at Symbiosis School of Professional and Skills University, Pune
- ❑ **Organizer:** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme**

- ❑ It is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by MSDE through NGOs.
- ❑ **Main objective:** To provide informal vocational training to illiterate, neo-literate individuals, school dropouts, and marginalized sections of society.

- ❑ Currently, 294 Jan Shikshan Sansthan are operational in 26 states and 7 union territories.
- ❑ They provide skills training in 51 courses in line with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

Major Conference: 2026	Subject/Description
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Indian Languages</b> Venue: New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> By Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan.</li> <li>• <b>Organizers:</b> Jointly organized by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Ministry of Culture, International Cooperation Council, Global Hindi Family, and Delhi University.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To strengthen the preservation, research, and global cooperation of Indian languages.</li> </ul>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> All India Major Ports Cultural Conference</b> Organized by: Paradip Port, Odisha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Paradip Port Authority in collaboration with the Major Ports Sports Control Board.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To promote cultural activities among port employees.</li> </ul>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> National Lighting Conference</b> Venue: New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Ministry of Earth Sciences.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Lightning: Atmospheric Electricity and Extreme Weather Events</li> </ul>
<b>National Textile Ministers' Conference - 2026</b> Venue: Guwahati, Assam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with the Government of Assam.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'India's Textile Industry: A Confluence of Development, Heritage and Innovation'</li> <li>• The Ministry of Textiles signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with 15 states to strengthen data systems and integrated planning under the 'Textile-Centric Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-ups' (Tex-RAMPS) scheme.</li> </ul>
<b>National Conference on Ecological Restoration of the Aravalli Landscape</b> Event: January 14, 2026, New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> By the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav.</li> <li>• <b>Title:</b> 'Strengthening the Aravalli Green Wall'</li> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Sankala Foundation.</li> <li>• Bhupender Yadav released a report titled 'Ecological Restoration of the Aravalli Landscape' prepared by Sankala Foundation</li> </ul>
<b>Two-day conference on the topic of "Enhancing Gender Statistics"</b> Event: January 15-16, 2026, New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizers:</b> Social Statistics Division of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To analyze the methodological challenges in collecting data from and about women.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special focus on improving the quality, relevance, and usability of data for policy formulation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Inclusive Education Summit - 2026</b> Event: January 21-23, 2026, New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education</li> <li>• <b>Inaugurated by:</b> Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To strengthen the national commitment towards inclusive education.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Electricity Distribution Industry Conference (EDICON) - 2026</b> Venue: New Delhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> All India Distribution Association under the aegis of the Ministry of Power.</li> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> Minister of Power, Manohar Lal.</li> <li>• Mr. Manohar Lal released the first edition of AISA's annual report, '<b>India Discoms: 2025</b>'.</li> <li>• Mr. Manohar Lal also presented gold and silver awards to 12 distribution companies in 6 different categories.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Roundtable conference organized by the Department of Fisheries</b> Venue: New Delhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To strengthen bilateral trade, promote seafood exports, and connect trade with international markets</li> <li>• <b>Participating Countries:</b> Ambassadors and High Commissioners from 83 countries</li> <li>• <b>Chaired by:</b> Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh</li> </ul>
<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Law and Economics</b> Venue: Gandhinagar, Gujarat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) in collaboration with Gujarat National Law University (GNLU).</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To bring together policymakers, academics, and industry professionals for discussions on law, economics, and trade policy.</li> <li>• <b>Participants:</b> The conference was attended by legal and economic experts and practitioners from national law universities across India, as well as scholars from leading international universities and international organizations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wings India 2026</b> Event: January 28 to 31, 2026 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Asia's largest</b> civil aviation program.</li> <li>• <b>Inaugurated by:</b> Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> 'Indian Aviation: Paving the Future - From Design to Deployment, Manufacturing to Maintenance, Inclusivity to Innovation and Safety to Sustainability'</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) International Conference - 2026</b> Event: January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 at the Mumbai campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Title:</b> 'Design for Inclusive Futures'</li> <li>• Organized on the occasion of NIFT's 40<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day</li> <li>• During this event, the book <b>NIFT@40 'Dharohar'</b>, showcasing NIFT's four-decade journey, was released.</li> <li>• The <b>NIFT@41</b> logo was unveiled.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference of Labor and Employment Secretaries</b> Held: January 14, 2026, in Jaipur (Third Conference: Held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> By Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shobha Karandlaje.</li> <li>• This was the second conference in the Ministry's series of five regional conferences.</li> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To discuss issues related to the smooth implementation of the four labour codes, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), and the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY).</li> </ul>

<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> Siddha Day Celebration</b>  <b>Venue:</b> Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inauguration:</b> By Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan</li> <li>• <b>Topic:</b> 'Siddha For Global Health'</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Seminar 'Aeronautics 2047'</b>  <b>Event:</b> Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), Bengaluru on January 4, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organized by:</b> Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Human Capital Working Group Meeting before India AI Impact Summit 2026</b> <b>Event:</b> January 5-6, 2026 at IIT Guwahati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer:</b> Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</li> <li>• <b>Collaborators:</b> India AI, Government of Assam, and IIT Guwahati</li> </ul>
<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Hindi Seminar (Abhyuday-3)</b>  <b>Event:</b> CSIR -National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research, Delhi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizers:</b> IIT Indore and IIT Jodhpur, with their active cooperation.</li> </ul>

## Festival

### 9<sup>th</sup> Indusfood 2026 Exhibition

- ❑ **Inaugurated by :** Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ **Organized by :** the Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI).
- ❑ **Objective:** To establish India as a reliable and competitive partner in global food supply chains.
- ❑ India's leading global food and beverage (F&B) sourcing exhibition.
- ❑ Abu Dhabi Food Hub signs MoU with TPCI for India-UAE Food Corridor.
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance food security, streamline supply chains, and accelerate bilateral food trade flows.
- ❑ **1<sup>st</sup> World Culinary Heritage Conference:** The conference was organized in the field of diplomacy and cultural engagement.
- ❑ **BHARATI Initiative:**
  - **Full name:** India Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.

- **Launched by:** Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- **Objective:** To promote innovation and create new export opportunities for young entrepreneurs.
- To support agri-food and agri-tech startups.

### Somnath Swabhiman Parv

- ❑ **Event:** January 8 to January 11, 2026.
- ❑ This festival is organized to commemorate the 1,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mahmud Ghaznavi's attack on the Somnath Temple in 1026 AD? The year 2026 marks the completion of 75 years of the modern reconstruction of the Somnath Temple.

### Somnath Temple

- ❑ Located in Prabhas Patan, Gujarat.
- ❑ It is the first of the 12 Jyotirlingas according to the Dwadasha Jyotirlinga Stotram.
- ❑ **Reconstruction:** After Independence in 1947 by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❑ **Inauguration:** On May 11, 1951 by the then President Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
- ❑ Prime Minister Modi is the head of the Somnath Trust.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Indian Lighthouse Festival**

- ❑ **Inauguration:** By former Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ **Organized by:** Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGL&L), Ministry of Public Transport.
- ❑ **Objective:** To develop 205 lighthouses as tourist and festival centers.
- ❑ Under this program, 75 lighthouses in 10 states and union territories have been developed with modern tourist facilities.

**25<sup>th</sup> Bharat Rang Mahotsav**

- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Sheawat in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Event:** Organized by the National School of Drama from January 27 to February 20, 2026, at 40 locations across the country.
- ❑ This time, the festival is also being held outside India, in one country from each continent.
- ❑ **Theme:** Dialogue of Cultures (Samvad Sanskritiyon Ka).
- ❑ 277 Indian and 12 international performances will be presented in 228 languages and dialects.
- ❑ It is the world's largest international theatre festival.

**53<sup>rd</sup> New Delhi World Book Fair 2026**

- ❑ **Inaugurated by :** Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education.
- ❑ **Event :** January 10 to 18, 2026, by the National Book Trust (NBT), Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).
- ❑ **Theme:** Indian Military History: Valor and Knowledge@75
- ❑ **Guest of Honor Country:** Qatar, **Focus Country:** Spain
- ❑ Shri Pradhan released the book "The Saga of Kudopali: The Untold Story of 1857" in nine Indian languages and Spanish, the international language.

**SARAS-2026 Exhibition**

- ❑ **Inauguration :** January 8, 2026, in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ **Organized by:** District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) and Society for elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP).
- ❑ **Objective:** To ensure economic empowerment of members of women self-help groups (SHGs) through sustainable livelihoods.

**Bharat Parv 2026**

- ❑ **Inaugurated by :** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- ❑ **Organized by :** the Ministry of Tourism from January 26 to 31, 2026, New Delhi, as part of the Republic Day celebrations.
- ❑ **Objective:** To showcase India's rich cultural, artistic, culinary, and spiritual heritage.
  - To promote domestic tourism, provide a platform for artisans and states/union territories.
- ❑ The six-day festival features a grand display of tableaux from the Republic Day parade for public viewing.

**Awards****Padma Awards 2026**

- ❑ The President approved the conferment of 131 Padma Awards for the year 2026. These include: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri (2 double awards).
- ❑ **Note:** Double awards are considered as one.
- ❑ The awardees include 19 women, 6 individuals from the foreign/NRI/PIO/OCI category, and 16 posthumous awardees.
- ❑ **Padma Vibhushan (5):** India's second highest civilian award
  - Dharmendra Singh Deol (posthumous, Arts), Maharashtra
  - N. Rajam (Arts), Uttar Pradesh
  - K. T. Thomas (Public Affairs), Kerala
  - P. Narayanan (Literature and Education), Kerala
  - V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous, Public Affairs), Kerala

❑ **Padma Bhushan (13)**

1. Alka Yagnik (Arts), Maharashtra	8. Shatavadhani R Ganesh (Arts), Karnataka
2. Bhagat Singh Koshyari (Public Affairs), Uttarakhand	9. Shibu Soren (Posthumous, Public Affairs), Jharkhand
3. Kallipatti Ramasamy Palaniswami (Medicine), Tamil Nadu	10. V. K. Malhotra (Posthumous, Public Affairs), Delhi
4. Mammooty (Muhammad Kutty Ismail) (Arts), Kerala	11. Uday Kotak (Trade and Industry), Maharashtra
5. Dr. Nori Dattatreya (Medicine), United States	12. Vellappally Natesan (Public Affairs), Kerala
6. Piyush Pandey (Posthumous, Arts), Maharashtra	13. Vijay Amritraj (Sports), United States
7. S. K. M. Mylanathan (Social Work), Tamil Nadu	

❑ **Padma Shri (113)**

- Krishnamurthy Balasubramaniam (Science and Engineering), Telangana
- Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous, Sports), Georgia
- Chandramouli Gaddamanugu (Science and Engineering), Telangana
- Haley War (Social Work), Meghalaya
- Pratik Sharma (Medicine), United States
- In the sports field, Rohit Sharma (Cricket, Maharashtra), Praveen Kumar (Para High Jump Athlete, Uttar Pradesh), Women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur (Punjab), Baldev Singh (Punjab), K. Panjanivel, Shri Bhagwandas Raikwar (Madhya Pradesh) and Savita Punia (Hockey, Haryana) will be awarded the Padma Shri

**Padma Shri Awards**

- ❑ Initiated in 1954 as Padma Vibhushan with three categories.
- ❑ In 1955, it was renamed Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
  - Padma Vibhushan: For exceptional and distinguished service.
  - Padma Bhushan: For distinguished service of a high order.
  - Padma Shri: For distinguished service in any field.
- ❑ **Fields:** Art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- ❑ **Announcement:** Every year on the occasion of Republic Day.
- ❑ These awards are given annually. However, they were not presented in 1978 and 1979, and from 1993 to 1997.
- ❑ India's highest civilian award is the Bharat Ratna (initiated in 1954).

**Subhash Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award 2026**

- ❑ **Individual Category:** Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke (Indian Army)
  - For leading large-scale humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations during the 2024 floods and landslides in Wayanad, Kerala.
  - For training 2,300 personnel to conduct disaster response and humanitarian operations.
- ❑ **Institutional Category:** Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority.
  - For deploying 1,185 trained 'Aapda Mitra' at all three levels (village, block, and district).

**C-DOT Honored with SKOCH Award 2025**

- ❑ The Centre for Development of Telematics (CDT), the premier telecommunications research and development centre of the Government of India, has been honored with the SKOCH Award 2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS).
- ❑ The award ceremony was held as part of the 104<sup>th</sup> SKOCH Summit on the theme of 'Resourcing Viksit Bharat'.
- ❑ The SKOCH Award recognizes individuals, projects, and government and private institutions for outstanding work in improving governance and development across India.

**Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS)**

- ❑ C-DOT's Cell Broadcast Solution is a disaster and emergency platform.
- ❑ It brings together disaster warning agencies on a unified platform, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for weather, the Central Water Commission (CWC) for floods, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) for tsunamis/ocean events, the Defence Geo-Information Research Institute (DGRI) for landslides, and the Forest Survey of India (FSI) for forest fires.
- ❑ This integrated platform provides a complete solution for delivering life-saving emergency information to mobile phones via cellular networks in near-real time in affected areas.

**Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards - 2025 Approved**

- ❑ The President of India has approved the conferment of the Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards - 2025 to 30 individuals.
- ❑ The awards are presented in three categories - Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha, Uttam Jeevan Raksha, and Jeevan Raksha.
- ❑ These include 06 Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Medals, 06 Uttam Jeevan Raksha Medals, and 18 Jeevan Raksha awards.
- ❑ This award was given posthumously to 6 individuals.
- ❑ This award is given for meritorious acts of humanitarian nature in saving a person's life.
- ❑ Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha award Recipients for 2025
  1. Manohar Singh Chauhan (posthumous),

Madhya Pradesh.

2. Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Madhya Pradesh.
3. PS Gaurishankar Raja (posthumous), Tamil Nadu.
4. Naik Ashutosh Biswas (posthumous), Ministry of Defence.
5. Deepak Kumar (posthumous), Ministry of Defence.
6. Naib Subedar Manjeet (posthumous), Ministry of Defence.

**Gallantry and Service Medals on Republic Day 2026**

- ❑ A total of 982 personnel from the Police, Fire, Home Guards and Civil Defence (FMD), and Correctional Services were awarded gallantry and service medals on Republic Day 2026.

**Gallantry Medals**

- ❑ A total of 125 gallantry medals (Gallantry Medals) were awarded, of which the Police Service received 121 and the Fire Service received 04.
- ❑ Gallantry medals are awarded based on exceptional bravery and conspicuous gallantry in saving life and property, preventing crime, or apprehending criminals.

**Seva Medal**

President's Medal for Distinguished Service	Medal for Meritorious Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 101 President's Medals were awarded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A total of 756 medals were awarded.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This medal is awarded for an exceptionally distinguished record of service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This medal is awarded for valuable service characterized by devotion to duty.</li> </ul>

**National Model Youth Gram Sabha Awards**

- ❑ Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, presented the National Awards to the winners of the Model Youth Gram Sabha at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

School	Winner	Rank	Prize Money
Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV)	JNV Una, Himachal Pradesh	First	₹1 Crore
	JNV Kannur, Kerala	Second	₹75 Lakhs
	JNV Ukhrul-I, Manipur	Third	₹50 Lakhs
Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS)	EMRS Kosambuda, Chhattisgarh	First	₹1 Crore
	EMRS Hirli, Odisha	Second	₹75 Lakhs
	EMRS Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	Third	₹50 Lakhs

**Model Youth Gram Sabha**

- ❑ It is a civic education initiative run by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in partnership with the Department of School Education and Literacy and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❑ **Objective:** To foster democratic values and public responsibility among young citizens.
  - ❑ To ensure students' education about the Panchayati Raj system.

