

Weekly One Liners 05th to 11th of January 2026

National Affairs

- **GoI Launches ₹4,531 Crore Market Access Support Scheme for Exporters** On December 31, 2025, the Government of India launched the Market Access Support (MAS) Scheme with a total outlay of ₹4,531 crore for FY26-FY31 under the ₹25,060 crore Export Promotion Mission, aiming to strengthen global market access for Indian exporters with strong focus on MSMEs and first-time exporters. The scheme provides financial support for international trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, and trade delegations to priority and emerging markets, with assistance capped at ₹5 crore per event for BSMs and ₹10 crore for RBSMs.
- **MeitY Approves 22 New Proposals Worth ₹41,863 Crores Under Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology approved 22 additional proposals worth ₹41,863 crores under ECMS as the third tranche of clearances, bringing cumulative approvals to 46 projects with total investment of ₹56,567 crore. The 22 approved companies span 11 key electronics product segments including PCBs, capacitors, camera modules, and lithium-ion cells, with geographical spread across 8 states including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.
- **MoC&I Launches Two Key Financial Interventions Worth ₹7,295 Crore for MSME Exports** The Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched two critical interventions—₹5,181 crore interest subvention scheme for pre and post-shipment export credit and ₹2,114 crore collateral guarantee support for export credit—to boost MSME exports and enhance access to trade finance. Eligible exporters will receive 2.75% base interest subvention with additional incentives for exports to under-represented markets, while collateral guarantee offers 85% coverage for micro and small exporters and 65% for medium exporters.



- **Union Minister JP Nadda Releases 10th Edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia** On January 2, 2026, Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda released the 10th edition of the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP 2026), the official compendium of drug standards in India, at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. IP 2026 added 121 new monographs totaling 3,340 and introduced 20 monographs for blood components for transfusion medicine, strengthening drug quality standards and ensuring safe blood transfusions aligned with national regulatory standards.
- **Indian Army Declares 2026 as 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'** The Indian Army under Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi declared 2026 as the 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity' to drive digital integration, enhance connectivity, and enable real-time decision-making for building a future-ready, technologically advanced force. The initiative aims to treat data as a core operational asset through seamless digital connectivity among soldiers, command centres, sensors, and weapon platforms while operationalising indigenous communication systems and battlefield management platforms.
- **GoI Extends PLI Scheme for Textiles Deadline to March 31, 2026** The Ministry of Textiles extended the deadline for fresh applications under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Textiles from December 31, 2025 to March 31, 2026, supporting global competitiveness in selected textile segments. Under the scheme launched in September 2021 with ₹10,683 crore outlay for FY22-FY26, 74 applications have been approved so far with proposed investments of approximately ₹28,711 crore across man-made fibres, fabrics, and technical textiles.
- **Indian Army Launches Community Radio Station 'Radio Sangam' in Rajouri, J&K** On January 2, 2026, the Indian Army in collaboration with civil administration launched "Radio Sangam", the first community radio station along the Line of Control at Keri village in Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir, broadcasting on 88.8 FM. Radio Sangam aims to provide reliable information, promote local culture, and strengthen trust between the Indian Army, civil administration, and villagers through awareness campaigns, agriculture tips, cultural programs, and interactive shows.
- **Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Launches 'IITM Global Research Foundation' at IIT-Madras** On January 2026, Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched the 'IITM Global Research Foundation' at IIT-Madras in Chennai to position the institute as the world's first multinational university. The initiative includes a dynamic 'plug-and-play' framework for technology transfer, joint research projects, and startup expansion, with IIT-M signing MoUs with 3 institutions in USA, 1 in UK, 3 in Germany, 3 in UAE, 3 in Asia-Pacific, and 6 under India-for-Global initiative for initial setup in USA, Dubai, Malaysia, and Germany.

- **PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics** On January 3, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" exposition at Rai Pithora Cultural Complex in New Delhi, organized by the Ministry of Culture. The exposition showcases over 80 artefacts from the 6th century BCE to present, marking the historic reunification of Piprahwa Buddhist relics after 127 years through a Public-Private Partnership with Godrej Industries Group, displaying the original monolithic stone coffer alongside sculptures, manuscripts, and gem relics.
- **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Releases 184 New Crop Varieties Across 25 Crops** On January 4, 2026, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released 184 newly developed crop varieties across 25 different crops at an event in New Delhi, developed by ICAR (60 varieties), state and central agricultural universities (62 varieties), and private seed companies (62 varieties). The varieties include 122 cereals focused on climate-resilient millets, 24 cotton varieties, 13 oilseeds, 11 fodder crops, 6 pulses, 6 sugarcane, and individual jute and tobacco varieties to enhance agricultural productivity and food security.
- **42nd Foundation Day of DSIR: Relaxes 3-Year Eligibility Norm for Deep-Tech Startups** On January 4, 2026, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh announced removal of the mandatory 3-year existence condition for deep-tech startups to avail maximum ₹1 crore financial assistance under DSIR's Industrial Research and Development Promotion Program during the 42nd Foundation Day celebrations. The event also launched 4 new initiatives including Guidelines for Recognition of In-House R&D Centres, PRISM Network Platform, Creative India 2025, and DSIR Disaster Management Plan along with multiple MoUs for technology transfer and skill development.
- **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh Inaugurates SGA Farm and Research Institute in Hyderabad** On January 5, 2026, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurated the Smart Green Aquaculture (SGA) Farm and Research Institute in Hyderabad, Telangana, featuring India's first commercial-scale tropical trout farm and state-of-the-art Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) facility. SGA Limited's project at Kandukur Mandal serves as a live training and demonstration center, providing hands-on learning to youths in advanced aquaculture systems, automation, monitoring, and biosecurity practices for sustainable fish farming.
- **India's AYUSH System Recognised in Bilateral Agreements with Oman and New Zealand** In January 2026, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry announced India's traditional medical system (AYUSH) formal recognition in bilateral agreements with Oman under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and New Zealand under Free Trade Agreement. The announcement was made during AYUSHEXCIL's 4th establishment anniversary celebrations, noting that AYUSH and herbal product exports rose from USD 649.2 million in 2023-24 to USD 688.89 million in 2024-25, registering 6.11% growth while AYUSHEXCIL implements the Ayush Quality Mark programme launched by PM Modi.
- **India-Pakistan Exchange Nuclear Lists on January 1, 2026 (35th Time)** In January 2026, India and Pakistan exchanged the list of Nuclear Installations and Facilities through diplomatic channels at New Delhi and Islamabad simultaneously, marking the 35th consecutive exchange since January 1, 1992. Both countries exchanged prisoner lists as well, with Pakistan handing over 257 Indian prisoners including 199 fishermen and 58 civilians, as mandated under the 1988 Agreement on Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and the 2008 consular access pact.
- **Gol Approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy Rates for Rabi 2025-26 Season** In January 2025, Government of India approved Nutrient-Based Subsidy rates for Rabi 2025-26 season effective October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 for Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers with estimated budgetary requirement of ₹37,952.29 crore. NBS rates set at ₹43.02 per kg for Nitrogen, ₹47.96 per kg for Phosphorus, ₹2.38 per kg for Potassium, and ₹2.87 per kg for Sulphur, with Gol raising DAP subsidy to ₹29,805 per MT from ₹21,911 in Rabi 2024-25, while domestic P&K fertilizer production increased over 50% from 112.19 LMT in 2014 to 168.55 LMT by December 2025.
- **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Launches Integrated Standardisation Portal on BIS 79th Foundation Day** On January 6, 2026, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched Beta Version of new Bureau of Indian Standards Integrated Standardisation portal and several key initiatives during 79th BIS foundation day celebrations in New Delhi. Key launches included SHINE Scheme promoting women empowerment through SHG sensitization, BIS education literature as comic books in print and 2D animated formats, BIS-SAKSHAM initiative recognizing knowledge and merit, and MoUs with IIIT-Dharwad, IIT Palakkad, and NIT-Arunachal Pradesh expanding BIS reach to academia.
- **Union Minister Annapurna Devi Launches 'PANKHUDI Portal' for Women and Child Development** On January 8, 2026, Union Minister Annapurna Devi launched 'PANKHUDI', an integrated Corporate Social Responsibility and partnership facilitation digital portal under Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi. The single-window portal facilitates CSR and partnerships through real-time tracking and unified digital workflow covering nutrition, health, ECCE, child welfare, and women's empowerment while promoting Jan Bhagidari and supporting Mission Saksham Anganwadi, Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Shakti.

