

Weekly One Liners 19th to 25th of January 2026

Davos 2026: Key Dates, Theme, Participants and Global Challenges in Focus

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2026 will begin on January 19, 2026, in Davos, Switzerland. The five-day summit will bring together nearly 3,000 global leaders to discuss solutions to economic slowdown, geopolitical tensions, climate risks and technological disruption. The meeting comes at a time of rising global uncertainty and shifting power dynamics.

Why in News?

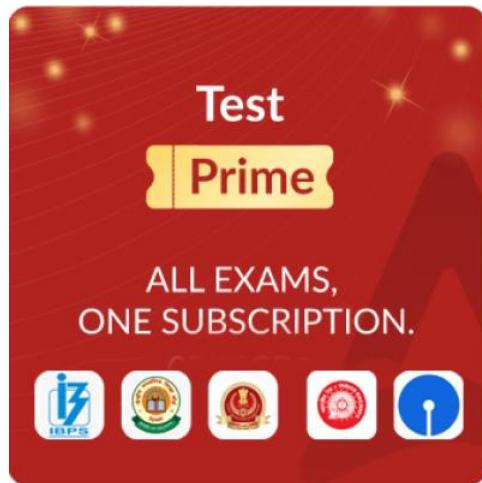
The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** Annual Meeting 2026 is in news as it starts on January 19 in Davos. This year's summit is among the largest-ever gatherings, with leaders from over 130 countries participating.

What Is Davos and the World Economic Forum?

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an international organization headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- For over 50 years, it has brought together leaders from governments, businesses, international organizations and civil society.
- Its most prominent event is the annual Davos meeting, where global challenges are discussed through public private cooperation.
- The forum focuses on improving the state of the world by encouraging dialogue, collaboration and policy innovation across borders and sectors.

Davos 2026: Dates, Location and Theme

- The WEF Annual Meeting 2026 will be held in Davos, Switzerland, from January 19 to January 23, 2026.
- The official theme for this year is "**A Spirit of Dialogue**", highlighting the need for cooperation in a divided and contested world.
- Discussions will focus on rebuilding trust, managing geopolitical tensions, promoting innovation-led growth and ensuring inclusive development amid economic fragmentation and rapid technological change.



Participants at Davos 2026

- According to WEF, nearly 3,000 leaders from more than 130 countries will attend Davos 2026.
- This includes around 400 senior political leaders, nearly 65 heads of state or government, and leaders from G7 countries.
- Prominent attendees include Donald Trump, who will lead the US delegation.
- Heads of global institutions such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, and World Health Organization will also participate.

Role of Business and Technology Leaders

- Davos 2026 will see participation from nearly 850 top CEOs and business leaders from global corporations.
- Technology leaders such as Satya Nadella and Jensen Huang are expected to attend.
- Discussions will focus on artificial intelligence, digital transformation, energy transition, supply chains and innovation led growth, reflecting the growing influence of the private sector in shaping global economic outcomes.

India at Davos 2026

- **India** will be represented by a **high-level political and business delegation**, highlighting its growing global economic and strategic importance.
- **Senior Union Ministers** handling portfolios like commerce, energy, digital infrastructure and external affairs are expected to attend.
- Several state chief ministers, including those from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, will also participate.
- Indian corporate leaders from groups like Tata, Infosys, Mahindra and JSW will anchor India's presence at Davos.

What India and States Aim to Showcase

- Indian states will use Davos 2026 to attract foreign investment and showcase development models.
- Kerala will promote its responsible investment and ESG focused approach, while Jharkhand will present its energy transition model based on renewable energy and inclusive growth.
- Andhra Pradesh will highlight investment opportunities in infrastructure and industry.
- These engagements aim to position India as a reliable global growth partner.

Why Davos 2026 Is Important Globally

- Davos 2026 is significant as it takes place amid geopolitical conflicts, economic slowdown, climate stress and rapid technological change.
- The forum **serves as a neutral platform for dialogue** at a time **when multilateral cooperation is under strain**.
- Leaders are expected to outline strategies for sustainable growth, climate action, AI governance and global cooperation, making the summit highly relevant for future global policymaking.

Key Outcomes of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's Visit to India

India and the United Arab Emirates have taken their strategic partnership to a new level following the visit of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India. The visit resulted in multiple agreements and announcements covering investment, defence, space, energy, trade, technology and people-to-people ties, reflecting growing trust and long-term cooperation between the two countries.

Why in News?

The President of the UAE visited India in January 2026. Several MoUs, Letters of Intent and major announcements were signed to expand India-UAE strategic cooperation.

List of Agreements / MoUs / Letters of Intent

| S. No. | Agreement/MoU/LoI | Objective |
|--------|--|---|
| 1 | LoI on Investment Cooperation for Dholera Special Investment Region between Government of Gujarat (India) and Ministry of Investment (UAE) | UAE partnership in development of Dholera SIR including international airport, pilot training school, MRO facility, greenfield port, smart urban township, railway connectivity and energy infrastructure |
| 2 | LoI between IN-SPACe (India) and UAE Space Agency | Joint infrastructure for space industry development and commercialization including launch complexes, manufacturing zones, incubation centres, training institutes and exchange programmes |
| 3 | LoI on Strategic Defence Partnership between India and UAE | Establish a Strategic Defence Partnership Framework and expand cooperation in defence industry, innovation, advanced technology, training, special operations, cyber security and counter-terrorism |
| 4 | Sales & Purchase Agreement (SPA) between HPCL and ADNOC Gas | Long-term purchase of 0.5 MMPTA LNG by HPCL from ADNOC Gas for 10 years starting from 2028 |
| 5 | MoU on Food Safety and Technical Requirements between APEDA (India) and Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (UAE) | Facilitate trade in food and agricultural products, promote Indian exports (especially rice), benefit Indian farmers and enhance UAE food security |

Announcements

| S. No. | Announcement | Objective |
|--------|---|---|
| 6 | Establishment of a Supercomputing Cluster in India | Collaboration between C-DAC (India) and G-42 (UAE) under the AI India Mission; facility to support research, application development and commercial use |
| 7 | Doubling Bilateral Trade to US\$ 200 Billion by 2032 | Expand trade, link MSMEs, promote new markets through initiatives such as Bharat Mart, Virtual Trade Corridor and Bharat-Africa Setu |
| 8 | Promotion of Bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation | Cooperation in advanced nuclear technologies, large reactors, SMRs, reactor systems, nuclear power plant operations, maintenance and nuclear safety under SHANTI Act 2025 |
| 9 | UAE Companies in GIFT City (Gujarat) – FAB & DP World | FAB to open a branch to promote trade and investment; DP World to operate ship leasing for global operations |
| 10 | Exploration of Digital / Data Embassies | Explore establishment of Digital Embassies under mutually recognized sovereignty arrangements |
| 11 | Establishment of 'House of India' in Abu Dhabi | Creation of a cultural space including a museum of Indian art, heritage and archaeology |
| 12 | Promotion of Youth Exchanges | Foster youth engagement, academic and research collaboration, and strengthen cultural ties between future generations |

About India-UAE Relations

- India and the UAE share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership spanning trade, energy, defense, diaspora ties and technology.
- The UAE is one of India's largest trading partners and a key investor.
- These outcomes further institutionalize cooperation across traditional and emerging sectors.