**The 'Bharat Steel Awards-2026'**

- ❑ Will be awarded for the **first** time by the Union Ministry of Steel.
- ❑ **Objective:** To recognize exemplary performance and significant contributions in key areas of the steel sector.
- ❑ **Seven categories:** Efficiency, Exports, Sustainability, Indigenization, Innovation through Research and Development, Safety Award, and Exceptional Contribution to the Steel Sector.

**26<sup>th</sup> National Youth Parliament Competition Prize Distribution**

- ❑ Held in 2024-25 among **88 schools across 8 regions**.
- ❑ This competition develops self-discipline, tolerance, expression, and democratic qualities in students.
- ❑ The award was presented to PM Shri Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Suratgarh, Sri Ganganagar-II, Rajasthan in the Jaipur region.

**Winners of the 'Badalta Bharat Mera Anubhav' Campaign Announced**

- ❑ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the winners of **four** creative challenges organized under the campaign.
- ❑ **Objective:** To bring out stories of a changing India through citizen experiences.

Competition category	First prize winner
Instagram Reels Contest	Indrajeet Subodh Mashankar
YouTube Shorts Challenge	Manthan Rohit
Short Audio-Visual Challenge	Sushovan Manna
Blog Writing Competition	Krishna Gupta

**Sukhatme Rashtriya Puraskar 2026**

- ❑ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation invited applications for the Sukhatme Rashtriya Puraskar.
- ❑ **Objective:** To recognize high-quality research work and outstanding contributions made by individuals to improve the official statistical system.
- ❑ **Beginning:** Since 2000 (Biennial)
- ❑ **Eligibility:** To eminent Indian statisticians above 45 years of age for lifetime contributions and achievements.
- ❑ The awards will be presented on Statistics Day (June 29, 2026).

**14<sup>th</sup> FICCI Chemicals & Petrochemicals Awards 2025**

- ❑ **Organized by:** Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (DCPC) in collaboration with Federation of India chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at Federation house, New Delhi.
- ❑ At the event, 52 award winners were honored in various categories for their outstanding contributions to excellence, innovation, sustainability, and safety in the chemicals and petrochemicals sector.

**PHDCCI National Young Chef Competition (NYCC) 2025-26**

- ❑ **Event:** Grand Finale held at the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Pusa, New Delhi (1<sup>st</sup> time organized).
- ❑ **Organised by:** PHDCCI (PHD chambers of Commerce and Industry) in collaboration with Ministry of Tourism, Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA) and Tourism and Hospitality Skill Council (THSC).
- ❑ **Winner:** Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts and Nutritional Sciences, Pune.
- ❑ **Runners-up:** Maharashtra State Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (MSIHMCT), Pune, Maharashtra, and IHM Pusa, New Delhi were the first and second runners-up respectively.
- ❑ **Best Bhaja Dish Award:** Chef's Kitchen Institute of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management, Kolhapur.

## Agreements

Important Agreements (between whom)	Objective/Description
❖ Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications + Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct Contact Point Verification (CPV) of informal micro-enterprises (IMEs) registered on the Enterprise Assist Platform (EAP).</li> </ul>
❖ Ministry of Tribal Affairs + ONGC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop infrastructure and build capacity of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).</li> </ul>
❖ Startup accelerator initiative WaveX by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting + Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) IIT Delhi.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening innovation, incubation, and entrepreneurship in media, entertainment, broadcasting, and communication technologies.</li> </ul>
❖ Department of Posts + Ministry of Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To expand financial, digital, and logistics services for self-help groups (SHGs) and rural families and accelerate rural transformation.</li> </ul>
❖ Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) + Department of Posts (DoP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a nationwide logistics system for transporting samples of pesticides, seeds, and fertilizers to designated laboratories.</li> </ul>
❖ Ministry of Coal + Damodar Valley Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the development and production of coal mines in three commercial coal blocks - Dhulia North, Mandakini B, and Pirpainti Barahat.</li> </ul>
❖ National Highways Authority of India + Konkan Railway (Ministry of Railways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a framework for cooperation to strengthen integrated infrastructure development and explore opportunities for resource optimization and mutual benefit.</li> <li>A Joint Working Group (JWG) will be constituted to facilitate effective implementation.</li> </ul>
❖ Digital India BHASHINI Department + Survey of India Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish collaboration for the digitization, transliteration, and standardization of geographical place names using artificial intelligence-based speech and language technologies.</li> </ul>
❖ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) + World Economic Forum (WEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish cooperation to strengthen India's skills and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem.</li> </ul>
❖ Ministry of Communications + Stock Holding Services Limited (SSL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leveraging the reach and credibility of India Post to increase citizen participation in organized and regulated capital markets.</li> </ul>
❖ Brazilian aerospace manufacturer Embraer + Adani Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop India's regional transport aircraft ecosystem.</li> </ul>
❖ Ayush Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Ayush + Zepto Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a streamlined digital framework for promoting authentic Ayush medicines and wellness products through verified online channels.</li> </ul>
❖ Digital India BHASHINI Department + National Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling multilingual translation services and AI-powered language support on the National Health Authority's digital health platforms, including the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.</li> </ul>

## Environment

### New Ramsar Sites in India

- Patna Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh and Chhari-Dhand in Gujarat have been included in the Ramsar List.
- The number of wetlands included in the Ramsar List in India has increased to 98.

### Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, Uttar Pradesh)

- This is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh.
- The sanctuary includes freshwater marshes, woodlands, and grasslands.
- It has been designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.
- This sanctuary is home to 178 bird species and 252 plant species.
- Key species:** Rosy Pelican, Eurasian Spoonbill, Northern Pintail.

### Chhari-Dhand Wetland (Kutch, Gujarat)

- It is a seasonal wetland located between the dry Banni grasslands and the Rann of Kutch.
- Meaning of the name:** Chhari means 'Khara' in the Kutchi language and Dhand means 'shallow lake'.
- Key species:** Dalmatian pelican, Oriental darter, black-necked stork, and Indian skimmer.

### Mission Mausam

- Objective:** To provide more accurate forecasts for extreme weather events such as cyclones, heavy rainfall, and heat waves.
- This mission is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Implementation :** By the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM-Pune), and National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMW-Noida).
- Under this mission, a network of next-generation radars, satellites, and advanced computer systems is being established.

### Project Dolphin's Second Survey

- The second comprehensive dolphin assessment campaign in riverine and estuarine areas began in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.
- Survey scope: Project Dolphin covers the Gangetic mainland, Indus basin, Brahmaputra, tributaries, Sundarbans, and Odisha.
- Habitats, threats, and conservation priorities of Gangetic, Indus, and Irrawaddy dolphins will be assessed.
- Implementation and technical support: Led by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), with support from state forest departments, e WWF India, and Wildlife Trust of India.

## Portal/App

### Launch of the 'Land Stack' Portal

- Dr. Chandrashekhara Pemmasani, Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, launched the 'Land Stack' and 'Glossary of Revenue Terms' (GoRT) in New Delhi on December 31, 2025.
- These were launched under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

### Land Stack

- The 'Land Stack' was launched at identified locations in Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu.
- Features**
  - The GIS-based digital platform provides single access to land and property records information for both citizens and government agencies.
  - The Land Stack is inspired by international best practices from countries such as Singapore, the UK, and Finland.
  - The Land Stack Portal empowers citizens to make informed decisions through integrated access to land-related information.
  - This increases convenience, transparency, and trust for citizens and reduces the risk of inadvertent purchases of unauthorized or non-compliant properties.

**Launch of PANKHUDI Portal**

- ❑ **Launched by:** Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen coordination, transparency, and planned stakeholder participation in women and child development initiatives.
- ❑ Developed as an integrated, single-window digital platform, the portal facilitates partnerships by bringing together individuals working in the field of women and child development, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and individuals with disabilities, CSR contributors, corporate entities, and government agencies.

**Panchayat Support and Messaging Chatbot 'PANCHAM'**

- ❑ **Launched:** January 25, 2026, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- ❑ This digital initiative was developed in collaboration with UNICEF and is integrated with 'BHASHINI' .
- ❑ Its interface is available through WhatsApp for the convenience of Panchayat representatives and officials.
- ❑ It is integrated with e-Gram Swaraj and provides accurate information about important schemes, guidelines, and procedures.
- ❑ It establishes a direct, two-way digital connection between the Government of India and Panchayats for the first time.
- ❑ Citizens can access Panham through a QR-code and get information about government services available at the Gram Panchayat level.

**Launch of e-Port Clearance Portal**

- ❑ **Launched by:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ❑ Port Clearance Certificates (including Advance Clearances) can be submitted and issued online through the portal.

- ❑ **Objective:** To reduce the time taken in the entire process, increase transparency, and improve predictability for maritime operations across India.

**SAMPANN Pension Portal**

- ❑ The SAMPANN Pension Portal, has been integrated with the UMANG Portal and DigiLocker.
- ❑ **Objective:** To increase convenience for pensioners and promote transparency.
  - To ensure seamless delivery of pension-related information through a unified digital platform.
- ❑ **SAMPANN (System for Accounting and Management of Pensions):** Developed and operated by the Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Sampann is a communication system for pension administration and related financial management functions.
  - SAMPANN has digitized the entire pension process cycle-from case initiation and processing to e-pension payment order issuance, disbursement, accounting, reconciliation, financial reporting, audit assistance, and grievance redressal.

**UMANG**

- ❑ A single integrated platform (mobile app + web portal) through which government services offered by central, state, and local bodies can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

**DigiLocker**

- ❑ A secure cloud platform supported by the Government of India under the Digital India initiative.
- ❑ Through it, citizens can store, access, and share authentic digital documents such as licenses, vehicle registrations, and educational certificates.
- ❑ It acts as a digital wallet, eliminating the need for physical paperwork and facilitating simple verification for services such as banking, employment, and education.

## Important One-Liners

- ❑ The theme of the Government of India's Calendar 2026, unveiled by Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan, is ?  
**India@2026: Service, Good Governance, and Prosperity.**
- ❑ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has commissioned a residue upgradation facility at its Visakh Refinery. In which state is this refinery located?  
**Andhra Pradesh**
- ❑ Where was the National Mineral Chintan Shivir 2026 held?  
**Gandhinagar, Gujarat**
- ❑ How many officers and employees were honored with the 70<sup>th</sup> Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Award-2025?  
**100 officials**
- ❑ Where was a national workshop on "Sustaining Innovation: Embedding R&D in State Institutions" held on January 8-9, 2026, chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Mr. Suman Beri?  
**Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**
- ❑ Which Institution launched the Indian Skimmer Conservation Project to conserve rare bird species in the Gangetic plains?  
**Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).**
- ❑ Where did the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organize the first national capacity building program for tribal vaidyas to strengthen health access in tribal areas?  
**Hyderabad, Telangana**
- ❑ Where did the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying organize the National Fisheries Secretaries Conference, chaired by the Union Fisheries Secretary?  
**New Delhi**
- ❑ Which company was awarded the prestigious "Great Place to Work" certification for the third consecutive time by the "Great Place to Work" Institute (India) for the period from February 2026 to February 2027?  
**Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**
- ❑ Which state recently notified rules to implement the PESA Act, 1996?  
**Jharkhand**
- ❑ Where did Union External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launch the "Global Research Foundation"?  
**IIT, Madras**
- ❑ Which state recently launched India's first DeepTech Startup Policy?  
**Tamil Nadu**
- ❑ Which international airport in India recently became the first water-positive airport?  
**Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**
- ❑ Which state/union territory recently launched the Atal Canteen Scheme?  
**New Delhi**
- ❑ Where did the country's longest glass skywalk bridge become operational?  
**Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

# Economy Current Affairs

## Schemes

### District-Led Textile Transformation (DLTT) Scheme

- ❑ **Announcement:** During the National Conference of Textile Ministers.
- ❑ **Objective:** To accelerate inclusive and sustainable growth in the textile industry.
- ❑ **Basis:** All districts were analyzed based on a data-driven scoring methodology using three criteria:
  1. Export performance
  2. MSME Ecosystem development
  3. Workforce Presence
  - These districts have been categorized into Champion Districts and Aspirational Districts under a two-tiered strategy.
- ❑ **Key Targets:**
  - To transform 100 high-potential textile-producing districts into 'Global Export Champions' by adopting a sector-specific and district-level approach.
  - To develop 100 aspirational districts as 'Self-Reliant Hubs'.
- A. **Champion Districts:** Champion districts will focus on overcoming advanced bottlenecks.
  - This includes upgrading Mega Common Facility Centers (CFCs), integrating Industry 4.0, and facilitating direct export market linkages.
- B. **Aspirational Districts:** The objective is to build a holistic ecosystem from the ground up for basic infrastructure and formalization of the workforce.
  - This includes basic skill development and certification, establishing raw material banks, and promoting micro-enterprises through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperatives.
- ❑ **Special Focus on Eastern and Northeastern Regions:** These regions have been prioritized for tribal belt development, improved connectivity, and Geographical Indication (GI) tagging.

### Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

- ❑ **Why in the news?** The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the centrally Sector Atal Pension Yojana till 2030-31.
- ❑ **Objective:** To provide income security in old age to low-income groups and unorganized sector workers.
- ❑ To transform India into a pension-based society and promote financial inclusion.
- ❑ **Eligibility:** Any Indian citizen between 18 and 40 years of age who does not pay income tax.  
**Provisions:**
  - The scheme provides a minimum guaranteed monthly pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 after the age of 60.
  - The pension amount depends on the subscriber's contribution.

### Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** The government has approved road projects covering more than 10,000 kilometers for Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh,

and Sikkim under the 4th phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

- ❑ Launched: A centrally sponsored scheme operated by the Ministry of Rural Development since December 25, 2000.
- ❑ Phase-I (2000): To provide all-weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations in rural areas.
- ❑ Phase-II (2013): To strengthen the existing rural road network.
  - This phase prioritized the upgradation of selected rural roads that facilitated economic activities and played a crucial role in connecting rural markets and development centers.
- ❑ Phase-III (2019): To strengthen major rural connections, creating robust farm-to-market linkages.
  - Ensuring integration with rural agricultural markets, higher secondary schools, and hospitals.

**PMGSY-IV (2024)**

- ❑ Start: September 2024                      Duration: Financial Year 2024-25 to 2028-29
- ❑ Objective: To connect unconnected habitations with 62,500 kilometers of all-weather roads.
  - This will include the construction and upgradation of roads as well as necessary bridges.
  - This scheme is part of the poverty reduction strategy.
- ❑ Total outlay: Rs. 70,125 crore (Centre: Rs. 49,087.50 crore, State: Rs. 21,037.50 crore)
- ❑ Scope: (1) Providing all-weather road connectivity to 25,000 unconnected habitations.
  - Basis: According to 2011 Census -
    - Population of 500+ in plain areas
    - Population of 250+ in North-Eastern and hilly states/union territories
  - Special category areas, including tribal (Schedule V) areas, aspirational districts/blocks, and desert areas.
- 2) Connectivity will be provided to settlements with a population of more than 100 in districts affected by left-wing extremism.