States in the News

- **Indian Navy to Establish New Naval Base at Haldia, West Bengal** In January 2026, the Indian Navy initiated establishment of a new naval base (detachment) at Haldia on the Hooghly River in West Bengal to strengthen operational presence and maritime surveillance capabilities in Bay of Bengal amid evolving regional security dynamics. Located 130 km from Sandheads, the base leverages Haldia Dock Complex with jetty and facilities accommodating ~100 personnel, primarily supporting Fast Interceptor Crafts and New Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts for coastal security, anti-piracy patrols, maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian relief operations.
- **CJI Surya Kant Inaugurates India's First Fully Paperless District Court in Kalpetta, Kerala** On January 6, 2026, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant virtually inaugurated India's first fully paperless district court system in Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala marking complete transition to digital functioning. Developed in-house by Kerala High Court and incorporating AI-based judicial assistance tools, all proceedings from filing to judgment are conducted electronically with AI generating structured summaries, enabling interactive Q&A, supporting digital annotations, and transcribing depositions via voice-to-text with secure digital signatures ensuring order and judgment validity.
- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Projects Worth ₹235 Crores in TN** On January 8, 2026, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched port infrastructure and digital governance projects worth ₹235 crores (₹129.36 crores at Chennai Port, ₹105.64 crores at Kamarajar Port Limited) as part of "Viksit Bharat, Viksit Ports" programme. Projects include ₹33.28 crore coastal revetment strengthening, ₹43 crore firefighting pump house at Oil Dock Area, ₹8.08 crore hospital modernization, ₹45 crore SAP-based Enterprise Business System at Chennai Port, and ₹105 crore Northern Breakwater rehabilitation using 3,055 tetrapods at KPL, alongside e-Port Clearance Portal launch and ₹18 lakh sailing training fund.
- In a major political milestone, **Karnataka** has witnessed history in the making. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has emerged as the **longest serving Chief Minister of the state**, a rare achievement in a politically dynamic landscape. His journey reflects resilience, social justice politics, and deep grassroots connect, making his leadership tenure both politically and historically significant.
- India's public broadcaster has taken an important step toward cultural inclusion in **Manipur**. **Prasar Bharati** has begun efforts to resume live radio programmes in the Thadou language from All India Radio Imphal. The decision is seen as a confidence-building measure in a state affected by ethnic violence and highlights the role of public broadcasting in preserving linguistic and cultural diversity.

- India's fisheries sector marked a major technological milestone with the launch of a large-scale trout farming project in **Telangana**. Traditionally limited to cold Himalayan regions, trout cultivation has now been successfully adapted to a warm inland climate. The initiative reflects India's push toward innovation-driven aquaculture, value addition, and export-oriented growth in fisheries.
- **Karnataka's wildlife** has once again drawn national and global attention with the discovery of an extremely rare leopard color variant. This unique big cat, nicknamed the **"Sandalwood Leopard"** has been documented for the first time in the state. The sighting highlights the remarkable genetic diversity of leopards in Karnataka and strengthens its reputation as one of India's most important landscapes for big cat conservation.
- The Union Environment Ministry's expert panel has recommended environmental clearance for the **Kalai-II hydropower project in Arunachal Pradesh**. The decision has sparked concern among conservationists, who argue that the project's environmental impact assessment ignored the presence of the critically endangered white-bellied heron in the Lohit River basin.
- The newly formed **Keyi Panyor district** is set to make history by becoming **India's first Bio-Happy District**. This pioneering initiative aims to integrate **biodiversity conservation with human well-being**, offering a new development model that balances **ecology, livelihoods, and public health**. The project revives the visionary concept of **Biohappiness**, introduced by the legendary agricultural scientist **M. S. Swaminathan**.

International Affairs

- **USA Withdraws from 66 International Bodies Including India-led ISA** On January 7, 2026, USA President Donald Trump issued an executive order and presidential memorandum announcing withdrawal from 66 international organizations, treaties, and commissions including India-and-France-led International Solar Alliance and several UN-affiliated entities. The withdrawal covers 35 non-UN organizations and 31 UN-affiliated bodies including IRENA, IPCC, IUCN, UNFCCC, UNFPA, and UN Water, with USA formally exiting ISA ending approximately USD 2.1 million contributions made between 2022-2025 as part of "America First" review citing concerns over national sovereignty and resource use.

- **UNGA Declares 2026 as International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists** In January 2026, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) at its 76th session, with resolution led by Mongolia and backed by 60 Member States and Food and Agriculture Organisation as leading implementing agency. IYRP 2026 aims to share pastoralist knowledge, encourage innovation, build partnerships, and support policies for sustainable rangelands and livelihoods, emphasizing that rangelands covering 50% of Earth's land surface support over 2 billion people and 50% of world's livestock while playing pivotal role in biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.
- **Archaeologists in Pakistan have discovered 2,000-year-old Kushan Empire coins and lapis lazuli fragments at Bhir Mound near Taxila in Rawalpindi.** The coins belong to the era of King Vasudeva, one of the last great Kushan rulers. The discovery highlights the region's ancient trade links, religious diversity, and historical importance during the early centuries of the Common Era.
- German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz** is set to visit India on January 12 and 13, 2026. The high-level visit comes at a crucial time for India-Germany relations, with both countries seeking deeper cooperation in trade, technology, climate action, and global governance. The visit is expected to further strengthen strategic and economic engagement.
- India has launched a new electronic business visa category to simplify and regulate business travel for Chinese nationals. The e Production Investment Business Visa, called the e-B-4 Visa, aims to support legitimate business activities and respond to rising demand for structured business engagement between India and China.
- China has recently strengthened its naval power by commissioning a new advanced warship named **Loudi**. This development highlights how quickly the **Chinese Navy** is expanding its fleet in order to match or challenge the **naval strength of the United States**.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **SC of India Signs MoU with SC of Bhutan for Judicial Exchange** In January 2026, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant announced that the Supreme Court of India has entered into an MoU with the Supreme Court of Bhutan to facilitate exchange of young legal professionals and strengthen judicial cooperation. Two law clerks from Bhutan will be engaged by the SCI for three-month tenure to work in different courts and gain exposure to judicial functioning while receiving honorarium equivalent to Indian law clerks, promoting knowledge sharing and building long-term professional ties.
- **TN CM M.K. Stalin Signs MoU with UN Women for Gender-Responsive Governance** In January 2026, Tamil Nadu CM Muthuvel Karunanidhi (M.K.) Stalin signed an MoU with UN Women in Chennai to strengthen institutional capacities for gender-responsive governance, improve women's welfare, and promote inclusive development. The initiative supports Sustainable Development Goals Goal 5 (Gender Equality) with implementation by Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Home, and Rural Development, with Tamil Nadu also selected as India's first state for UNICEF-Office of Innovation's national-level innovation initiative.
- **TMB Partners with TechFini to Bolster UPI Infrastructure** On January 5, 2026, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank entered into strategic partnership with TechFini, a UPI infrastructure provider, with TechFini serving as Technology Service Provider managing UPI switching via TechFini UPI Switch. The collaboration enables faster, secure, and scalable UPI infrastructure for Payment Aggregators, NBFCs, merchants, and fintech partners, expanding UPI use cases in lending and collections through UPI Autopay solution for automated EMI and loan repayments directly from customers' UPI handles.
- **ONGC Partners with MOL to Establish Two JVs in Ethane Shipping Business** On January 5, 2026, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation partnered with Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL), a Japanese Shipping Company, to establish two Joint Ventures to enter ethane shipping business with backing of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Department of Investment and Public Asset Management. Two JVs registered in GIFT-City Gandhinagar—Bharat Ethane One IFSC Private Limited and Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Private Limited—will each own one Very Large Ethane Carrier, with ONGC holding 50% stake and MOL 50% in each JV, transporting ethane from USA to India for ONGC Petro Additions Limited feedstock requirements while aligning with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.