GoI Approves Wage Revision and Pension Revision for PSGICs, NABARD and RBI

The Central Government has approved **wage revision** and **pension revision** for employees and pensioners in key financial institutions, including **Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs)**, **NABARD**, and **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. This move is being seen as a significant step towards boosting employee morale, ensuring improved retirement security, and strengthening social welfare measures in the financial sector.

The decision highlights the Government's continued focus on **social security, fair compensation, and the financial well-being of pensioners**, especially those who have dedicated decades of service to India's economic and financial institutions.

What Has Been Approved?

The announcement covers three major areas:

- **Wage revision for employees of PSGICs**
- **Pay revision for employees of NABARD**
- **Pension revision for retirees of RBI and NABARD**
- **Family pension revision for PSGICs**

This policy intervention is important not just for beneficiaries but also for government exam aspirants, as it touches multiple topics like **social security, financial sector reforms, public sector compensation, and retirement benefits**.

Wage Revision for PSGIC Employees (Effective from 1 August 2022)

Key Details

The wage revision for employees of Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) will be effective from:

01 August 2022

Overall wage hike

- **Overall hike in wage bill: 12.41%**
- **Increase: 14% on existing Basic Pay + Dearness Allowance (DA)**

Beneficiaries

- Total employees benefiting: **43,247 PSGIC employees**

This revision provides substantial salary improvement, helping employees manage inflation and rising living costs.

Enhancement in NPS Contribution for PSGIC Employees

A major welfare step in the revision package is the enhancement of **National Pension System (NPS) contribution**:

- **Earlier: 10%**
- **Now: 14%**

Who benefits?

This applies to employees who joined after: **01 April 2010**

This is aimed at creating stronger long-term retirement security and better future social safety for younger employees.

Family Pension Revision for PSGICs

To support dependents of deceased employees, the Government has approved a major update in the **family pension structure**.

Revised family pension rate

- **Uniform rate of 30%**
- Effective from the **date of publication in the official gazette**

Beneficiaries

- Benefiting family pensioners: **14,615**
- Total existing family pensioners: **15,582**

This is being viewed as a gesture of appreciation and support for families linked to the public insurance system.

Financial Implication for PSGICs

The total financial outgo is estimated at: **₹8,170.30 crore**

Break-up:

- **₹5,822.68 crore** towards wage revision arrears
- **₹250.15 crore** for increased NPS contribution
- **₹2,097.47 crore** for family pension revision

PSGICs Covered Under the Wage Revision

The wage revision applies to employees working in the following Public Sector General Insurance Companies:

- National Insurance Company Ltd. (NICL)
- New India Assurance Company Ltd. (NIACL)
- Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. (OICL)
- United India Insurance Company Ltd. (UIICL)
- General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)
- Agricultural Insurance Company Ltd. (AICIL)

NABARD Pay Revision (Effective from 1 November 2022)

Key Details

Pay revision for NABARD employees is effective from: **01 November 2022**

Increase in pay and allowances

- **Hike: About 20%**
- Applicable to: **Group A, B and C employees**

Beneficiaries

- Approx beneficiaries: **3,800** serving and former employees

NABARD Pension Revision: Who is Covered?

The Government has approved pension revision for NABARD retirees who:

- Were originally recruited by NABARD
- Retired **before 01 November 2017**

Key Change

Their **basic pension/family pension** has been brought **on par with ex-RBI NABARD retirees**. This ensures parity and removes long-standing differences in pension benefits.

Financial Implication for NABARD

Pay the revision cost

- **Additional annual wage bill: approx ₹170 crore**
- **Total arrears: approx ₹510 crore**

Pension revision cost

- **One-time arrear payment: ₹50.82 crore**
- **Additional monthly pension outgo: ₹3.55 crore**

Beneficiaries:

1. **269 pensioners**
2. **457 family pensioners**

RBI Pension Revision (Effective from 1 November 2022)

The Government has approved a revision in pension and family pension for RBI retirees.

Key Revision

- Pension + family pension increased by 10%**
- Calculation: **10% on basic pension + dearness relief**
- Effective date: **01 November 2022**

Effective pension enhancement

The revision results in an effective increase of basic pension by a factor of: **1.43 times**

This significantly boosts monthly pension payments for beneficiaries.

RBI Pension Revision Beneficiaries

Total beneficiaries: **30,769**

Break-up:

- 22,580 pensioners**
- 8,189 family pensioners**

Financial Implications for RBI Pension Revision

Total financial implication:

₹2,696.82 crore

Break-up:

- ₹2,485.02 crore** (one-time arrears)
- ₹211.80 crore** (recurring annual expenditure)

Overall Beneficiaries (PSGICs + NABARD + RBI)

As per government estimates:

- Employees benefiting: **~46,322**
- Pensioners benefiting: **~23,570**
- Family pensioners benefiting: **~23,260**

This makes it one of the most comprehensive compensation and pension reforms in recent times for the financial sector.

Davos 2026: Detailed Key Takeaways from the World Economic Forum

The **World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026** Annual Meeting in **Davos, Switzerland** brought together nearly **3,000 global leaders**, including heads of state, policymakers, CEOs, economists, and civil society representatives. Held under the theme "**A Spirit of Dialogue**," the summit aimed to encourage cooperation in a time marked by geopolitical tensions, technological disruption, and economic uncertainty.

For students preparing for **competitive government exams**, the discussions at Davos are important for understanding **international relations, global economic trends, technology governance, and multilateral cooperation**. Below is a detailed and easy-to-understand analysis of the major outcomes from **Davos 2026**.

1. A Spirit of Dialogue Defined the Summit

- The central theme emphasized **communication and cooperation over confrontation**
- Leaders acknowledged that the world is becoming more **polarised**, yet stressed the need to keep diplomatic channels open

- Many sessions focused on **multilateralism**, which means countries working together through international platforms
- Dialogue was seen as the best tool to handle issues like **trade disputes, security tensions, and technology governance**

This focus showed that despite global disagreements, nations still recognize the importance of **talking through differences**.

2. Geopolitical Tensions Took Centre Stage

- Global politics strongly influenced the discussions at Davos 2026
- The speech and foreign policy positions of **US President Donald Trump** attracted major attention
- Issues related to **Greenland, tariffs, and international security alliances** sparked debate among allies
- Some countries supported stronger national strategies, while others expressed concern about the weakening of the **rules-based global order**

The "rules-based order" refers to international systems like the **United Nations and trade agreements** that guide how countries interact peacefully. Concerns were raised that rising unilateral actions could weaken these systems.

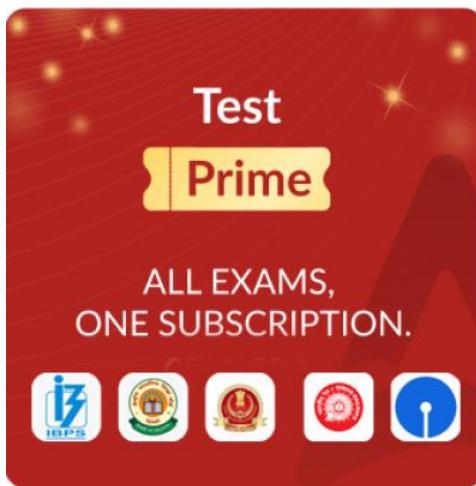
3. Peace Through Diplomacy: Board of Peace Initiative

- A proposed initiative called the "**Board of Peace**" gained visibility
- It is intended to serve as a **structured diplomatic forum** for resolving international conflicts
- The goal is to promote **negotiation and mediation instead of military escalation**
- Although still in early stages, the idea reflects growing global interest in **preventive diplomacy**

For exam aspirants, this connects with topics related to **conflict resolution mechanisms and global peace initiatives**.