**MSME Initiatives for Exporters**

- ❑ In the initial phase of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), two pilot initiatives have been launched under the Export Promotion Sub-scheme.

Interest subsidy on export credit (pre-shipment and post-shipment)	Ancillary guarantee support for export credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To reduce the cost of export credit and overcome working capital constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Objective:</b> To eliminate guaranteed obstacles faced by exporters in Dadum and increase access to bank financing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rate:</b> 2.75% (base rate) interest subsidy.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> The interest subsidy will be applicable only to exports included in the list of positive tariff lines notified at the six-digit level of the harmonized system.</li> <li>• <b>Annual Limit:</b> An exporter can avail a maximum assistance of ₹50 lakh per annum for the financial year 2025-26.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Features</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched in partnership with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).</li> </ul> <p><b>Guarantee Coverage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micro and small exporters - up to 85%.</li> <li>• Medium exporters - up to 65%.</li> <li>• <b>Limit:</b> Guaranteed amount of ₹10 crore per exporter per financial year.</li> </ul>

**Launch of Market Access Support (MAS) Initiative**

- ❑ **Launch:** Under the Niryat Disha Sub-scheme of EPM.
- ❑ **Objective:** To establish better connections with buyers through structured and results-oriented market access measures and strengthen India's presence in global markets.
- ❑ **Support Activities and Provisions:**
  - Structured financial and institutional support will be provided under Market Access Support for buyer-seller meetings (BSMs), participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions, mega reverse buyer-seller meetings (RBSMs) in India, and trade delegations to priority/emerging markets.
  - A forward-looking calendar of major market access programs for three to five years will be prepared in advance to help exporters plan their participation.
  - Participation of at least 35% MSMEs is mandatory in the supported programs.
  - New geographical areas and smaller markets will be prioritized to encourage export diversification.

**Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**

- ❑ Approved by the Union Cabinet on November 12, 2025.
- ❑ Announcement: Union Budget 2025-26
- ❑ Implementation Period: 2025-26 to 2030-31
- ❑ Total Outlay: Rs. 25,060 crore
- ❑ Implementation: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- ❑ Two sub-schemes under it - Niryat Protsahan, Niryat Disha

**PLI Scheme for White Goods**

- ❑ The government has selected five companies in the fourth phase of the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods, i.e., household appliances such as washing machines, refrigerators, dishwashers, and air conditioners. These companies have committed to investing Rs 863 crore.
- ❑ According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, these companies manufacture air conditioner components.
- ❑ A total of 85 companies have been selected under the PLI scheme so far.

**Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods**

- ❑ The Union Cabinet approved this scheme in April 2021 with a total outlay of Rs 6,238 crore.
- ❑ Implementation Period: From FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29
- ❑ Nodal Agency: Ministry of Commerce (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade).
- ❑ Objective: To create a robust domestic component ecosystem for the air conditioner and LED light industries and establish India as an integral part of global supply chains.
- ❑ Incentive Rate: Companies are provided incentives ranging from 6% to 4% on a declining basis on incremental sales over a period of five years after the base year and an initial period of one year.

**11 Years of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) Scheme**

- ❑ This flagship scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, from Panipat, Haryana.
- ❑ **Primary Objective:** To prevent gender-biased sex selection and ensure the survival and protection of girl children.
- ❑ **Coverage:** Started with 100 districts with low sex ratio, currently covers all districts of the country.
- ❑ **Implementation:**
  - Jointly by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education.
  - 11 Years of Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)
  - Launched on January 22, 2015, under the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign.
  - It is a small savings scheme notified by the Government of India, currently offering an interest rate of 8.2%.
  - **Objective:** To meet the education and marriage expenses of girl children and ensure their economic empowerment.
- ❑ **Features**
  - **Eligibility:** Girl child from birth up to less than 10 years of age.
  - Only one Sukanya Samriddhi Account can be opened for a girl child.
  - A family can open accounts for a maximum of two girl children.
  - **Deposits:** Minimum Rs. 250 to a maximum of Rs. 1,50,000 in each financial year.
  - **Deposit period:** Up to a maximum of 15 years from the date of account opening.
  - **Management:** The account is managed by the guardian until the girl reaches 18 years of age.
  - **Maturity Period:** When the girl reaches 21 years of age.
  - **Withdrawal:** Upon the girl attaining 18 years of age or passing the tenth grade, up to 50% of the balance can be withdrawn for educational purposes.

**'Woomaniya' Initiative**

- ❑ **Launched:** On January 14, 2019, by Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- ❑ **Main Objective:** To empower the participation of women-led Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) - Self-Help Groups in public procurement.
- ❑ **GeM's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Women's Collective Forum (WCF):** To provide assistance to women entrepreneurs in onboarding, training, documentation, and compliance.
- ❑ **Seven Years of Achievements**
  - **Registration:** Currently, more than 2 lakh women-led MSEs are registered on the GeM portal.
  - **Economic Impact:** They have secured public procurement orders worth over Rs. 80,000 crore.
  - **Exceeding the Target:** This initiative covers 4.7% of GeM's total order value, exceeding the mandatory government target of 3% set for women-owned enterprises.

**'Ann Chakra' Initiative**

- ❑ The 'Ann Chakra' initiative of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) has been selected by INFORMS (The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences) as one of the 6 finalists for the Franz Edelman Award - 2026.

- ❑ The Franz Edelman Award is widely considered the 'Nobel Prize' of Operations Research and Analytics.
- ❑ **'Ann Chakra' Initiative:** An Operations Research (OR) based solution that strengthens India's Public Distribution System (PDS) supply chain by optimizing state-specific logistics.
- ❑ **Development:** By C-DAC (in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and IIT Delhi).
- ❑ **Launch:** In December 2024 by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Prahlad Joshi.
- ❑ This initiative uses advanced algorithms to identify optimal routes for the transportation of food grains.

#### PM Vishwakarma Haat 2026

- ❑ Inauguration: In New Delhi, by the Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Jitan Ram Manjhi.
- ❑ Event: From January 18 to 31, 2026.
- ❑ Objective: To celebrate and showcase India's rich traditional craft heritage.
  - To provide a prominent platform for artisans/beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana to display and market their handcrafted products to national and international buyers, stakeholders, and the general public.

#### Prime Minister Vishwakarma Yojana

- ❑ The Prime Minister Vishwakarma Yojana provides comprehensive benefits to empower artisans and craftspeople. This scheme focuses on preserving traditional skills while creating modern opportunities.
- ❑ **Key Features**
  - Identity Card and Certificate: Issuance of PM Vishwakarma Card.
  - Skill Training: 5-7 days of training with a daily stipend of Rs. 500.
  - Toolkit Incentive: Financial assistance of up to Rs. 15,000 for toolkits.
  - Loan Facility: Collateral-free loan of Rs. 1 lakh in the first tranche and Rs. 2 lakh in the second tranche (up to a total of Rs. 3 lakh).
  - Digital Incentive: Cash rewards for digital transactions.
  - Interest Subsidy: 5% interest subvention on loans for up to 5 years.
  - Marketing Support: Product branding, packaging, QR code marking, e-marketplace linkage, online sales enablement, and access to national and international markets through exhibitions.

## Index/Report

#### Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 4.0 - 2024

- ❑ **Released by:** NITI Aayog.
- ❑ The framework is based on 4 main pillars, which are divided into 13 sub-pillars and 70 indicators.
- ❑ Pillars and their weightage:
 

○ Export Infrastructure: 20%	○ Trade Ecosystem: 40%
○ Policy and Governance: 20%	○ Export Performance: 20%
- ❑ In the financial year 2023-24, total exports (goods and services) reached a record level of ₹65 lakh crore.
- ❑ Share in global trade increased to 1.8%, compared to 1.7% in the previous year.

- ❑ Growth in service exports boosted overall export performance.
- ❑ States have been classified into two main categories:
  1. Large States
  2. Small States, North-Eastern States and Union Territories
- ❑ Each category has been further classified into Leader, Challenger, and Aspirers states.

Category	Description	Rank	Large States (Score)	Small States, Northeastern States and Union Territories (Score)
Leader	High-performing states that are leaders in exports and ready for global competition.	Top	1. Maharashtra (68.01) 2. Tamil Nadu (64.41) 3. Gujarat (64.02) 4. Uttar Pradesh 5. Andhra Pradesh	1. Uttarakhand (52.07) 2. Jammu and Kashmir (51.08) 3. Nagaland (46.42) 4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 5. Goa
Challenger	Medium-performing states that have the potential to become leaders through reforms.			
Aspirer	Emerging states that can progress through fundamental reforms and capacity building.	Last	17. Jharkhand	19. Lakshadweep

- ❑ Rajasthan's Ranking (Score - 47.31): Overall States - 17th, Large States - 15th (Aspirers Category)
- ❑ The last position among all states is held by Lakshadweep, while the top-ranked states are the same as the top-ranked large states.

**Key Reports released by NITI Aayog**

1. **Decarbonization Roadmap for the Cement Sector**
  - a. Cement production is projected to increase from 391 million tonnes in 2023 to a seven-fold increase (approximately 2100 million tonnes) by 2070.
  - b. As part of the carbon emission reduction strategy, the cement sector will have to reduce its carbon intensity from 0.63 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne of cement to approximately 0.09-0.13 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per tonne by 2070.
  - c. To achieve deep decarbonization in this sector, prioritizing the use of refuse-derived fuels, clinker substitution, expansion of carbon capture, utilization and storage, and effective implementation of the carbon credit trading scheme have been proposed.
2. **Decarbonization Roadmap for the Aluminium Sector**
  - a. Aluminium production is estimated to increase from 4 million tonnes in 2023 to 37 million tonnes by 2070.
  - b. Decarbonization Roadmap identifies three phased solutions:
    - i. Transition to 24/7 renewable energy electricity and improved grid connectivity in the short term.
    - ii. Adoption of nuclear energy in the medium term.
    - iii. Integration of CCUS in the long term.
3. **Roadmap for Green Transition in the MSME Sector**
  - a. India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute approximately 30% to the national GDP, provide employment to over 250 million people, and contribute approximately 46% to exports.
  - b. The roadmap for the green transition of MSMEs focuses on three key factors:
    - i. Deployment of energy-efficient equipment.
    - ii. Adoption of alternative fuels.
    - iii. Integration of green electricity.

4. **Report on 'Achieving Efficiency in the MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes'**
  - a. The report outlines a strategic roadmap to strengthen the effectiveness of government support for India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
  - b. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) currently operates 18 schemes covering various sectors.
  - c. The report emphasizes that effective coordination and rationalization of schemes can ensure better utilization of resources by simplifying access for beneficiaries.
  - d. The report recommends a dual approach to convergence:
    - i. Information Convergence: Integrating data generated by the government at the central and state levels.
    - ii. Process Convergence: This involves merging similar schemes, combining common components, and promoting collaboration between ministries and states.
  - e. Main Recommendations: Centralized portal for MSMEs, convergence of cluster development schemes, coordination of skill development programs, marketing assistance wing, MSME Innovation and Entrepreneurship Promotion Scheme (ASPIRE).
  - f. The major flagship programs like the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and PM Vishwakarma have been recommended to be kept independent considering their broad scope and strategic economic importance.
5. Promoting the Circular Economy of Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (E-waste) and Lithium-ion Batteries in India.
6. Improving the Circular Economy of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) in India.
7. Improving the Circular Economy of Waste Tires in India.

**State Finance Report 2023-24**

- ❑ Released by: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
- ❑ The total public debt of all states as of March 31, 2024, was ₹67.87 lakh crore. This is approximately 23% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- ❑ In FY 2023-24, 18 states recorded a fiscal deficit exceeding the prescribed limit of 3% of GSDP.
- ❑ By 2023-24, the share of central tax transfers in state revenues has increased to approximately 30%. This has increased sensitivity to national fluctuations.

**Miscellaneous****India's First Open-Sea Marine Fish Farming Project**

- ❑ **Launch:** By Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in Sri Vijayapuram, Andaman Sea.
- ❑ **Implementation:** By the Ministry of Earth Sciences, through its technical arm, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
- ❑ **Objective:** To create sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities.
- ❑ To establish the technical feasibility for the expansion of open-sea aquaculture under India's Blue Economy policy.
- ❑ The pilot initiative focuses on open-sea farming of marine finfish and seaweed in natural marine conditions.

**Finfish Farming:** 'Finfish seeds' provided for cage-based farming, developed by NIOT.

**Deep-Water Seaweed Cultivation:** Seeds (seaweed seeds) provided to local fishermen.

### Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved equity support of ₹5,000 crore for SIDBI.
- ❑ The equity capital will be invested in SIDBI by the Department of Financial Services in three tranches:
  - Financial Year 2025-26: ₹3,000 crore
  - Financial Year 2026-27: ₹1,000 crore
  - Financial Year 2027-28: ₹1,000 crore

### SIDBI

- ❑ **Establishment:** In 1990 under the Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989.
- ❑ **Headquarters:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ It is the principal institution providing financial assistance to the MSME sector.
- ❑ **Role:** Works for the promotion, financing, and development of MSMEs.

### Payment Regulatory Board (PRB)

- ❑ The first meeting of the PRB was held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- ❑ **Formation:** Under Section 3(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007.
- ❑ Replaced the erstwhile Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS).
- ❑ It is the body responsible for the regulation, supervision and development of payment and settlement systems in India.
- ❑ **Structure:** 6 members
  - Chairman - RBI Governor
  - Two representatives from RBI - Deputy Governor and Executive Director in charge of Payment and Settlement Systems.

- 3 members nominated by the Government - Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and former Telecom Secretary Aruna Sundararajan.

### Coking Coal

- ❑ The Government of India has notified coking coal as a critical and strategic mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
- ❑ Estimated reserves: 37.37 billion tonnes
  - Jharkhand (primarily), Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.
- ❑ Imports of coking coal increased from 51.20 million tonnes in 2020-21 to 57.58 million tonnes in 2024-25.
- ❑ Approximately 95 percent of the coking coal requirement in the steel sector is met through imports.

### India's Power Transmission Network Exceeds 5 Lakh Circuit Kilometers

- ❑ The national power transmission network has achieved a significant milestone, including:
  - Transmission lines: More than 5 lakh circuit kilometers (ckm) (220 kV and above)
  - Transformation capacity: 1,407 GVA (220 kV and above)
- ❑ The world's largest synchronous national grid achieved this milestone on January 14, 2026, when a 628-kilometer-long 765 kV transmission line from Bhadla II to Sikar II substation was commissioned to evacuate renewable energy from the Rajasthan renewable energy zone.
  - The commissioning of this transmission line will enable the evacuation of an additional 1100 MW of power from the renewable energy zones of Bhadla, Ramgarh, and Fatehgarh solar power complexes.
- ❑ The country's transmission network has grown by 71.6% since April 2014, with the addition of 2.09 lakh circuit kilometers (220 kV and above) of transmission lines.

**SagarMala Finance Corporation Limited (SFC)**

- ❑ SFC is India's first Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to launch maritime finance-focused lending operations.
- ❑ Objective: To provide sector-specific financial solutions to ports, startups, and institutions in line with the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047' and blue economy goals.
- ❑ Formation: By Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, on June 26, 2025.
- ❑ Nodal Agency: the Maritime Development Fund (Rs. 25,000 crore).
- ❑ The company sanctioned loans worth approximately Rs. 4,300 crore in its 51st board meeting.