- **Ministry of Communications Signs MoUs with MoRD & MoAFW for National Logistics Mechanism** On January 7, 2026, Department of Posts under Ministry of Communications signed two MoUs with Ministry of Rural Development and Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to establish national logistics mechanism for rural citizens, farmers, and SHGs. MoU with MoRD under DAY-NRLM aims to expand financial, digital, and logistics services for SHGs and rural households supporting women entrepreneurs and rural development, while MoU with MoAFW creates nationwide system for transporting pesticide, seed, and fertilizer samples to testing labs reducing delivery time from 10-15 days to 48-72 hours enabling faster testing and corrective action.
- **TEC Signs MoU with IIT Kanpur for Research & Technical Studies** On January 9, 2026, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), technical arm of Department of Telecommunication, signed MoU with Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to drive research, testing, and standardization in next-generation telecom technologies. The MoU focuses on 6G architecture and technologies including pre-standardization in global forums, AI and ML in telecom for network automation and intelligent management, and Non-Terrestrial Networks including satellite and HAPS integration with terrestrial networks, with TRAI also approving RANext Technologies as Digital Connectivity Rating Agency to assess and rate digital connectivity infrastructure quality across India.

Books and Authors

- **Goa CM Pramod Sawant Launches New Edition of Book 'History That India Ignored'** In January 2026, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the second edition of 'History That India Ignored', authored by veteran journalist Prem Prakash, Chairman of Asian News International, in Panaji, Goa. The book first published April 2025 highlights neglected aspects of India's freedom struggle including unsung heroes, revolutionary movements, Indian National Army, and overlooked uprisings like Vellore Mutiny (1806) and Battle of Imphal, challenging mainstream narratives to show independence shaped by both non-violent movements and revolutionary resistance.
- **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Releases 55 Literary Works in Classical Indian Languages** On January 6, 2026, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released 55 scholarly literary works in classical Indian languages at an event in New Delhi to promote India's linguistic heritage and inclusive access to classical knowledge. The compilation includes 41 books developed by Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages under CIIL Mysore covering Classical Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia, and 13 books from

Central Institute of Classical Tamil including 45-episode Sign Language interpretation series of Tirukkural to promote inclusive education for persons with hearing disabilities.

- **Book on Life of Droupadi Murmu Released in Visakhapatnam** In January 2026, the Telugu book 'Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu' (Lotus Blooming in Fire of Coals) chronicling President Droupadi Murmu's life from tribal roots to Rashtrapati Bhavan was released at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Authored by former Member of Parliament Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad (Vishwa Hindi Parishad President), the book was symbolically unveiled by Lakshmamma, a sanitation worker, embodying Murmu's empowerment narrative while highlighting resilience amid personal tragedies and political battles inspiring democratic participation in tribal areas.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **ADB Approves ₹4,100 Crore Loan for Musi Riverfront Development in Telangana** On January 2, 2026, the Asian Development Bank granted in-principle approval for ₹4,100 crore (USD 500 million) loan to Telangana for Phase-I of the Musi Riverfront Development Project to rejuvenate the river and enhance ecological, social, and economic aspects. Phase-I covers 21 kilometres of Zone-I stretching from Osman Sagar to Bapu Ghat, executed by Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited, with Phase-I works to begin after cost estimates finalization by March 31, 2026.
- **SEBI Gets Phased Capital, Revenue and Compliance Timelines for Merchant Bankers** In December 2025, SEBI notified phased rollout of revised net worth requirements for existing merchant bankers through amended SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, 1992, now called SEBI (Merchant Bankers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025. Category-I merchant bankers must maintain minimum net worth of ₹25 crore by January 2, 2027 and ₹50 crore by January 2, 2028, with liquid net worth of ₹6.25 crore and ₹12.5 crore respectively, while underwriting obligations cannot exceed 20 times liquid net worth with 3-year minimum revenue requirement from permitted activities.
- **ICICI Bank Launches CGAS for Tax-Exempt Deposits** On January 1, 2026, ICICI Bank launched the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS) under the Income Tax Act, 1961, allowing taxpayers to deposit un-invested long-term capital gains, earn interest, and avail tax exemptions for up to three years. The scheme offers two account types—Type A (Savings Account with flexible withdrawals) and Type B (Term Deposit Account with minimum ₹10,000 deposit)—enabling reinvestment in property, agricultural land, or new capital assets in non-urban areas or SEZs with Form-based withdrawal processes.