4. Trade Talks and Strategic Partnerships Accelerated

- Leaders agreed that **global trade patterns are undergoing structural changes**
- Countries are trying to make supply chains more **resilient and secure** after recent disruptions



- Discussions suggested that **EU-India economic cooperation** could deepen in areas like trade, technology, and green energy
- Nations are focusing on **strategic partnerships** to reduce overdependence on any single country or region

This reflects a broader shift toward **economic diversification and strategic autonomy**, which are key concepts in modern global trade.

5. Artificial Intelligence Shaped the Future Narrative

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)** emerged as one of the most important themes at Davos 2026
- Leaders highlighted AI's potential to boost **economic growth, innovation, and productivity**
- At the same time, concerns were raised about **job displacement, misinformation, data privacy, and ethical risks**
- Many governments called for **balanced AI regulation** that supports innovation while protecting society
- The discussion focused on finding the right balance between **technological progress and responsible governance**

AI governance is now a key topic in **science and technology sections of competitive exams**.

6. Workforce Transformation Through Reskilling

- The WEF's **Reskilling Revolution initiative** received strong support
- Leaders stressed that workers must be prepared for **technology-driven job markets**
- Traditional jobs are being transformed due to **automation, AI, and digitalisation**
- There is a growing need for **digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills**
- Governments and private companies were urged to invest more in **education and skill development**

Reskilling was described as essential for ensuring that economic growth remains **inclusive and socially stable**.

7. High-Level Global Participation

- Davos 2026 saw one of the **highest levels of participation by heads of state and senior leaders** in recent years
- Major business leaders discussed **investment trends and economic risks**
- International organisations contributed to talks on **development, climate, and global governance**
- This wide participation reinforced Davos as a key platform for **global policy dialogue**

Such forums play an important role in shaping **international policy direction**, even though decisions are not legally binding.

8. Trade, Growth, and Innovation Reinforced

- Despite political tensions, leaders remained focused on **long-term economic growth**
- Innovation and technology adoption were seen as critical for improving **productivity and competitiveness**

- Discussions included support for **startups, digital infrastructure, and industrial transformation**
- Emphasis was placed on building **resilient economies** that can withstand global shocks

This shows how economic planning today combines **technology, trade, and policy reforms**.

9. Diverging Views on Climate and Security

- Climate change remained part of the agenda but received **less attention compared to previous years**
- Immediate issues like **geopolitical security and economic instability** dominated discussions
- However, leaders still acknowledged the importance of **clean energy and sustainability**
- The shift in focus shows how global priorities can change during periods of **political and economic stress**

For exam preparation, this reflects the connection between **climate policy, energy security, and geopolitics**.

10. Dialogue Over Division, But Challenges Remain

- Davos 2026 showed that global leaders still value **engagement and negotiation**
- Even countries with strong disagreements chose to participate in **open discussions**
- Major global issues such as **armed conflicts, economic inequality, and technological disruption** remain unresolved
- The summit reinforced the idea that **continuous dialogue is essential** for managing global challenges

National Affairs

- Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project:** PM Modi laid foundation stone for an **Rs 6,957 crore elevated corridor** project near Kaziranga, Assam, designed to improve connectivity while **prioritizing wildlife safety and habitat protection** in this ecologically sensitive zone.
- India's First Sleeper Vande Bharat Express:** Indian Railways launched India's first Sleeper Vande Bharat Express between Howrah (WB) and Guwahati (Assam) at Malda railway station, featuring modern sleeper coaches and **upgraded facilities for semi-high-speed rail modernisation**.
- National Startup Day 2026:** PM Modi celebrated **10 years of Startup India** with launch of **5th National Startup Awards (NSA 5.0)** recognizing startups from Tier-I and Tier-III cities across **20 categories covering deep-tech innovation**.
- MSME Technology Centres in Himachal Pradesh:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises approved two new MSME Technology Centres at Pandoga (Una district) and Parwanoo (Solan district) at **Rs 10 crore each** offering skill development and **access to emerging technologies including AI and robotics**.

- **SIDBI Receives Rs 5,000 Crore Equity Infusion:** Union Cabinet approved Rs 5,000 crore equity support to SIDBI in three tranches (FY26-FY28) to expand credit availability for MSMEs and support employment generation across India.
- **Automatic Weather Stations Deployment:** Union MoS Dr Jitendra Singh announced deployment of 200 Automatic Weather Stations (50 each in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Pune) under Mission Mausam Phase II for high-resolution urban weather data and accurate forecasting of extreme events.
- **India's First Open-Sea Marine Fish Farming Project:** Union MoS Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first open-sea Marine Fish Farming project in Andaman Sea at North Bay, Sri Vijaya Puram, to promote Blue Economy and generate coastal livelihoods through finfish cultivation and seaweed farming.
- **Project Dolphin Second Survey Launched:** Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the second nationwide dolphin survey under Project Dolphin covering major river systems including Ganga Basin to estimate dolphin populations and strengthen freshwater ecosystem monitoring.
- India has taken a big step in space technology with the start of its first integrated private satellite manufacturing facility. The foundation stone was laid at **Khoraj in Sanand, Gujarat**, marking a new chapter in the country's growing space sector. This development highlights the increasing role of private companies in strengthening India's space capabilities.
- The **new facility is being set up by Azista Space** and will focus on building satellites and high-end electro-optical payloads. The plant, named **Palmnaro**, is designed to support end-to-end satellite manufacturing under one roof. It will help India reduce dependence on imports and encourage local innovation in space technologies.
- **Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary as Eco-Sensitive Zone:** Union Minister Bhupender Yadav declared zero to one km area around Kumbhalgarh WLS as Eco-Sensitive Zone, restricting mining, industrial units, brick kilns, and large construction across 94 villages spanning 243 km to protect rich biodiversity.
- **MP Digital Governance with BHASHINI:** Digital India BHASHINI Division and Government of Madhya Pradesh signed MoU to integrate AI-powered language tools and translation APIs into state's digital platforms for multilingual digital governance ensuring public services accessibility in multiple Indian languages.
- **Odisha-Meghalaya ECCED Collaboration:** Governments of Odisha and Meghalaya signed MoU in Bhubaneswar to enhance cooperation in Early Childhood Care, Education and Development focusing on mutual learning and best practice exchange for holistic childhood interventions.
- **Assam Research Scholar Support Scheme:** Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma announced 'Atal Vichal Agragami Assam' scheme providing Rs 25,000/month to research scholars and Rs 40,000/month to Divyang scholars to promote research, innovation, and academic talent development.
- **86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference:** Uttar Pradesh hosted the 86th AIPOC 2026 from January 19-21 with theme "Strong Legislature-Prosperous Nation" and participation of 36 Presiding Officers from 24 States/UTs adopting six key resolutions on governance, transparency, and democratic traditions.
- **Rajasthan** is set to add a major attraction to its wildlife tourism with a new biological park coming up in Alwar. Planned in the scenic **Kati Ghati** area, this park will combine wildlife conservation, animal care and tourism in one place. Once completed, it will become the first biological park of its kind in the National Capital Region (NCR), offering safaris, a rescue centre and a modern veterinary hospital. The proposed biological park will be developed between Kati Ghati and Jaisamand in Alwar district. It will spread across nearly 100 hectares of land. Around 30 percent of the area will be used as a zoo for animals, while the remaining 70 percent will be kept as green space to maintain a natural environment.
- The Goa government has recently signed an important agreement with Starlink Satellite Communications, the company led by Elon Musk, to improve internet and digital services in the state. This partnership aims to bring faster, reliable, and wider digital access to citizens, public services, and key infrastructure across Goa.