**Approval for the Development of a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour**

- ❑ Location: Mayabunder (Andaman)
- ❑ Cost: Rs. 200 crore
- ❑ Objective: To unlock the fisheries potential of the islands and achieve the target of ₹1 lakh crore in seafood exports by 2030-31.
- ❑ Funding: 100% Central assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

**SkillTheNation AI Challenge Launched**

- ❑ **Launch:** By President Droupadi Murmu on January 1, 2026, under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship's SOAR (Skilling for AI Readiness) initiative.
- ❑ Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Initiative
  - Launched: In July 2025 under the Skill India Mission.
  - Objective/Goal: To develop AI awareness and foundational skills among school students in grades 6-12 and build AI literacy among teachers (government and private schools).
  - Implementation: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**India Becomes the World's Largest Rice Producer**

- ❑ India surpassed China to become the world's largest producer of rice.

- ❑ Rice Production:
  1. India (15.01 crore tonnes)
  2. China (14.52 crore tonnes)
- ❑ Top Rice Producing States:
  1. Uttar Pradesh
  2. Punjab
  3. West Bengal
  4. Madhya Pradesh

**India's Foreign Exchange Reserves at Record High**

- ❑ According to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 23, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$8.053 billion to reach an all-time high of \$709.413 billion.
- ❑ Previously, India's foreign exchange reserves had reached \$704.89 billion in September 2024, which was the all-time high at that time.

**India's First All-Electric Tug Project**

- ❑ Inauguration: By Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal virtually.
- ❑ Objective: To accelerate India's maritime decarbonization efforts.
- ❑ Development: For Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla (Gujarat).
- ❑ Construction: By Atreya Shipyard, Goa under the 'Green Tug Transition' Program (GTTP).
- ❑ Capacity: 60-ton bollard pull

**'Green Tug Transition' Program (GTTP)**

- ❑ GTTP Target: To include 50 green tugs by 2030.
- ❑ Implementation: By the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ❑ Under the first phase, 16 tugs will be deployed between 2024 and 2027. Two green tugs each will be deployed at Deendayal Port Authority, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority and Paradip Port Authority. One tug each will be deployed at the remaining 8 major ports.

**Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026**

- ❑ **Objective:** To streamline procedures related to the export and import of goods and services, and to strengthen the monitoring of foreign exchange transactions.
- ❑ Issued by: Reserve Bank of India.
- ❑ Effective: From October 2026.
- ❑ The rules issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 will replace the Goods and Services Export Regulations of 2015.

**New Rules**

- ❑ Exporters will have to submit an Export Declaration Form to the designated authority.
- ❑ A time limit of 15 months has been set for the receipt and repatriation of export proceeds, which can be extended by the authorized dealer based on valid reasons. This period will be 18 months for transactions conducted in Indian Rupees.
- ❑ The rules also provide for the adjustment of export receipts against amounts payable for imports and allow third-party payments after due verification.

**Comprehensive Mediclaim AYUSH Insurance Policy**

- ❑ The Department of Financial Services has launched a comprehensive Mediclaim AYUSH insurance policy for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- ❑ This policy offers cashless facilities, modern treatments, and a wide hospital network.
- ❑ Features:
  - A maximum of six members can be covered under one policy, with sum insured options of ₹10 lakh or ₹20 lakh for hospitalization within the country.
  - Beneficiaries have the option to choose between 70:30 or 50:50 co-payment between the insurance company and the customer.
  - Coverage is available for 30 days before hospitalization and 60 days after discharge.

**New Logo and Mascot of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**

- ❑ The message of the new logo - 'Data for Development'.
- ❑ The new mascot reflects the core values of the Ministry of statistics: Accuracy, transparency, and data-driven governance.



**Smart Green Aquaculture Farm and Research Institute**

- ❑ Location: Ranga Reddy, Telangana
- ❑ Established by: Smart Green Aquaculture Limited
- ❑ India's first commercial tropical Recirculatory Aquaculture System (RAS) based Rainbow Trout fish farming farm and research institute.

**NHAI's Four Guinness World Records**

- ❑ NHAI, in collaboration with the Concessionaire M/s Rajpath Infracon Private Limited, set four Guinness World Records on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada Economic Corridor being built on NH-544G.
  - Longest continuous laying of bituminous concrete over 28.89 lane kilometers or 9.63 kilometers of 3-lane width in 24 hours.
  - Record for the highest quantity of bituminous concrete continuously laid in 24 hours: 10,655 metric tons.
  - Total quantity record: A new record was set for laying a total of 57,500 metric tons of bituminous concrete continuously during construction.
  - Paving Record: NHAI set a record by constructing 156 lane kilometers (52 kilometers long section with 3 lanes wide) of continuous paved road.

## PFRDA High-Level Committee

- ❑ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has constituted a high-level committee to frame guidelines and regulations for a guaranteed payment framework under the National Pension System (NPS).
- ❑ Chairperson: Dr. M.S. Sahoo (Former Chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India)
- ❑ Composition: Chairperson + 15 Members

## Matabari Tourism Circuit

- ❑ **Location:** Narkel Kunja at Dumboor Lake, Tripura
- ❑ **Inaugurated by:** Minister of Development of North Eastern Region and Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- ❑ **Cost:** Rs. 450 crore
- ❑ The Matabari Tourism Circuit will integrate the Tripura Sundari Temple, Chabimura, and Dumboor Lake.

व्यक्तित्व तिलका मांझी



## संथाल विद्रोह के नायक

संथाल आदिवासी तिलका मांझी ने 1857 की लड़ाई से तकरीबन 80 साल पहले अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ धनुष बाण के दम पर ही विद्रोह छेड़ दिया था। उन्होंने आदिवासियों को एक सेना के रूप में संगठित किया और 1784 में प्रसिद्ध संथाल विद्रोह का नेतृत्व किया। उन्होंने अपने समुदाय के साथ ब्रिटिश ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी के कोषागार पर छापा मार दिया था जिसके कारण उन्हें फांसी की सजा दी गई। उन्होंने न सिर्फ अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ अदम्य साहस का परिचय दिया बल्कि संघर्ष से संपूर्ण भारत को स्वतंत्रता हासिल करने के लिए किया प्रेरित...

■ जन्म: 11 फरवरी 1750 ■ शहीदी दिवस: 13 जनवरी 1785

**भा**रत का अतीत, इतिहास, वर्तमान और भविष्य आदिवासी समाज के बिना पूरा नहीं होता। देश की आजादी की लड़ाई का पग-पग, इतिहास का पन्ना-पन्ना आदिवासी वीरता से भरा पड़ा है। ऐसे ही एक नायक थे तिलका मांझी, जिन्होंने ब्रिटिश ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी की ज्यादतियों के खिलाफ संघर्ष किया और विदेशी हुकूमत के खिलाफ संग्राम का विगुल फूंक दिया। वो भी तब जब अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ कहीं कोई विद्रोह की बात नहीं हो रही थी। 1857 की क्रांति से भी पहले 1784 में संथाल में उनके नेतृत्व में 'दामिन सत्याग्रह' लड़ा गया था। वह ऐसा समय था जब अंग्रेज किसी न किसी तरह से अपना विस्तार करते जा रहे थे। मांझी की धीरे-धीरे जंजीरों के बेड़ियों में जकड़ने का प्रयास कर रहे थे।

11 फरवरी 1750 को बिहार में भागलपुर के सुल्तानगंज में एक संथाल परिवार में जन्मे तिलका मांझी ने अपने बहादुरी के दम पर न केवल अंग्रेजों के नाक में दम कर दिया बल्कि अंग्रेजी शासकों को जीते जी कभी चैन की नींद सोने नहीं दिया। मांझी का असल नाम जाबर पहाड़िया बताया जाता है। कहते हैं कि तिलका नाम उन्हें अंग्रेजों ने दिया था। एक बार एक अंग्रेज ने इनकी घूरती लाल आंखों में देखा था। दरअसल पहाड़िया भाषा में 'तिलका' का अर्थ गुस्सेल और लाल-लाल आंखों वाला व्यक्ति होता है। दस्तावेजों में यह उनकी पहचान बन गई और इतिहास में तिलका नाम अमर हो गया। ब्रिटिश सत्ता के विरुद्ध लंबा संघर्ष करने वाले तिलका मांझी ने अंग्रेजों के सामने कभी भी समर्पण नहीं किया। न ही कभी झुके और न ही डरे।

उन्होंने न केवल अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ बगावत का विगुल फूंक

था बल्कि उन्होंने स्थानीय सुदखोरों-जमोंदारों के खिलाफ भी मुहिम छेड़ी थी। 1778 में उन्होंने पहाड़िया सरदारों से मिलकर रामगढ़ कैप को अंग्रेजों से मुक्त करवाया। 1784 में राजमहल के मजिस्ट्रेट क्लीवलैंड को मार डाला। इसके बाद अंग्रेज उनके पीछे पड़ गए और आखिरकार उन्हें गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया। गिरफ्तारी के बाद अंग्रेज उन्हें चोड़े से बांधकर घसीटते हुए भागलपुर ले गए। 13 जनवरी 1785 को भागलपुर के चौराहे पर एक विशाल वटवृक्ष में लटका कर फांसी दे दी। यही वजह है कि तिलका मांझी को भारत का प्रथम स्वतंत्रता सेनानी भी कहा जाता है।

तिलका मांझी के नाम पर भागलपुर में तिलका मांझी भागलपुर विश्वविद्यालय है। साथ ही बांग्ला की सुप्रसिद्ध लेखिका महाश्वेता देवी ने उनके जीवन और विद्रोह पर बांग्ला भाषा में एक उपन्यास 'शालगिरर डाके' की रचना की है जिसे हिंदी में 'शालगिरर की पुकार पर' नाम से अनुवादित और प्रकाशित किया गया है। 29 अक्टूबर 2023 को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने मन की बात कार्यक्रम में तिलका मांझी को याद किया था। उन्होंने कहा था कि भारतवर्ष में आदिवासी योद्धाओं का समृद्ध इतिहास रहा है। इसी भारत भूमि पर महान तिलका मांझी ने अन्याय के खिलाफ विगुल फूंक था। साथ ही 24 फरवरी 2025 को बिहार के भागलपुर में विकास कार्यों के शुभारंभ अवसर पर भी उन्होंने कहा था कि इस धरती में आस्था भी है, विरासत भी है और विकसित भारत का सामर्थ्य भी है। ये शहीद तिलका मांझी की धरती है, ये सिल्क सिटी भी है। इतना ही नहीं उन्होंने अन्य अवसरों पर भी तिलका मांझी को श्रद्धापूर्वक नमन किया है।

### Important Journeys

#### Ursula von der Leyen's Visit to India

- ❑ European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was on a four-day official visit to India.
- ❑ Ursula von der Leyen co-chaired the 16<sup>th</sup> EU-India Summit held in New Delhi with European Council President Antonio Costa.

#### India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement at the 16<sup>th</sup> India-EU Summit on January 27.
- ❑ This is in line with India's Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.
- ❑ The European Union has become India's 22<sup>nd</sup> FTA partner.

#### Key Provisions

- ❑ India will receive preferential access to European markets on 97 % of tariff lines, covering 99.5 % of trade value.
- ❑ India has offered the European Union 92.1 % of its tariff lines, covering 97.5 % of EU exports.
- ❑ In the services sector, India will receive preferential access in 144 service sub-sectors, including IT/ITES, professional services, education, and other business services, while the European Union will receive preferential access in 102 sub-sectors such as professional, business, telecommunications, maritime, financial, and environmental services.
- ❑ This agreement has been called the "MOTHER OF ALL DEALS" because -

- ❑ The combined market value of India and the European Union is estimated to be over 1 2091.6 lakh crore (US\$24 trillion).
- ❑ India and the European Union are the fourth and second largest economies respectively, accounting for 25 percent of global GDP and one-third of global trade.

#### German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's Visit to India

- ❑ This was Friedrich Merz's first official visit to India.
- ❑ Objective: To further strengthen bilateral relations between India and Germany.
- ❑ India and Germany are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations and 25 years of the India-Germany strategic partnership.
- ❑ The German Chancellor held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ahmedabad. Following this, both leaders participated in the International Kite Festival held at the Sabarmati Riverfront.
- ❑ India-Germany bilateral program organized at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.

#### Key Agreements

1. To strengthen bilateral economic cooperation by integrating the India-Germany Joint Economic and Investment Committee and establishing a CEO Forum as part of it.
2. For the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence for Skill Development in Renewable Energy at the National Skill Training Institute, Hyderabad.
3. Agreement between the National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal and the German Maritime Museum - Leibniz Institute for Maritime History, Bremerhaven, for the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal.

4. Between the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board and the German Technical and Scientific Association: for the gas and water industry.
  5. Between the Indian company AM Green and the German company Uniper Global Commodities for the purchase of green ammonia.
  6. Between the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology and Infineon Technologies AG.
  7. Between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and Charité University, Germany.
  8. On the extension of the tenure of the Indo-German Science and Technology Centre.
  9. Between Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation (Deutscher Hockey-Bund e.V.) on youth hockey development.
  10. Other agreements - on defense industrial cooperation, semiconductors, minerals, telecommunications sector, bio-economy, higher education, postal services, sports, and fair, ethical and sustainable recruitment of health professionals, etc.
- **Announcements**
- Announcement of visa-free transit through Germany for Indian passport holders.
  - Establishment of a 'Track 1.5 Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue' mechanism.
  - Inauguration of the German Honorary Consulate in Ahmedabad.
  - Expanding projects under the India-Germany trilateral development cooperation in Ghana (Digital Technology Centre for Bamboo Design and Processing), Cameroon (Climate-Resilient RAC Technology Laboratory for Nationwide Potato Seed Innovation), and Malawi (Centre for Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Agricultural Value Chain for Women and Youth).

**Visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, to India**

- This was Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's fifth visit to India in the last ten

years, and his third official visit to India as President of the United Arab Emirates on January 19, 2026.

- Agreements/MoUs/Letters of Intent
1. Between the State of Gujarat and the Ministry of Investment of the United Arab Emirates for the development of the Dholera Special Investment Region.
  2. Between the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) and the UAE Space Agency for space industry development and commercial cooperation.
  3. On Strategic Defence Partnership between the Republic of India and the United Arab Emirates.
  4. **Sale and Purchase Agreement between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) Gas:** Under this long-term agreement, HPCL will purchase 0.5 MTPA of LNG from ADNOC Gas for a period of 10 years, commencing in 2028.
  5. Memorandum of Understanding between APEDA (under India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment on food safety and technical requirements
- **Announcements**
- India's C-DAC and UAE's G-42 company will collaborate to establish a supercomputing cluster in India
  - Doubling bilateral trade to US\$200 billion by 2032
  - Promoting bilateral civil nuclear cooperation
  - Establishment of offices and operations of UAE companies - First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) and DP World - in Gujarat's GIFT City
  - Exploring the possibility of establishing a 'Digital/Data Embassy'
  - Establishment of a 'House of India' in Abu Dhabi

## Popular places

### France

- ❑ France has approved a Bill to ban social media platforms (such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat) for children under 15 years of age.  
? **Implementation:** From the academic year starting in September 2026.  
? **Objective:** This decision aims to protect children's mental health, prevent cyberbullying, and control screen time.