- FSS Becomes First Payments Company in India, ME, APAC, SA to Receive ISO/IEC 42001 Certification** On January 6, 2026, Financial Software and Systems became the first payments company in India, Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and South Africa to earn the ISO/IEC 42001 Certification, the world's first international standard for Artificial Intelligence Management Systems. The certification highlights FSS's commitment to responsible and trustworthy use of AI across digital payments platforms, ensuring responsible and ethical AI use with structured governance framework and mitigating risks such as bias and regulatory non-compliance.
- IDFC FIRST Bank Launches 'Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card'** In January 2026, IDFC FIRST Bank launched the 'Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card' for frequent international travelers providing zero foreign exchange markup on international transactions along with premium travel and lifestyle rewards. The card features ₹3,000 annual fee (waived from 2nd year on ₹6 lakh annual spend), domestic and international lounge access with ₹20,000 monthly spend, and comprehensive travel insurance including ₹25,000 trip cancellation cover and ₹1 crore air accident cover.
- HDFC Bank Integrates Digital Rupee CBDC into SmartGateway Platform** In January 2026, HDFC Bank integrated the Reserve Bank of India's Digital Rupee (e₹) Central Bank Digital Currency into its online merchant payment platform SmartGateway. SmartGateway now supports RBI-backed Digital Rupee alongside UPI, cards, and net banking with zero transaction cost for merchants and intermediary-free efficient settlement process, enabling seamless instant secure digital payment experience combining UPI convenience with sovereign-backed digital currency for strengthening digital-first strategy.
- Federal Bank Unveils Refreshed Brand Entity 'The Fortuna Wave'** On January 7, 2026, Federal Bank launched 'The Fortuna Wave', a refreshed brand identity signaling modernization and future-readiness in Mumbai with brand ambassador Vidya Balan. The new visual insignia features three wave elements representing authenticity, togetherness, and prosperity with dynamic wave motif, fluid rounded typeface, signature yellow underline retained, and vibrant digital-friendly color palette for improved visibility across digital and physical platforms.
- RBI Cancels CoR of 35 NBFCs for Regulatory Non-Compliance** In January 2026, the Reserve Bank of India cancelled the Certificate of Registration of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies for non-compliance with regulatory requirements, effective December 9-31, 2025, restricting them from carrying out NBFI business. Additionally, 16 other NBFCs voluntarily surrendered their CoR for strategic and operational reasons, with cancelled NBFCs predominantly concentrated in Delhi and NCR including AG Securities, ALB Leasing, ATM Credit & Investments, and others, and only a few located outside like Shivom Investment & Consultancy Ltd in Mumbai.
- Axis Finance Launches Vyapar Business Loan for MSMEs** On January 8, 2026, Axis Finance Limited launched the 'Axis Finance Vyapar Business Loan', a collateral-free credit solution for Micro and Small Enterprises across semi-urban and rural markets. The loan offers up to ₹10 lakh with flexible repayment tenures through minimal documentation and data-driven underwriting, empowering shopkeepers, traders, and service providers for working capital, business expansion, and equipment upgrades while Axis Bank also launched Safety Centre on its mobile banking app 'Open' for enhanced digital banking security.
- Ind-Ra Projects Indian Economy to Grow 6.9% in FY27 Amid Global Headwinds** In January 2026, India Ratings and Research projected India's GDP growth at 6.9% for FY27, lower than estimated 7.4% for FY26, attributed to El Nino pattern from mid-2026, weak investments, sluggish global trade growth, and base effect changes. Agency observed Private Financial Consumption Expenditure (accounting for 55.9% of GDP) remained subdued at 5.6% in FY24 but surged to 7.2% in FY25 and improved to 7.5% in H1 FY26, with projection of 7.6% growth in FY27 while overall inflation outlook for Q4 FY26 and FY27 remains benign.
- NSO Releases FAE of GDP 2025-26; Real GDP Witnesses 7.4% Growth in FY26** On January 7, 2026, National Statistics Office released First Advance Estimates of GDP for FY26 with real GDP estimated at 7.4% growth against 6.5% in FY25, with real GDP at ₹201.90 lakh crore. Nominal GDP growth projected at 8% in FY26 lower than previous year's 10.4%, with real GVA estimated at ₹184.50 lakh crore against ₹171.87 lakh crore in FY25 registering 7.3% growth rate and nominal GVA at ₹323.48 lakh crore recording 7.7% growth rate showing strong economic momentum.
- SBI Research Projects India's FY26 GDP Growth at 7.5%** On January 7, 2026, State Bank of India's Economic Research Department released Ecowrap report projecting India's GDP growth for FY26 at 7.5% with upward bias, slightly above NSO's 7.4% first advance estimate and RBI's 7.3% projection. SBI research noted that difference between RBI estimate and NSO estimate is always in range of 20-30 basis points, hence 7.4% estimate is reasonable while real GDP estimated at ₹201.90 lakh crore growing 7.4% and nominal GDP projected to expand 8% to ₹357.13-357.14 lakh crore.

- UN-DESA Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.6% for 2026** In January 2026, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs released 'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2026' report projecting India's GDP growth at robust 6.6% for calendar year 2026 down from earlier 7.4% estimate and forecasting 6.7% for 2027, with India remaining world's fastest-growing major economy. Global growth expected to moderate to 2.7% in 2026 down from 2.8% in 2025, while India's real GDP for FY26 projected at 7.4% up from 6.5% in FY25 with services GVA growth 7.3%, manufacturing and construction 7.0%, private consumption 7.0%, and GFCF growth 7.8%.
- NITI Aayog Launches 5th Edition of 'Trade Watch Quarterly' Report** In January 2026, Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member of NITI Aayog, launched the 5th edition of Trade Watch Quarterly for Q1 FY26 in New Delhi providing comprehensive data-driven analysis of India's trade performance in evolving global economic conditions. The report focused on India's automotive exports sector with global auto-components market reaching USD 856 billion in 2024 growing at 3% CAGR while India's exports nearly doubled from USD 8.2 billion to USD 16.9 billion achieving faster 7% CAGR, with India's goods and services exports and imports reaching USD 209 billion and USD 230 billion respectively in Q1 FY26 each increasing by around 3-4% annually.
- Indian Railways Electrified about 99.2% of its Network by November 2025** In January 2026, Indian Railways under Ministry of Railways electrified 99.2% (69,427 Route Kilometres of its 70,001 RKM broad-gauge network) by November 2025, emerging as one of world's most extensively electrified rail systems. Electrification expanded from 1.4 km per day (2004-14) to over 15 km per day (2019-2025), with share increasing from 24% in 2000 to 40% in 2017, surpassing 96% by December 2024, while solar power capacity surged nearly 244 times from 3.68 MW in 2014 to 898 MW by November 2025.
- HPCL Commissions World's First LC-Max Residue Upgradation Facility in Visakhapatnam** On January 5, 2026, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation successfully commissioned world's first and largest Liquid Conversion-Maximum Residue Upgradation Facility at its Visakhapatnam Refinery in Andhra Pradesh as part of ₹31,407 crore Visakh Refinery Modernization Project. The facility with 3.55 MTPA capacity can convert 93% of low-value bottom-of-barrel oils into higher-value products like diesel and jet fuel using three massive 2,200-tonne reactors, expected to increase distillate yields by 10% while featuring advanced digital optimization system for operational stability.

Appointments/Resignations

- Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak Appointed as CJ of Jharkhand HC** On January 2, 2026, the Department of Justice announced that President Droupadi Murmu approved the appointment of Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak, a Bombay High Court judge, as Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court under Article 217(1) of the Constitution. Justice Sonak will assume office following the retirement of incumbent CJ Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan on January 8, 2026, bringing expertise in civil, constitutional, labour, environmental, and commercial law practices at Bombay High Court since his appointment as Additional Judge in June 2013.
- HSBC Private Bank Appoints Ida Liu as CEO** In January 2026, HSBC Private Bank appointed Ida Liu as new Chief Executive Officer effective January 5, 2026, succeeding Gabriel Castello who served as interim CEO since December 2024. Liu brings over 25 years of global experience in wealth management, strategic advisory and business transformation, having previously served as Global Head of Citi Private Bank since 2007 with senior positions including Head of Citi Private Bank North America and Head of Asian Clients Group.
- K. Balasubrahmanian Assumes Charge as Chairman of AERB** In January 2026, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet appointed distinguished scientist A. K. Balasubrahmanian as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) for three years, succeeding Dr. D.K. Shukla who completed tenure on December 31, 2025. Balasubrahmanian brings nearly 40 years of career in design, development, safety assessment, construction, and commissioning of nuclear power plants, previously serving as Director (Technical) of NPCIL and promoting indigenous safety features and self-reliance in nuclear reactor technology.
- GoI Extends Abhishek Dev Tenure as Chairman of APEDA** On January 6, 2026, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved one-year extension of Abhishek Dev's tenure as Chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, effective February 8, 2026. Dev, a 2007-batch IAS officer from Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and UTs cadre, previously served as Director in Department of Commerce and was appointed APEDA Chairman in July 2023 to regulate exports of agricultural, processed food, and organic products.
- Justice A Muhamed Mustaque Takes Oath as 24th CJ Sikkim HC** In January 2026, Justice A Muhamed Mustaque, senior-most judge of Kerala High Court, was sworn-in as the 24th Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court with oath administered by Governor Om Prakash Mathur. Justice Mustaque succeeded CJ Biswanath Somadder who retired December 14, 2025, and brings extensive judicial career including appointment as Additional Judge of Kerala HC in 2014, Permanent Judge in 2016, and Acting Chief Justice from July-September 2024.