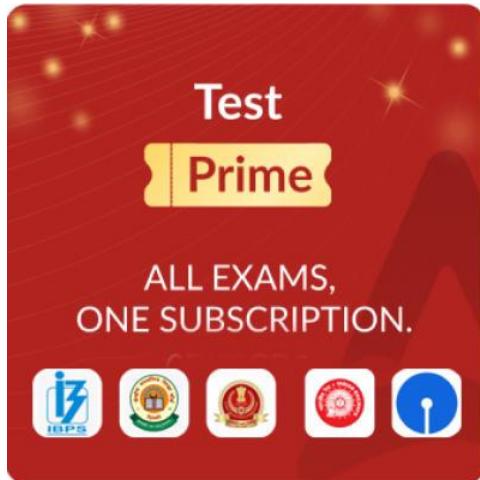
States in the News

- **West Bengal Healthcare Initiative:** World Bank approved USD 286 million financing for West Bengal Health System Reform Program targeting improved quality of life and life expectancy for over 90 million people through equitable access to quality healthcare services.
- **Andhra Pradesh Green Hydrogen Project:** AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation for world's largest green hydrogen and ammonia project at Kakinada with USD 10 billion investment and capacity of 1.5 MTPA in 3 phases supporting India's clean energy goals.
- **PM Modi's Visit to West Bengal & Assam:** PM Modi visited Malda to dedicate projects worth Rs 3,250 crore including India's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Train and laid foundation stones for 4 major railway projects strengthening regional connectivity and infrastructure development.

- The Uttarakhand government has taken an important step to strengthen healthcare facilities in border areas. On Thursday, the state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** under a new initiative called 'Swasth Seema Abhiyan'. The agreement aims to provide better medical services to people living in remote border villages. The MoU was signed in the presence of **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at his residence**. Health Minister Dr Dhan Singh Rawat and Cabinet Minister Saurabh Bahuguna were also present during the event. Senior officials from both the Uttarakhand government and ITBP attended the signing ceremony.

International Affairs

- India-UAE Strategic Defence Partnership:** India and UAE signed **Defence Letter of Intent** creating **Strategic Defence Partnership** focusing on **special operations, cyber security, counterterrorism, and maritime security** in Indian Ocean region during bilateral summit.
- The **world's first legally binding High Seas Treaty** came into effect on January 17, 2026. The agreement **sets global rules to protect oceans beyond national boundaries**. These international waters cover nearly half of the planet. The treaty is seen as a historic step to tackle overfishing, pollution, climate change and threats to deep-sea ecosystems. The High Seas Treaty has **officially entered into force** after ratification by over 60 countries. It establishes global rules to conserve marine life in international waters, also known as the high seas.
- Uganda has concluded a closely watched presidential election with a decisive outcome. Veteran leader **Yoweri Museveni** has been declared the **winner for a seventh term**. However, the results have sparked controversy as the main opposition candidate rejected the outcome, citing irregularities, internet shutdowns, and alleged harassment of polling agents. The election has again put Uganda's democratic process under global scrutiny.



- The **Philippines** is facing a **fresh natural hazard as tropical storm Nokae** threatens to trigger lahars near Mayon Volcano. The storm is expected to bring heavy rainfall to southern Luzon, raising concerns of muddy volcanic flows in areas already impacted by volcanic unrest. Authorities have urged residents to remain alert and follow safety advisories closely.
- India and the United Arab Emirates have taken a major step to strengthen their economic and strategic ties. During delegation-level talks in New Delhi, both nations agreed to double bilateral trade to 200 billion dollars by 2032. The meeting also resulted in multiple agreements across defence, space, energy, infrastructure and cultural cooperation, reflecting the deepening India-UAE partnership.
- China's population declined by 3 million in 2025. Births fell to a record low despite new child-rearing incentives.
- China is facing an intensifying demographic challenge. New official data shows that China's population declined again in 2025, marking the fourth straight year of contraction, even as the government rolled out financial incentives and policy measures to encourage families to have more children.
- Abu Dhabi** has been named the **world's safest city for the 10th year in a row** in an international safety ranking released by Numbeo, reaffirming its global reputation for security and quality of life.
- Scientists confirmed that the Sun triggered a **Level-4 solar radiation storm**, the strongest seen since October 2003. The storm caused vivid auroras in Europe and raised alerts for satellites, aviation, astronauts, and power infrastructure.
- Israel** has taken a significant diplomatic step by agreeing to join US President Donald Trump's **Board of Peace**, a **proposed international body** aimed at overseeing the Gaza ceasefire and post-war reconstruction. The decision, announced by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, signals a shift from Israel's earlier reservations and has triggered political and global reactions. Benjamin Netanyahu has confirmed that Israel will join the **Board of Peace proposed** and chaired by Donald Trump. The board is meant to supervise the Gaza ceasefire and future governance arrangements.
- India and Namibia held the **fifth round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** on January 19-20, 2026, where both sides agreed to deepen collaboration in defence and critical minerals along with other key sectors.
- India has delivered **7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul**, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the people of Afghanistan through humanitarian medical assistance.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- C-DAC and G-42 Supercomputing Cluster:** India and UAE agreed collaboration between **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** and **G-42** to establish supercomputing cluster for advanced technology development and innovation.
- IN-SPACe and UAE Space Agency:** Letter of Intent signed between **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** and **UAE Space Agency** for developing joint space infrastructure including launch facilities, tech zones, and start-up incubation.
- HPCL-ADNOC LNG Agreement:** 10-year Sales & Purchase Agreement enables **HPCL** to import 0.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** from **ADNOC Gas** starting **2028** valued at USD 2.5-3 billion.
- APEDA-UAE Food Trade MoU:** Memorandum of Understanding between **APEDA (MoC&I)** and **UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment** to enhance food sector trade and promote bilateral agricultural exports.
- GeM and WTC Mumbai MSME Partnership:** Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and MViRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai signed MoU to strengthen MSME participation in public procurement through global outreach, capacity building, and AI integration for sustainable procurement.
- DIBD-Survey of India Toponymy Digitisation:** Digital India BHASHINI Division and Survey of India signed MoU to digitise over 16 lakh (1.6 million) geographical place names across India using AI-based speech and language technologies in compliance with National Geospatial Policy 2022.
- SBI and Tamil Nadu PSUs Agreement:** State Bank of India signed MoU with Government of Tamil Nadu to extend enhanced **Corporate Salary Package** benefits for TN's State Public Sector Undertakings employees with **zero-balance accounts, concessional interest rates, and premium banking support**.
- GeM-WCF Women Entrepreneurs Partnership:** GeM and Women's Collective Forum (WCF) signed MoU to strengthen institutional support for women entrepreneurs focusing on onboarding, compliance, product listing, and training with 2 lakh women-led MSEs registered and Rs 80,000 crore in public orders.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **World Economic Forum** to deepen cooperation in vocational education, training, and skill development through the launch of the India Skills Accelerator.