### Ecuador

- ❑ President Daniel Noboa has declared a 60-day state of emergency in nine provinces and three municipalities.
- ❑ **Reason:** The measure was taken due to the unrest caused by escalating criminal violence.

### Peru

- ❑ Two Peruvian municipalities Satipo and Nauta, have passed an ordinance granting legal rights to Amazonian stingless bees, making them the first insects globally to receive such recognition.

### Bulgaria

- ❑ Bulgaria has adopted the Euro as its official currency, becoming the 21<sup>st</sup> member of the Eurozone.
- ❑ The Bulgarian lev will remain in circulation alongside the Euro until January, and from February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Euro will become the country's sole legal tender.

### Denmark

- ❑ Denmark has become the first country to discontinue its 400-year-old traditional postal service for letter delivery.
- ❑ **Reason:** The decision was made following the rise of digital communication and a more than 90 % decline in government postal services.

### Australia

- ❑ A state of disaster has been declared in Victoria due to severe bushfires.
- ❑ **Finke River:** It has been recognized as the world's oldest continuously flowing river. It flows through the Northern Territory of Australia. This river is considered older than the dinosaurs.

## Famous personalities

### Sunita Williams

- ❑ Astronaut Sunita Williams has retired from NASA after a distinguished 27-year career in space.
- ❑ **Introduction:**  
**Born:** September 19, 1965, in Euclid, Ohio. She joined NASA in 1998.  
She was also the first astronaut to run a marathon in space.  
Awarded the NASA Space Flight Medal and the Padma Bhushan (2008).
- ❑ **India Connection:** Her father, Deepak Pandya was from Jhulasan (Mehsana) in Gujarat. She carried the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads into space.

### Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani

- ❑ Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar has been elected as the new president of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**.

### Delcy Rodríguez

- ❑ The Venezuelan Supreme Court ordered the appointment of Vice President Delcy Rodríguez as acting president.

### Mamady Doumbouya

- ❑ Elected President of Guinea.

### Yoweri Museveni

- ❑ Elected President of Uganda for the seventh time.

**Shaya Mohsen Jindani**

- ❑ Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Jindani has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Yemen.
- ❑ **Reason:** Due to increasing tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Yemeni Prime Minister Salem bin Breik submitted his resignation to the Saudi-backed Presidential Leadership Council, which was accepted.

**Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor**

- ❑ Senior Taliban member Mufti Noor Ahmad Noor assumed the position of Acting Charge d’Affaires at the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi.

**DB Venkatesh Verma**

- ❑ Senior Indian diplomat DB Venkatesh Verma has been appointed by the UN Secretary-General as the Chairman of the “Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters” for the 2026-27 term.

**Events/Conferences/Meetings**

**Subroto Mukherjee International Seminar**

- ❑ **Organized at:** Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- ❑ **Organized by:** Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies
- ❑ **Theme:** ‘National Security Imperatives’

**2<sup>nd</sup> India-Sri Lanka Hindi Conference**

- ❑ **Organized by:** Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and Indian High Commission, Colombo (Sri Lanka)
- ❑ Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha inaugurated the event in the presence of Sri Lanka’s Deputy Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Madhura Seneviratne.

**16th International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Meeting**

- ❑ **Organized in:** Abu Dhabi, UAE

- ❑ Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, highlighted India’s efforts in integrating renewable energy into agriculture and food systems.

**27<sup>th</sup> Intersec 2026**

- ❑ **Organized at:** Dubai World Trade Centre (UAE)
- ❑ This is the world’s leading and largest exhibition in the field of security, safety, and fire protection.

**4<sup>th</sup> One Billion Followers Summit**

- ❑ **Organized in:** United Arab Emirates
- ❑ **Theme:** Content for Good

**Gulfood 2026**

- ❑ **Organized at:** Dubai World Trade Centre and Expo City Dubai (UAE)
- ❑ India participated in this conference for the first time as a partner country.

*Gulfood*

26-30 JAN 2026

DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE  
DUBAI EXPO CITY

The World’s Biggest Food Show  
**EVEN BIGGER IN 2026**

**India Festival 2026**

- ❑ **Organized in:** Doha, Qatar

**Other Conferences**

- ❑ The India AI Mission, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad, hosted a working group meeting on inclusion for social empowerment at the IIT Hyderabad campus.
- ❑ The 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers’ Meeting on the theme ‘Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence’ was held virtually under the co-chairmanship of India and Vietnam.

- ❑ The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
- ❑ The Indian Consulate in Toronto, Canada, organized the “India-Canada AI Dialogue 2026”.

## Awards

**83<sup>rd</sup> Golden Globe Awards 2026**

- ❑ The Golden Globe Awards are given annually to recognize excellence in film and television.
- ❑ **Organizer:** Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)
- ❑ **Venue:** Beverly Hilton Hotel, California
- ❑ American stand-up comedian and actress **Nikki Glaser** hosted the event for the second consecutive year.
- ❑ This award is given in two categories:

**1. Golden Globes 2026 Winners List: Film Awards**

	(i) Drama	(ii) Comedy/Music
Best Film	Hammett	One Battle After Another
Best Actor	Wagner Moura (Film: The Secret Agent)	Timothée Chalamet (Film: Marty Supreme)
Best Actress	Jessie Buckley (Film: Hammett)	Rose Byrne (Film: If I Had Legs I'd Kick You)

(iii) **Motion Picture**

**Best Animated Motion Picture** - K-Pop Demon Hunters

- **Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language)** - The Secret Agent (Brazil)
- **Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture** - Stellan Skarsgård (Film - Sentimental Value)
- **Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture** - Teyana Taylor (Film - One Battle After Another)

- (iv) **Best Director** - Paul Thomas Anderson (Film - One Battle After Another)
- (v) **Best Screenplay** - Paul Thomas Anderson (Film - One Battle After Another)
- (vi) **Best Original Song** - Golden from K-Pop Demon Hunters
- (vii) **Cinematic and Box Office Achievement** - Sinners
- (viii) **Best Original Score** - Sinners

**2. Golden Globes 2026 Winners List: TV Awards**

	(i) Drama	(ii) Comedy/Music	(iii) Motion Picture (Limited Series, Anthology Series, or Television)
Best TV Series	The Pit	The Studio	Adolescence
Best Actor	Noah Wyle (The Pit)	Seth Rogen (for The Studio)	Stephen Graham (for Adolescence)
Best Actress	Pluribus (Rhea Seehorn)	Jean Smart (for Hacks)	Michelle Williams (for Dying for Sex)

- ❑ **Best Podcast** - Good Hang with Amy Poehler
- ❑ **Stand-Up Comedy Performance** - Ricky Gervais for Morality
- ❑ **Best Supporting Actor** - Owen Cooper (for Adolescence)
- ❑ **Best Supporting Actress** - Erin Doherty (for Adolescence)

**UN Secretariat Award**

- ❑ **Presented by:** United Nations
- ❑ **Winner:** Major Swati Shanta Kumar
- ❑ **Category:** This award was given to her in the Gender category.
- ❑ Major Swati made a significant contribution to gender equality and peacekeeping through the 'Equal Partners, Lasting Peace' project while deployed in South Sudan.
- ❑ Major Swati Shanta Kumar is from Bengaluru. Swati is posted in South Sudan. She is an officer in the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME).

**Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025**

- ❑ **Winner:** Graça Machel (Human rights activist from Mozambique)
- ❑ **Presented by:** Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust
- ❑ **Award amount:** Includes one crore rupees and a trophy along with a citation.
- ❑ **Contribution:** For her groundbreaking contributions in the fields of education, health and nutrition, economic empowerment, and humanitarian work in challenging circumstances.

❑ **Introduction:** Graça Machel was born on October 17, 1945. She received a scholarship to study German at the University of Lisbon, where her political consciousness regarding independence was first awakened. Machel was married to Samora Moisés Machel, the first president of Mozambique, who died in 1986. Later, she married former South African President Nelson Mandela.

**Tyler Prize - 2026**

- ❑ **Recipient:** Dr. Toby Kiers, American evolutionary Biologist
- ❑ **Field/Category:** How underground mycorrhizal networks regulate ecosystems and climate.
- ❑ It is called the "Nobel Prize of the Environment"

**Asia Best Employer Brand Award - 2026**

- ❑ **Event:** Hong Kong Leadership Awards and CMO Asia Awards.
- ❑ **Recipient:** Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

**Major operations**

**Operation Absolute Resolve**

- ❑ The US attacked Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, arresting President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, and taking them to the US.
- ❑ A national emergency has been declared in Venezuela amidst reports of US attacks.
- ❑ **Reason:** Nicolás Maduro is accused of a narco-terrorism conspiracy, a cocaine import conspiracy, and possessing machine guns and destructive devices against the US.

**Miscellaneous News**

**Cyclone Hayley**

- ❑ **Affected Area:** Northern coast of Western Australia.

**Storm Gorette**

- ❑ **Affected Area:** Northern France and Southern England
- ❑ It originated in the **Atlantic Ocean**. It is also called a **weather bomb**.

**Storm Fern**

- ❑ **Affected Area:** North America
- ❑ This storm is caused by powerful cold winds coming from the **Arctic**, which typically occur during the coldest time of each year.

**Muslim Brotherhood**

- ❑ The US has declared the Egyptian, Lebanese, and Jordanian branches of the Muslim Brotherhood as "terrorist organizations".

## Akasa Air

- ❑ Akasa Air is officially the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian airline to become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

## US to return 3 ancient bronze sculptures to India

- ❑ The Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Asian Art has announced that it will return three rare ancient bronze sculptures to the Government of India. After thorough investigation and extensive research, it was proven that these sculptures were stolen from temples in Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ Shiva Nataraja (Chola period, approximately 990 AD)
- ❑ Somaskanda (Chola period, 12<sup>th</sup> century)
- ❑ Saint Sundarar vid Paravai (Vijayanagar period, 16<sup>th</sup> century)

## 5 new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council

- ❑ **New members:** Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Latvia, Liberia. (Began their two-year term on January 1)
- ❑ **Members serving until the end of 2026:** Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia

## Important One-Liners

- ❑ The Indian Navy will establish a new naval base in Haldia, West Bengal.
- ❑ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will participate in the G-7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting.
- ❑ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited France and Luxembourg.
- ❑ Poland's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski visited India for three days.
- ❑ The 49<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair was held at the Boi-Mela grounds in Salt Lake, Kolkata. The focus country was Argentina.

- ❑ The President of Mauritius, Dharam Gokhool, arrived in India on a visit.
- ❑ The United Nations has declared 2026 as the '**International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**', aiming to raise awareness about the world's vital grasslands and the pastoralists who sustain them.
- ❑ The year 2026 is being celebrated as the '**ASEAN - India Maritime Cooperation Year 2026**'.
- ❑ US President Donald Trump has announced the official withdrawal of the United States from **66 international organizations**, including the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- ❑ Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, has joined the BRICS Network University for '**Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security**', becoming the only state agricultural university to represent India in this field.
- ❑ The European Union (EU) has implemented the world's 1<sup>st</sup> carbon tax, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), on high-carbon emission imported goods such as steel, aluminum, cement, and fertilizers, effective January 1, 2026.
- ❑ The Government of India has launched the **E-Production Investment Business Visa (EB-4)** for China, effective January 1. Under this, Chinese businesspersons can apply to travel to India for specific business purposes.
- ❑ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **World Economic Forum** to collaborate on strengthening India's skills and technical and vocational education and training ecosystem.
- ❑ **Spain** has joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
- ❑ Officials from Russia, Ukraine, and the United States met in **Abu Dhabi** to discuss a peace plan.

S.No	Report/Index	Issuer	India's Rank	1 <sup>st</sup> and last
1.	<b>Hanley Passport Index-2026</b>	Hanley & Partners	80 <sup>th</sup> rank (visa free score = 55)	1 <sup>st</sup> = Singapore (Score=192) 101 <sup>th</sup> = Afghanistan (Score=24)
2.	<b>Asia Manufacturing Index-2026</b>	Dezan Shira & Associates (Hongkong)	6 <sup>th</sup> rank among 11 major Asian manufacturing economics	1 <sup>st</sup> - China 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Malaysia 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Vietnam 11 <sup>th</sup> - Bangladesh
3.	<b>40 Under 40 : The Richest Self-made Billionaires under 40</b>	Forbes Note - There are 71 self-made billionaires in the world under the age of 40 <b>(4 Indian origin in 40 under)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19<sup>th</sup>-Ankur Jain (USA)</li> <li>20<sup>th</sup> Nikhil Kamath (Only Indian based Entrepreneur)</li> <li>27<sup>th</sup> Adarsh Hiremath &amp; Surya Midha (USA)</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> - Edwin chen (USA)
4.	<b>Responsible Nations Index-2026</b>	World Intellectual Foundation (WIF) <b>Parameters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethical Governance</li> <li>Social well- being</li> <li>Environmental stewardship</li> <li>Global Responsibility</li> </ul>	16 <sup>th</sup> (Score=0. 551)	1 <sup>st</sup> - Singapore (Score=0.619) 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Switzerland 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Denmark 154 <sup>th</sup> - Central African Republic (Score=0.357)
5.	<b>Global Soft Power Index 2026</b>	Brand Finance	32 <sup>nd</sup> (Score 48.00)	1 <sup>st</sup> - USA (Score 74.9) 2 <sup>nd</sup> - China (Score 73.5) 193 <sup>rd</sup> - Kiribati (Score 19.7)
6.	<b>Traffic Index Ranking 2025</b>	Tom Tom	<b>Worldwide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> - Mexico (75.9%)</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> - Bengaluru (74.4%)</li> <li>5<sup>th</sup> - Pune</li> <li>18<sup>th</sup> - Mumbai</li> <li>23 - New Delhi</li> <li>29<sup>th</sup> - Kolkata</li> <li>30<sup>th</sup> - Jaipur (58.7%)</li> </ul>	<b>Asia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> - Bengaluru</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> -Pune</li> <li>6<sup>th</sup> -Mumbai</li> <li>7<sup>th</sup> -New Delhi</li> <li>9<sup>th</sup> -Kolkata</li> <li>10<sup>th</sup> -Jaipur</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Global 500 Report 2026</b>	Brand Finance 14 Indian brands in the top 500. India's share of global brand value:1.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61<sup>st</sup> - Tata Group</li> <li>150<sup>th</sup> - Infosys</li> <li>169<sup>th</sup> - LIC</li> </ul>	1 <sup>st</sup> - Apple (\$607Billion) 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Microsoft (\$565 Billion)
8.	<b>IT Services 25 Report 2026</b>	Brand Finance	<b>8 Indian brands in top 25.</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> - TCS (\$ 21.2 B) 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Infosys	1 <sup>st</sup> - Accenture (\$ 42.3 B)

## Space Technology

### EOS-01 Mission

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s EOS-01 mission failed due to a malfunction in the PS3 stage.
- ❑ **Objective:** EOS-01 is an Earth observation satellite, primarily used for agriculture, forestry, and disaster management support.
- ❑ **Launch Vehicle:** PSLV-C62
- ❑ **Launch Site:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
- ❑ This is the second consecutive time that the PSLV rocket has faced failure in its missions.
- ❑ A total of 16 satellites were to be launched in this mission.

### Russia has placed 52 'eyes' in the sky

- ❑ Russia launched 52 satellites from the Vostochny Cosmodrome using a Soyuz-2.1b rocket. These included two Aist-2D satellites and 50 small satellites built by students. These 52 'eyes' have now settled into their orbits.

### Human-Rated Engine

- ❑ Godrej Aerospace has delivered the human-rated Vikash engine to ISRO.
- ❑ This engine is designed for the L-110 stage of the LVM-03 launch vehicle, which is the primary launch vehicle for the Gaganyaan mission.

### First Integrated Private Satellite Manufacturing Facility

- ❑ The foundation stone was laid for the country's first integrated private satellite manufacturing facility in Khoraj, Sanand

district, Gujarat, and the groundbreaking ceremony for Ajista Space's electro-optical payload factory was held.

- ❑ **Development:** This new facility, being established by Ajista Space, will focus on the manufacturing of satellites and high-end electro-optical payloads. Named 'Palmaro', the plant is designed to complete the entire satellite manufacturing process under one roof.

## Defence Technology

### 'Suryastra Rocket System'

- ❑ The Indian Army has signed an agreement with Israel's Elbit Systems, in collaboration with Pune-based company NIBE Ltd., for its manufacture in India.
- ❑ The Suryastra system is based on the PULS (Precision Universal Launching System) developed by Israel's Elbit Systems.
- ❑ **Range:** 150-300 kilometers
- ❑ **Cost:** ₹ 292-293 crore
- ❑ This system is called a 'Universal Rocket Launcher'.
- ❑ It is a multi-caliber launcher that can integrate different types of rockets on a single platform and can perform both area fire and deep precision strikes, i.e., accurate attacks on long-range targets.

### Pralay Missile

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** DRDO successfully tested two Pralay missiles in quick succession at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❑ **Developed by:** Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad
- ❑ **Co-production partners:** Bharat Dynamics Limited and Bharat Electronics Limited

- ❑ **Range:** 150-500 kilometers
- ❑ **Type:** Surface-to-surface semi-ballistic missile
- ❑ **Propellant:** Solid fuel
- ❑ **Warhead capacity:** 500-1000 kilograms
- ❑ It uses state-of-the-art guidance and navigation technology to ensure high accuracy.

#### Pinaka

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** DRDO successfully conducted the first flight test of the Pinaka extended-range guided rocket at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❑ Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the first consignment for export to Armenia from Nagpur.
- ❑ **Developed by:** Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)
- ❑ **Collaboration:**
  - Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad
  - Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad
- ❑ **Features:** It is a multi-barrel launcher system that can fire 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- ❑ **Range:** 40-120 kilometers

#### Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM)

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** A successful flight test of the third-generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MP-ATGM) with high attack capability was conducted at the KK Range in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra.
- ❑ **Tested by:** Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad.
- ❑ **Developed by:** DRDO
- ❑ **Co-producers:** Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- ❑ It is based on the "fire and forget" technology.
- ❑ **Features:** This indigenously developed MP-ATGM features an Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker, all-electric control actuation system, fire control system, tandem warhead, propulsion system, etc.

#### Oreshnik Missile

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** Russia used the Oreshnik missile in a fierce attack on Ukraine, killing four people and injuring 25 in Kyiv.

- ❑ It is Russia's hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM).
- ❑ **Speed:** 10 Mach
- ❑ **Range:** Up to 5,000 kilometers
- ❑ **Technology:** Uses Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology, allowing a single missile to target several different targets simultaneously.

#### YJ-20 Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile

- ❑ **Why in the news?:** This missile was launched from one of the most powerful warships of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA Navy), the 10,000-ton Type-055 destroyer.
- ❑ **Speed:** More than Mach 5
- ❑ **Range:** 1000-1500 kilometers
- ❑ It is a boost-glide missile that uses a rocket booster and a special glide vehicle.

#### INS Sindhughosh

- ❑ The Indian Navy decommissioned the INS Sindhughosh submarine in Mumbai.
- ❑ **Commissioned:** April 30, 1986, at the Western Naval Command
- ❑ **Decommissioned:** December 19, 2025

#### Submarine 'Narwhal'

- ❑ Taiwan successfully completed the first sea trial of its indigenously developed submarine 'Narwhal' off the coast of Kaohsiung.
- ❑ **Other name:** Hai Kun (SS-711)
- ❑ **Development:** With US and UK collaboration.

#### INS Sudarshini

- ❑ The Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini departed from Kochi on its flagship voyage, Lokayan 26, a 10-month transoceanic expedition.
- ❑ **Objective:** To showcase India's rich maritime heritage and the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' across the Oceans.
- ❑ **Voyage details:** The ship will travel over 22,000 nautical miles, visiting 18 foreign ports in 13 countries.

- INS Sudarshini will participate in the Escales à Sète program in France and the 250<sup>th</sup> Independence Day parade celebrations in New York during its voyage.

**ICGS Sankalp**

- The Indian Coast Guard's offshore patrol vessel ICGS Sankalp arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to friendly nations in the Indian Ocean Region.

**INS Sagardhwani**

- India's oceanographic research vessel INS Sagardhwani departed from Southern Naval Command, Kochi, for the fifth edition of the Sagar Maitri (SM-5) initiative.
- Developed by:** Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO.

**Sagar Maitri:** A major collaborative initiative of the Indian Navy and DRDO, aligned with the Government of India's vision of "Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region" (MAHASAGAR).

- Objective:** To foster continuous scientific collaboration with eight IOR countries, namely Oman, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

**MAITRI:** Marine and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative

**Artificial Intelligence**

**India's first AI clinic inaugurated at a government hospital**

- Location:** Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

**India's First Sovereign AI Park**

- The Tamil Nadu government signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Servam AI to establish India's first Sovereign AI Park.
- Location:** Chennai
- Cost:** 10,000 crore

- 'Sovereign AI':** Sovereign AI refers to a country or state's ability to develop AI using its own infrastructure, data, and human resources.

**India's First AI-Enabled State University**

- Location:** Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut
- Partners:** A partnership was announced between the Ministry of Skill Development, Google Cloud, and Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.

**DRISHTI**

- It is an AI-based freight security system of Indian Railways.
- Objective:** To instantly detect malfunctions or tampering with the locking mechanisms of doors on moving freight trains.

**'Translate Gemma'**

- What is it?:** It is a new suite of open translation models designed to support multilingual translation in 55 languages.
- Launched by:** Google.
- Built on the Gemma 3 architecture, Translate Gemma is for researchers and developers who want efficient, locally deployable translation models instead of closed, cloud-only systems.
- It is available in three sizes: 4B, 12B, and 27B parameters.

**OncoMark**

- Developed by:** Researchers from S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and Ashoka University.
- OncoMark is a cutting-edge AI-based analytical system that studies the complex biochemical signals present within cancer cells. It provides hallmark-based identification of cancer in addition to traditional size and stage-based classification.
- It reveals the unique "molecular personality" of each patient's tumor. This will allow doctors to determine which of two patients with the same stage of cancer has a more aggressive form and which medication will be most effective.

- It has been trained on data from 3.1 million cells across 14 types of cancer.

**Hallmark Identification:** In cancer science, "Hallmarks of Cancer" refer to the fundamental processes that make normal cells malignant - such as metastasis, immune evasion, genomic instability, etc. Oncomark integrates all these hallmarks to determine which process is active in which patient, and how their disease might progress.

**AlphaGenome**

- Google DeepMind has launched a new AI tool to understand DNA mutations.
- Researchers say it can help scientists better interpret the human genome and understand how genetic variations affect biology.
- The goal of this new tool is to predict how genetic mutations affect our health and potentially provide new treatments.

**Miscellaneous**

**DRDO hands over seven technologies developed under the Technology Development Fund scheme to the Armed Forces**

- Indigenous high-voltage power supply for airborne self-protection jammers.
- Tide-efficient gangway for naval jetties.
- Advanced very-low frequency-high frequency switching matrix systems.
- VLF loop aerial for underwater platforms.
- Indigenous waterjet propulsion system for fast interceptor craft.
- Novel process for the recovery of lithium precursors from spent lithium-ion batteries.
- A Long-life Seawater Battery System for Sustained Underwater Sensing and Surveillance Applications.

**Durga Drone Squadron**

- This is the first women drone operating unit of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Training:** Drone Warfare School (DWS), Gwalior (at the BSF Academy).
- Objective: To train female personnel in advanced aerial surveillance and reconnaissance on sensitive borders on both the western and eastern fronts.

**Pravaig "VEER"**

- The country's first fully electric military vehicle has been launched, specifically developed for defense operations.
- Development:** Pravaig Dynamics, Bengaluru
- Key Features:** Low noise, low heat signature, all-terrain capability
- Propulsion System:** 100% Electric Drivetrain
- The Pravaig Veer EV has received a prestigious award under the government's iDEX (Innovation for Defence Excellence) program.

**SCOPR Robot**

- SCOPR:** Smart Companion for Operation and Reconnaissance Platform
- India's first legged mobile manipulator robot.
- Development:** xTerra Robotics, an Indian startup with assistance from IIT Kanpur.
- This robot is designed to operate in environments where it would be dangerous for humans to be present or work.

**ASC Arjun**

- ASC ARJUN:** Advanced Security - Assistance Arjun
- Indian Railways has deployed the humanoid robot 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam Railway Station.
- This deployment is the first of its kind on the Indian Railways network. This humanoid robot will assist RPF (Railway Protection

Force) personnel in station operations, particularly in security surveillance during peak passenger hours, multilingual communication, etc.

### Param Shakti Supercomputing Facility Inaugurated

- ❑ **Inauguration:** At IIT Madras.
- ❑ **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- ❑ **Capacity:** Peak computing capacity of 3.1 Petaflops (which means it can perform more than 3.1 quadrillion calculations per second).

### Bacillus Subtilis

- ❑ The Kerala government has officially declared Bacillus Subtilis as its state microorganism, becoming the first Indian state to include a microorganism in its list of state symbols.

### Helicopter MRO

- ❑ **Location:** Missamari, Assam
- ❑ **Development:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), in collaboration with the Gajraj Corps, is establishing a new helicopter Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) hub, which will ensure faster service and improved operational readiness for Indian Army and Air Force helicopters in the Northeast.

### Gegenophis valmikii

- ❑ **Location:** Northern Western Ghats region, Maharashtra
- ❑ **Naming:** Named in honor of the historic Maharishi Valmiki temple located near the discovery site.

#### Key Characteristics of the Species

- ❑ Indian scientists have recently identified an extremely rare and subterranean amphibian species.
- ❑ Gegenophis valmikii belongs to the 'Gegenophis genus', commonly known as blind caecilians.
- ❑ Caecilians are a group of amphibians that generally live underground, away from

human sight. For this reason, they are often called 'hidden amphibians'.

- ❑ These creatures have long, slender, limbless bodies and resemble earthworms in appearance and movement. Unlike frogs, they do not make any sounds, and their eyes are hidden beneath layers of skin and bone, making them extremely difficult to identify.

## Major Exercises

### Exercise 'Sanjha Shakti'

- ❑ This is a significant military-civilian coordination exercise.
- ❑ **Location:** Diggi Range at Khadki Military Station, Pune (Maharashtra)
- ❑ **Objective:** To test better coordination and joint preparedness between military and civilian agencies to deal with complex security challenges and emergency situations.
- ❑ More than 350 personnel from the Indian Army, along with 16 major civilian agencies, participated.

### 'Will for Peace 2026'

- ❑ This is a joint naval exercise.
- ❑ **Location:** Off the coast of South Africa.
- ❑ **Participants:** Navies of several countries, including China, Russia, and South Africa.

### Joint Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Response Exercise

- ❑ **Location:** Exercise conducted on ICGS Samudra Prahari Vessel in Mumbai
- ❑ **Participants:** Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Japan Coast Guard (JCG) conducted a joint HNS response drill.
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance maritime cooperation, address hazardous chemical spills, improve interoperability, and demonstrate commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

### 17<sup>th</sup> Trilateral Exercise 'Dosti'

- ❑ **Venue:** Malé, Maldives
- ❑ **Participants:** Indian Coast Guard, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, and Maldives National Defence Force

**Operation Trashi-I**

- ❑ A major counter-terrorism operation being conducted by security forces in Kishtwar and surrounding forest areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❑ **Joint Operation:** This operation is being conducted jointly by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police (SOG), and CRPF.

**Operation Sahyadri Checkmate**

- ❑ The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a clandestine mobile Mephedrone manufacturing laboratory located in the remote hinterlands of the Sahyadri mountain range under Operation Sahyadri Checkmate.

**Operation Megaburu**

- ❑ Operation Megaburu was launched by Jharkhand Police with the assistance of CRPF and Cobra units in the Saranda forests of West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.
- ❑ **Objective:** To eliminate armed functionary of CPI (Maoist) from the Saranda forest area, neutralize the Maoist leadership, and dismantle the insurgent network.

**Important One-Liners**

- ❑ SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from California successfully placed the Italian Space Agency (ASI)'s COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation satellite into orbit.
- ❑ The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of DRDO, located in Hyderabad, successfully conducted a ground test of a full-scale, actively cooled, long-duration scramjet engine for hypersonic missiles.
- ❑ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the BSL-4 Bio-Containment Facility of the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat.
- ❑ A NIDHI Centre of Excellence, built with a fund of Rs. 40 crore funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology (DST), has been established at IIM Ahmedabad.

- ❑ DRDO celebrated its 68<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day on January 1, 2026. Dr. Samir V. Kamat is the Chairman of DRDO.
- ❑ To showcase the flagship health programs of the Government of India, a Comprehensive Health Pavilion has been set up at the Vibrant Gujarat 2026 regional exhibition, which is being held from January 11 to 15, 2026, at Marwadi University in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- ❑ The Indian Navy's First Training Squadron (1TS) arrived at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, comprising INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi.
- ❑ The Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, will organize "Bhashini Community: Strengthening India's Language AI Ecosystem" on January 13, 2026, at Nalanda Hall, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- ❑ First Medical Evacuation from Space: NASA prematurely recalled four members of Crew-11 from the International Space Station (ISS) after an astronaut fell seriously ill.
- ❑ Pixxel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IN-SPACe for the development and operation of India's first private Earth observation satellite constellation (Firefly constellation).

**Key Agreements**

- ❑ During the Wings India 2026 air show, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) signed a significant agreement to manufacture the Sukhoi Superjet-100 (SJ-100) regional passenger aircraft in India.
- ❑ Adani Aerospace and Defence has signed an agreement with the Brazilian company Embraer to manufacture commercial aircraft in India.