- **Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta Appointed CJ of Uttarakhand HC** In January 2026, the Department of Justice announced President of India appointed Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta, a senior judge of Allahabad High Court, as Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court under Article 217(1) of Constitution. Justice Gupta will assume office following retirement of incumbent CJ Justice Guhanathan (G.) Narendra on January 9, 2026, bringing 25+ years of legal practice in civil, rent control, and constitutional law and serving as Additional Judge since April 2013 and Permanent Judge since April 2015.
- **Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak Appointed CJ of Jharkhand HC** (See Appointments & Resignations section)
- **ESAF SFB Appoints Karthikeyan Manickam as Chairman** In January 2026, ESAF Small Finance Bank appointed Karthikeyan Manickam, former Executive Director of Bank of India, as its new Chairman effective January 2, 2026, succeeding Ravimohan Periyakavil Ramakrishnan who stepped down December 20, 2025. Manickam brings over 36 years of public sector banking experience with robust domain expertise across operations, risk management, regulatory compliance, human resources, credit monitoring, financial inclusion, and customer-centric banking.
- **ONGC Signs MoU with MoTA to Empower Tribal Students of EMRS** On January 5, 2026, ONGC, a Maharatna PSU, signed an MoU with National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) under Ministry of Tribal Affairs to strengthen Eklavya Model Residential Schools through ₹28 crore Corporate Social Responsibility funding. The initiative covering 144 EMRS in 11 states and UTs will empower tribal students through digital learning infrastructure, career mentorship and counselling, capacity building of teachers, health and hygiene facilities, and entrepreneurship training under central government scheme launched in FY 1997-98.
- **Union Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates NIDMS of NSG in New Delhi** In January 2026, Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Data Management System (NIDMS) developed by National Bomb Data Centre of NSG through video conferencing at Manesar, Gurugram, Haryana. NIDMS is a secure national-level AI-enabled digital platform serving as central repository of all bomb explosion incidents from 1999 to present, accessible to NIA, ATS, State Police Forces, CAPFs, and central agencies, integrated with ICJS-2 supporting 'One Data-One Entry' principle linking with CCTNS, e-Courts, e-Prisons, and NAFIS for strengthened national security coordination.
- **Indian Navy's 1TS Begins Long Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia** On January 7, 2026, the First Training Squadron of Indian Navy began its Long-Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia as part of 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course, with vessels INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi making port calls in Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand. The deployment provides naval cadets hands-on experience in seamless, navigation, and professional naval operations in varied maritime environments while strengthening India's Act East Policy ties with Southeast Asia, promoting a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Defence News

- **IA Creates Modern Warfare Force 'Bhairav' with Over 1 Lakh Drone Operatives** In January 2026, the Indian Army announced creation of 'Bhairav', a modern warfare force with over 1 lakh trained drone operatives equipped with advanced drone technology for enhanced combat capabilities. Currently, 15 Bhairav battalions have been deployed across various formations along both borders with plans to raise 25 such battalions in near future, serving as dedicated force for high-speed offensive operations and special forces tasking at tactical to operational depth while making first appearance at Indian Army Day Parade in Jaipur, Rajasthan on January 15, 2026.
- **Indian Army Signs ₹293 Crore Contract with NIBE Limited for Suryastra Rocket Launch System** On January 4, 2026, Indian Army signed Emergency Procurement contract worth ₹293 crore with NIBE Limited for procurement of Suryastra, India's first indigenously developed multi-calibre, long-range precision-guided rocket launcher system. Suryastra, developed in collaboration with Israel's Elbit Systems, strikes targets at 150-300 km ranges with Circular Error Probable <5 metres, mounted on BEML High Mobility Vehicle 6×6 truck offering high tactical mobility and effective shoot-and-scoot capability with 80% indigenous content, aligning with Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.



Awards and Recognitions

- **IRFC Secures 'Excellent' Rating from DPE for 5th Consecutive Year** In January 2026, Indian Railways Finance Corporation, a Navratna Central Public Enterprise, was awarded 'Excellent' rating by Department of Public Enterprises for FY25, marking 5th consecutive year achieving highest performance rating since listing in FY21. IRFC established in 1986 continued bolstering and diversifying lending portfolio during FY25 aligned with "Whole-of-Approach", reaching annual sanction target of ₹60,000 crore by Q3 of FY26, demonstrating ability to navigate emerging challenges while maintaining institutional strength and consistent performance.
- **Five Indian Films Qualify for Best Picture Eligibility at 98th Academy Awards** In January 2026, five Indian films—Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1, Tanvi The Great, Mahavatar Narasimha, Tourist Family, and Sister Midnight—were included in list of 201 feature films eligible for Best Picture category at 98th Academy Awards released by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Kantara directed by Rishab Shetty under Hombale Films stars Shetty; Mahavatar Narasimha animated film directed by Ashwin Kumar features Lord Narasimha voice; Tanvi The Great directed by Anupam Kher under NFDC stars Shubhangi Dutt; Tourist Family marks Abishan Jeevinth's directorial debut; and Sister Midnight dark comedy written-directed by Karan Kandhari features Radhika Apte.
- **IREDA Secures 'Excellent' Rating in MoU Performance Evaluation with MNRE for FY 25** On January 8, 2026, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy secured 'Excellent' rating with score of 96.42 for performance in MoU signed with MNRE for FY25. The 2025 achievement marks fifth consecutive year highlighting sustained focus on operational efficiency, financial discipline, and strong corporate governance, while IREDA established in 1987 as Navratna NBFC finances renewable energy projects including solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy, green hydrogen, and storage supporting India's clean energy and climate goals.
- **NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang Conferred 2026 IEEE Medal of Honour** On January 6, 2026, Jensen Huang, Chief Executive Officer of NVIDIA, was awarded the 2026 IEEE Medal of Honor from Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the highest recognition in field. Jensen Huang received award for outstanding contributions to Graphics Processing Units and accelerated computing which have revolutionized computing, AI, and High-Performance Computing worldwide, with 2026 award including USD 2 million cash prize marking second consecutive year that IEEE attached monetary award to this honor established in 1917.

Summits and Conferences News

- India has launched the **Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026**, a new institutional effort to strengthen the connection between science, technology, and diplomacy. The initiative is being jointly launched by the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the Government of India and the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**. The announcement was made by **Principal Scientific Adviser Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood** and **ORF President Dr. Samir Saran** at the PSA office. The initiative will operate alongside the **Raisina Dialogue** from **March 5-7, 2026** in **New Delhi**.
- The **National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026** commenced on **January 8** in **Guwahati**, organized by the **Ministry of Textiles** in collaboration with the **Government of Assam**. This two-day conference brings together **Textile Ministers and senior officials from all States and Union Territories** to deliberate on the strategic future direction of India's textile sector amid evolving global and domestic challenges. The conference represents a critical institutional mechanism for aligning federal and state policies, sharing best practices, and charting a unified course toward positioning India as a **global textile manufacturing hub by 2030**. Held under the theme **"India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation,"** the conference embodies India's commitment to simultaneous economic development and cultural preservation.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** will host the **inaugural India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026** from **January 21 to 23, 2026**, at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**. This three-day international event marks a **major step in positioning India as a global hub** for dialogue and cooperation on **democratic governance and election management**. The conference represents India's commitment to sharing its rich democratic experiences and expertise with the international community, while advancing global cooperation on strengthening electoral systems and democratic institutions worldwide.
- The **Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference** was held on **Tuesday, 06 January 2026**, marking a major milestone in India's journey towards **inclusive, ethical, and responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. The conference brought together **national and state leadership, policymakers, industry experts, startups, and academia** to deliberate on the transformative role of AI in **governance, infrastructure, innovation, and workforce development**.