Books and Authors

- Palanivelu GUTS' Hindi Edition Released:** Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan released **Hindi edition of 'Palanivelu GUTS'** autobiography of pioneering surgeon **Dr. C. Palanivelu** showcasing his journey of innovation in laparoscopic and robotic surgery and journey from humble beginnings.
- 'Chalice of Ambrosia' Book Released:** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released book **'Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi- Challenge and Response'** authored by **Dr. Surendra Kumar Pachauri** (retired 1968-batch IAS officer) chronicling the long and complex **Ram Janmabhoomi movement** blending historical, legal, and cultural context.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Piramal Finance Secures USD 350 Million:** Piramal Finance Limited secured USD 350 million in multilateral funding from IFC (USD 200 million) and ADB (USD 150 million) under Sustainable Finance Framework with 5-year tenor targeting **affordable housing, MSMEs, and women borrowers** in Tier 2-3 cities.
- RBI Ombudsman Scheme 2026 Issued:** Reserve Bank of India issued **'Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026'** effective July 1, 2026, introducing no dispute cap and increased compensation up to Rs 30 lakh for consequential loss and Rs 3 lakh for time/harassment replacing multiple legacy schemes.
- Wikipedia Partners with Tech Giants for AI Training:** Wikimedia Foundation signed strategic partnerships with Amazon, Meta, Microsoft, Mistral AI, and Perplexity providing structured, paid access to Wikipedia content for AI training supporting development of LLMs and chatbots through Wikimedia Enterprise programme.
- IMF Raises India's Growth Outlook to 7.3%:** International Monetary Fund upwardly revised India's growth outlook for FY 2025-26 to 7.3% from 6.6% in October 2025 reflecting stronger corporate earnings and robust Q4 momentum with projections moderating to 6.4% for FY27-FY28.
- SBI Life Launches Smart Platina Advantage Plan:** SBI Life Insurance launched **'Smart Platina Advantage'** individual non-linked savings plan with **Limited Premium Payment Term of 7-10 years and flexible maturity options (15, 20, 30 years)** offering guaranteed additions and comprehensive life cover starting from Rs 50,000 annual premium.
- Moody's Projects India's FY26 GDP Growth at 7.3%:** Global credit rating agency **Moody's projected India's robust GDP growth of 7.3% in FY26** compared to 6.5% in FY25 with strong insurance sector growth with 17% rise in total premiums reaching Rs 10.9 lakh crore during April-November FY26.

- **Canara Bank Integrates UPI into Canara aiPe App:** Canara Bank partnered with NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) to integrate **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** technology into banking app Canara ai1Pe, making it the **first bank to adopt NBSL's plugin-based UPI solution** for secure digital payments.
- **Air India-Singapore Airlines Commercial Agreement:** Air India and Singapore Airlines signed commercial cooperation framework to deepen partnership with integrated bookings, expanded routes, and coordinated flight schedules enabling seamless travel across airlines and expanded **codeshare network across 61 destinations**.
- **Brand Finance Global 500 2026:** Infosys ranked world's third most valuable IT Services Brand valued at USD 16.4 billion with **Brand Strength Index score of 86.8/100**, following Accenture (1st, USD 42.2 billion) and TCS (2nd, USD 21.2 billion) achieving 15% CAGR over last 6 years.
- **BSNL and Viasat Partnership for Navy SatCom:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Viasat Inc. announced partnership to support Indian Navy's **Satellite Communications (SatCom)** upgrade integrating Viasat Ka-band systems with BSNL's L-band network with installation scheduled for **late January 2026**.
- **RBI Recognises FEDAI as Self-Regulatory Organisation:** Reserve Bank of India formally recognized **Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)** as **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for all Authorized Dealers under **Omnibus SRO Framework** with **one-year transition period** to align governance requirements.
- **RBI Approves Japan's SMBC Wholly Owned Subsidiary:** Reserve Bank of India granted **in-principle approval** to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) to establish **wholly owned subsidiary (WOS)** in India under **RBI Guidelines 2025** with banking licence under **Section 22(1) Banking Regulation Act 1949**.
- **Payoneer India Gets PA-CB License:** RBI granted **in-principle approval** to Payoneer India to operate as **Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)** enabling **cross-border payment transactions** for Indian importers and exporters with **Rs 25 lakh per-transaction limit**.
- **ZET Receives NPCI Approval for UPI on RuPay Cards:** Credit fintech ZET secured **NPCI approval** to operate as **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)** launching **ZET UPI** enabling **UPI payments using RuPay credit cards** with **banking partnership with RBL Bank** powered by **Juspay technology infrastructure**.
- **RBI Issues FEMA Rules for Exports-Imports:** RBI issued '**Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations 2026**' under FEMA taking effect **October 1, 2026** introducing **uniform timelines** and **enhanced monitoring requirements** for trade-related foreign exchange transactions.
- **RBI Guidelines on Interest Subvention for Export Credit:** RBI issued **operational guidelines for interest subvention** on pre and post-shipment export credit under **Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT PROTSahan** benefiting **MSME exporters** through **reduced credit cost**.
- The **Tata Group** has announced a **\$11 billion investment** to establish a world-class Innovation City in Maharashtra, focused on artificial intelligence, data centres, and semiconductor-related services.
- **India has delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul**, reaffirming its commitment to supporting the people of Afghanistan through humanitarian medical assistance.
- In a significant boost to India's **digital payments ecosystem**, credit-focused fintech company **ZET** has received approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to function as a **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)**. This approval allows ZET to offer **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** services and marks an important milestone in integrating **credit card functionality with UPI**.
- India's fintech landscape has taken another major step forward as **Razorpay POS**, the offline payments division of fintech giant **Razorpay**, has received authorization from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an **Offline Payment Aggregator (PA-P)**. This approval allows Razorpay to expand its in-store payment services and strengthen its position in the country's rapidly growing digital payments ecosystem.
- In a major development for India's **cross-border payments ecosystem**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** to **Payoneer India Private Limited** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)**. This approval allows Payoneer to facilitate international payment transactions for Indian businesses engaged in global trade.
- In a move to strengthen its digital banking capabilities, **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** has partnered with **HyperVerge** to deploy an **AI-powered Video KYC (VKYC)** solution. This collaboration aims to modernize the bank's customer onboarding process while ensuring strong regulatory compliance and data security.
- The adoption of advanced VKYC technology is expected to improve efficiency, enhance customer experience, and support the bank's digital growth strategy.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **operational guidelines** for extending **interest subvention** on pre- and post-shipment export credit under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)**, specifically under its first component, **NIRYAT PROTSahan**. The primary goal of this initiative is to improve **access to affordable rupee export credit for MSME exporters** by reducing the cost of borrowing. This move is expected to strengthen India's export ecosystem and enhance the global competitiveness of small businesses.

- Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL), India's first Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform, has announced an interim dividend of 21.6% on its shares. This marks a historic step as RXIL becomes the first TReDS platform in India to return capital to its stakeholders, showing the platform's maturity, strong financial health, and commitment to supporting MSMEs.

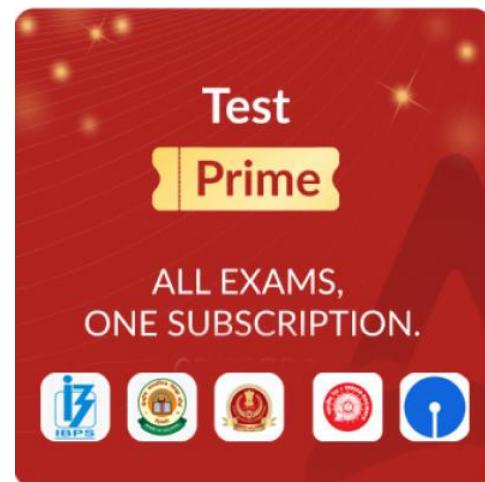
Appointments/Resignations

- **Praveen Vashista Appointed as CVC Vigilance Commissioner:** President Droupadi Murmu appointed Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for 4 years or until age 65 with 30+ years law enforcement expertise as 1991-batch IPS officer from Bihar.
- **ICICI Bank Re-appoints Sandeep Bakshi as MD & CEO:** ICICI Bank re-appointed Sandeep Bakshi as Managing Director and CEO till October 3, 2028 reflecting leadership stability with prior tenure since October 2018 and Board re-appointed Ajay Kumar Gupta as ED till November 2028.
- **New DGs Appointed for NIA, BSF, ITBP:** Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved Rakesh Aggarwal as DG NIA (till August 31, 2028), Praveen Kumar as DG BSF (till September 30, 2030), and Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor as DG ITBP (till October 31, 2026) strengthening central security forces leadership.
- **Shaea Muhssin Mohammed Al-Zindani Appointed Yemen PM:** Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council appointed Shaea Muhssin Mohammed Al-Zindani as new Prime Minister succeeding Salem bin Braik with extensive diplomatic experience including previous roles as Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to multiple countries.
- **Aaryan Varshney Becomes India's 92nd Chess GM:** 21-year old Aaryan Varshney from Delhi became India's 92nd Chess Grand Master after winning 16th Andranik Margaryan Memorial title in Armenia with 3rd and final GM norm making him 8th Grandmaster from Delhi.
- **Deepinder Goyal Resigns as Eternal Group CEO:** Deepinder Goyal resigned as CEO and MD of Eternal Limited (parent of Zomato and Blinkit) effective February 1, 2026 with Albinder Singh Dhindsa, CEO of Blinkit, appointed as successor while Goyal remains Vice Chairman of Board.
- **Tata Communications Appoints Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as MD & CEO:** Tata Communications announced Ganesh Lakshminarayanan (former Airtel Business executive with 30+ years experience) as new MD & CEO succeeding A.S. Lakshminarayanan retiring April 13, 2026 with strong telecom and B2B expertise.
- **Yoweri Museveni Re-elected Uganda President:** Uganda's Electoral Commission announced 81-year old incumbent President Yoweri Museveni won with 71.65% vote share securing seventh term (2026-2031) with opposition leader Bobi Wine receiving 24.72% as longest-serving African leader since 1986.

- **Vijender Singh Appointed to Asian Boxing Council:** Boxing Federation of India announced appointment of India's Olympic medallist Vijender Singh as member of Asian Boxing Council (ABCO) recognizing his historic Bronze medal at 2008 Beijing Olympics and contributions to boxing.

Defence News

- **Bharat Forge Secures Rs 300 Crore Contracts:** Bharat Forge Limited's aerospace division secured contracts worth Rs 300 crore under Emergency Procurement-VI (EP-VI) framework for supply of indigenous unmanned systems including Omega One, Omega Nine ISR drones, and Bayonet/Cleaver loitering munitions to Indian Army and Navy.
- **Defence Minister Inaugurates Ammunition Facility:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Facility at Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) in Nagpur manufacturing 30mm ammunition extensively used by IA and IN while reviewing Pinaka Rocket facility and flagging off first tranche of Guided Pinaka rockets to Armenia.
- **INS Sagardhwani Flagged Off for Sagar Maitri V Initiative:** India's oceanographic research vessel INS Sagardhwani flagged off from Kochi for 5th edition of Sagar Maitri initiative promoting scientific cooperation and ocean research among 8 Indian Ocean Rim nations (Oman, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar).
- **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework:** a detailed plan that explains how quantum technologies will be used in the Armed Forces. The document provides both policy guidance and a step-by-step roadmap for implementation. It aims to make India's defence forces future-ready by using cutting-edge scientific innovations.



Awards and Recognitions

- Saina Nehwal Announces Retirement:** Indian badminton legend Saina Nehwal announced retirement from competitive badminton after iconic 21-year career as first Indian woman to achieve World No. 1 ranking and Olympic bronze medallist (2012 London), leaving lasting legacy in popularising women's badminton.
- Vidarbha Wins Maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy:** Vidarbha cricket team won maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26 defeating Saurashtra by 38 runs in final at BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru with Atharva Taide scoring 128 runs and Aman Mokhade winning Player of Tournament award with 814 runs.
- The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2025** has been awarded to **Graca Machel**, a renowned human rights activist from Mozambique. The announcement was made by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. She has been honoured for her lifelong efforts to improve education, healthcare, nutrition, women's empowerment and humanitarian support, especially in difficult and conflict-affected regions. The Indira Gandhi Prize is one of India's most respected international awards. It recognises individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions to peace, development and social justice. The award includes a cash prize of ₹1 crore, a trophy, and a citation.

Summits and Conferences News

- 28th Commonwealth Speakers Conference Hosted:** India hosted 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers (CSPOC) from January 14-16 at Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan with 61 Speakers from 42 Commonwealth countries and chairmanship handed over to UK's Lindsay Hoyle for 29th CSPOC in London 2028.
- Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference 2026:** PM Modi inaugurated Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference 2026 at Rajkot from January 11-15 with investment commitments including Reliance Industries doubling to Rs 7 lakh crore, Adani Group Rs 1.50 lakh crore investment and 5,492 MoUs worth Rs 5.78 lakh crore for Saurashtra and Kutch economic development.
- National Disaster Response Force Raising Day:** 21st NDRF Raising Day observed on January 19, 2026 commemorating establishment of NDRF on January 19, 2006 with PM Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah extending greetings and NDRF organizing blood donation camp highlighting commitment to humanitarian service.

- The National School of Drama (NSD) is all set to host the **25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026**, the largest international theatre festival in the world. Scheduled from 27 January to 20 February 2026, this edition promises to be the most inclusive and expansive celebration of theatre in India's history. This year, **BRM 2026 will be held in 40 locations across India**, bringing theatre to both big cities and remote areas. For the first time, each of the seven continents will be represented with at least one international production, making it a truly global event.