S.No.	Sport/Award	Result/Details																																				
1.	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event :</b> 5-10 January, 2026 at Ghoghla Beach (Diu)</li> <li>• <b>Mascot :</b> Pearl ( the Dolphin)</li> <li>• <b>No of sports Discipline :</b> 8 (6 Competitive/ Medal &amp; 2 Demo/Non-Medal )</li> </ul>																																					
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2.	<p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Khelo India Winter Games : 2026</b></p> <p><b>Event :</b> January 20 to January 26, 2026 at Leh (Ladakh) and Gulmarg (Jammu &amp; Kashmir)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inaugurated By :</b> Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta (at NDS Stadium, Leh)</li> <li>• <b>Mascot :</b> Sheen-E-She (Shan) - The Snow Leopard</li> <li>• <b>Participation :</b> 1,200+ total participants (including 700+ athletes) from 21 States/UTs</li> <li>• <b>Ice Sports (Leh) :</b> Ice Hockey, Speed Skating, and Figure Skating(introduced for the first time in this edition)</li> <li>• <b>Snow Sports (Gulmarg) :</b> Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Snowboarding, and Nordic Skiing</li> <li>• <b>MEDAL TALLY</b></li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>State</th> <th>Gold</th> <th>Silver</th> <th>Bronze</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Haryana</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Ladakh</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Maharashtra</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	1	Haryana	4	1	2	2	Ladakh	2	5	4	3	Maharashtra	2	3	2																
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3.	<b>Australian Open (Tennis) :</b> Event : 12 Jan.-1 Feb. 2026 in Melbourne Park, Australia	<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Players</b>		
		1.	Men's Singles	C. Alcaraz (Spain)		
		2.	Women's Singles	E. Rybakina (Kazakhstan)		
		3.	Men's Doubles	C. Harrison (USA) N. Skupski (UK)		
		4.	Women's Doubles	S. Zhang (China) E. Mertens (Belgium)		
		5.	Mixed Doubles	O. Gadecki (Australia) J. Peers (Australia)		
4.	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Senior National Boxing Championship :</b>					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Event :</b> 4-10 January-2025 at Gautam Buddha University Greater Noida (UP)</li> <li>• <b>Organiser :</b> Boxing federation of India (BFI)</li> <li>• First ever combined event by BFI</li> <li>• 600 Indian Boxers competed across 10 weight categories for both men &amp; women</li> </ul>					
	<b>S.N</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Category</b>
	1.	Vishwanath Suresh	50 Kg	1.	Lovlina Borgohain	75 Kg
	2.	Jadumani Singh	55 Kg	2.	Nikhat Zareen	52 Kg
	3.	Hussain Uddin	60 Kg	3.	Minakshi Hooda	48 Kg
	4.	Aditya Pratap	65 Kg	4.	Pooja Pawar	80 Kg
	5.	Hitesh Gulia	70 Kg	5.	Preeti Pawar	54 Kg
	6.	Sumit Kundu	75 Kg	6.	Pranjal Yadav	65 Kg
	7.	Ankush	80 Kg	7.	Priya	60 Kg
	8.	Lokesh	85 Kg	8.	Alfiyan Khan	80 Kg+
	9.	Harsh	90 Kg	9.	Arudhati Choudhary	70 Kg
	10.	Narender	90Kg+	10.	Prachi	57 Kg
5.	<b>68<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS (NSCC)</b>					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shotgun Event -</b> Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, New Delhi from 1st December, 2025 to 6th January, 2026</li> <li>• <b>MEDAL TALLY</b></li> </ul>					
	<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Total</b>
	1.	Punjab	9	8	9	26
	2.	Madhya Pradesh	5	9	5	19
	3.	Rajasthan	5	6	7	18
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pistol Event -</b> Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, New Delhi from 11th December, 2025 to 4th January, 2026</li> <li>• <b>MEDAL TALLY</b></li> </ul>					
	<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Total</b>
	1.	Rajasthan	18	25	23	66
	2.	Haryana	19	15	21	55
	3.	Uttar Pradesh	11	16	17	44
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rifle Event -</b> Bhopal, MP from 11th December to 2 January, 2025</li> <li>• <b>MEDAL TALLY</b></li> </ul>					
	<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Gold</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Total</b>
	1.	Haryana	17	14	12	43
	2.	Maharashtra	13	11	11	35
	3.	Karnataka	9	7	9	25
	4.	Rajasthan	9	5	7	21

6.	<p><b>72<sup>nd</sup> National Volleyball Championship Event : 4-11 January 2026, Varanasi (UP)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Venue :</b> Dr. Sampooranand Sports Stadium</li> <li>• <b>Participants :</b> Over 1000 players competing as part of 58 teams representing various states and Institution</li> <li>• The CM of UP Yogi Aaditya Nath with the live telecast of PM Modiji inaugurated the Championship</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Winner</th> <th>Runner-up</th> <th>Performance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Men</b></td> <td>Railways</td> <td>Kerala</td> <td>3-0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Women</b></td> <td>Kerala</td> <td>Railways</td> <td>3-2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rajasthan's Performance :</b> Rajasthan Women team won bronze medal</li> </ul>		Winner	Runner-up	Performance	<b>Men</b>	Railways	Kerala	3-0	<b>Women</b>	Kerala	Railways	3-2			
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<b>Men</b>	Railways	Kerala	3-0														
<b>Women</b>	Kerala	Railways	3-2														
7.	<p><b>Senior National Wrestling Championships 2025</b>  <b>Event : 12 -14 December 2025 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad, Gujarat</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Competitions :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Men's Freestyle (Top Performers):</b> Aman Sehrawat won gold in the 61kg category, while Sujeet secured gold in the 65kg category.</li> <li>▪ <b>Women's Freestyle (Top Performers):</b> Haryana dominated the women's team events. Antim Panghal (RSPB) won the 55kg class, Manisha (57kg), and Nisha Dahiya (68kg) also claimed gold.</li> <li>▪ <b>Greco-Roman (Top Performers):</b> Lalit (SSCB - 55kg), Sahil (HAR - 60kg), Chetan (RSPB - 63kg), and Sachin (SSCB - 67kg) were among the gold medalists.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Teams Ranking :</b></li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank</th> <th>Team</th> <th>Score</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>RSPB (Railways Sports Promotion Board )</td> <td>494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Haryana</td> <td>463</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>SSCB( Services Sports Control Board )</td> <td>420</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7.</td> <td>Rajasthan</td> <td>211</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Rank	Team	Score	1.	RSPB (Railways Sports Promotion Board )	494	2.	Haryana	463	3.	SSCB( Services Sports Control Board )	420	7.	Rajasthan	211
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8.	<p><b>33<sup>rd</sup> Vijay Hazare Trophy : 2025-26</b>  <b>Event : 24 Dec. 2025 - 18 Jan. 2026</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total Team : 38</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elite Division : 32 Teams in 4 group of 8</li> <li>▪ Plate group : 6 Teams</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Final :</b> BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground, Bengaluru <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Winner :</b> Vidarbha (1<sup>st</sup> time)</li> <li>▪ <b>Runner Up :</b> Saurashtra</li> <li>▪ <b>Player of the Match :</b> Atharva Taide</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Player of the Series :</b> Aman Mokhade (814 Runs)</li> </ul>															
9.	<p><b>Ashes Series : 2025-26</b>  <b>Event : Australia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia won the series by 4-1</li> <li>• <b>Player of the series :</b> Mitchell Starc</li> </ul> <p><b>Note :</b> The Ashes is a test Cricket series played biennially between England and Australia Since 1882</p>															

10.	New Zealand Tour of India : 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ODI Series</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Zealand Won by 2-1</li> <li>▪ <b>Player of the Series</b> : Daryl Mitchell</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>T-20 Series</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India clinched the 5-match series with 4-1</li> <li>▪ <b>Player of the Series</b> : Suryakumar Yadav</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																				
11.	India Under-19 Cricket Team tour of South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India won the series by 3-0</li> <li>• <b>Player of the Series</b> : Vaibhav Suryawanshi</li> </ul>																				
12.	ICC Player of the month (December 2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Men</b> : Mitchell Starc (Australia)</li> <li>• <b>Women</b> : Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa)</li> </ul>																				
13.	Hero Women's Hockey India League: Event : 28 Dec-10 Jan. 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final</b> : Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium, Ranchi (Jharkhand) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Winner</b> : SG Pipers</li> <li>▪ <b>Runner-up</b> : Shrachi Bengal Tigers</li> <li>▪ <b>Captain of SG Pipers</b> : Navneet Kaur (Jharkhand)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																				
14.	Hero Men's Hockey India League : Event : 3 Jan-25 Jan, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final</b> : Kalinga Hockey stadium, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Winner</b> : Vedanta Kalinga Lancers</li> <li>▪ <b>Runner-up</b> : Ranchi Royals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																				
15.	Women's 2026 FIH Hockey world Cup Qualifiers : Event : 8-14 March, 2026 in Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hockey India signed MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Government of Telangana to host the women's 2026 FIH Hockey world cup Qualifier in Hyderabad.</li> <li>• Total 8 teams will participate in it and top 3 teams will qualify directly for the FIH Hockey World cup Belgium &amp; Netherlands 2026 scheduled from August 15 to 30</li> </ul>																				
16.	44 <sup>th</sup> Junior National Kho-Kho Championship (Boys & Girls) : Event : 31 Dec-4 Jan 2026, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium, Gunjur (Bengaluru)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer</b> : Karnataka State Kho-Kho Association</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Team Ranking-Boys</th> <th colspan="2">Team Ranking-Girls</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Position</th> <th>State</th> <th>Position</th> <th>State</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Karnataka</td> <td>1.</td> <td>Maharashtra</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Maharashtra</td> <td>2.</td> <td>Odisha</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.</td> <td>Rajasthan</td> <td>16.</td> <td>Rajasthan</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Team Ranking-Boys		Team Ranking-Girls		Position	State	Position	State	1.	Karnataka	1.	Maharashtra	2.	Maharashtra	2.	Odisha	12.	Rajasthan	16.	Rajasthan
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17.	58 <sup>th</sup> Senior National Kho-Kho Championship : Event : 11-15 January 2026, Kazipet (Telangana)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Winner</b> :</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No</th> <th>Category</th> <th>Team</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Men's</td> <td>Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Women's</td> <td>Maharashtra</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No	Category	Team	1.	Men's	Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB)	2.	Women's	Maharashtra											
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19.	<b>Thailand Masters : 2026 (Badminton)</b> Event : Jan 27-Feb 1, 2026 in Bangkok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mens singles</b> : Z. Ubaidillah</li> <li>• <b>Womens singles</b> : Devika Sihag</li> <li>• Indian shuttler Devika Sihag (Haryana) clinched her maiden BWF Super 300 crown</li> </ul>												
20.	<b>Indonesia Masters : 2026 (Badminton)</b> Event : 20-25 January 2026, Jakarta (Indonesia)	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.N.</th> <th>Category</th> <th>Winner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Men's Singles</td> <td>Alwi Farhan (Indonesia)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Women's Singles</td> <td>Chen Yu Fei(China)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.N.	Category	Winner	1.	Men's Singles	Alwi Farhan (Indonesia)	2.	Women's Singles	Chen Yu Fei(China)			
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21.	<b>Malaysia Open (Tennis)</b> Event : 6-11 January 2026, Kuala Lumpur	<b>India's Performance :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two time Olympic medalist <b>PV Sindhu</b> lost the semifinal match against Wang Zhi Yi (China)</li> <li>• India's Men's doubles pair of <b>Satwik Sairaj and Chirag Shetty</b> lost the Quarter final match against Indonesian pair of Fajar Alfain and Muhammad Fikri.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.N.</th> <th>Category</th> <th>Winner</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Men's Singles</td> <td>K. Vitidsarn (Thailand)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Women's Singles</td> <td>An se Young (South Korea)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.N.	Category	Winner	1.	Men's Singles	K. Vitidsarn (Thailand)	2.	Women's Singles	An se Young (South Korea)			
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22.	<b>Brisbane International (Tennis)</b> Event : 2-11 January 2026 in Brisbane, Australia	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No.</th> <th>Players</th> <th>Category</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>D. Medvedev (Russia)</td> <td>Men's Singles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>A. Sabalenka (Belarus)</td> <td>Women's Singles</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">3<sup>rd</sup> Brisbane title (2023, 2025)</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No.	Players	Category	1.	D. Medvedev (Russia)	Men's Singles	2.	A. Sabalenka (Belarus)	Women's Singles	3 <sup>rd</sup> Brisbane title (2023, 2025)		
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23.	<b>Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026 (Season 5)</b> Event : From January 15 to February 1 at the Noida Indoor Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) returned after a seven-year hiatus, bringing Olympic medalists, world champions and India's brightest stars back into the spotlight for its fifth season.</li> <li>• <b>Champion:</b> Haryana Thunders</li> <li>• <b>Runner-up:</b> Delhi Dangal Warriors</li> </ul>												
24.	<b>FIFA World Cup 2026 Trophy Tour</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Minister For Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, along with Brazillian Footballer Giberto D'silva Uneveiled the trophy as it began its three day tour of India.</li> <li>• <b>FIFA World Cup 2026-</b> The United States, Canada and Mexico.</li> <li>• <b>Participant :</b> 48 teams for 1<sup>st</sup> time, divided into 12 groups of four.</li> </ul>												
25.	<b>5<sup>th</sup> LG Cup ICE Hockey Championship :</b> Event : 12-16 January 2026 at ICE Hockey Rink, Biamathang (Ladakh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total 15 teams from across Ladakh participated.</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Winner</th> <th>Runner-up</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Men's</td> <td>ITBP</td> <td>Ladakh Scouts (Indian Army)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Women's</td> <td>ITBP Women's Team</td> <td>Ladakh women Ice Hockey Federation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Winner	Runner-up	Men's	ITBP	Ladakh Scouts (Indian Army)	Women's	ITBP Women's Team	Ladakh women Ice Hockey Federation			
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26.	<b>The British Junior Open Squash Championships :</b> Event : 2-6 January 2025, Birmingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Silver :</b> Anahat Singh (India)</li> <li>• <b>Gold :</b> Lauren Baltayan (France)</li> </ul>		
27.	<b>SDAT India International Youth Sailing Championship :</b> Event : 4-10 January 2026 at the Chennai Port	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Organizer :</b> SDAT (Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu)</li> <li>• <b>Participants :</b> Over 117 Registered sailors from 13 Nations competing across five elite youth classes.</li> <li>• <b>Performance :</b> India secured 12 medal (6G, 3S, 3B) Out of 15 medal</li> </ul>		
28.	<b>Tata Steel Chess India Tournament 2026</b> Venue: January 7-11, 2026, Kolkata	<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Runner-up:</b>
		<b>Open Rapid</b>	Nihal Sarin (IND)	Viswanathan Anand (IND)
		<b>Women's Rapid</b>	Katerina Lagno (Russia)	Alexandra Goryachkina (Russia)
		<b>Open Blitz</b>	Wesley So (USA)	Nihal Sarin (IND)
		<b>Women's Blitz</b>	Carissa Yip (USA)	Vantika Agarwal (IND)

## Famous players

S.No.	Famous Players	Why in News?/Achievement
1.	<b>Davinder Singh Garcha</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 74 years old former IPS Officer &amp; former Indian Hockey Player Passes away.</li> <li>• <b>Achievement :</b> He was part of Indian Hockey team that won the gold medal in the 1980 Moscow Olympics and he had scored 8 goals in total 6 Olympic matches.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Jinson Johnson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 34 years old Kerala Athlete (Middle distance Runner) announced this retirement.</li> <li>• <b>Achievement</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Asian Games</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jakarta, 2018 → Gold → 1500m</li> <li>▪ Jakarta, 2018 → Silver → 800m</li> <li>▪ Hangzhou, 2022 → Bronze → 1500 m</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Personal best :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1500 m (3 : 35 : 24) National Record in 2019</li> <li>▪ 800 m (1 : 45 : 65) 2018</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ul>
3.	<b>Atiqa Mir</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State = Jammu &amp; Kashmir</li> <li>• The 11 year old Atiqa Mir became the 1st Indian to secure a top-5 Finish Globally on debut during round 7 of IAME UAE Karting championship at Dubai Formula-1 track Yas marina circuit.</li> <li>• By finishing 5th out of 35 drivers in a male dominated grid, she also became the 1st female to register a top-five finish in the history of the IAME UAE championship.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Manoj Kothari</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former world billiards champion (1990) died at the age of 67 years.</li> <li>• <b>Achievement :</b> He secured state championship a total of 16 times.</li> <li>• <b>Awards :</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Major Dhyanchand Award (2005).</li> <li>2. Life time achievement award by the Billiard and Snooker Federation of Indian in 2025.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