Ranks and Reports

- **Uttarakhand Police Ranks First in ICJS 2.0 National Rankings** On January 8, 2026, Uttarakhand Police ranked first with score of 93.46 in second edition of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System 2.0 rankings released by National Crime Records Bureau under Ministry of Home Affairs. Haryana Police secured second place with 93.41 and Assam third with 93.16, with ICJS 2.0 being upgraded version promoting real-time data sharing, enabling "One Data, One Entry" principle, making investigations faster and evidence-based, and allowing digital case tracking from FIR to conviction.
- **Bengaluru has been ranked the best city for women in India in 2025**, emerging as the top performer in a nationwide study on **urban inclusion**. The ranking highlights Bengaluru's ability to combine **strong social infrastructure** with **robust industrial opportunities**, creating a supportive ecosystem for **women's safety, employment, and long-term career growth. Top Five Cities (2025 Rankings)**
 - Bengaluru – 53.29
 - Chennai – 49.86
 - Pune – 46.27
 - Hyderabad
 - Mumbai

Sports News

- **PM Narendra Modi Virtually Inaugurates 72nd National Volleyball Tournament in Varanasi** On January 4, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball Tournament (Senior National Championship) at Dr. Sampurnanand Sports Stadium in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh via video conferencing. The tournament scheduled till January 11, 2026 is expected to witness participation of over 1,000 players representing 58 teams across the country, organized by Volleyball Federation of India in collaboration with UP government, with two mascots 'Nandu' (Nandi bull for strength) and 'Neera' (Ganga River Dolphin symbolizing environmental awareness).
- **Asian Games Gold Medalist Runner Jinson Johnson Announces Retirement** On January 7, 2026, Olympian and Asian Games gold medalist middle-distance runner Jinson Johnson announced his retirement from competitive running after 15-year international career. Johnson won gold in 1500m and silver in 800m at 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia, and bronze in 1500m at 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, while holding national records of 1:45.65 in 800m (2018) and 3:35.24 in 1500m (2019 ISTAF Berlin).

- **Renowned Australian Cricketer Usman Khawaja Announced Retirement from International Cricket** In January 2026, Pakistan-born Australian cricketer Usman Tariq Khawaja announced his retirement from international cricket following the fifth Ashes Test at Sydney Cricket Ground marking his 88th Test match. Khawaja scored 6,206 runs in 87 test matches and 1,554 runs in 40 ODIs, debuting against England in 2010-11 and scoring his first Ashes century of 171 runs in 2018, as Australia's first Muslim Test cricketer with impressive 16 hundreds and 28 fifties in Test cricket.
- **IAF Commemorates 25th Anniversary of Tejas First Flight** On January 4, 2026, the Indian Air Force marked the 25th anniversary of the historic maiden flight of indigenously developed Tejas Light Combat Aircraft, which took place on January 4, 2001 flown by Wing Commander Rajiv Kothiyal from HAL Bengaluru airport. In late 2025, HAL secured major order for 97 more Mk-1A jets worth over ₹62,370 crore, with VEM Technologies delivering 1st centre fuselage assembly in May 2025 and 2nd in September 2025 to HAL in Hyderabad, strengthening indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Assam Governor Inaugurates 'Sanskaar Shaala' for Children** On January 4, 2026, Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya inaugurated Sanskaar Shaala, a cultural and value-based learning initiative for children aged 4-14 at Lohia Lions Auditorium in Guwahati, Assam. The Assam government also launched a new financial assistance scheme for Udasin Bhakats (celibate Vaishnavite monks), providing ₹1,500 monthly to each of around 620 identified beneficiaries across Assam to ensure welfare and preserve cultural and religious heritage linked to the Udasin satra system founded by 15th-century saint Srimanta Sankardeva.
- **TN CM M.K. Stalin Announces 'Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme'** In January 2026, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the 'TN Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS)' for State government employees and teachers, providing assured pension equivalent to Old Pension Scheme benefits with 50% of last-drawn basic pay. The scheme requires employees to contribute 10% of basic pay with TN Government bearing entire additional financial liability of ₹13,000 crore one-time and ~₹11,000 crore annual contributions, guaranteeing DA revision twice yearly, 60% family pension, and gratuity up to ₹25 lakh on retirement.

- **TN CM M.K. Stalin Unveils India's First Deep-Tech Startup Policy** In January 2026, Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin unveiled the Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025-26, India's first deep-tech startup policy at 4th edition of Uimagine TN in Chennai, earmarking ₹100 crore to support 100 startups over five years to bridge lab-to-market gap for research-driven ventures. The TN government also launched 'Namma Arasu', a WhatsApp-based e-governance service in partnership with Meta, making TN the 3rd Indian state after Andhra Pradesh and Odisha with multilingual (English and Tamil) chatbot enabling bus ticket booking, exam hall tickets, and tax payments.

Science and Technology News

- **SpaceX Launches Italy's COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation Satellite** On January 2, 2026, SpaceX launched the COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation-Flight Model 3 satellite for Italian Space Agency and Ministry of Defence aboard a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, marking the first SpaceX mission and first orbital rocket launch globally in 2026. The upgraded satellite with ~2,205 kg mass carries advanced Synthetic Aperture Radar sensors and improved imaging capabilities for dual-use civilian and defense applications, tracking natural disasters in real-time and supporting national security, maritime surveillance, and strategic planning 24/7 in all weather conditions.
- **Indian Scientists Develop 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Stations Under Mission Mausam** In January 2026, scientists led by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under Ministry of Earth Sciences developed indigenously manufactured 3D-printed Automatic Weather Stations using Make in India initiative for enhanced weather observation and forecasting capabilities. The first batch of low-cost, lightweight, and quick-to-deploy stations is set for February 2026 deployment in Delhi followed by Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, with initial 50 units produced and 80 more planned, featuring solar power for urban and remote deployment with real-time temperature, wind speed, humidity, and rainfall transmission.
- **DRDO Develops Portable Water Purification System 'SWaDeS' for Soldiers** In January 2026, the Defence Laboratory Jodhpur under DRDO developed 'SeaWater Desalination System (SWaDeS)' in manual and engine-driven variants to supply safe drinking water to soldiers in remote, coastal, and water-scarce regions. The engine-operated variant desalinates seawater with TDS up to 35,000 mg/L to below 500 mg/L for 20-25 soldiers within 2-3 minutes setup, while manual unit supports 10-12 personnel, with both variants featuring Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear water purification modules and suitable for naval operations and inland saline lakes.
- **NASA's Hubble Telescope Discovered First Starless Gas Cloud 'Cloud-9'** In January 2026, NASA's Hubble Telescope discovered a starless, gas-rich, dark-matter cloud nicknamed 'Cloud-9' located 14 million light-years from Earth near Messier 94, with findings published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters'. Cloud-9, a Reionization-Limited HI Cloud, contains neutral hydrogen with mass of 1 million solar masses and dominated by dark matter with ~5 billion solar masses across 4,900 light-year diameter, representing rare 'fossil' from universe's early days and discovered in 2023 via China's FAST radio telescope with 2025 VLA/GBT confirmation and 2026 Hubble verification of no stars within boundaries.
- **Indian Scientists Developed First-Ever Supercomputer-Powered Simulation to Model Mpemba Effect** On January 6, 2026, Indian scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bengaluru under Ministry of Science and Technology developed the first-ever supercomputer-powered simulation to model the Mpemba effect published in Communication Physics. The supercomputer simulation at molecular level revealed how non-equilibrium thermodynamics, molecular rearrangements, and energy dissipation enable hotter water to freeze faster than colder water, offering technical perspective on material relaxation phenomena resulting from abrupt temperature variations.
- **Pakistan Conducts Successful Flight Test of 'Taimoor ALCM'** In January 2026, Pakistan Air Force conducted successful flight test of indigenously developed Taimoor Air-Launched Cruise Missile deployed from Mirage IIIE fighter aircraft during live-trial exercise. Taimoor, developed by Air Weapons Complex, is a turbojet-powered subsonic cruise missile with 600 km strike range carrying conventional high-explosive warhead, featuring state-of-the-art navigation and guidance system for very low altitude operation enabling evasion of hostile air defenses and missile interception systems.
- **Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Two World-Class Laboratories at CSIR-NPL** On January 5, 2026, Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NSEL), Asia's first and world's second pollution monitoring facility, and National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration, world's fifth-of-its-kind, at CSIR-NPL campus in New Delhi during 80th Foundation Day celebrations. NSEL tests, calibrates, and certifies air pollution monitoring devices supporting National Clean Air Programme, while Solar Cell Calibration Facility developed with Germany's PTB using Laser-based Differential Spectral Responsivity system achieves world's lowest calibration uncertainty of 0.35% and reduces dependence on foreign certification.

- **MeitY Inaugurates 'Param Shakti' at IIT Madras in Chennai**
In January 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information inaugurated Param Shakti, a state-of-the-art supercomputing facility at IIT-Madras in Chennai powered by PARAM RUDRA supercomputing system with 3.1 petaflops peak performance. The supercomputer developed and built entirely in India by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing will accelerate research in aerospace engineering, materials science, climate and weather modelling, drug discovery, advanced manufacturing, and computational fluid dynamics with 24x7 power backup and advanced cooling systems.
- **MIB Sets Up LEDC to Boost India's Concert & Live Entertainment Economy**
In January 2026, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting established a Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) constituted in July 2025 under Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to boost India's concert and live entertainment economy. The LEDC with officials from Centre, states, industry bodies, and event companies will streamline approvals and coordinate large-scale live events to position India as leading global destination for live events by 2030, with India's organized live events market valued at ₹20,861 crore in 2024 projected to grow at 18% CAGR through 2030.

Important Days News

- **World Braille Day 2026 – January 4**
The United Nations' World Braille Day is observed globally on January 4 marking the 217th birth anniversary of Louis Braille, inventor of the Braille system in 1824, with 2026 marking the 8th World Braille Day observance. The day promotes Braille literacy and accessibility for blind and visually impaired individuals, honored through UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UNESCO recognition of Braille as legitimate language as of 2005.
- **National Siddha Day 2026 – January 6**
The 9th National Siddha Day falls on January 6, 2026, observed annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sage Agathiyar, regarded as father of the Siddha system of medicine coinciding with the Ayilyam star in Tamil month of Margazhi. On January 3, 2026, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 9th Siddha Day celebrations at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, honoring five eminent personalities for outstanding contributions to the Siddha system under the theme "Siddha for Global Health."
- **World Day of War Orphans 2026 – January 6**
World Day of War Orphans is observed annually on January 6 across the globe to raise awareness about children who have lost one or both parents to war, armed conflict, or political violence. Proposed in 1994 by French NGO SOS Enfants en Détresse

with first observation in 1995, the day highlights that over 140-150 million children worldwide have lost parents, with emphasis on protection under UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and international humanitarian law.

- **Earth's Rotation Day 2026 – January 8**
Earth's Rotation Day is annually observed on January 8 to highlight significance of Earth's rotational motion and commemorate French physicist Léon Foucault's historic 1851 pendulum experiment at Paris Panthéon, which first publicly demonstrated Earth's rotation with January 8, 2026 marking the 175th anniversary. Foucault's 28 kilogram brass bob suspended from 67-meter wire provided first direct laboratory proof of Earth's rotation beyond astronomical observations, with Earth rotating west to east every 24 hours at ~1,670 km/h speed at equator.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – January 9**
Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), also known as Non-Resident Indian Day, is biennially observed on January 9 to recognize and honour significant contributions of overseas Indian community to nation's development, commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India in 1915. The MEA's flagship event first introduced in 2003 holds biennial theme-based conventions since 2015, with 18th PBD Convention held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from January 8-10, 2025, and 19th convention scheduled for 2027, while Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award presented by President honors exceptional contributions of NRIs and organizations run by them.
- **DRDO Celebrates 68th Foundation Day in Delhi**
On January 1, 2026, Defence Research and Development Organisation celebrated 68th Foundation Day at New Delhi under Union Minister Rajnath Singh and MoS Sanjay Seth. DRDO reaffirmed as pivotal force in Aatmanirbhar Bharat with Defence Acquisition Council and Strategic Policy Board according 22 Acceptance of Necessity approvals worth ~₹1.30 lakh crore, 11 defence contracts worth ₹26,000 crore signed, and multiple DRDO-developed systems inducted into CAPFs, Police Forces, and NDRF beyond Indian Armed Forces.



Obituaries News

- **Former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi Passed Away** On January 6, 2026, senior Indian National Congress leader and former Union Minister of State Suresh Kalmadi passed away at age 81 in Pune, Maharashtra, born May 1, 1944 in Madras. Kalmadi served as pilot in Indian Air Force from 1964-1974, became President of Indian Youth Congress in 1977, served three terms in Rajya Sabha since 1982, represented Pune constituency in Lok Sabha, served as MoS for Railways from 1995-1996, and was President of Indian Olympic Association from 1996-2012 before appointment as Life President in 2016.
- **Former World Billiards Champion Manoj Kothari Passed Away** In January 2026, Former World Billiards Champion Manoj Kothari, pioneering figure in Indian cue sports and current chief national coach, passed away at age 67 in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. Kothari was two-time IBSF World Billiards Champion (1990 and World Doubles Championship 1997 with Ian Williamson), served as national coach of Indian billiards team since 2011, won State Champion title 16 times, and received Major Dhyan Chand Award in 2005, Lifetime Achievement Award from IBSF in 2025, and recognition from West Bengal and Calcutta Sports Journalists Club.
- **Veteran BJP Leader Kabindra Purkayastha Passed Away** On January 7, 2026, veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Union Minister of State for Communications Kabindra Purkayastha passed away at age 94 in Silchar, Assam, born December 15, 1931. Purkayastha joined RSS in 1951, was founding member of BJP who strengthened organizational base in Assam and Northeast, was three-time MP from Silchar in 1991, 1998, and 2009, and served as Union MoS for Communications during 1998-1999 under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Renowned Ecologist & Conservationist Madhav Gadgil Passed Away** On January 8, 2026, Ecologist, Scholar, and Conservationist Madhav Dhananjaya Gadgil passed away at age 83 in Pune, Maharashtra, born April 24, 1942, recognized as father of modern Indian ecology. Gadgil was founding faculty member of Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc Bengaluru, served as Professor of Ecology from 1981-2005, was appointed Chairman of Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in 2010, authored over 250 papers on ecology and conservation, and received Padma Shri (1981), Padma Bhushan (2006), Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (2015), and UN Champion of Earth Award (2024).

Miscellaneous News

- **OPSA Partners with ORF to Launch Inaugural Edition of SDI** On January 8, 2026, Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India and Observer Research Foundation partnered to launch inaugural Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative 2026. Raisina SDI scheduled March 5-7, 2026 during Raisina Dialogue will be dedicated platform exploring intersection of science, technology, and diplomacy with focus on emerging technologies, scientific cooperation in multipolar world, and technology control regimes, bringing scientists, diplomats, policymakers, and industry leaders through high-level sessions and expert roundtables.
- **UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai' to Enhance Public Awareness** On January 8, 2026, UIDAI Chairman Neelkanth Mishra unveiled new Aadhaar mascot named "Udai" in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala as part of efforts to strengthen public outreach and awareness in Aadhaar-related services. The mascot designed by Arun Gokul from Thrissur with name suggested by Riya Jain from Bhopal symbolizing progress and empowerment, will be used as resident-facing communication companion explaining enrollment, authentication, selective information sharing, and new technology adoption to 1.4 billion Aadhaar users.
- **Akasa Air Becomes Fifth Indian Airline to Join IATA** In January 2026, Akasa Air became the 5th Indian member of International Air Transport Association, global body representing over 360 airlines and 80%+ of global air traffic. Membership followed successful completion of IATA Operational Safety Audit in December 2025, enabling participation in industry-wide dialogue on safety management, digital transformation, and sustainable aviation alongside other Indian IATA members Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, and SpiceJet, with Akasa Air founded in 2020 by Vinay Dube connecting 26 domestic and six international cities operating 31 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.
- **New Reed Snake Species 'Calamaria mizoramensis' Discovered in Mizoram** In January 2026, scientists from Mizoram University in collaboration with researchers from Russia, Germany, and Vietnam discovered a new reed snake species named 'Calamaria mizoramensis' in Mizoram with findings published in international scientific journal 'Zootaxa'. The small dark brown to blackish snake with faint stripes and yellow underside is non-venomous, nocturnal, and semi-fossorial, inhabiting humid forested hill regions at 670-1,295 metres elevation, confirmed in six Mizoram locations, bringing global Calamaria count to 70 and updating state's herpetofauna to 169 species with tentative Least Concern IUCN status.

- India Becomes the World's First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen** On January 7, 2026, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced India became the first country globally to commercially produce bio-bitumen at CSIR Technology Transfer ceremony titled "From Farm Residue to Roads" in New Delhi. Bio-bitumen, made by converting agricultural waste like paddy straw into bio-oil through

pyrolysis then blending with conventional bitumen, can save nearly ₹4,500 crore in foreign exchange with 15% blending while substantially reducing dependence on imported crude oil, with technology developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum with licenses issued to multiple Indian manufacturers.

Static Takeaways

Category	Full Name (Entity)	Key Details
Bank	Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Bank Limited (ICICI Bank Limited)	Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Sandeep Bakhshi Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra Incorporated: 1994
Private Company	Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Elon Musk Headquarters: Texas, United States of America (USA) Established: 2002
Ministry	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)	Union Minister: Jitan Ram Manjhi (Gaya, Bihar) Minister of State (MoS): Shobha Karandlaje (Bangalore North, Karnataka)
Ministry	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)	Union Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha) MoS: Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh)
Ministry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)	Union Minister: Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North, Maharashtra) MoS: Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh)
Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)	Union Minister: Jagat Prakash (J.P.) Nadda (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat) MoS: Prataprao Jadhav (Buldhana, Maharashtra), Anupriya Patel (Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh)
Ministry	Ministry of Culture	Union Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jodhpur, Rajasthan) MoS: Rao Inderjit Singh (Gurugram, Haryana)
State	Telangana State	Chief Minister: A Revanth Reddy Governor: Jishnu Dev Varma Capital: Hyderabad Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kinnerasani WLS, Pakhal WLS
Ministry	Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)	Minister of State (Independent Charge): Dr. Jitendra Singh (Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir)
UN Organisation	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Executive Director (ED): Catherine M Russell Headquarters: New York, USA Established: 1946 Member Countries: 190
State	Assam State	Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya Capital: Dispur National Parks: Manas NP, Dibru-Saikhowa NP
Ministry	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW)	Union Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh) MoS: Ram Nath Thakur (Rajya Sabha – Bihar), Bhagirath Choudhary (Ajmer, Rajasthan)
Department	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)	Secretary: Dr. N. Kalaiselvi Headquarters: New Delhi Established: 04 January 1985
Ministry	Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy)	MoS (Independent Charge): Prataprao Jadhav (Buldhana, Maharashtra)
Armed Forces	Indian Army (IA)	Chief of the Army Staff (COAS): General Upendra Dwivedi HQ: New Delhi Established: 1895 Motto: Seva Paramo Dharma
Ministry	Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Union Minister: Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh) MoS: Sanjay Seth (Ranchi, Jharkhand)
Rating Agency	India Ratings and Research Private Limited (Ind-Ra)	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD): Rohit Karan Sawhney HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra Established: 1995

Category	Full Name (Entity)	Key Details
Ministry	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F)	Union Minister: J.P. Nadda (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat) MoS: Anupriya Patel (Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh)
CSIR Institute	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Physical Laboratory (CSIR–NPL)	Director: Professor Venu Gopal Achanta HQ: New Delhi Established: 1947 Role: India's premier Metrology institute
Defence Company	Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)	Managing Director (MD) & CEO: Sukaran Singh HQ: Hyderabad, Telangana Established: 2006
Defence Organisation	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Chairman: Samir V. Kamat HQ: New Delhi Established: 01 January 1958 Labs: 52
Ministry	Ministry of Education (MoE)	Union Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan (Sambalpur, Odisha) MoS: Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha – UP), Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (Balurghat, West Bengal)
Ministry	Ministry of Railways (MoR)	Union Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha) MoS: V. Somanna (Tumkur, Karnataka), Ravneet Singh Bittu (Rajya Sabha – Rajasthan)
PSU	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD): Vikas Kaushal HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra Established: 1974
Govt Body	National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)	Chief Executive Officer (CEO): B.V.R. Subrahmanyam HQ: New Delhi Established: 01 January 2015
International Alliance	International Solar Alliance (ISA)	Director General (DG): Ashish Khanna HQ: Gurugram, Haryana Established: 2015 (India-France initiative at COP21 Paris 2015)
Sports Body	Athletics Federation of India (AFI)	President: Bahadur Singh Sagoo HQ: New Delhi Established: 1946
Ministry	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)	MoS (Independent Charge): Rao Inderjit Singh (Gurugram, Haryana)
Standards Body	Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)	Director General (DG): Sanjay Garg HQ: New Delhi Established: 01 April 1987 Act: BIS Act, 1986 (ISI founded 1947)
Ministry	Ministry of Communications	Union Minister: Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia (Guna, Madhya Pradesh) MoS: Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani (Guntur, Andhra Pradesh)
State	Tamil Nadu State (TN)	Chief Minister: M.K. Stalin Governor: R.N. Ravi Capital: Chennai National Parks: Guindy NP, Mukurthi NP
Govt Body	Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC)	Senior Deputy Director General (Sr. DDG): Syed Tausif Abbas HQ: New Delhi Established: 1991
UN Department	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)	Under-Secretary-General: Li Junhua HQ: New York, USA Established: 1948
Academy	Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)	President: Lynette Howell Taylor HQ: Beverly Hills, California, USA Established: 1927