Ranks and Reports

- Responsible Nations Index 2026 Released:** Former President Ram Nath Kovind launched inaugural **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre with India ranked 16th globally scoring 0.551513 ahead of France, Albania, Poland while Singapore topped with 0.61945 followed by Switzerland (0.58692).
- Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 Released:** Dezan Shira & Associates released Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 showing India retained 6th rank among 11 Asian countries with China leading, Malaysia 2nd, Vietnam 3rd highlighting need for stronger reforms and faster execution in Indian manufacturing.
- WEF Global Risks Report 2026:** World Economic Forum published 21st edition Global Risks Report identifying geo-economic confrontation as top global threat followed by state-based conflict, extreme weather, social protection gaps, misinformation with India facing cyber insecurity as major risk.
- NITI Aayog Reports on Green Transition:** NITI Aayog released three decarbonization roadmaps for cement, aluminium, and MSME sectors targeting reduction of carbon intensity and adoption of green technologies aligned with Net Zero by 2070 goal.

Sports News

- Aaryan Varshney Becomes 92nd Indian Chess GM:** 21-year-old Aaryan Varshney from Delhi became India's 92nd Chess Grand Master after winning 16th Andranik Margaryan Memorial title in Armenia scoring 6.5 out of 8 points to secure 3rd and final GM norm.
- Vijender Singh** has been appointed as a member of the Asian Boxing Council. His induction strengthens India's representation in Asian boxing governance.
- Vidarbha** won their first **Vijay Hazare Trophy** title. They defeated Saurashtra by 38 runs in the final played in Bengaluru.

- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India** has signed a ₹270 crore sponsorship agreement with **Gemini** for the Indian Premier League, starting from the 2026 season.
- The **National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship** was inaugurated in January 2026 by Pushkar Singh Dhami. The event highlighted inclusive sports and empowerment of persons with disabilities at the national level.
- **Saina Nehwal** has confirmed **her retirement** from competitive badminton after being inactive for almost two years due to severe knee injuries, including cartilage degeneration and arthritis.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Atal Pension Yojana Extended Till FY 2030-31:** Union Cabinet approved continuation of APY with 8.66 crore subscribers ensuring guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000/month after age 60 for unorganised sector workers with extended government funding support for promotional and gap funding activities.
- **NITI Aayog Report on MSME Sector Convergence:** NITI Aayog released comprehensive report titled "Achieving Efficiencies in MSME Sector through Convergence of Schemes" recommending dual approach of information and process convergence to address 18 overlapping MSME schemes and reduce duplication.
- **All India Presiding Officers' Conference 2026: 86th AIPOC** held in Lucknow from January 19-21 with participation of 36 Presiding Officers from 24 States/UTs adopting six resolutions on Viksit Bharat 2047, legislative sittings, technology integration, and capacity building.
- **Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima Launched:** DFS under Ministry of Finance launched an optional health insurance scheme for **CGHS beneficiaries** with sum insured of Rs 10-20 lakhs and **no GST charged** on premiums for maximum affordability.
- **Atal Pension Yojana Extended Till 2030-31:** Union Cabinet approved continuation of APY with 8.66 crore subscribers ensuring guaranteed monthly pension of Rs 1,000-5,000 per month after age 60 for unorganised sector workers.
- India has taken another important step towards climate action and industrial decarbonisation. In January 2026, the government notified **Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI)** targets for additional carbon-intensive sectors under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**. The decision expands the coverage of the Indian Carbon Market and strengthens India's commitment to reducing emissions while supporting sustainable economic growth.
- **Sukanya Samridhi Yojana** is a **small savings scheme backed by the Government of India**. It allows parents or legal guardians to open an account in the name of a girl child below 10 years of age. The scheme offers attractive interest rates, tax-free returns, and a long investment period, making it ideal for long-term financial planning.

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

Science and Technology News

- **New Crustacean Genus Discovered in Lakshadweep:** Researchers from Cusat discovered 'Indiaphonte bijoyi', a new genus and species of microscopic harpacticoid copepod from Kavaratti lagoon in Lakshadweep with semi-cylindrical body and antennae-like appendages published in international journal Zootaxa.
- **Two New Ant Fly Species Discovered:** Researchers discovered two new rare ant fly species 'Metadon ghorpadei' and 'Metadon reemeri' in Delhi's Northern Ridge forest and Siruvani Hills respectively, marking first discovery in over 100 years showing importance of protecting urban forest areas.
- **CoE for Regulatory Affairs Inaugurated at IIT Delhi:** Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Affairs in Power Sector at IIT Delhi, jointly established with CERC and Grid India to strengthen regulatory research and capacity building in India's electricity sector.
- Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has recommended **faster adoption of steel slag-based road technology**, especially in Himalayan states, citing its proven benefits and limited current usage.
- NASA successfully completed the **first medical evacuation from the ISS** on 15 January 2026. The SpaceX Crew-11 mission returned early to ensure advanced medical care on Earth, even though the astronaut's condition was stable in orbit. In a historic moment for spaceflight, **NASA** carried out the **first-ever medical evacuation from the International Space Station (ISS)**. On 15 January 2026, the SpaceX Crew-11 mission was cut short after a non-critical medical issue affected one astronaut. The crew safely returned to Earth, marking a major milestone in space healthcare and astronaut safety.

- **NASA** is set to historic launch for human space exploration. The US space agency is preparing to launch **Artemis II**, a historic mission that will send **astronauts around the Moon for the first time in over 50 years**. The mission is also special because people from across the world can send their names to the Moon aboard the spacecraft, making the mission globally symbolic and inspiring. **NASA** has completed the **rollout of the Artemis II rocket** to the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center. This marks a crucial step toward launching astronauts on a mission that will take humans farther from Earth than ever before.

Important Days News

- **National Startup Day 2026 - January 16:** India celebrated 10 years of Startup India with PM Modi addressing startup founders at **Bharat Mandapam** in **New Delhi** unveiling results of 5th National Startup Awards (NSA 5.0) and State Reforms Framework (SRF 5.0) across 20 categories.
- **Indian Army Day 2026 - January 15:** 78th Indian Army Day celebrated with grand parade at **Mahal Road in Jaipur, Rajasthan** (first time outside New Delhi and military cantonment) featuring over 30 contingents, 7 major marching units and newly raised Bhairav Battalion with Nepal Army Band participation.
- **National Disaster Response Force Raising Day 2026 - January 19:** 21st NDRF Raising Day observed commemorating establishment of world's largest disaster response force with PM Modi and Union Minister extending greetings and blood donation camp highlighting humanitarian commitment.
- **Parakram Diwas 2026 will be observed on Friday, 23 January.** The day will be marked nationwide with patriotic programmes and educational activities. The date remains the same every year, as it is linked to Netaji's birth anniversary.
- **National Girl Child Day** is observed every year on **January 24** in India to raise awareness about the rights, education, health, and overall well-being of girls. The day highlights the importance of creating equal opportunities for girls and addressing the challenges they face in society. It reminds citizens that empowering girls is essential for building a strong and progressive nation.
- The **International Day of Education** is observed every year on **January 24** to recognize the transformative power of **education** in building a better, more equal world. The day emphasizes that education is not merely a service but a **fundamental human right** and a key driver of social, economic, and cultural development.
- National Voters Day is observed every year on **January 25** across India. In **2026**, the day will fall on **Sunday, January 25**. The date is significant because it marks the **foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI)**, the constitutional body responsible for conducting free and fair elections in the country.