5.	<b>Mustafizur Rahman</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KKR Releases Bangladesh Pacer Mustafizur Rahman following BCCI instruction.</li> <li>• He was picked up by the KKR for 9.20 crore rupees (the highest price ever paid for a Bangladesh player in IPL history)</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Venus Williams</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She became the oldest player to compete in the Australian open at the age of 47.</li> <li>• Seven times grand slam champion Venus surpass the record of Japan's Kimiko Date who was 44 when she played in 2015.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Sjored Marijne</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has been appointed as the chief coach of the Indian women's Hockey team.</li> <li>• The Dutchman had led Indian women to a historic 4th place finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.</li> </ul>
8.	<b>Virat Kohali</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kohali moved on to 28,068 runs and surpassed Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakara (28016) to sit behind only Indian Icon Sachin Tendulkar's (34357).</li> </ul>
9.	<b>Alyssa Healy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia captain Healy to retire from cricket after the multi-format home series against India in February-March 2026.</li> <li>• One of the most successful players in women's cricket, Alyssa Healy, is an eight-time World Cup winner (the Women's T20 World Cup in 2010, 2012, 2014, 2018,2020 and 2023 and the ODI World Cup in 2013 and 2022)</li> </ul>
10.	<b>Inderjit Singh Bindra</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former BCCI president Inderjit Singh Bindra has passed away at the age of 84.</li> <li>• Bindra served as BCCI president from 1993 to 1996 and president of the Punjab Cricket Association for over three decades, from 1978 to 2014.</li> <li>• In recognition of his contributions, the PCA Stadium in Mohali was renamed the I.S. Bindra Stadium in 2015.</li> </ul>
11.	<b>Abhishek Sharma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abhishek Sharma scored the second-fastest T-20 International half-century by an Indian. while, Yuvraj Singh holds the fastest Indian record (12 balls).</li> </ul>
12.	<b>Amelia Valverde</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The all India football federation has appointed Amelia valverde (Costa Ricca) as the coach of the senior Indian women's football team.</li> </ul>
13.	<b>Aaryan Varshney</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92<sup>nd</sup> Chess Grandmaster of India</li> <li>• He clinched the title at the Andranik Margaryan memorial tournament in Armenia.</li> </ul>
14.	<b>Michael Nobbs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former Australian hockey player Michael Nobbs, who coached the Indian men's team at the 2012 London Olympics, has died</li> <li>• The 72 year old earned 76 international caps for Australia between 1979 and 1985.</li> <li>• Apart from India, Nobbs also coached Japan.</li> </ul>
15.	<b>Nat Sciver-Brunt</b> (Mumbai Indians)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nat Sciver-Brunt became the first batter to score a century in the WPL's history, with her 100* against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB).</li> </ul>

16.	SAINA NEHWAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Former world No. 1 Saina Nehwal has announced her retirement from professional badminton.</li> <li>• <b>Achievements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ She won the junior world championship in 2008 and became the first Indian woman to reach the Olympic quarter-finals in singles at the Beijing Games that year.</li> <li>▪ She won the Indonesia Open in 2009( India's first BWF Super Series champion)</li> <li>▪ Bronze medal at the London Olympics 2012 ( India's first-ever Olympic medal in badminton)</li> <li>▪ In 2015, she became world No. 1 in women's singles, only the second Indian after Prakash Padukone .</li> <li>▪ Bronze at the 2017 World Championships and gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.</li> <li>▪ She last competed at the BWF Singapore Open in 2023.</li> <li>▪ A recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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### National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026

□ The Union Government has notified the National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026 under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, establishing a statutory framework for transparent, inclusive and accountable sports governance in India.

#### □ Key Features:

##### ○ Composition & Representation

- ◆ inclusion of at least four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit(SOMs) in the General Body of National Sports Bodies (NSBs).
- ◆ 50% of SOMs must be women, ensuring gender representation.
- ◆ At least four women members in the Executive Committee of National Sports Bodies as mandated in the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, with provision to reserve posts for women in Executive Committee, through its bye-laws

##### ○ Eligibility & Tiered Criteria for SOMs

- ◆ SOM applicants must be 25 years or older, retired from active sports, and not have competed in selection-based Event which represent a district, State or India for at least one year prior to date of application.
- ◆ 10-tier achievement-based criteria, starting from summer Olympic, Paralympic or Winter Olympic Games medalists to National Games/National Championship medalists, accommodating diverse sports disciplines.

##### ○ Elections & Governance

- ◆ Detailed election procedures with defined timelines, from SOM applications to final electoral roll and nominations.
- ◆ Establishment of a National Sports Election Panel with a minimum of 20 qualified members.
- ◆ The Fee of the electoral officer, selected from the Election Panel, capped at ₹ 5 lakh, with additional mutually agreed assistant fees.

○ **Disqualifications**

- ◆ Individuals convicted by a court and sentenced to imprisonment are barred from membership, elections, or committees of NSBs.

○ **Administrative Provisions**

- ◆ NSBs must amend bye-laws within six months to align with the Act and Rules.
- ◆ Central Government empowered to relax provisions for up to 12 months for recorded reasons

**The Task Force constituted on the Unified Framework for Development of Coaching Ecosystem in India**

- The Task Force, led by Indian badminton national head coach Pullela Gopichand, examined key aspects of coach education and training, including the quality and availability of coaches, academic reforms in coach education.
- The Task Force has called for the establishment of a National Coach Accreditation Board (NCAB) as the apex national body
- The NCAB will be responsible for setting national standards, approving coaching pathways, accrediting institutions, and ensuring consistency, transparency and quality across all sports and regions.
- It has also proposed a Tiered National Coaching Pathway comprising Grassroots, Intermediate, Elite and National Team Coach levels.
- The Task Force has recommended a dedicated "TOPS for Coaches" model. Under this, high-potential and high-performing coaches will receive structured financial and institutional support for advanced training, technology adoption, specialized support services and innovation in coaching practices.

**Government advises NSFs to constitute 'Make in India in Sports' and 'International Relations' Committees**

- The Make in India in Sports Committee will be responsible for engaging with Indian manufacturers, start-ups, research institutions, and testing and standardization bodies to facilitate product development, trials, and certification in the concerned sport.
- The International Relations Committee will monitor developments in relevant International Federations, including changes in competition rules and structures, governance frameworks, elections, and athlete-centric programmes.
- These Committees will include senior Federation members, technical experts, former international athletes, and at least one member with experience in sports equipment or technology (in the Make in India in Sports Committee).

**Important One-Liners**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially announced that Scotland will replace Bangladesh in Group C of the T20 World Cup, which will be hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7.
- The Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed to stop the projection of the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) as the representative of the official national cricket team of India, terming it frivolous.

## 06

# Important Days

Date	Day/Event	Theme and key Focus Areas
5 January	National Bird Day	
9 January	Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas	
10 January	World Hindi Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme</b> : "Hindi : From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence."</li> <li>• The 1<sup>st</sup> world Hindi conference was held in Nagpur on January 10, 1975</li> <li>• The official celebration of Hindi Diwas began in 2006.</li> </ul>
12 January	National Youth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme</b> : Ignite the self, Impact the world.</li> <li>• To Honour the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda</li> <li>• Swami Vivekanand Chetna Mahotsav 2026 = Bilaspur (Chhatisgarh)</li> </ul>
15 January	Indian Army Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 15 Jan. 1949 Lieutenant M. Cariappa taking over as 1st commander- in- chief of the Indian Army.</li> </ul>
16 January	National Start up day	
19 January	NDRF Raising Day (National Disaster Reponse Force)	
23 January	Parakram Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti</li> <li>• It is celebrated Since 2021</li> </ul>
24 January	National Girl Child Day	
24 January	International day of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme</b> : The power of Youth in Co-crating Education</li> </ul>
25 January	National Voters Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Theme</b> : 'My India, My Vote '</li> <li>• <b>Tagline</b> : Citizen at the heart of India Democracy</li> </ul>
25 January	National Tourism Day	

## 07

## Important Books

S.No	Book Title	Author
1.	"Sing, Dance and Lead : Leadership lessons from the life of Srila Prabhupada"	<b>Shri Hindol Sengupta</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Srila Prabhupada : Founder of ISKON (International Society for Krishna consciousness) in New York in 1966.</li> <li>• Hare Krishna Movement</li> <li>• It follow Gaudiya Vaishnav Tradition</li> </ul>
2.	"Khutbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila Ki Faseel Se"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the book.</li> <li>• The Book is a compilation of the Independence day addresses delivered by the PM Modi from the Red fort between 2014 and 2015.</li> <li>• This book is published in Urdu by the National council for promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), New Delhi</li> </ul>
3.	"History that India Ignored"	<b>Prem Prakashn</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goa's CM Pramod Sawant Launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in January 2026</li> </ul>
4.	"Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu"  <b>Note</b> : It means : (Lotus Blooming in the Fire of Coals: Droupadi Murmu) is a Telugu biography on the life of India's 15 <sup>th</sup> President, Droupadi Murmu.	<b>Yarlogadda Lakshmi Prasad (Former MP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book on life of president Murmu was released by Lakshmananna a women sanitation worker in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)</li> </ul>
5.	"Chalice of Ambrosia : Ram Janmabhoomi - challenge and Response"	<b>Shri Surendra Kumar Pachauri (Former Secretary to government of India)</b> Vice President Shri CP Radhakrishnan launched the book

# Topper's Talk

## Rupal Jhajharia



**Rank - 25**  
**(RAS-2023)**

**Father:** - Mr. Jaswant Singh Jhajharia

**Mother:** - Mrs. Nutan Jhajharia

**10<sup>th</sup>:** - Maharani Gayatri Devi Girls School, Jaipur (10 CGPA)

**12<sup>th</sup>:** - St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School, Jaipur (90%)

**Graduation:** - B.A. (Mass Communication: Journalism)

**Symbiosis Centre for Media and Communication, Pune, Maharashtra (Batch Topper)**

**Question: Congratulations on your achievement in the Civil Services Examination!**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Thank you very much.

**Question: Tell us about your family and educational background. What role did they play in your preparation?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** My father is a lawyer by profession and my mother is a homemaker. From childhood until now, my parents have always prioritized my education and provided me with the best possible resources. They always emphasized self-reliance. They always encouraged me by showing confidence in me at every stage of the process. My younger brother, Jaywant, kept my spirits up through every difficult time.

After studying in the state's top schools, receiving media-related education from an institute like Symbiosis not only honed my answer-writing skills but also helped me perform well in interviews.

**Question: When did you start preparing for the RAS exam, and how much time do you think is sufficient to prepare for this exam?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** After working in the media sector for a few years, I left that field completely and began preparing for this exam in 2022. This was my first attempt. If a candidate prepares with regular study and the right strategy, 1.5 to 2 years is sufficient for this exam.

**Question: What study materials did you use during your preparation?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** While preparing through the

SBA course (B-13), I prepared my original notes using the material provided by Springboard Academy. Before the Mains, I relied on standard books - RBSE, NCERT, and the SBA Revision Batch. I also improved my preparation by taking about 3-4 mock exams for the interview.

**Question: Was your goal to join the civil services from the beginning, and who was your source of inspiration for preparing for the civil services exam?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** I have been interested in studies since childhood and also have been offered leadership opportunities from time to time, which helped me gain experience in shouldering responsibility and making decisions.

My experience in the media field made me realize that my skill set was better aligned with the administrative services. After this introspection, I began preparing.

My inspiration has always been my mother. Although she wasn't a civil servant, she has always benefited others through her behavior, sensitivity, and selfless service. As a civil servant, it is my responsibility to utilize her upbringing, values, and teachings for the greater good of society.

**Question: What is the usefulness of a monthly current affairs magazine for the RAS exam?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** The role of this magazine is extremely important in all three stages. In Prelims, factual questions come directly from the magazine's content. The increasing importance of questions based on current issues in Mains is

also a testament to this. Even before the interview, I revised these magazines repeatedly, especially for Rajasthan Current Affairs.

**Question: What is the role of coaching in the Civil Services exam? Can self-study also lead to success in this exam?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Coaching's role is to provide direction, while self-study bring maturity to the preparation. Striking a balance between these is the right strategy.

For me, this was possible only when I laid the foundation through coaching and strengthened my preparation at each stage through self-study.

**Question: What criteria should be considered when selecting a coaching institute? Have you prepared with any coaching institute?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** This can be seen in a few points: previous years' results, congruency between study materials and curriculum, and the experience of the teachers.

I prepared in the Foundation Batch B-13 at SBA, used the Revision Batch before the Mains, and also took 3-4 mock exams before the interview.

**Question: What was your language medium in the exam? Tell us about the role of the language medium in succeeding in the Civil Services?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** My medium was English. I believe that the medium of the exam should be chosen in which the candidate is comfortable writing answers in. However, a good command of both languages is beneficial for the RAS exam.

**Question: What suggestions would you offer to improve the writing style in the Mains exam?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Candidates should make answer writing a key part of their preparation for the Mains exam. Practicing answers based on previous years' question papers helps understand the demands of the question and improve the presentation. Extensively practising paper 4 is especially helpful, as it makes time management easier.

**Question: What role do short notes play in the Preliminary and Mains exams?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** The role of short notes depends on the candidate's individual strategy. This decision should be made based on whether revision is more effective: short notes or detailed notes. I prepared notes for Geography, Technology, Ethics, and the smaller topics of the

Mains exam. Revising them repeatedly proved particularly helpful for me.

**Question: Tell us about the role of mock interviews and how was your interview experience at the Rajasthan Public Service Commission?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Mock interviews are beneficial for building confidence and improving presentation. My RPSC interview was very positive. Most of the questions were related to my undergraduate subject - journalism - which I had a good grip of.

**Question: Tell us about the contribution of your teachers in your success?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Dilip Sir's guidance and direction always guided me in the right direction. Furthermore, the subjects taught by all the teachers at SBA - Rajveer Sir, Lakshita Ma'am, Vijay Sihag Sir, Mukesh Sir, Vijay Shekhawat Sir, and Shivendra Sir - and their constant guidance helped me achieve this goal.

**Question: What role did your friends play during my preparation?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Anil Bhaiya always maintained unwavering faith in me, while my friend Kriti also provided me with constant mental support.

**Question: What are your thoughts on Plan-B?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** I didn't have a backup Plan-B. I didn't apply for any other exam because I had decided to leave a professional field and prepare for this exam.

**Question: What changes will you work to bring about as an officer?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** I would especially like to work for the empowerment of girls and women and will strive to improve the condition of the backward classes of the society.

**Question: What is the key to your success?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** 4Ps: Hard work (Parishram), management (Prabandhan), destiny (Prarabdh), and God's grace (Pramatama Ki Kripa).

**Question: How did you manage your time during preparation?**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** I kept away from all distractions and used social media to a minimum. The support of my family was also very beneficial.

**Question: We wish you a bright future as an administrative officer!**

**Rupal Jhajharia:** Thank you very much.