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

Obituaries News

- **Kirtida Mekani**, an India-born environmental leader who made Singapore her home, **passed away on January 19 at the age of 66** after a sudden heart attack. Widely known as the "Tree Lady," she spent more than three decades working quietly but powerfully for nature conservation, community well-being and cultural growth. Her work touched schools, gardens, art spaces and green landscapes across Singapore.
- **Valentino Garavani**, founder of the globally renowned **Valentino fashion house**, has died at 93. His passing has drawn tributes from designers, celebrities, and fashion institutions worldwide.
- Former India and East Bengal football star **Ilyas Pasha** **passed away on January 22, 2026, after a long illness**. Known for his calm and disciplined playing style, Pasha was one of Karnataka's finest footballers. He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, and two sons. The Indian football community is mourning the loss of this legendary defender.

Miscellaneous News

- **Sunita Williams Retires from NASA: Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Lyn Williams** retired December 27, 2025 ending 27-year NASA career with 608 cumulative days in space, 9 spacewalks totaling 62 hours 6 minutes (most for a woman), and **historic first marathon run in space** during ISS mission.
- **CGCA Links SAMPANN Pension Portal with UMANG: Office of Controller General of Communication Accounts** linked **SAMPANN pension system** with **UMANG** platform enabling nearly 4 lakh DoT pensioners to access PPO numbers and Life Certificate validity through **UMANG** app/web portal eliminating office visits.
- **GeM Marks Seven Years of Womaniya Initiative: Government e-Marketplace** celebrated 7 years of **Womaniya Initiative** with 2 lakh women-led MSEs registered securing public procurement orders exceeding **Rs 80,000 crore** (4.7% of GeM's total), surpassing 3% mandated target for women-owned enterprises.

- IICA Launches 8th Batch of PGIP:** Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs opened registrations for 8th Batch of Post Graduate Insolvency Programme (PGIP) and signed MoU with IIPI-ICAI focusing on capacity building of professionally trained insolvency practitioners under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) framework.
- DFS Launches Composite Salary Account Package:** Department of Financial Services launched 'Composite Salary Account Package' for Central Government employees (Group A, B, C) providing zero-balance accounts, concessional interest rates, comprehensive insurance cover up to Rs 2 crore (air accident) and Rs 1.5 crore (personal/disability).
- CCI Approvals on January 20, 2026:** Competition Commission of India approved acquisition of up to 74% shareholding in RBL Bank by Emirates NBD and 50.01% equity in Thriveni Pellets by Tata Steel, along with JV between JFE and JSW Steel for major restructuring.

Static Takeaways

| Topic / Organisation / Place (Full Name) | Key Details |
|--|---|
| Ministry of Finance | Union Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Rajya Sabha – Karnataka) Minister of State – Pankaj Chaudhary (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh) |
| Andhra Pradesh | Chief Minister – N. Chandrababu Naidu Governor – Sayed Abdul Nazeer Capital – Amaravati Ramsar Site – Kolleru Lake |
| Government e-Marketplace | Launched – 2016 (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) Chief Executive Officer – Mihir Kumar Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 9 August 2016 |
| National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog | Chairman – Prime Minister Narendra Modi Chief Executive Officer – B. V. R. Subrahmanyam Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 2015 |
| Piramal Finance Limited | RBI-regulated Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company Subsidiary – Piramal Enterprises Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited acquired – September 2021 Founded – 11 April 1984 Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer – Jairam Sridharan Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Fédération Internationale des Échecs (International Chess Federation) | President – Arkady Dvorkovich Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland Established – 1924 |
| Ministry of Commerce and Industry | Union Minister – Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North, Maharashtra) Minister of State – Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh) |
| Reserve Bank of India | Established – 1 April 1935 (Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934) Governor – Sanjay Malhotra (26th Governor) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare | Union Minister – Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Madhya Pradesh) Minister of State – Ram Nath Thakur (Rajya Sabha – Bihar) Minister of State – Bhagirath Choudhary (Ajmer, Rajasthan) |
| India Meteorological Department | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 1875 |
| Indian Coast Guard | Director General – Paramesh Sivamani Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 1977 Motto – Vayam Rakshamah (We Protect) |
| World Bank | President – Ajay Banga Headquarters – Washington, DC, United States of America Established – 1944 |
| Yemen | Capital – Sanaa Currency – Yemeni Rial (YER) |
| Indian Army | Chief of the Army Staff – General Upendra Dwivedi Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 1895 Motto – Seva Paramo Dharma (Service Before Self) |
| Assam | Chief Minister – Himanta Biswa Sarma Governor – Lakshman Prasad Acharya Capital – Dispur National Parks – Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park |
| Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India | Chairman – Srinivasa Panigrahi (Chief General Manager, Global Markets, State Bank of India) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra Established – 1958 |
| International Monetary Fund | Managing Director – Kristalina Georgieva Headquarters – Washington, DC, United States of America Member Nations – 191 Established – 1944 |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | Union Minister – Amit Shah (Gandhinagar, Gujarat) Minister of State – Nityanand Rai (Ujjipur, Bihar) Minister of State – Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Karimnagar, Telangana) |

| Topic / Organisation / Place (Full Name) | Key Details |
|---|---|
| Uganda | Prime Minister – Robinah Nabbanja Capital – Kampala Currency – Ugandan Shilling (UGX) |
| National Disaster Response Force | Administrative Control – Ministry of Home Affairs Policy Guidance – National Disaster Management Authority (Chairman: Prime Minister of India) Force – 16 battalions (Central Armed Police Forces + Assam Rifles) Structure – 18 Search and Rescue teams per battalion Motto – Aapada Seva Sadaiv Sarvatra Director General – Piyush Anand Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi |
| United Kingdom | Prime Minister – Keir Starmer Capital – London Currency – Pound Sterling (GBP) |
| World Intellectual Foundation | Chairman – Professor Jagdish Mukhi Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 2021 |
| Gujarat | Chief Minister – Bhupendra Patel Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat Capital – Gandhinagar Ramsar Sites – Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Wadhwana Wetland |
| Moody's Ratings | President – Michael West Headquarters – New York, United States of America Founded – 1909 |
| Competition Commission of India | Chairperson – Ravneet Kaur Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi Established – 2003 |
| United Arab Emirates | President – Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital – Abu Dhabi Currency – United Arab Emirates Dirham (AED) |
| International Labour Organization | Director-General – Gilbert F. Houngbo Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland Member Nations – 187 Established – 1919 |
| Numbeo | Chief Executive Officer – Mladen Adamovic Headquarters – Belgrade, Serbia Established – 2009 |
| National Aeronautics and Space Administration | Administrator – Jared Isaacman Headquarters – Washington, DC, United States of America Established – 1958 |
| Small Industries Development Bank of India | Chairman and Managing Director – Manoj Mittal Headquarters – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Established – 1990 |
| BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) | Ministry – Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Chief Executive Officer – Amitabh Nag Established – 2022 |
| World Economic Forum | President and Chief Executive Officer – Børge Brende Headquarters – Geneva Canton, Switzerland Established – 1971 |
| Uttar Pradesh | Chief Minister – Yogi Adityanath Governor – Anandiben Patel Capital – Lucknow Wildlife Sanctuaries – National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary |