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Most Important Current Affairs of the Month

ISRO's Successfully Lift Off Anomaly in PS3 Stage of PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission

India's PSLV-C62 rocket carrying the EOS-N1 satellite encountered an anomaly during the final phase of its third stage on January 12, 2026. The launch took place from Sriharikota after a 22.5 hour countdown. While initial stages performed normally, deviations in roll rate and flight path were observed, prompting ISRO to begin a detailed technical analysis.

Why in News?

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission faced a technical anomaly near the end of the PS3 stage. ISRO confirmed that the issue led to deviations in the rocket's trajectory, and further assessment of mission data is in progress.

Mission Overview and Launch Details

The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission followed a 22.5-hour countdown before lifting off from Sriharikota, marking the 105th launch from the spaceport and the 64th flight of the PSLV. The mission used the PSLV-DL variant, which features two strap-on boosters, and was the fifth flight of this configuration.

EOS-N1, an Earth observation satellite built for strategic applications, was the primary payload. The launch was a commercial mission executed by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm. Alongside EOS-N1, 15 co-passenger satellites developed by startups and academic institutions from India and abroad were onboard, reflecting India's growing role in the global small satellite launch market.

Planned Mission Profile

Under the original mission plan, EOS-N1 and 14 of the co-passenger satellites were to be injected into a Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO). The remaining payload, the KID capsule developed by Orbital Paradigm (Spain) in collaboration with RIDE (France), was intended for a re-entry experiment.

Following satellite deployment, the PS4 stage was scheduled to restart to de-boost itself and enter a re-entry trajectory. Both the PS4 stage and the KID capsule were expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere and impact the South Pacific Ocean. ISRO has not yet confirmed whether these objectives were achieved.

What Did ISRO Say About the Anomaly?

ISRO Chairman V Narayanan stated that a deviation was noticed during the third stage of the rocket. He clarified that mission data is currently being analysed and that ISRO will share detailed findings soon. At present, the mission has not been officially declared a success or failure.

Key Payloads and Strategic Importance

One of the major satellites onboard was Anvesha, a surveillance satellite developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization. Anvesha is designed to provide advanced imaging capabilities, enhancing India's ability to monitor and map strategic locations with high precision, which is vital for national security and disaster management.

Role of the Private Space Sector

The mission marked a milestone for India's private space ecosystem. For the first time, a single private company, Dhruva Space from Hyderabad, contributed seven satellites to a PSLV mission. This highlights the growing collaboration between ISRO and private players following space sector reforms.

Key Summary At Glance

Aspect	Details
Why in News?	Anomaly during PSLV-C62 third stage
Launch Vehicle	PSLV (64th mission)
Launch Date	January 12, 2026
Launch Site	Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
Main Payload	EOS-N1
Strategic Satellite	Anvesha (DRDO)
Private Sector Role	Dhruva Space (7 satellites)
Current Status	Data under analysis

WEF Global Risks Report 2026

The **World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report 2026 (21st edition)** paints a worrying picture of the coming decade. The report suggests that the world is moving into an **"Age of Competition"**, where rivalry between countries is intensifying—not only in the military space, but also through **trade restrictions, sanctions, technology controls, and information warfare**. This shift is creating a global environment where shocks spread faster, cooperation becomes harder, and societies become more vulnerable to instability.

The report ranks risks across **two key time horizons**—the near future (2 years) and the long term (10 years). Its core message is straightforward: the global landscape is becoming **more fragmented, more unpredictable, and more exposed to multiple overlapping risks**.

1) What Does WEF Mean by "Global Risk"?

WEF defines a **global risk** as a threat or event that can cause major negative impact on a large scale, affecting:

- the world's population
- the global economy
- natural resources and ecological systems

This definition matters because it places emphasis on threats that cross borders, spread rapidly, and create ripple effects across regions.

2) How the Report Is Built

The report is primarily based on expert perceptions collected through global surveys of leaders and specialists across sectors. It then organizes risks into categories such as:

- Geopolitical
- Economic
- Societal
- Technological
- Environmental

It also studies how risks connect with each other, showing that crises rarely happen in isolation. Instead, one major event often triggers several others.

3) Global Mood: Instability Is Rising

A major finding of the report is that a large share of experts expects the world to experience **turbulence** in both the short and long term. This suggests that many see current tensions as part of deeper structural changes rather than temporary fluctuations.

Main reasons behind the growing instability include:

- rising rivalry between major powers
- shrinking space for international cooperation
- economic pressures such as high debt and uneven growth
- rapid technological disruptions
- intensifying climate impacts

4) Most Likely Crisis Trigger in 2026: Geoeconomic Confrontation

The report identifies **geoeconomic confrontation** as the most likely risk to trigger a global crisis in 2026.

What geoeconomic confrontation means

It refers to the use of economic tools as instruments of strategic power, such as:

- sanctions and counter-sanctions
- tariffs and trade barriers
- restrictions on technology exports
- control over supply chains
- manipulation of critical resources (oil, gas, rare earth minerals, chips)

Why it is dangerous

Geoeconomic rivalry:

- disrupts global trade networks
- increases inflationary pressures
- reduces investment confidence
- weakens global supply chains
- creates uncertainty for industries and jobs

In today's world, economic rivalry is becoming as destabilizing as direct military confrontation.

5) Conflict and Security: The Risk of Armed Escalation

Along with economic rivalry, the report highlights **state-based armed conflict** as a leading risk. Conflicts today have grown more complex because they often combine:

- conventional warfare
- cyberattacks
- economic sanctions
- information manipulation

Key concerns linked to armed conflict

- damage to infrastructure and energy networks
- global commodity price instability
- increase in displacement and migration
- rising military expenditure at the cost of development spending

6) Information Crisis: Misinformation, Disinformation, and Polarization

One of the strongest warnings in the report is the growing influence of **misinformation and disinformation**, especially through digital platforms. The report links false information with **social unrest and political division**.

How misinformation becomes a global threat

- spreads confusion during crises (pandemics, wars, disasters)
- reduces trust in governments and media
- creates fear and anger among communities
- influences elections and public decision-making

Societal polarization: a connected risk

Polarization means deep social division where people move into rigid groups and stop trusting each other.

It leads to:

- frequent protests and instability
- weaker policymaking and governance
- rising hostility between communities
- breakdown of social harmony

7) Economic Risks: Signs of a Possible Reckoning

The report notes that economic risks are rising sharply in importance.

Major economic risks highlighted

- **economic downturn**
- **inflation resurgence**
- **asset bubble risks**
- widening gap between rich and poor

Why these risks are increasing

Some key drivers include:

- high public and private debt
- unstable trade flows
- pressure on currencies and interest rates
- financial market volatility

A prolonged downturn could amplify societal anger, unemployment, and political instability.

8) Cyber Insecurity: A Direct Threat to Critical Systems
In the digital era, cyber insecurity has become one of the most immediate global risks.

Cyber threats impact:
- banking and financial systems
- electricity grids
- railways and aviation networks
- hospitals and healthcare data
- government databases
- military systems

Why cyber risk is rising
- increasing digital dependence
- growth of ransomware attacks
- state-sponsored cyber operations
- weak cybersecurity capacity in many sectors

Cyberattacks can cause economic loss and also shake national security.

9) AI Risk: Powerful, Fast—and Hard to Control
The report emphasizes that **adverse outcomes of AI technologies** are among the most significant long-term threats.

What AI-related risks include
- deepfakes and automated misinformation
- job displacement in multiple industries
- algorithmic bias and discrimination
- surveillance and privacy violations
- autonomous weapons and AI-driven warfare
- concentration of AI power in few hands

AI is described as a double-edged technology—it can boost productivity, but without strong safeguards it can weaken trust, stability, and accountability.

10) Environmental Risks: The Most Dangerous Long-Term Threat
The long-term risk ranking is dominated by environmental dangers. The report highlights that climate risks are not only continuing but intensifying.

Top environmental risks (long-term)
- **extreme weather events**
- **biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse**
- **critical changes to Earth systems**
- pollution
- resource shortages (water, food, minerals)

Why this is alarming
Environmental damage creates chain reactions:
- crop failures and food insecurity
- water stress and conflicts
- forced displacement
- economic shocks
- increased health emergencies

The report warns that climate stress can become a multiplier—making economic and political risks even worse.

11) Inequality: The Most Interconnected Global Risk
A very important insight of the report is that **inequality** is one of the most "connected" risks, meaning it triggers or strengthens several other threats.

Inequality fuels:
- political dissatisfaction
- crime and insecurity
- social unrest
- polarization
- migration pressures
- weakening of trust in institutions

This shows that inequality is not just a social problem—it is also a governance and stability issue.

12) The World Order Ahead: Multipolar and Fragmented
The report suggests that the world is shifting away from a single dominant power structure. Instead, it sees the future as:
- **multipolar** (many major powers)
- or **fragmented** (regions setting different rules)

What this could lead to
- competing trade blocs
- multiple technology ecosystems
- inconsistent global regulations
- reduced effectiveness of international institutions

This fragmentation makes collective action harder—especially on climate, global health, and conflict prevention.

Golden Globes 2026

The **83rd Golden Globe Awards 2026** concluded with One Battle After Another and Adolescence dominating major film and television categories, while actors Wagner Moura, Jessie Buckley, and Timothée Chalamet won top acting honours.

Major Film Winners at Golden Globes 2026
- In the film categories, Hamnet won Best Film – Drama, while One Battle After Another secured Best Film – Musical or Comedy, establishing itself as the evening's most successful film.
- The film also earned accolades for Best Director and Best Screenplay for Paul Thomas Anderson.
- In acting categories, Wagner Moura won Best Male Actor (Drama) for The Secret Agent, while Jessie Buckley claimed Best Female Actor (Drama) for Hamnet.
- In musical or comedy roles, Timothée Chalamet won Best Male Actor for Marty Supreme, and Rose Byrne took Best Female Actor for If I Had Legs I'd Kick You.

Here Is The Full Winners List

Sr. No	Category	Winner
1	Best Film Drama	Hamnet
2	Best Film Musical or Comedy	One Battle After Another
3	Best Male Actor Film Drama	Wagner Moura (The Secret Agent)
4	Best Female Actor Film Drama	Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
5	Best Television Series Musical or Comedy	The Studio
6	Best Television Limited Series Anthology/TV Film	Adolescence
7	Best Television Series – Drama	The Pitt
8	Best Female Actor – Television Series	Drama Rhea Seehorn (Pluribus)
9	Best Standup Comedy on Television	Ricky Gervais (Mortality)
10	Best Supporting Female Actor – Television	Erin Doherty (Adolescence)
11	Best Film Non-English Language	The Secret Agent
12	Best Film – Animated K Pop	Demon Hunters
13	Best Director – Film	Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
14	Cinematic and Box Office Achievement	Sinners
15	Best Female Actor – TV Limited Series/Anthology/TV Film	Michelle Williams (Dying for Sex)
16	Best Male Actor – TV Limited Series/Anthology/TV Film	Stephen Graham (Adolescence)
17	Best Male Actor – Film Musical or Comedy	Timothee Chalamet (Marty Supreme)
18	Best Female Actor – Film Musical or Comedy	Rose Byrne (If I Had Legs I'd Kick You)
19	Best Screenplay – Film	Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
20	Best Original Score – Film	Ludwig Göransson (Sinners)
21	Best Original Song – Film	Golden (K Pop Demon Hunters)
22	Best Podcast	Good Hang with Amy Poehler
23	Best Male Actor – TV Series Musical or Comedy	Seth Rogen (The Studio)
24	Best Supporting Male Actor – Television	Owen Cooper (Adolescence)
25	Best Female Actor – TV Series Musical or Comedy	Jean Smart (Hacks)
26	Best Male Actor – TV Series Drama	Noah Wyle (The Pitt)
27	Best Male Actor – Supporting Role in a Film	Stellan Skarsgård (Sentimental Value)
28	Best Female Actor – Supporting Role in a Film	Teyana Taylor (One Battle After Another)

Henley Passport Index 2026

The **Henley Passport Index 2026** once again highlights the sharp divide in global travel freedom, ranking passports based on how many destinations their holders can visit without needing a visa in advance. India's global travel access has seen a modest improvement in 2026. According to the latest passport rankings, Indian travellers can now visit more countries without lengthy visa procedures than last year. However, significant limitations remain for popular destinations like Europe and North America, shaping how Indians plan international trips.

Why in the News?

The Henley Passport Index 2026 has ranked **India at 80th position globally.** Indian passport holders get visa free, visa-on-arrival or e-visa access to 55 destinations, up from last year's rank of 85.

India's Rank in the Henley Passport Index 2026

- India is ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026. Indian passport holders currently enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations.
- India shares this position with Nigeria and Algeria, while regional neighbours Bangladesh and Pakistan rank even lower.
- The data reflects a significant mobility gap within South Asia and between India and leading global economies.

World's Most Powerful Passports in 2026

- At the top of the rankings, Singapore holds the number one position, with its citizens enjoying visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 192 destinations, the highest in the world.
- Japan and South Korea jointly occupy the second position with access to 188 destinations, reflecting their strong diplomatic networks and stable international relations.
- Europe continues to dominate the upper ranks, with multiple EU countries offering access to over 185 destinations, highlighting the strength of European diplomacy and integration.

Which Country Has the Weakest Passport in the World?

- Afghanistan (Rank 101) – 24 destinations
- Afghanistan holds the weakest passport globally, allowing access to just 24 destinations without a prior visa.
- It is followed closely by Syria and Iraq, underscoring how conflict, political instability, and security concerns sharply limit international mobility.
- The gap between the most powerful passport (Singapore) and the weakest (Afghanistan) now stands at 168 destinations.

Top 10 Most Powerful Passport List

Rank	Country/Countries	Visa Free Destinations
1	Singapore	192
2	Japan, South Korea	188
3	Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland	186
4	Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway	185
5	Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Arab Emirates	184
6	Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Malta, New Zealand, Poland	183
7	Australia, Latvia, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein	182
8	Canada, Iceland, Lithuania	181
9	Malaysia	180
10	United States	179

Bottom 5 Countries With Weakest Passport

Rank	Country/Countries	Visa Free Destinations
101	Afghanistan	24
100	Syria	26
99	Iraq	29
98	Pakistan, Yemen	31
97	Somalia	33

Where Indians Can Travel Easily in 2026

Indian passport holders enjoy easier access mainly to,

- **Asia:** Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Maldives
- **Middle East:** UAE, Qatar, Oman
- **Africa:** Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda
- **Islands & Caribbean**: Mauritius, Seychelles, Barbados

National News

Cabinet Approvals

Parliament News

State-wise October Month Important Events

Indian News Items Organized by State

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved **Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport** in Nellore district, becoming AP's **8th airport**, handling **1.4 million passengers** in Phase-I.

Arunachal Pradesh

- The Union Environment Ministry's expert panel has recommended **environmental clearance** for the **Kalai-II hydropower project**. 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**.

Karnataka

- 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.
- Karnataka's wildlife has 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**.
- Karnataka Cabinet approved **'Akka Pade' (Elder Sister Force)** scheme to strengthen **women and minor girls protection**, with **phased rollout across 31 districts**.
- **Akka Pade** scheme involves **patrolling sensitive areas** (7 AM-8 PM) and **public awareness campaigns** on **child marriage, trafficking**, and legal protection.
- Karnataka launched **'Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing'** portal at **Karmani Utsav 2026**, enabling **women entrepreneurs** to sell **handicrafts globally**.
- **Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing** portal extension provides **vocational training** and **financial support** linked to **₹2,000 monthly assistance** scheme.
- Karnataka amended its **land laws** to reform **Jamma Bane land records** in **Kodagu**, resolving **long-standing ownership issues**. The reform strengthens **digitisation** under the **Bhoomi Project** and aligns with **modern land governance**.

Kerala

- **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** virtually inaugurated **India's first fully paperless district court system** in **Kalpetta, Wayanad** on **January 6, 2026**, 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**.
- **Justice Soumen Sen** sworn in as **40th Chief Justice of Kerala High Court**, succeeding Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, bringing **20+ years of practice experience**.
- Kerala renamed **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** as **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**, recognizing region's **rich biodiversity** and **endemic butterfly species**.

Madhya Pradesh

- MP Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** launched **'Swachh Jal Abhiyan' (Clean Water Campaign)** with **technology-driven monitoring** and **GIS-based pipeline mapping**.
- **Swachh Jal Abhiyan** conducted in **two phases** (Jan 10-Feb 28, Mar 1-May 31) with **weekly 'Jal Sunwai' hearings** and **CM Helpline (181)**.

Manipur

- 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**.

Meghalaya

- **Justice Revati Mohite-Dere** sworn in as **first woman Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC**, strengthening **gender inclusivity** in **higher judiciary**.

Odisha

- 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 legendary agricultural scientist **M. S. Swaminathan**.
- **APEDA** inaugurated **Raipur regional office** to boost **exports** of **GI-tagged rice, fortified kernels**, and **minor forest produce**.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan's **Bamanwas Kankar village** declared **first fully organic village** after adopting **chemical-free farming** and **sustainable agricultural practices**.

Tamil Nadu

- Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** launched **port infrastructure and digital governance projects** worth **₹235 crores** on **January 8, 2026**, as part of **"Viksit Bharat, Viksit Ports"** programme at **Chennai Port** (₹129.36 crores) and **Kamarajar Port Limited** (₹105.64 crores). Projects include **coastal revetment strengthening** (₹33.28 crore), **firefighting pump house** (₹43 crore), **hospital modernization** (₹8.08 crore), **SAP-based Enterprise Business System** (₹45 crore), and **Northern Breakwater rehabilitation** (₹105 crore using 3,055 tetrapods), alongside **e-Port Clearance Portal** launch and **₹18 lakh sailing training fund**.
- Tamil Nadu launches **India's first state-backed Quantum Computing Programme** in partnership with **German firm XeedQ GmbH**, implementing in **two phases** (remote access and on-premises).

Telangana

- India's **fisheries sector** marked a major **technological milestone** with the launch of a **large-scale trout farming project**. Traditionally limited to **cold Himalayan regions**, **trout cultivation** has now been successfully **adapted to warm inland climate**. The initiative reflects India's push toward **innovation-driven aquaculture, value addition**, and **export-oriented growth** in **fisheries**.

Tripura

- **Tripura Gramin Bank** launched **India's first solar-powered ATM van 'TGB on Wheels'**, operating **3 solar-powered vans** for **rural banking access**.
- **CBIC** inaugurated **ICEGATE-LPMS integration** at **Agartala's Integrated Check Post**, enabling **real-time digital data exchange** for **customs operations**.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh hosted **Regional AI Impact Conference** (Jan 12-13) focusing on **population-scale AI deployment** for **governance and healthcare**.
- **IndiaAI Mission** signed **MoU** with **UPDESCO** to establish **65 Data & AI Labs** across UP, with **two labs** already operational at **NIELIT centers**.

West Bengal

- **Indian Navy** to establish **new naval base (detachment)** at **Haldia** on the **Hooghly River** in **January 2026** to strengthen **operational presence** and **maritime surveillance capabilities** in **Bay of Bengal**. 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**.

January Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **MeitY Approves 22 New Proposals Worth ₹41,863 Crores** - 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 ₹7,295 Crore Financial Interventions 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. 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.
- **PLI Scheme for Textiles Deadline Extended 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**. Under the scheme launched in September 2021 with **₹10,683 crore outlay** for FY22-FY26, **74 applications** have been approved with proposed investments of approximately **₹28,711 crore** across **man-made fibres, fabrics**, and **technical textiles**.
- **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**. 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**.
- **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**.
- **India-Pakistan Exchange Nuclear Lists on January 1, 2026 (35th Time)** - India and Pakistan exchanged the list of **Nuclear Installations and Facilities** through diplomatic channels 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**.
- **Rakesh Aggarwal (IPS 1994 batch) Appointed as NIA Director General** - Appointed with tenure extending until **August 2028**, leading the National Investigation Agency in combating terror and national security threats.
- **Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Launches 'IITM Global Research Foundation' at IIT-Madras** - In 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.
- **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Releases 184 New Crop Varieties** - 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**. 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**.

- **ICAR-NDRI Developed Karan Fries Cattle Breed** - Through **Holstein Friesian-Tharparkar crossbreeding**, a new breed offering **high milk yield** in **hot-humid climates** was developed, improving dairy productivity in diverse Indian conditions.
- **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**.
- **GoI Approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy Rates for Rabi 2025–26 Season** - Government of India approved **Nutrient-Based Subsidy rates** for **Rabi 2025-26 season** effective **October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026** 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 GoI 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**.
- **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.
- **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**.

Miscellaneous National News

- **Prime Minister Modi Inaugurates International Kite Festival 2026** - PM Modi inaugurates **International Kite Festival 2026** at **Sabarmati Riverfront** with **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz** as **Chief Guest**, celebrating **Uttarayan traditions** during his **Gujarat visit**.
- **India-Germany Bilateral Trade Crosses USD 50 Billion** - **India-Germany bilateral trade** crosses **USD 50 billion** with **19 strategic agreements** signed covering **healthcare migration, visa-free transit, clean energy**, and **maritime heritage**.
- **Lokpal of India Observes Foundation Day** - The **Lokpal of India**, established in 2014, observed its **Foundation Day** by reaffirming its **anti-corruption mandate** and commitment to **clean and accountable governance**. **Rising complaints, growing public trust**, and the launch of an **IT Data Centre** highlight **increased transparency** and **citizen participation**.
- **India's Non-Fossil Fuel Capacity Reaches 266.78 GW in 2025** - India's **non-fossil fuel capacity** reaches **266.78 GW** in 2025, marking **22.6% increase** with **solar** contributing **131.81 GW** and aligning with **500 GW target by 2030**.
- **India Added 48 GW Renewable Energy in 2025** - India added **48 GW renewable energy** in 2025 including **hydropower**, achieving **over 50% progress** alongside **China and USA** toward **clean energy goals**.
- **GAIL Completed 694-km Mumbai–Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline** - **GAIL** completed the **694-km Mumbai–Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline**, with **96% laid** along the **Samruddhi Mahamarg corridor**. The project reflects the **PM GatiShakti model** and **advanced engineering** in the **Western Ghats**.
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Launches Speed Post Services** - Union Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched **Speed Post 24** and **Speed Post 48** services, ensuring **24-hour and 48-hour delivery** respectively, modernizing **India's postal system**.
- **PM Modi Inaugurated Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro Phase 2** - **PM Modi** inaugurated **Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro Phase 2** by flagging off services from **Mahatma Mandir Metro Station** in **Gandhinagar**.
- **Ministry of Textiles Released "India's Textile Atlas: State Compendium 2025"** - **Ministry of Textiles** released **"India's Textile Atlas: State Compendium 2025"** at **National Conference** highlighting **textile sector growth** and **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan**.
- **DLTT Plan Aims to Transform 100 High-Potential Districts** - **DLTT Plan** aims to transform **100 high-potential districts** into **Global Export Champions** and elevate **100 Aspirational Districts** into **self-reliant hubs**.
- **NITI Aayog Released 4th Export Preparedness Index 2024** - **NITI Aayog** released **4th Export Preparedness Index 2024** with **Maharashtra topping large states** (68.01 score), followed by **Tamil Nadu** (64.41) and **Gujarat** (64.02).

- **Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Unveiled India's BRICS Chairship 2026 Logo** - Union Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** unveiled **India's BRICS Chairship 2026 logo** and theme **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"** with **lotus-inspired design**.
- **India's BRICS Chairship Marks Fourth Tenure** - **India's BRICS Chairship** (Jan-Dec 2026) marks **fourth tenure** and coincides with **20th BRICS anniversary** with **four priority pillars**.
- **Responsible Nations Index Launched by World Intellectual Foundation** - **Responsible Nations Index** launched by **World Intellectual Foundation** (January 19) to evaluate countries on **citizen well-being** and **ethical governance**.
- **GeM's Womaniya Initiative Completes 7 Years** - **GeM's Womaniya Initiative** completes **7 years** with **2 lakh+ women-led MSEs** registered and **procurement orders** worth **₹80,000 crore+**.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah Unveiled ₹629 Crore Development Projects in Mansa** - **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** unveiled **₹629 crore development projects** in **Mansa, Gujarat**, including **₹267 crore sports complex** and **₹362 crore BSL-4 bio-lab**.
- **Government Blocked 242 Illegal Betting and Gambling Websites** - The **Government blocked 242 illegal betting and gambling websites**, taking **total action** against **over 7,800 platforms nationwide**. Strengthened by the **Online Gaming Act**, the drive aims to **protect youth, prevent addiction**, and ensure **digital ecosystem safety**.
- **India's First NAMO Book Fest Launched** - **India's first NAMO Book Fest** was launched, where **Dr. Jitendra Singh** released **'Gen V Bano'** and **'Mahatma'**. The **two-day event** promoted **youth engagement, intellectual dialogue**, and books on **Narendra Modi**.
- **World Bank Upgraded India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast** - **World Bank** upgraded **India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 7.2%** from 6.3%, citing **strong domestic demand** and **economic resilience**.
- **Supreme Court Ruling on Unreserved Category Seats** - The **Supreme Court** ruled that **unreserved (general) category seats** are **open to all candidates** purely on **merit**, including **reserved-category candidates** qualifying without concessions. Based on **Articles 14 and 16**, the judgment clarifies **recruitment rules nationwide**.
- **Union Budget 2026-27 to be Presented February 1, 2026** - **Union Budget 2026-27** to be presented **February 1, 2026** focusing on **welfare, infrastructure, and defence priorities**.

GOVT SCHEMES

Government Schemes - January 2026

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Market Access Support (MAS) Scheme	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	FY26-FY31	Strengthen global market access for Indian exporters (MSMEs and first-time exporters) with financial support for international trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, and trade delegations to priority and emerging markets (₹4,531 crore outlay)
Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima	Ministry of AYUSH	2026	Provide cashless treatment and AYUSH therapy coverage for CGHS beneficiaries, promoting integration of traditional medicine systems into mainstream healthcare
BIS Integrated Standardisation Portal	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	2026	Launch Beta Version of Bureau of Indian Standards Integrated Standardisation portal with SHINE Scheme for women empowerment, BIS education literature, BIS-SAKSHAM initiative, and MoUs with academic institutions
PANKHUDI Portal	Ministry of Women and Child Development	2026	Integrated Corporate Social Responsibility and partnership facilitation digital portal providing single-window access for CSR and partnerships covering nutrition, health, ECCE, child welfare, and women's empowerment
Startup India Programme	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	2016-2026	Strengthen innovation-led entrepreneurship; completed 10 years (National Startup Day observed January 2026)
National Sports Governance Rules 2026	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports	2026	Establish mandatory frameworks for National Sports Bodies with athlete representation, transparent elections, and sportsperson representation (at least 4 SOMs with 50% women representation)
National Olympic Education & Development Programme (NOEDP)	Indian Olympic Association	2026	Support grassroots to elite Olympic movement focusing on Olympic values, education-ethics, holistic athlete development, and governance strengthening

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
NPS Assured Payouts Regulatory Framework	Ministry of Finance (PFRDA)	2026	Frame assured payouts regulatory framework under National Pension System with standardized disclosures preventing mis-selling and clarifying 'assured' vs market-linked returns
Quality Control Order Revocation on Flux Cored Solder Wire	Ministry of Commerce & Industry	2026	Remove mandatory BIS certification requirement for Flux Cored Solder Wire reducing costs and delays for manufacturers

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State	Year	Purpose
Sanskaar Shaala	Assam	2026	Cultural and value-based learning initiative for children aged 4-14 promoting cultural preservation and moral education
Financial Assistance Scheme for Udasin Bhakats	Assam	2026	Provide ₹1,500 monthly financial assistance to around 620 identified celibate Vaishnavite monks to ensure welfare and preserve cultural and religious heritage linked to the Udasin satra system
Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS)	Tamil Nadu	2026	Provide assured pension to State government employees and teachers equivalent to Old Pension Scheme benefits with 50% of last-drawn basic pay, guaranteeing DA revision twice yearly, 60% family pension, and gratuity up to ₹25 lakh (₹13,000 crore one-time and ~₹11,000 crore annual government contribution)
Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025-26	Tamil Nadu	2025-26	Support 100 deep-tech startups over five years to bridge lab-to-market gap for research-driven ventures with ₹100 crore allocation (India's first deep-tech startup policy)
Namma Arasu	Tamil Nadu	2026	WhatsApp-based e-governance service in partnership with Meta offering multilingual (English and Tamil) chatbot enabling bus ticket booking, exam hall tickets, and tax payments (3rd Indian state with such service after Andhra Pradesh and Odisha)

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 Discover 2,000-Year-Old Kushan Empire Coins** - 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's First Asia Visit to India (January 12-13, 2026)** - **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz** is set to visit **India** on **January 12 and 13, 2026** at a crucial time for **India–Germany relations**, with both countries seeking **deeper cooperation** in **trade, technology, climate action**, and **global governance**. The visit includes **Sabarmati Ashram** and **India-Germany CEO Forum in Ahmedabad**, followed by **Bengaluru** featuring **IISc's CeNSE center** and **Bosch campus** showcasing **scientific research** and **sustainable mobility initiatives**, expected to further strengthen **strategic and economic engagement**.
- **India Launches e-B-4 Visa Category for Chinese Nationals** - **India** has launched a new **electronic business visa category** called the **e-B-4 Visa (e Production Investment Business Visa)** to **simplify and regulate business travel** for **Chinese nationals**, aiming to support **legitimate business activities** and respond to **rising demand** for **structured business engagement** between **India and China**.

- **India-China Bilateral Trade Crossed $155.62 Billion in 2025** - **India-China bilateral trade** crossed **$155.62 billion in 2025** despite recording a **record $116.12 billion deficit**, reflecting significant **trade imbalance concerns** and highlighting the need for **balanced trade mechanisms** between the two economies.
- **China Commissions New Advanced Warship 'Loudi'** - **China** has recently strengthened its **naval power** by commissioning a new **advanced warship named Loudi**, highlighting how quickly the **Chinese Navy is expanding its fleet** in order to **match or challenge** the **naval strength of the United States**.
- **Italy Confers Order of the Star of Italy on Goa Industrialist** - **Italy** conferred the prestigious **Order of the Star of Italy** on **Goa industrialist Shrinivas Dempo** for **fostering India-Italy business and cultural ties**, recognizing his significant contributions to bilateral relations.
- **India and Germany Signed Joint Declaration on Telecommunications Cooperation** - In January 2026, **India and Germany** signed a **Joint Declaration on Telecommunications Cooperation** covering **policy, regulation, manufacturing, innovation**, and **global digital engagement**, strengthening **bilateral technological partnership** and digital collaboration.
- **Israel Announces Withdrawal from Seven UN Agencies** - **Israel** announces **withdrawal from seven UN agencies**, citing **alleged bias**, affecting **humanitarian and development programs** globally and raising concerns about international cooperation.
- **USA Freezes Immigrant Visa Processing for 75 Countries** - **USA freezes immigrant visa processing** for **75 countries** with implementation expected from **January 21, 2026**, impacting hundreds of thousands of visa applicants worldwide.
- **Yemen's PM Salem bin Breik Resigned** - **Yemen's PM Salem bin Breik resigned**, with **Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani** appointed to **form new cabinet** amid **ongoing political crisis** in the country.
- **WEF Global Risks Report 2026 Flags Geoeconomic Confrontation as Top Threat** - The **World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2026** flags **geoeconomic confrontation** as the **top short-term threat** based on insights from **1,300+ expert views**, highlighting growing tensions in international economic relations.
- **Australian Universities Planning Bengaluru Campuses** - The **University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia** is planning a **Bengaluru campus** offering **undergraduate programmes** in **commerce, media, computer science, and data science**, along with **postgraduate programmes in cybersecurity**. **The University of Liverpool** and **Lancaster University** are also planning **Bengaluru campuses** to **expand access to international higher education** in **India**.
- **Australia's Finke River Recognised as World's Oldest Flowing River** - **Australia's Finke (Larapinta) River**, aged **300–400 million years**, is recognised as the **world's oldest flowing river**. Its path through the **MacDonnell Ranges** confirms it **predates the mountain formation**, making it a geological marvel.
- **Nobel Institute Clarifies Maria Corina Machado Cannot Transfer Prize Medal** - Although **Maria Corina Machado** symbolically handed her **Nobel Peace Prize medal to Donald Trump**, the **Nobel Institute** clarified that **prizes cannot be transferred or shared**. **Machado remains the sole official laureate**, and the symbolic gesture does not alter the official status of the award.

BANKING, ECONOMY, BUSINESS & FINANCE

BANKING & FINANCE

S. No.	Bank/Institution Name	Purpose
1	**ICICI Bank**	Launched Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS) on January 1, 2026, allowing taxpayers to deposit un-invested long-term capital gains, earn interest, and avail tax exemptions for up to three years with two account types (Type A: Savings Account with flexible withdrawals; Type B: Term Deposit Account with minimum ₹10,000 deposit)
2	**IDFC FIRST Bank**	Launched 'Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card' in January 2026 for frequent international travelers providing zero foreign exchange markup on international transactions with ₹3,000 annual fee (waived from 2nd year on ₹6 lakh annual spend), domestic and international lounge access, and comprehensive travel insurance including ₹25,000 trip cancellation cover and ₹1 crore air accident cover
3	**HDFC Bank**	Integrated Reserve Bank of India's Digital Rupee (e₹) Central Bank Digital Currency into its online merchant payment platform SmartGateway in January 2026 supporting RBI-backed Digital Rupee alongside UPI, cards, and net banking with zero transaction cost for merchants
4	**Federal Bank**	Unveiled refreshed brand entity 'The Fortuna Wave' on January 7, 2026, signaling modernization and future-readiness with brand ambassador Vidya Balan featuring three wave elements representing authenticity, togetherness, and prosperity

S. No.	Bank/Institution Name	Purpose
5	**Axis Finance Limited**	Launched 'Axis Finance Vyapar Business Loan' on January 8, 2026, a collateral-free credit solution for Micro and Small Enterprises offering up to ₹10 lakh with flexible repayment tenures through minimal documentation and data-driven underwriting
6	**Bank of Baroda**	Received RBI approval to switch from Bank Primary Dealer (PD) to wholly-owned Standalone Primary Dealer (SPD) subsidiary strengthening government securities trading capabilities
7	**Karnataka Bank**	Enabled Khajane-2 e-Receipts via net banking for seamless state government tax payments and won IBA Banking Technology Award for Best Fintech & Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Adoption
8	**Tripura Gramin Bank**	Introduced solar-powered ATM van 'TGB on Wheels', pioneering eco-friendly mobile banking for rural areas with 3 operational solar-powered vans
9	**State Bank of India (SBI)**	Economic Research Department released Ecowrap report on January 7, 2026, projecting India's GDP growth for FY26 at 7.5% with upward bias
10	**Reliance Industries Limited**	Announced development of the Jio Artificial Intelligence Platform with investment of seven lakh crore rupees in Gujarat over five years, including establishment of artificial intelligence-ready data centres in Jamnagar
11	**Ola Electric**	Launched the Shakti Battery Storage System from its Krishnagiri Gigafactory starting at ₹29,999 for 1.5 kilowatt-hour capacity, India's first domestically designed residential battery storage system

RBI NEWS & REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

S. No.	Name	Purpose
1	**RBI Certificate of Registration (CoR) Cancellation**	Cancelled CoR of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for non-compliance with regulatory requirements effective December 9-31, 2025, restricting them from carrying out NBFI business; 16 other NBFCs voluntarily surrendered their CoR
2	**RBI Standing Liquidity Facility (SLF)**	Increased SPD aggregate limit under Standing Liquidity Facility from ₹10,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore effective April 2, 2025, enhancing Primary Dealer liquidity management
3	**RBI Payment Aggregator Authorization**	Granted final RBI authorization to Skydo as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) entity enabling cross-border payment facilitation and approved PayG for PA-Physical (PA-P) and PA-CB operations
4	**RBI Innoviti Authorization**	Authorized Innoviti for online and offline Payment Aggregator operations, expanding from online-only authorization granted in March 2024
5	**RBI Consumer Protection Mandate**	Mandated auto-transfer of unresolved bank complaints to Internal Ombudsman within 30 days, strengthening consumer protection mechanisms
6	**RBI Ombudsman Scheme**	Establishing Central Complaints Processing Centre (CRPC) under revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme from July 2026 aiming at faster grievance redressal with compensation up to ₹30 lakh
7	**RBI FEDAI Recognition**	Recognized Federation of Forex Dealers' Associations (FEDAI) as Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for forex dealers, strengthening governance and standard-setting in forex ecosystem
8	**RBI Forex Position Rules**	Proposed revised Forex Position Rules for banks to align with global standards, implementing from April 1, 2027

SEBI NEWS

S. No.	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
1	**Merchant Bankers Revised Net Worth Requirements**	SEBI notified phased rollout of revised net worth requirements through amended SEBI (Merchant Bankers) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 with Category-I merchant bankers maintaining 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; underwriting obligations cannot exceed 20 times liquid net worth with 3-year minimum revenue requirement from permitted activities	Phased: January 2, 2027 & January 2, 2028
2	**Mutual Fund Performance-Based Expense Structures**	SEBI introduced performance-based expense structures for mutual funds improving transparency, tightening governance, and aligning investor costs with fund performance	April 2026

OTHER IMPORTANT BANKING & FINANCE CURRENT AFFAIRS

- **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**.
- **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**.
- **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**. **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**.
- **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**. **Private Financial Consumption Expenditure** 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**.
- **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 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.
- **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** providing **comprehensive data-driven analysis** of **India's trade performance**. 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**.
- **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 RKMs **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 **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**.
- **Morgan Stanley Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.6% for FY26 and 6.5% for FY27** - **Morgan Stanley** projects **India's GDP at 7.6% for FY26** and **6.5% for FY27**, driven by **fiscal-monetary policy support** and **rising household incomes**, with widespread **Capex pickup due to rising investor confidence** boosting **private investment**.
- **World Bank Projects India's FY27 GDP at 6.5%** - **World Bank** projects **India's FY27 GDP at 6.5%** with **FY28 expected at 6.6%** aided by **services recovery** and **investment pickup**, noting **domestic demand expected to drive growth** amid continued tariff and global uncertainty. **World Bank projects global growth at 2.6%** in CY26, down from 2.7% in CY25.
- **India's Fish Production Doubled in Decade to 197.75 Lakh Tonnes in FY25** - **India's fish production doubled** in decade to **197.75 lakh tonnes in FY25**, up **106% from 95.79 lakh tonnes in FY14**, making **India world's second-largest fish producer**.
- **India's Seafood Exports Hit All-Time High of ₹62,408 Crore in FY25** - **India's seafood exports hit all-time high** of **₹62,408 crore (USD 7.45 billion) in FY25**, with **value-added exports rising 56%** over five years.

- **India's Retail Inflation Climbed to 3-Month High of 1.33% in December 2025** - **India's retail inflation climbed** to **3-month high of 1.33% in December 2025**, rising from 0.71% in November but **below RBI's 2% threshold**. **Food inflation registers negative growth for 7th consecutive month at -2.71%**, while **core inflation surges to 27-month high of 4.45%**.
- **India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Increased by $392 Million to $687.19 Billion** - **India's foreign exchange reserves increased** by **$392 million to $687.19 billion**, supported by a **rise in gold reserves**. The **strong reserve position enhances external stability** and **investor confidence**.
- **India-China Trade Deficit Hits Record $116.12 Billion in 2025** - **India-China bilateral trade** crossed **$155.62 billion in 2025** despite recording a **record $116.12 billion deficit**, reflecting **heavy dependence on Chinese imports** and need for balanced trade mechanisms.
- **Female Labor Force Participation Reached 35.3% in December 2025** - **Female labor force participation reached 35.3%** in December 2025, marking **yearly high in employment metrics**.
- **PFRDA Constituted High-Level Committee for NPS Assured Payouts** - **PFRDA constituted 15-member high-level committee** headed by **M.S. Sahoo** to **formulate assured payouts framework** under **National Pension System** with standardized disclosures preventing **mis-selling** and clarifying **'assured' vs market-linked returns**.
- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions Appointed Vikas Chadha as Global CEO** - **TVS Supply Chain Solutions** appointed **Vikas Chadha** as **Global CEO** effective **January 22, 2026** for **global growth** and **logistics execution**.
- **Indusfood 2026 Featured 2,200 Exhibitors from 30+ Countries** - **Indusfood 2026** featured **2,200 exhibitors from 30+ countries** with **15,000+ buyers from 120+ countries**, adding **Pet Food and Cookware pavilions** reflecting **changing global demand** for **wellness and premium products**.
- **APEDA Launched BHARATI Startup Challenge** - **APEDA launched BHARATI Startup Challenge** promoting **innovation** in **agricultural and processed food export sectors**.
- **South Asia Growth Projected at 7.1% in CY25, Moderating to 6.2% in CY26** - **South Asia growth projected at 7.1%** in CY25, **moderating to 6.2% in CY26** due to **higher US tariffs**.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

MoUs WITH COUNTRIES

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Bhutan	Supreme Court of India	**Judicial Exchange & Cooperation** - Exchange of young legal professionals; two law clerks from Bhutan will work in SCI for three-month tenure in different courts with honorarium equivalent to Indian law clerks; promotes knowledge sharing and long-term professional ties
Germany	Government of India	**19 Strategic Agreements** - Covering defence technology, critical minerals, supply chain resilience, visa-free transit, healthcare migration, clean energy, and maritime heritage strengthening bilateral strategic and economic engagement
United Arab Emirates	Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) & Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi	**India-UAE Food Corridor** - Aimed at strengthening bilateral food trade and establishing operational framework for food export-import between India and UAE
Germany	Bharat Forge & Agile Robots	**AI-Driven Robotics & Industrial Automation** - Collaboration targeting automotive, healthcare, consumer electronics sectors aiming to develop fully autonomous 'dark' factories for production efficiency
International	Indian Olympic Association (IOA) & International Olympic Academy	**National Olympic Education & Development Programme (NOEDP)** - Supporting grassroots to elite Olympic movement focusing on Olympic values, education-ethics, holistic athlete development, and governance strengthening

MoUs WITH STATES

State	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Tamil Nadu	UN Women	**Gender-Responsive Governance Initiative** - Strengthen institutional capacities for gender-responsive governance, improve women's welfare, promote inclusive development; supports SDG Goal 5 (Gender Equality); implementation by Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Home, and Rural Development; TN selected as India's first state for UNICEF-Office of Innovation's national-level innovation initiative

State	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Tamil Nadu	XeedQ GmbH (Germany)	**State-Backed Quantum Computing Programme** - Implementing in two phases (remote access and on-premises); India's first state-backed Quantum Computing Programme
Tamil Nadu	Sarvam AI	**India's First Sovereign AI Park** - Establishment of Sovereign AI Park in Chennai with ₹10,000 crore investment; advancing India's AI ecosystem development
Karnataka	UNSW Australia	**University Campus Development** - UNSW Australia signed MoU to open Bengaluru campus by August 2026 offering undergraduate programmes in commerce, media, computer science, and data science; postgraduate cybersecurity programme
Uttar Pradesh	IndiaAI Mission & UPDESCO	**Data & AI Labs Establishment** - Establishing 65 Data & AI Labs across Uttar Pradesh; promoting AI adoption in governance and healthcare at population scale; two labs already operational at NIELIT centers

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)	TechFini	**UPI Infrastructure Partnership** - TechFini serves as Technology Service Provider managing UPI switching via TechFini UPI Switch; enables faster, secure, and scalable UPI infrastructure for Payment Aggregators, NBFCs, merchants, and fintech partners; expands UPI use cases in lending and collections through UPI Autopay solution for automated EMI and loan repayments
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL) - Japanese Shipping Company	**Joint Ventures in Ethane Shipping Business** - Two JVs registered in GIFT-City Gandhinagar: Bharat Ethane One IFSC Private Limited and Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Private Limited; each owns one Very Large Ethane Carrier; ONGC holding 50% and MOL 50% in each JV; transporting ethane from USA to India for feedstock requirements; aligned with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047
Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications)	Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)	**National Logistics Mechanism for Rural Citizens** - Expanding financial, digital, and logistics services for Self Help Groups (SHGs) and rural households under DAY-NRLM; supporting women entrepreneurs and rural development
Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications)	Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW)	**National Logistics System for Agricultural Testing** - Creating 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
Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)	**Research & Technical Studies in Next-Generation Telecom** - Driving research, testing, and standardization in next-generation telecom technologies; focusing on 6G architecture and technologies including pre-standardization in global forums; AI and ML in telecom for network automation; Non-Terrestrial Networks including satellite and HAPS integration with terrestrial networks
Textiles Committee	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC)	**Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection** - IPR protection of unique North-Eastern products through Geographical Indication (GI) registration promoting cultural heritage and market value
Ministry of Textiles	15 States (Tex-RAMPS Scheme)	**Operational Framework for Data Systems** - Creating operational framework for data systems to track textile production, exports, and supply chain metrics across states
Bharat Forge	Agile Robots (Germany)	**AI-Driven Robotics & Intelligent Industrial Automation** - Collaboration for developing AI-driven robotics; targeting automotive, healthcare, consumer electronics sectors; aiming to develop fully autonomous 'dark' factories for production efficiency
Choice Wealth	India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	**Digital Investment Platform** - Launched digital investment platform offering online mutual fund aggregation and Robo-Advisory services; expanding financial inclusion through postal network
GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited)	Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)	**#NonStopZindagi Campaign** - Promoting PNG (Piped Natural Gas) and CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) adoption (Jan 1-Mar 31) to increase natural gas share to 15% by 2030; advancing clean energy transition

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Visakhapatnam Port Authority	Directorate General of Lighthouses & Lightships (DGLL)	**Lighthouse Museum Development** - Development of Lighthouse Museum in Visakhapatnam promoting maritime heritage and cultural tourism
Coromandel International	IIT Madras	**Corporate Research Centre Establishment** - Establishment of Corporate Research Centre at IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai; promoting industry-academia collaboration in agricultural research and innovation
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)	**Multidisciplinary Research Collaboration** - Collaboration focusing on dairy production, processing, value addition, climate resilience, and value chain development; advancing agricultural sustainability
Galgotias University	NIT Jamshedpur & JUT Ranchi	**Joint Research & Deep-Tech Startups** - Signed MoUs for joint research initiatives and deep-tech startup development; fostering technology innovation and academic collaboration
TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India)	RANext Technologies	**Digital Connectivity Rating Agency Authorization** - Approved RANext Technologies as Digital Connectivity Rating Agency to assess and rate digital connectivity infrastructure quality across India; promoting transparency and quality standards

SUMMARY OF KEY MoU INITIATIVES

- **Textiles Committee & NEHHDC** - Intellectual Property Rights protection of unique North-Eastern products through GI registration
- **Ministry of Textiles & 15 States** - Operational framework for data systems under Tex-RAMPS scheme for textile sector monitoring
- **Bharat Forge & Agile Robots** - AI-driven robotics and intelligent industrial automation for 'dark' factories targeting automotive, healthcare, and consumer electronics
- **Choice Wealth & IPPB** - Digital investment platform with online mutual fund aggregation and Robo-Advisory services
- **GAIL & PNGRB** - #NonStopZindagi campaign promoting PNG and CNG adoption to increase natural gas share to 15% by 2030
- **Visakhapatnam Port Authority & DGLL** - Lighthouse Museum development in Visakhapatnam for maritime heritage
- **Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi & TPCI** - India-UAE Food Corridor strengthening bilateral food trade
- **IndiaAI Mission & UPDESCO** - Establishing 65 Data & AI Labs across Uttar Pradesh
- **Coromandel International & IIT Madras** - Corporate Research Centre at IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai
- **ICAR & NDDB** - Collaboration on multidisciplinary research covering dairy production, processing, and value addition
- **UNSW Australia & Karnataka Government** - Bengaluru campus opening by August 2026 with undergraduate and postgraduate programmes
- **Sarvam AI & Tamil Nadu** - India's first Sovereign AI Park in Chennai with ₹10,000 crore investment
- **India-Germany** - 19 strategic agreements covering defence technology, critical minerals, supply chain resilience, and visa-free transit
- **TN & XeedQ GmbH** - State-backed Quantum Computing Programme with remote and on-premises phases
- **Galgotias University & NIT Jamshedpur/JUT Ranchi** - Joint research and deep-tech startup development

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS – NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak	Chief Justice	Jharkhand High Court	Bombay High Court judge; appointed under Article 217(1) of Constitution; will assume office after retirement of CJ Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan on January 8, 2026; brings expertise in civil, constitutional, labour, environmental, and commercial law since June 2013
A. K. Balasubrahmanian	Chairman	Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)	Distinguished scientist; three-year tenure; succeeding Dr. D.K. Shukla; nearly 40 years career in nuclear power design, development, safety assessment; previously Director (Technical) of NPCIL; promotes indigenous safety features and self-reliance

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Abhishek Dev	Chairman (Extended)	Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	One-year extension approved; effective February 8, 2026; 2007-batch IAS officer from Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram cadre; previously Director in Department of Commerce; appointed APEDA Chairman in July 2023
Justice A Muhamed Mustaque	Chief Justice	Sikkim High Court	24th Chief Justice; senior-most judge of Kerala High Court; sworn-in with oath administered by Governor Om Prakash Mathur; succeeding CJ Biswanath Somadder; appointed Additional Judge of Kerala HC in 2014, Permanent Judge in 2016, Acting CJ July-September 2024
Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta	Chief Justice	Uttarakhand High Court	Senior judge of Allahabad High Court; appointed under Article 217(1) of Constitution; will assume office after retirement of CJ Justice Guhanathan (G.) Narendra on January 9, 2026; 25+ years legal practice in civil, rent control, constitutional law
Karthikeyan Manickam	Chairman	ESAF Small Finance Bank	Former Executive Director of Bank of India; effective January 2, 2026; succeeding Ravimohan Periyakavil Ramakrishnan; over 36 years public sector banking experience in operations, risk management, regulatory compliance, HR, credit monitoring, financial inclusion
Rakesh Aggarwal	Director General	National Investigation Agency (NIA)	IPS 1994 batch; tenure until August 2028; leading agency in combating terror and national security threats
Vikas Chadha	Global Chief Executive Officer	TVS Supply Chain Solutions	Effective January 22, 2026; appointed for global growth and logistics execution; experienced in supply chain and logistics management
Anup Kumar Saha	Whole-Time Director	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Effective January 12, 2026; overseeing consumer banking, marketing, data analytics; responsible for retail banking strategy and digital initiatives
Shri Praveen Vashista	Vigilance Commissioner	Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)	1991-batch IPS officer; appointed under CVC Act, 2003; experienced in CBI and Ministry of Home Affairs; strengthens India's vigilance and anti-corruption framework

APPOINTMENTS – INTERNATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Ida Liu	Chief Executive Officer	HSBC Private Bank	Effective January 5, 2026; succeeding Gabriel Castello (interim CEO since December 2024); over 25 years global experience in wealth management and strategic advisory; previously Global Head of Citi Private Bank since 2007; former Head of Citi Private Bank North America and Head of Asian Clients Group
Dina Powell McCormick	President and Vice Chairman	Meta	Part of AI strategy leadership restructuring; 25+ years experience in global finance and national security; 16 years at Goldman Sachs; former Deputy National Security Advisor under President Donald Trump; held senior State Department roles

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Federal Bank	'The Fortuna Wave' Brand Identity	Brand ambassador for refreshed brand identity launch; signaling modernization and future-readiness
Vidya Balan	Federal Bank	Brand ambassador for 'The Fortuna Wave' refreshed brand entity launched on January 7, 2026

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Designation / Post	Who is Appointed	Replacing Whom	Key Notes
Chief Executive Officer	**Ida Liu**	**Gabriel Castello**	HSBC Private Bank; effective January 5, 2026; Castello served as interim CEO since December 2024
Chairman	**Karthikeyan Manickam**	**Ravimohan Periyakavil Ramakrishnan**	ESAF Small Finance Bank; effective January 2, 2026; Ramakrishnan stepped down December 20, 2025
Chief Justice	**Justice A Muhamed Mustaque**	**Justice Biswanath Somadder**	Sikkim High Court; 24th CJ; Somadder retired December 14, 2025
Chief Justice	**Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**	**Justice Guhanathan (G.) Narendra**	Uttarakhand High Court; Narendra retiring January 9, 2026
Chairman	**A. K. Balasubrahmanian**	**Dr. D.K. Shukla**	Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB); Shukla completed tenure December 31, 2025

CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Designation / Post	Person Name	Key Notes
Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court	**Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak**	Appointed under Article 217(1) of Constitution; Bombay High Court judge; assumes office January 8, 2026; expertise in civil, constitutional, labour, environmental, and commercial law
Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court	**Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta**	Appointed under Article 217(1) of Constitution; Senior judge of Allahabad High Court; assumes office January 9, 2026; 25+ years legal practice
Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court	**Justice A Muhamed Mustaque**	Senior-most judge of Kerala High Court; sworn-in as 24th Chief Justice; extensive judicial career spanning Additional Judge, Permanent Judge, and Acting Chief Justice roles

AWARDS

MAJOR AWARDS & HONORS

S. No.	Name of Award	Winner	Details
1	**Excellent Rating from DPE**	**Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC)**	5th consecutive year achieving highest performance rating for FY25; Navratna Central Public Enterprise established in 1986; reached annual sanction target of ₹60,000 crore by Q3 FY26; demonstrates ability to navigate emerging challenges while maintaining institutional strength
2	**Excellent Rating - MoU Performance Evaluation**	**Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)**	Score of 96.42 for FY25 performance; 5th consecutive year of excellence; Navratna NBFC established in 1987 under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; finances renewable energy projects including solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy, green hydrogen, and storage; supports India's clean energy and climate goals
3	**2026 IEEE Medal of Honor**	**Jensen Huang** (NVIDIA CEO)	Highest recognition in field from Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers; awarded for outstanding contributions to Graphics Processing Units and accelerated computing; revolutionized computing, AI, and High-Performance Computing worldwide; includes USD 2 million cash prize; established in 1917; second consecutive year IEEE attached monetary award
4	**Academy Awards - Best Picture Eligibility**	**Five Indian Films**	Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1 (dir. Rishab Shetty, Hombale Films); Tanvi The Great (dir. Anupam Kher, NFDC); Mahavatar Narasimha (animated, dir. Ashwin Kumar); Tourist Family (dir. Abishan Jeevinth); Sister Midnight (dir. Karan Kandhari, feat. Radhika Apte); 98th Academy Awards; 201 feature films total eligible for Best Picture category
5	**70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar**	**100 Railway Officers & 26 Railway Zones**	Conferred by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw; recognizes exceptional railway service and performance; highest railway honor

S. No.	Name of Award	Winner	Details
6	**UN Secretary-General's Award 2025**	**Major Swathi Shantha Kumar**	Gender Category award; "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace" project in South Sudan; supported 5,000+ women through female peacekeeper deployment; grassroots trust-building initiatives; recognizes exceptional leadership, innovation, and commitment to UN values
7	**Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026**	**Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**	Hong Kong Leadership Awards; recognizes people-first approach and professional development; validates HR practices in competitive financial services sector; commitment to inclusive, high-performance environment
8	**Seven Summits Milestone**	**Indian Mountaineer Aritra Roy**	Summited **Mount Aconcagua** (6,967.15m) - highest peak outside Asia; fourth Seven Summits milestone; sponsored by HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited); completed 44km climb in -40°C conditions with 10.5-hour summit push; previously summited Kilimanjaro (Africa), Elbrus (Europe), Everest (Asia)
9	**Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement**	**Toby Kiers**	Recognition for work on fungal networks supporting ecosystem health and climate resilience; advancing environmental sustainability

CINEMA & ENTERTAINMENT AWARDS

S. No.	Award	Winner/Details
1	**Golden Globe - Best Limited Series**	**"Adolescence"** (dir. Philip Barantini) - won four Golden Globes including Best Limited Series and supporting performances
2	**Golden Globe - Best Podcast (Inaugural)**	**Amy Poehler** - "Good Hang With Amy Poehler"; expanding Globes' recognition to podcast category
3	**Golden Globe - Best Actor in Motion Picture (Drama)**	**Wagner Moura** (Brazil) - made history becoming first Brazilian to win this category
4	**Golden Globes Presenter**	**Priyanka Chopra Jonas** - represented Indian entertainment presence at Golden Globes

GOVERNMENT & INSTITUTIONAL HONORS

S. No.	Award/Recognition	Recipient	Key Details
1	**"52 Weeks, 52 Reforms" Roadmap 2026**	**Indian Railways**	Major reforms unveiled implementing changes in customer service, maintenance, quality management; comprehensive modernization initiative
2	**100 Years of Rail Electrification**	**Indian Railways**	Milestone achievement; electrified 68,700+ route kilometers; 72%+ work completed; demonstrates commitment to sustainable transportation
3	**Sukhatme National Award in Statistics**	**Eligible Indian Statisticians**	Invites nominations from eminent Indian statisticians aged 45 years and above; to be presented on Statistics Day – 29 June 2026; prestigious statistical recognition

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCES - JANUARY 2026

MAJOR SUMMITS

Category	Event	Venue	Dates	Key Points
Summit	**Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026**	New Delhi	March 5-7, 2026	Jointly launched by Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF); announced by Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and Dr. Samir Saran; operates alongside Raisina Dialogue; strengthens connection between science, technology, and diplomacy; new institutional effort for science-based foreign policy

Category	Event	Venue	Dates	Key Points
Summit	**Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026**	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	January 9-12, 2026	Hosted by PM Modi for interaction with young leaders; focused on ten national priority themes including **Fit Bharat, Start-up India, Women-Led Development, Cultural Diplomacy, Aatmanirbhar Bharat**; developing next-generation leadership across sectors
Summit	**Bharat Electricity Summit 2026**	Yashobhoomi, New Delhi	March 19-22, 2026	Focusing on **clean power transition**; addressing renewable energy adoption and grid modernization; strengthening India's electrical infrastructure

MAJOR EVENTS

Category	Event	Venue	Dates	Key Points
Event	**National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026**	Guwahati, Assam	January 8-9, 2026	Organized by Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with Government of Assam; **Theme: "India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation"**; brings together Textile Ministers and senior officials from all States and Union Territories; deliberates on strategic future direction of India's textile sector; critical institutional mechanism for aligning federal and state policies; positions India as global textile manufacturing hub by 2030; commitment to simultaneous economic development and cultural preservation
Event	**Special Conclave on North-Eastern Textiles**	Guwahati, Assam	January 8-9, 2026	Part of National Textiles Ministers' Conference; focused on silk handloom, handicrafts, **bamboo-based textiles**; emphasizing **Eri, Muga, Mulberry silk** production; highlighting North-Eastern textile potential
Event	**3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival**	Visakhapatnam	January 9-10, 2026	Inaugurated by former Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu**; Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** present; launched **Lighthouse Museum development** at Visakhapatnam Port Authority via **DGLL MoU**; celebrating maritime heritage
Event	**Port Infrastructure Projects Launch**	Visakhapatnam	January 9-10, 2026	**Total investment: ₹230 crore** including **LPG berth upgradation (₹52.24 crore), Dry Dock upgradation (₹35.87 crore), new AOB construction (₹97.70 crore), Harbour Park residential apartments (₹44.20 crore)**; modernizing port facilities
Event	**Indusfood 2026**	India	January 2026	Featured **World Culinary Heritage Conference** organized by Indian Federation of Culinary Associations; 2,200 exhibitors from 30+ countries; 15,000+ buyers from 120+ countries; showcasing food, beverages, and culinary heritage
Event	**World Culinary Heritage Conference 2026**	Part of Indusfood 2026	January 2026	Organized by **Indian Federation of Culinary Associations**; celebrating culinary heritage and international food trade; promoting wellness and premium food products
Event	**Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for Kutch-Saurashtra**	Marwadi University, Rajkot	January 11-12, 2026	Boosting investment and industrial growth in Kutch-Saurashtra region; attracting business opportunities and development initiatives
Event	**India-Germany CEO Forum**	Ahmedabad	January 12-13, 2026	Attended by **PM Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz**; reviewing **25-year strategic partnership** progress; strengthening bilateral economic and technological cooperation; advancing trade and investment dialogue

MAJOR CONFERENCES

Category	Conference	Venue	Dates	Key Points
Conference	**India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026**	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	January 21-23, 2026	Hosted by **Election Commission of India (ECI)**; three-day international event; positions India as **global hub for dialogue and cooperation** on democratic governance; sharing rich democratic experiences with international community; advancing global cooperation on **strengthening electoral systems and democratic institutions**; major step in international electoral cooperation
Conference	**Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference**	Rajasthan	January 6, 2026	Major milestone in India's journey towards **inclusive, ethical, and responsible AI**; brought together **national and state leadership, policymakers, industry experts, startups, and academia**; deliberated on transformative role of AI in **governance, infrastructure, innovation, and workforce development**; advancing AI adoption across sectors

UPCOMING EVENTS & SUMMITS

- **Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (RSDI) 2026** - March 5-7, 2026 in New Delhi; jointly launched by PSA office and Observer Research Foundation; strengthening science-technology-diplomacy nexus
- **Bharat Electricity Summit 2026** - March 19-22, 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi; focusing on clean power transition and renewable energy adoption
- **National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026** - January 8-9, 2026 in Guwahati; theme "Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation"; aligning federal and state textile policies
- **3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival** - January 9-10, 2026 in Visakhapatnam; inaugurated by former VP Venkaiah Naidu; launching Lighthouse Museum development
- **Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for Kutch-Saurashtra** - January 11-12, 2026 at Marwadi University, Rajkot; boosting investment and industrial growth
- **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026** - January 9-12, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; PM Modi's interaction with youth leaders on ten national priority themes
- **India-Germany CEO Forum** - January 12-13, 2026 in Ahmedabad; PM Modi and Chancellor Merz reviewing 25-year strategic partnership
- **India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026** - January 21-23, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; positioning India as global hub for electoral governance
- **Indusfood 2026** - January 2026; featuring 2,200 exhibitors from 30+ countries; World Culinary Heritage Conference organized by Indian Federation of Culinary Associations
- **Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference** - January 6, 2026; deliberating on AI's transformative role in governance, infrastructure, and workforce development

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RANKINGS & REPORTS - JANUARY 2026

NATIONAL RANKINGS & REPORTS

Rank	Report Name	Entity/Category	Score/Details	Key Notes
1st	**Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System 2.0 (ICJS 2.0) Rankings**	**Uttarakhand Police**	**93.46**	Released on January 8, 2026 by **National Crime Records Bureau** under **Ministry of Home Affairs**; **2nd edition rankings**; promotes **real-time data sharing**, **"One Data, One Entry" principle**; makes **investigations faster** and **evidence-based**; enables **digital case tracking from FIR to conviction**
2nd	**ICJS 2.0 National Rankings**	**Haryana Police**	**93.41**	Strong performance in digital case management and criminal justice integration; advancing e-governance in law enforcement
3rd	**ICJS 2.0 National Rankings**	**Assam Police**	**93.16**	Demonstrating effective criminal justice system modernization; supporting transparent law enforcement

CITY RANKINGS - WOMEN INCLUSION 2025

Rank	City	Overall Score	Key Characteristics
1st	Bengaluru	53.29	**Best city for women in India (2025)**; combines **strong social infrastructure** with **robust industrial opportunities**; supportive ecosystem for **women's safety, employment, and long-term career growth**
2nd	Chennai	49.86	Strong women empowerment initiatives, industrial and service sector opportunities, safety infrastructure
3rd	Pune	46.27	Growing tech hub, women-friendly policies, educational opportunities, quality of life
4th	Hyderabad	Not specified	IT and business hub, women workforce development, emerging innovation ecosystem
5th	Mumbai	Not specified	Largest financial hub, diverse opportunities, women entrepreneurship, global connectivity

EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX 2024 (NITI Aayog)

Rank	Category	State/Region	Score	Key Details
1st	Large States	Maharashtra	68.01	Released by **NITI Aayog - 4th Export Preparedness Index 2024**; assesses **export readiness** across states; structured around **4 pillars, 13 sub-pillars, 70 indicators** evaluating **policy support, infrastructure, business ecosystem**
2nd	Large States	Tamil Nadu	64.41	Strong manufacturing base, port infrastructure, textile exports, IT services
3rd	Large States	Gujarat	64.02	Major industrial state, agricultural exports, diamond industry, SEZs
1st	Smaller States	Uttarakhand	52.07	Leading smaller states in export preparedness; supporting India's goal of **₹1 trillion merchandise exports by 2030** through **competitive federalism**

Index Framework: Evaluates policy support, infrastructure development, business ecosystem strength, human capital, and innovation capacity for export promotion.

HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2026

Rank	Country	Visa-Free/On-Arrival Destinations	Key Details
1st	Singapore	192	**Top ranking for 3rd consecutive year**; highest passport power globally; extensive global access
2nd	Japan, South Korea	188	Strong diplomatic relations, visa exemption agreements with major economies worldwide
3-5th	Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland	186-187	**Europe dominates top 10**; strong EU membership benefits, international agreements
8th	Canada, Iceland, Lithuania	181	Strong international standing, visa reciprocity agreements, global partnerships
9th	Malaysia	180	Growing regional influence, ASEAN connectivity, international access
10th	USA	179	Major global power, significant international relationships and agreements
80th	India	55	Ranked 80th (up from 85th in previous year); accessing **55 visa-free/on-arrival destinations**; improved from **Algeria and Niger additions**; steady progress in international mobility
Lowest	Afghanistan	24	**Lowest ranking**; limited global access; creates **168-country gap** in passport power rankings between highest and lowest

Other Low Rankings: Syria (26), Iraq (29), Pakistan-Yemen (31), Somalia (33), Nepal (35), Bangladesh (37)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) - DECEMBER 2025 (NSO)

Metric	December 2025	November 2025	Change	Key Notes
Retail Inflation	**1.33%**	**0.71%**	**+0.62%**	Released by **National Statistics Office (NSO)**; retail inflation climbed to **3-month high**; rising from November; remains **below RBI's 2% threshold**; benign inflation environment
Food Inflation	**-2.71%**	**-3.91%**	**+1.20%**	**7th consecutive month of negative growth**; deflationary trend in food prices; declining from November level; supporting overall price stability
Core Inflation	**4.45%**	**4.23%**	**+0.22%**	**27-month high**; surging from November; emerging inflation pressure in non-food, non-fuel categories; raising monitoring concerns

STATE-WISE INFLATION DATA - DECEMBER 2025

Rank	State	YoY Inflation Rate	Key Details
Highest	**Kerala**	**9.49%**	Highest state-level inflation; significantly above national average; regional price pressures
2nd	**Karnataka**	**2.99%**	Above national average; reflecting state-specific cost pressures
3rd	**Andhra Pradesh**	**2.71%**	Close to national average; moderate inflation levels
4th	**Tamil Nadu**	**2.67%**	Below national average; relatively stable prices; well-managed inflation

KEY REPORT INSIGHTS

- **ICJS 2.0 Implementation** - Uttarakhand Police leads with 93.46 score; advancing digital criminal justice system; promoting real-time data sharing and evidence-based investigations
- **Women's Urban Inclusion** - Bengaluru ranks first (53.29) combining social infrastructure with industrial opportunities; creating supportive ecosystem for women's employment and safety
- **Export Preparedness** - Maharashtra leads large states (68.01); supporting India's ₹1 trillion merchandise exports target by 2030; competitive federalism driving export growth
- **Passport Power** - India ranks 80th (up from 85th) with 55 visa-free destinations; steady improvement in global mobility; Singapore leads with 192 destinations
- **Inflation Dynamics** - Retail inflation at 1.33% (December 2025); food inflation negative for 7th consecutive month at -2.71%; core inflation surges to 27-month high of 4.45%
- **Regional Inflation Variations** - Kerala shows highest YoY inflation at 9.49%; Tamil Nadu most stable at 2.67%; state-level variations requiring targeted policy responses
- **Criminal Justice Modernization** - ICJS 2.0 enabling digital transformation from FIR to conviction; Uttarakhand, Haryana, Assam leading in implementation; improving investigation speed and evidence management
- **Urban Development** - Top 5 women-inclusion cities show Bengaluru's leadership; Chennai (49.86), Pune (46.27), Hyderabad, Mumbai following; highlighting urban gender equity advancement

DEFENCE

MILITARY EXERCISES, TESTING & DEFENSE OPERATIONS - JANUARY 2026

MILITARY EXERCISES

Exercise Name	Venue / Participating Countries	Dates	Key Notes
Sanjha Shakti	Pune, India	January 8-9, 2026	Conducted by **Indian Army** with **350+ personnel** and **16 civilian agencies**; tested **disaster response and emergency preparedness**; validated **MCF (Military-Civil Fusion) framework**; promoting **civil-military synergy** and coordinated response mechanisms

Exercise Name	Venue / Participating Countries	Dates	Key Notes
Long-Range Training Deployment (1TS)	Southeast Asia (Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand)	January 7, 2026 onwards	**First Training Squadron of Indian Navy** deployment as part of **110th Integrated Officers' Training Course**; vessels **INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi**; provides naval cadets **hands-on experience** in seamless navigation and professional naval operations; strengthens **India's Act East Policy** ties; promotes **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific**
78th Indian Army Day Parade	Jaipur, Rajasthan	January 15, 2026	Commemorating **General K.M. Cariappa's appointment** as first Indian Commander-in-Chief (1949); displayed **modern combat capabilities** including **Bhairav force with 1 lakh drone operatives**; reinforced **border security commitment**; showcasing technological advancement and military preparedness

MISSILE & WEAPONS TESTING

Missile/Weapon Name	Testing Location	Features	Status
Scramjet Engine (Long-Duration Test)	DRDO Testing Facility	Conducted long-duration test lasting **over 12 minutes**; validates **sustained supersonic combustion technology**; operates at **Mach 5+ speeds** exceeding **6,100 km/h**; features **high maneuverability** for **hypersonic cruise missiles**; supports **low-altitude flight** complicating **enemy interception**; incorporates **advanced combustor design** and **state-of-the-art infrastructure**	**Successfully Tested**
MPATGM (Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile)	DRDO Testing Facility	**Third-generation flight test** validating **top-attack capability** and **advanced guidance system**; weighs **14.5 kg**, measures **1.3 meters** with **120mm diameter**; features **fire-and-forget capability**; production partners: **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**; aligns with **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative	**Successfully Flight-Tested**

DEFENSE DEALS & MoUs

Deal/MoU	Organization/Parties	Amount	Key Details
Suryastra Rocket Launch System Procurement	Indian Army & NIBE Limited	**₹293 crore**	**Emergency Procurement contract** for **Suryastra** - India's first **indigenously developed multi-calibre, long-range precision-guided rocket launcher**; 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**; features **high tactical mobility** and **effective shoot-and-scoot capability**; **80% indigenous content**; aligns with **Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision
Pinaka MLRS Upgrade & Support	L&T & Indian Army	Not Specified	Contract for **overhaul and upgrade** of **Pinaka MLRS** with **long-term support** and **lifecycle management**; modernizing **command-control elements**; providing **quality assurance and training**; structured under **PPP model**
Solar-Powered MAPSS UAV Procurement	Indian Army & NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT)	**₹168 crore**	Ordered **solar-powered MAPSS UAV** featuring **solar recharging** enabling **long-endurance flights**; incorporates **advanced mission autonomy** in **GNSS-denied zones**; designed for **Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR)** particularly for **border monitoring**; features **quiet propulsion** and **low thermal signature** for covert operations
Indian Army & HDFC Bank MoU Renewal	Indian Army & HDFC Bank	Welfare Package	Renewed **MoU for three more years till 2029**; covers **Personal Accident Insurance (₹1 crore)** and **Air Accident Insurance (₹1 crore)**; provides **₹5 lakh support** for **child education** and **girl child marriage prevention**; strengthening **soldier welfare and financial security**

Deal/MoU	Organization/Parties	Amount	Key Details
ONGC CSR Initiative for Tribal Students	ONGC & National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)	**₹28 crore**	Signed **MoU** with Ministry of Tribal Affairs; strengthening **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)**; covering **144 EMRS across 11 states and UTs**; initiatives include **digital learning infrastructure, career mentorship and counselling, teacher capacity building, health and hygiene facilities, entrepreneurship training**; supporting **tribal student empowerment**

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- **Indian Army Creates 'Bhairav' Modern Warfare Force** - Over **1 lakh trained drone operatives** equipped with **advanced drone technology**; **15 Bhairav battalions** deployed across formations along borders; plans to raise **25 battalions** in near future; dedicated force for **high-speed offensive operations** and **special forces tasking**; made first appearance at **78th Indian Army Day Parade** in Jaipur on January 15, 2026
- **DIME Platform Launched by Indian Army** - **Depot Integration Management Edition (DIME)** developed jointly with **BISAG-N** under **MeitY**; reduces **70% manual paperwork**; streamlines **supply operations 33% faster**; provides **real-time logistics visibility** from frontline to Headquarters; features **integrated dashboards** and **predictive analytics**; enhancing supply chain efficiency
- **Union Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates NIDMS** - **National Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Data Management System** developed by **National Bomb Data Centre of NSG**; secure **national-level AI-enabled digital platform**; serves as **central repository** of all bomb explosion incidents from 1999 to present; accessible to **NIA, ATS, State Police Forces, CAPFs**; integrated with **ICJS-2** supporting **'One Data–One Entry' principle**; linked with **CCTNS, e-Courts, e-Prisons, NAFIS** for strengthened **national security coordination**
- **Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Deployment** - **1TS** begins **Long-Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia**; vessels **INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, ICGS Sarathi**; port calls in **Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand**; part of **110th Integrated Officers' Training Course**; provides naval cadets **hands-on experience** in navigation and professional naval operations; strengthens **Act East Policy** ties; promotes **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific**
- **78th Indian Army Day Celebration** - Commemorates **General K.M. Cariappa's appointment** as first Indian Commander-in-Chief (1949); **Jaipur Parade** on January 15, 2026; displayed **modern combat capabilities** including **Bhairav drone force**; showcased **technological advancement** and **military modernization**; reinforced **border security commitment**
- **DRDO Successfully Tests Scramjet Engine** - Long-duration test lasting **over 12 minutes**; validates **sustained supersonic combustion technology**; operates at **Mach 5+ speeds** exceeding **6,100 km/h**; supports **hypersonic cruise missile development**; features **advanced combustor design** and **state-of-the-art infrastructure**
- **DRDO Flight-Tests MPATGM Third Generation** - **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile** successfully validated against **moving targets**; demonstrated **top-attack capability** and **advanced guidance system**; weighs **14.5 kg** with **fire-and-forget capability**; production under **Bharat Dynamics Limited** and **Bharat Electronics Limited**; advancing **indigenously developed defense systems**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITES, SPACE & SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS - JANUARY 2026

SATELLITE LAUNCHES - NATIONAL

- **EOS-N1 (Anvesha) Earth Observation Satellite** - Launched via **PSLV-C62** (64th PSLV flight, 5th PSLV-DL variant) on January 12, 2026 from **Sriharikota**; **hyperspectral Earth observation satellite** developed by **DRDO** for **advanced surveillance** and **strategic monitoring capabilities**; mission encountered **critical anomaly during third stage (PS3)**; launched with **15 co-passenger satellites** including **AayuISAT, KID**, and **Brazilian payloads**; 9th dedicated commercial launch by **NSIL**
- **AayuISAT (India's First On-Orbit Satellite Refueling Demonstrator)** - Developed by **OrbitAID Aerospace**; co-passenger on **PSLV-C62**; advancing **satellite servicing** and **sustainability technologies**; demonstrates India's capability in space infrastructure services
- **Co-Passenger Satellites (15 units)** - Launched alongside **EOS-N1** with applications in **AI processing in orbit, store-and-forward communications, IoT services, radiation measurement**, and **agricultural data collection**; advancing multi-purpose space utilization

SATELLITE LAUNCHES - INTERNATIONAL

- **COSMO-SkyMed Second Generation-Flight Model 3** - Launched by **SpaceX Falcon 9** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, California** on January 2, 2026; **first SpaceX mission globally in 2026**; launched for **Italian Space Agency** and **Ministry of Defence**; mass **~2,205 kg**; carries **advanced Synthetic Aperture Radar sensors** and **improved imaging capabilities**; dual-use **civilian and defense applications**; tracks **natural disasters in real-time**; supports **national security, maritime surveillance**, and **strategic planning 24/7** in **all weather conditions**

SPACE RESEARCH & DISCOVERY

- **NASA's Hubble Telescope Discovered Starless Gas Cloud 'Cloud-9'** - Located **14 million light-years from Earth** near **Messier 94**; findings published in **'The Astrophysical Journal Letters'**; **Reionization-Limited HI Cloud** containing **neutral hydrogen** with mass of **1 million solar masses**; dominated by **dark matter** with **~5 billion solar masses** across **4,900 light-year diameter**; represents rare **'fossil' from universe's early days**; initially discovered in **2023 via China's FAST radio telescope**; confirmed via **2025 VLA/GBT** and **2026 Hubble verification** with no stars within boundaries
- **Indian Scientists Develop Supercomputer-Powered Simulation to Model Mpemba Effect** - Developed by **Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru** under **Ministry of Science and Technology**; published in **Communication Physics**; first-ever **supercomputer-powered simulation** at **molecular level**; reveals how **non-equilibrium thermodynamics, molecular rearrangements**, and **energy dissipation** enable **hotter water to freeze faster than colder water**; offers **technical perspective** on **material relaxation phenomena** resulting from **abrupt temperature variations**

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

- **Indian Scientists Develop 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Stations** - Developed by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune** under **Ministry of Earth Sciences** via **Make in India initiative**; **Mission Mausam** project for **enhanced weather observation** and **forecasting capabilities**; **low-cost, lightweight, quick-to-deploy** stations; first batch set for **February 2026 deployment** in **Delhi** followed by **Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai**; **initial 50 units produced, 80 more planned**; feature **solar power** for **urban and remote deployment**; provide **real-time temperature, wind speed, humidity**, and **rainfall transmission**
- **DRDO Develops Portable Water Purification System 'SWaDeS'** - Developed by **Defence Laboratory Jodhpur** under **DRDO**; **SeaWater Desalination System (SWaDeS)** in **manual and engine-driven variants**; 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**; **manual unit supports 10-12 personnel**; both variants feature **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear water purification modules**; suitable for **naval operations** and **inland saline lakes**; critical for **soldiers in remote, coastal**, and **water-scarce regions**
- **Indian Scientists Discover Two New Slender-Armed Frog Species** - Discovered in **Arunachal Pradesh** from **Leptobrachium genus**; **Soman's Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium somani)** discovered at **Tiwarigaon in Lower Dibang Valley**, measuring **55mm**, named after **late journalist E. Somanath**; **Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium mechuka)** identified near **Mechuka town in Shi Yomi district**, measuring **60mm**, inhabiting **evergreen forests and grasslands**; findings published in **peer-reviewed journal PeerJ** through **University of Delhi** collaboration with **Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology**; **Leptobrachium genus comprises 39 species worldwide** with only **4 previously documented in India** from family **Megophryidae (366 recognized species)**; **Brahmaputra River acts as major biogeographic barrier** with new species found north and other Indian species south of river
- **DRDO Conducts Long-Duration Scramjet Engine Test** - Conducted test **lasting over 12 minutes** validating **sustained supersonic combustion at Mach 5+ speeds (6,100 km/h)**; **air-breathing technology** with **active cooling** enabling **hypersonic flight** with **high maneuverability** and **low-altitude capability**; **indigenously designed by DRDL Hyderabad** with support from **industry and academia** strengthening **regional deterrence**; progressive tests included **120-second run (Jan 2025)** and **1,000-second endurance test (May 2025)** scaling up technology gradually

LABORATORY & FACILITY INAUGURATIONS

- **Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh Inaugurates Two World-Class Laboratories at CSIR-NPL** - Inaugurated on January 5, 2026 during **80th Foundation Day celebrations**; **National Environmental Standard Laboratory (NSEL)** - **Asia's first** and **world's second pollution monitoring facility**; tests, calibrates, and certifies **air pollution monitoring devices** supporting **National Clean Air Programme**; **National Primary Standard Facility for Solar Cell Calibration** - **world's fifth-of-its-kind**; developed with **Germany's PTB** using **Laser-based Differential Spectral Responsivity system**; achieves **world's lowest calibration uncertainty of 0.35%**; reduces **dependence on foreign certification**
- **MeitY Inaugurates 'Param Shakti' Supercomputing Facility at IIT Madras** - Inaugurated in January 2026 at **IIT-Madras in Chennai**; state-of-the-art **supercomputing facility** powered by **PARAM RUDRA supercomputing system**; **3.1 petaflops peak performance**; 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**; features **24×7 power backup** and **advanced cooling systems**

TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Establishes Live Events Development Cell (LEDC)** - Established in January 2026; **constituted in July 2025** under **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**; boosts **India's concert and live entertainment economy**; comprises officials from **Centre, states, industry bodies**, and **event companies**; streamlines **approvals** and **coordinates large-scale live events**; positioning **India as leading global destination** for **live events by 2030**; **India's organized live events market valued at ₹20,861 crore in 2024** projected to **grow at 18% CAGR through 2030**
- **India Post Delivers First ONDC Order** - Enables **digital logistics expansion** and **last-mile delivery** strengthening for **MSMEs**; integrating traditional postal network with **Open Network for Digital Commerce**; supporting e-commerce growth for small businesses
- **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and PSA Launch 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan'** - **Skilling initiative** with **Netflix Fund for Creative Equity**; featured **eight short animated films** created by **26 students from diverse regions (50% women)** from **eight universities across India**; highlights **8 Indian social-impact start-ups**; **Voicebox Netflix-led collaboration** for **voiceover production** with **NFDC partnership**
- **Tamil Nadu Partners with Sarvam AI for India's First Sovereign AI Park** - Located in **Chennai** with **₹10,000 crore investment** generating **1,000+ high-skilled jobs**; features **dedicated AI district** with **high-performance computing infrastructure, secure data frameworks, research labs**, and **innovation clusters**; hosts **Institute for AI in Governance** developing **public-sector AI applications** with **data security, ethics, accountability focus**; supports **Tamil-first AI models** reflecting **local language and culture** in **education, healthcare, agriculture, citizen services projects**

INTERNATIONAL SPACE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Pakistan Conducts Successful Flight Test of 'Taimoor ALCM'** - Conducted in January 2026; **indigenously developed Taimoor Air-Launched Cruise Missile** deployed from **Mirage IIIE fighter aircraft** during **live-trial exercise**; developed by **Air Weapons Complex**; **turbojet-powered subsonic cruise missile** with **600 km strike range**; carries **conventional high-explosive warhead**; features **state-of-the-art navigation and guidance system** for **very low altitude operation** enabling **evasion of hostile air defenses** and **missile interception systems**
- **Giant Black Coral Discovery Near New Zealand** - **300–400-year-old giant black coral** discovered in **deep sea near New Zealand**; **largest recorded in the country**; emphasizes **importance of deep-sea ecosystem conservation**; highlighting biodiversity and environmental protection
- **Google Launches TranslateGemma Open AI Translation Model** - Supports **55 languages**; built on **Gemma 3**; enables **efficient multilingual translation** across **mobile, local, and cloud platforms**; advancing accessibility and communication globally

SPORTS

CRICKET

- **Renowned Australian Cricketer Usman Khawaja Announces Retirement** - Announced in January 2026 following **fifth Ashes Test at Sydney Cricket Ground**; **Pakistan-born Australian cricketer**; **88th Test match** marked his final appearance; scored **6,206 runs in 87 test matches** and **1,554 runs in 40 ODIs**; debuted against **England in 2010-11**; scored **first Ashes century of 171 runs in 2018**; **Australia's first Muslim Test cricketer**; impressive record of **16 hundreds and 28 fifties** in Test cricket
- **Virat Kohli Becomes Second-Highest International Run-Scorer** - Surpassed **Kumar Sangakkara's 28,016 runs** with **28,068 runs**; trailing only **Sachin Tendulkar (34,357)**; scored **match-winning 93 runs against New Zealand in Vadodara**; achieving **second-highest status in international cricket**; cementing legacy as one of cricket's greatest batsmen
- **Australian Women's Cricket Captain Alyssa Healy Announces Retirement** - Announcement in January 2026; retirement after **India series (Feb-Mar 2026)**; ending **15-year career**; won **8 World Cup titles** including **six T20 World Cups (2010, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2020, 2023)** and **two ODI World Cups (2013, 2022)**; retired as **most successful wicketkeeper with 269 dismissals** across **3 formats (24 Tests, 119 ODIs, 126 T20Is)**; scored **7,106 runs in approximately 300 matches**; **third-highest among Australian women** behind **Meg Lanning (8,352)** and **Ellyse Perry (7,607)**
- **South Africa Captain Laura Wolvaardt Named ICC Women's Player of the Month (December 2025)** - Recognized for **record-breaking performances against Ireland**; highlighting exceptional batting and leadership qualities in women's cricket
- **Australian Fast Bowler Mitchell Starc Won ICC Men's Player of the Month (December 2025)** - Honored for **outstanding all-round impact in the Ashes series**; demonstrating exceptional bowling performance and contribution to Australia's success
- **MS Dhoni Named Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026** - Named for **Pune Grand Tour 2026 (Jan 19-23)**; **India's first international multi-stage pro road cycling race**; leveraging cricket legend's brand value for sports promotion

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **No major badminton or tennis announcements** - January 2026 witnessed focus on other sporting disciplines with limited major announcements in these categories

ARCHERY & SHOOTING

- **No major archery or shooting announcements** - January 2026 saw focus on other sports with limited major news in these categories

ATHLETICS & FOOTBALL

- **Asian Games Gold Medalist Runner Jinson Johnson Announces Retirement** - Announced on January 7, 2026; **Olympian and Asian Games gold medalist** middle-distance runner; **15-year international career** conclusion; won **gold in 1500m and silver in 800m** at **2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Indonesia**; won **bronze in 1500m** at **2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China**; holds **national records of 1:45.65 in 800m (2018)** and **3:35.24 in 1500m (2019 ISTAF Berlin)**; leaving lasting impact on Indian athletics

CHESS

- **Aaryan Varshney Became India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster** - Secured **final GM norm** at **Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia**; significant achievement highlighting **India's growing global chess strength**; joining elite group of Indian grandmasters advancing nation's chess prowess

VOLLEYBALL

- **PM Narendra Modi Virtually Inaugurates 72nd National Volleyball Tournament** - Inaugurated on January 4, 2026 at **Dr. Sampurnanand Sports Stadium in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh** via **video conferencing**; **72nd National Volleyball Tournament (Senior National Championship)**; scheduled till **January 11, 2026**; 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**; two mascots: **'Nandu' (Nandi bull for strength)** and **'Neera' (Ganga River Dolphin symbolizing environmental awareness)**

BEACH GAMES

- **Karnataka Emerged Overall Champions of Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2026** - Secured **11 medals (3 gold, 2 silver, 6 bronze)**; **KIBG 2026 featured six medal events**: **Beach Volleyball, Beach Soccer, Sepak Takraw, Beach Kabaddi, Pencak Silat, Open Water Swimming**; **Tamil Nadu finished second (8 medals)** and **Manipur third (7 medals)**; held at **Ghoghla Beach, Diu**; **KIBG mascot 'Pearl' (cheerful dolphin)** welcomed **1,100+ athletes from 30 states and UTs**; promoting coastal sports and athletic excellence

CYCLING

- **MS Dhoni Named Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026** - Named for **India's first international multi-stage pro road cycling race** (Jan 19-23); leveraging **cricket legend's brand** to promote professional cycling in India; advancing sports infrastructure and cyclist development

DEFENSE & AEROSPACE

- **IAF Commemorates 25th Anniversary of Tejas First Flight** - Marked on January 4, 2026; historic **maiden flight of indigenously developed Tejas Light Combat Aircraft** took place on **January 4, 2001**; flown by **Wing Commander Rajiv Kothiyal** from **HAL Bengaluru airport**; **HAL secured major order** for **97 more Mk-1A jets worth over ₹62,370 crore** in late 2025; **VEM Technologies delivered 1st centre fuselage assembly in May 2025** and **2nd in September 2025** to **HAL in Hyderabad**; strengthening **indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities** and aerospace sector growth

OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

- **Indian Olympic Association Reactivated National Olympic Academy** - Reactivated in collaboration with **International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece**; promoting Olympic values, education, and athlete development; strengthening India's Olympic ecosystem and international participation standards

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Khelo India Beach Games 2026 Showcases Coastal Sports Development** - Held at **Ghoghla Beach, Diu**; featured **1,100+ athletes from 30 states and UTs**; promoted **six medal events** including beach volleyball, soccer, sepak takraw, kabaddi, pencak silat, and open water swimming; **Karnataka's dominance** with 11 medals showcases state's sports excellence and infrastructure development

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS RECOGNITION

- **ICC Monthly Awards Recognition** - **Laura Wolvaardt (South Africa)** - **Women's Player of the Month (December 2025)** for record-breaking performances; **Mitchell Starc (Australia)** - **Men's Player of the Month (December 2025)** for outstanding Ashes performance; recognizing global sporting excellence and individual achievements across formats

BOOKS & AUTHORS

BOOKS & AUTHORS - JANUARY 2026

BOOKS RELEASED & LAUNCHED

S. No.	Book Name	Author	Key Notes
1	**'History That India Ignored' (Second Edition)**	**Prem Prakash** (Veteran journalist, Chairman of Asian News International)	Launched by **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** in January 2026 at **Panaji, Goa**; **first published April 2025**; highlights **neglected aspects of India's freedom struggle** including **unsung heroes, revolutionary movements, Indian National Army**; covers **overlooked uprisings** like **Vellore Mutiny (1806)** and **Battle of Imphal**; challenges **mainstream narratives** showing independence shaped by both **non-violent movements and revolutionary resistance**; significant historical reinterpretation
2	**55 Scholarly Literary Works in Classical Indian Languages**	**Multiple Authors** (Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages & Central Institute of Classical Tamil)	Released by **Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** on January 6, 2026 in **New Delhi**; promotes **India's linguistic heritage** and **inclusive access to classical knowledge**; **41 books developed by Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages** under **CIIL Mysore** covering **Classical Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia**; **13 books from Central Institute of Classical Tamil**; includes **45-episode Sign Language interpretation series of Tirukkural**; promotes **inclusive education for persons with hearing disabilities**; advancing linguistic preservation and accessibility
3	**'Agni Sarassulo Vikasinchina Kamalam Droupadi Murmu' (Lotus Blooming in Fire of Coals)**	**Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad** (Former Member of Parliament, Vishwa Hindi Parishad President)	Released in January 2026 at **Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**; **Telugu book** chronicling **President Droupadi Murmu's life** from **tribal roots to Rashtrapati Bhavan**; symbolically unveiled by **Lakshmamma, a sanitation worker**, embodying **Murmu's empowerment narrative**; highlights **resilience amid personal tragedies and political battles**; inspiring **democratic participation in tribal areas**; significant biographical work celebrating women's empowerment and tribal representation

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	**Suresh Kalmadi**	Politics & Sports Administration	Madras	Passed away on **January 6, 2026** at age **81** in **Pune, Maharashtra** (born **May 1, 1944**); **senior Indian National Congress leader** and **former Union Minister of State**; served as **pilot in Indian Air Force (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 (1995-1996)**; **President of Indian Olympic Association (1996-2012)**; appointed **Life President in 2016**
2	**Manoj Kothari**	Sports - Cue Sports	Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu	Passed away in **January 2026** at age **67** in **Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu**; **Former World Billiards Champion**; **pioneering figure in Indian cue sports**; **current chief national coach**; **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**; received **Major Dhyan Chand Award (2005)**, **Lifetime Achievement Award from IBSF (2025)**, and recognition from **West Bengal and Calcutta Sports Journalists Club**

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
3	**Kabindra Purkayastha**	Politics	Silchar, Assam	Passed away on **January 7, 2026** at age **94** in **Silchar, Assam** (born **December 15, 1931**); **veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader**; **former Union Minister of State for Communications**; joined **RSS in 1951**; **founding member of BJP** who strengthened organizational base in **Assam and Northeast**; **three-time MP from Silchar (1991, 1998, 2009)**; served as **Union MoS for Communications (1998-1999)** under **PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
4	**Madhav Gadgil**	Ecology & Conservation	Pune, Maharashtra	Passed away on **January 8, 2026** at age **83** in **Pune, Maharashtra** (born **April 24, 1942**); **Ecologist, Scholar, and Conservationist**; recognized as **father of modern Indian ecology**; **founding faculty member of Centre for Ecological Sciences at IISc Bengaluru**; served as **Professor of Ecology (1981-2005)**; appointed **Chairman of Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (2010)**; authored **over 250 papers on ecology and conservation**; received **Padma Shri (1981), Padma Bhushan (2006), Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (2015)**, and **UN Champion of Earth Award (2024)**
5	**Davinder Singh Garcha**	Sports - Hockey	Amritsar, Punjab	Passed away at age **73** in **Jalandhar, Punjab** (born **December 7, 1952** in **Amritsar**); **Former Indian hockey player**; **1980 Moscow Olympics gold medalist**; played **over 30 international matches** scoring **19 goals in 3 major tournaments**; scored **8 goals across 6 matches in 1980 Olympics** contributing to **India's record 8th Olympic gold defeating Spain 4-3**; honored with **Major Dhyan Chand Award (2021)**; post-playing career promoted hockey as **President of Olympian Surjit Hockey Society** and **Mohinder Singh Munshi Hockey Tournament**
6	**Thomas Kuthiravattam**	Politics	Kallissery, Chengannur, Kerala	Passed away at age **80** in **Alappuzha, Kerala** (born **June 1, 1945** in **Kallissery, Chengannur**); **veteran Kerala Congress(M) leader**; served as **Rajya Sabha MP (1985-1991)** representing **Kerala**; held positions of **State General Secretary** and **Vice Chairman**; **member of Joint Parliamentary Committee** probing **Bofors deal** during distinguished parliamentary tenure; served **25 years on Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Managing Committee** contributing to charitable work post-politics

IMPORTANT DAYS

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL OBSERVANCES

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description	Key Details
January 1, 2026	**DRDO Foundation Day**	68th Foundation Day Celebration	Celebrated at **New Delhi** under **Union Minister Rajnath Singh** and **MoS Sanjay Seth**; **DRDO reaffirmed as pivotal force** in **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**; **Defence Acquisition Council and Strategic Policy Board** accorded **22 Acceptance of Necessity approvals** worth **~₹1.30 lakh crore**; **11 defence contracts** worth **₹26,000 crore signed**; multiple **DRDO-developed systems** inducted into **CAPFs, Police Forces, and NDRF** beyond Indian Armed Forces
January 4, 2026	**World Braille Day**	Promoting Braille Literacy & Accessibility	**217th birth anniversary of Louis Braille**, inventor of **Braille system in 1824**; **8th World Braille Day observance**; promotes **Braille literacy** 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 (since 2005)**

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description	Key Details
January 6, 2026	**National Siddha Day**	Siddha for Global Health	**9th National Siddha Day**; commemorates birth anniversary of **Sage Agathiyar**, **father of Siddha system of medicine**; coincides with **Ayilyam star in Tamil month of Margazhi**; **Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan** inaugurated celebrations at **Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu**; honored **five eminent personalities** for outstanding contributions; theme: **"Siddha for Global Health"**
January 6, 2026	**World Day of War Orphans**	Awareness for Children of War	Observed globally to raise awareness about **children who lost one or both parents** to **war, armed conflict, or political violence**; proposed in **1994 by French NGO SOS Enfants en Détresse**; first observation in **1995**; highlights that **over 140-150 million children worldwide** have lost parents; emphasis on **protection under UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and **international humanitarian law**
January 8, 2026	**Earth's Rotation Day**	Léon Foucault's Pendulum Experiment	Observes significance of **Earth's rotational motion**; commemorates **French physicist Léon Foucault's historic 1851 pendulum experiment** at **Paris Panthéon**; **175th anniversary in 2026**; **Foucault's 28 kilogram brass bob suspended from 67-meter wire** provided **first direct laboratory proof** of Earth's rotation; **Earth rotates west to east every 24 hours** at **~1,670 km/h speed at equator**
January 8-11, 2026	**Somnath Swabhiman Parv**	1,000 Years & 75th Reconstruction Anniversary	Celebrated **January 8-11**; marks **1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's 1026 attack** on **Somnath Temple**; celebrates **75th post-independence reconstruction anniversary**; **PM Modi participated** in celebrations with **Omkar mantra chanting** at **Prabhas Patan, Veraval, Gujarat**; demonstrating national pride and cultural preservation
January 9, 2026	**Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)**	Non-Resident Indian Day	**Biennially observed on January 9**; recognizes and honors **significant contributions of overseas Indian community** to nation's development; commemorates **Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India in 1915**; **MEA's flagship event** first introduced in **2003**; holds **biennial theme-based conventions since 2015**; **18th PBD Convention held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha (Jan 8-10, 2025)**; **19th convention scheduled for 2027**; **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award** honors **exceptional contributions of NRIs** and organizations run by them
January 9-12, 2026	**Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026**	Youth Leadership & National Priorities	**2nd VBYLD held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**; **PM Modi's interaction** with young leaders; focused on **ten national priority themes**: **Fit Bharat, Start-up India, Youth in Democracy, Women-Led Development, Cultural Diplomacy, Innovation with Tradition, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Sustainable Agriculture, Green Viksit Bharat, Future-Ready Workforce**; developing next-generation leadership
January 10, 2026	**World Hindi Day**	Hindi Language Promotion	Promotes **Hindi language awareness** and honors **contributions of Hindi speakers worldwide**; established on **June 8, 2005** by **World Hindi Conference**; **January 10 marks first Hindi use in UNGA (1949)**; commemorates **first World Hindi Conference (1975 in Nagpur)** inaugurated by **PM Indira Gandhi**; **Hindi officially adopted as Government of India language (1950)** under **Article 343 in Devanagari script**; ranked among **top four most spoken languages** globally with **600+ million speakers** across **Mauritius, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad-Tobago, Nepal**; **Fiji only country outside India** where Hindi is **official language alongside English and Fijian (since 1997)**; official language in **Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh**; listed among **22 languages in Eighth Schedule** of Indian Constitution

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description	Key Details
January 11-17, 2026	**National Road Safety Week**	Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha	**37th observance in 2026**; marking responsible driving and pedestrian protection; first introduced in **1989 by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**; **2026 theme: "Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha" (Road Safety, Life Safety)**; promoting **citizen awareness** and traffic safety measures
January 12, 2026	**National Youth Day**	Swami Vivekananda's Birth Anniversary	Commemorates **Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary (163rd in 2026)**; established in **1984** marking **1949 Constituent Assembly decision**; first celebrated **January 12, 1985**; celebrating **youth potential and national development**
January 14, 2026	**Armed Forces Veterans' Day**	Veterans' Honor & Sacrifice	**10th Armed Forces Veterans' Day in 2026**; honors **courage and sacrifices** of **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force veterans**; celebrates **Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa's retirement (January 14, 1953)**; **34 Rajya Sainik Boards** and **434 Zila Sainik Boards** organized **rallies and support activities** for veterans and families; **SPARSH pension help desks** and **ECHS healthcare counters** established supporting **veteran assistance nationwide**

Miscellaneous

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES & POLICY LAUNCHES

- **OPSA Partners with ORF to Launch Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative 2026** - 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**; scheduled **March 5-7, 2026 during Raisina Dialogue**; dedicated platform exploring **intersection of science, technology, and diplomacy**; focus on **emerging technologies, scientific cooperation in multipolar world**, and **technology control regimes**; bringing together **scientists, diplomats, policymakers, and industry leaders** through **high-level sessions and expert roundtables**
- **UIDAI Launches Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai'** - On January 8, 2026, **UIDAI Chairman Neelkanth Mishra** unveiled new **Aadhaar mascot named "Udai"** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**; strengthening **public outreach and awareness** in **Aadhaar-related services**; mascot designed by **Arun Gokul from Thrissur**; name suggested by **Riya Jain from Bhopal**; symbolizing **progress and empowerment**; serving as **resident-facing communication companion** explaining **enrollment, authentication, selective information sharing**, and **new technology adoption** to **1.4 billion Aadhaar users**
- **GAIL & PNGRB Launch NonStop Zindagi Campaign** - Campaign period: **January 1 to March 31, 2026**; promoting adoption of **Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)**; targeting **15% share of natural gas** in **India's energy mix by 2030**; multi-platform strategy including **digital outreach (social media and influencers)** and **on-ground activities** (Resident Welfare Association toolkits, mobile vans, festival-based messaging); targeting **domestic households, commercial establishments, industrial users**, and **CNG vehicle consumers**; supporting **clean energy transition**
- **PNGRB "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff" Framework** - Aims to **standardize natural gas transportation charges**; strengthening **integration of national gas grid**; promoting uniform tariff structure across India; advancing **natural gas infrastructure development**

ENVIRONMENTAL & AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES

- **India Becomes World's First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen** - Announced on January 7, 2026 by **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari**; CSIR Technology Transfer ceremony titled **"From Farm Residue to Roads"** in **New Delhi**; **bio-bitumen made from agricultural waste** like **paddy straw** converted to **bio-oil through pyrolysis**; blended with **conventional bitumen**; **15% blending can save nearly ₹4,500 crore** in **foreign exchange**; substantially **reducing dependence on imported crude oil**; technology developed by **CSIR-Central Road Research Institute** and **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum**; licenses issued to **multiple Indian manufacturers**; pioneering **circular economy and sustainable infrastructure**

- **BHARATI Startup Challenge Launched by APEDA** - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority initiative; promotes **innovation and entrepreneurship** in **agriculture and processed food export sectors**; supporting startups in value addition and export promotion
- **Indusfood 2026 New Pavilions & Initiatives** - New **Pet Food Pavilion** and **Cookware Pavilion** introduced; highlighting **growing global demand** for **wellness-focused and premium lifestyle products**; **India–United Arab Emirates Food Corridor launched** by **Abu Dhabi Food Hub**; aiming to **strengthen food security** and **bilateral food trade**

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & DIGITAL INITIATIVES

- **Karnataka Extends Gruha Lakshmi Scheme with Digital Marketing Portal** - Government of **Karnataka extended Gruha Lakshmi Scheme**; launched **Digital Marketing Portal** to help **women entrepreneurs** reach **global markets**; provides **vocational training** and **financial support** including **₹2,000 monthly assistance** to eligible households; verified platform enabling women to sell **handicrafts, food items, jewellery, clothing**, and **traditional products globally**; registration available **online, through District In-charge Officers**, and at **Department Head Office**; assuring **product authenticity**
- **Choice Wealth Launches Digital Investment Platform** - Launched for **India Post Payments Bank customers**; offering **online mutual fund aggregation** and **Robo-advisory services**; accessible via **mobile applications, web platforms**, and **micro ATM devices**; supporting **first-time and underserved investors** in **semi-urban and rural areas**; advancing **financial inclusion** and **investment accessibility**

AVIATION SECTOR

- **Akasa Air Becomes Fifth Indian Airline to Join IATA** - Joined in **January 2026** as **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, SpiceJet**; **Akasa Air founded in 2020** by **Vinay Dube**; connecting **26 domestic and 6 international cities**; operating **31 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft**

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES

- **New Reed Snake Species 'Calamaria mizoramensis' Discovered in Mizoram** - Discovered in **January 2026**; scientists from **Mizoram University** in collaboration with researchers from **Russia, Germany, and Vietnam**; findings published in international scientific journal **'Zootaxa'**; **small dark brown to blackish snake** with **faint stripes and yellow underside**; **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**; updating **state's herpetofauna to 169 species**; tentative **Least Concern IUCN status**; advancing biodiversity documentation

EDUCATION & INNOVATION HUBS

- **UNSW Australia Bengaluru Campus to Become Operational by August 2026** - Expected operational date: **August 2026**; located at **Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru**; under **India–Australia Education Cooperation Framework (2025–2030)**; offering **undergraduate programmes** in **commerce, media, computer science, data science**; providing **postgraduate cybersecurity programme**; expanding **international higher education access** in India
- **Galgotias University Inaugurates IIT Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre** - Established to **support early-stage startups**; promoting **deep-technology innovation**; bridging **research with real-world applications**; serving as **innovation hub** offering **mentorship, investor access, market linkages, technology commercialisation**, and **acceleration support**; **Galgotias University signed MoUs** with **National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur** and **Jharkhand University of Technology Ranchi**; facilitating **joint research, faculty exchange**, and **co-creation of deep-technology startups**

Static Takeaways

KEY GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE & INTERNATIONAL ENTITIES - COMPREHENSIVE DIRECTORY

Category	Entity Name	Leadership	Headquarters	Established	Key Details
Bank	**ICICI Bank Limited**	**MD & CEO:** Sandeep Bakhshi	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1994	Major commercial bank; retail and corporate banking services
Bank	**Bank of Baroda**	**MD & CEO:** Dr. Debadatta Chand	Vadodara, Gujarat	1908	**Tagline:** "India's International Bank"; public sector bank
Private Company	**Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX)**	**CEO:** Elon Musk	Texas, USA	2002	Commercial space launch, satellite operations, space exploration

Category	Entity Name	Leadership	Headquarters	Established	Key Details
Private Company	**Larsen and Toubro (L&T)**	**CMD:** S.N. Subrahmanyan	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1938	Engineering, construction, technology, defense contracts
Ministry	**Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**	**Minister:** Jitan Ram Manjhi (Gaya, Bihar) **MoS:** Shobha Karandlaje (Bangalore North, Karnataka)	New Delhi	-	MSME development, entrepreneurship, business support
Ministry	**Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**	**Minister:** Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha) **MoS:** Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, UP)	New Delhi	-	Digital infrastructure, IT policy, e-governance, telecom
Ministry	**Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)**	**Minister:** Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North, Maharashtra) **MoS:** Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, UP)	New Delhi	-	Trade policy, exports, foreign investment, commerce
Ministry	**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**	**Minister:** J.P. Nadda (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat) **MoS:** Prataprao Jadhav (Buldhana, Maharashtra), Anupriya Patel (Mirzapur, UP)	New Delhi	-	Healthcare, public health, disease control, wellness
Ministry	**Ministry of Culture**	**Minister:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jodhpur, Rajasthan) **MoS:** Rao Inderjit Singh (Gurugram, Haryana)	New Delhi	-	Cultural heritage, arts preservation, cultural diplomacy
Ministry	**Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**	**MoS (Independent Charge):** Dr. Jitendra Singh (Udhampur, J&K)	New Delhi	-	Weather forecasting, climate science, earth observation
Ministry	**Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW)**	**Minister:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha, MP) **MoS:** Ram Nath Thakur (Rajya Sabha – Bihar), Bhagirath Choudhary (Ajmer, Rajasthan)	New Delhi	-	Agricultural development, farmer support, food security
Ministry	**Ministry of AYUSH**	**MoS (Independent Charge):** Prataprao Jadhav (Buldhana, Maharashtra)	New Delhi	-	Traditional medicine systems: Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy
Ministry	**Ministry of Defence (MoD)**	**Minister:** Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, UP) **MoS:** Sanjay Seth (Ranchi, Jharkhand)	New Delhi	-	National security, armed forces, defense procurement
Ministry	**Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F)**	**Minister:** J.P. Nadda (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat) **MoS:** Anupriya Patel (Mirzapur, UP)	New Delhi	-	Chemical industry, fertilizer production, pharmaceutical policy
Ministry	**Ministry of Education (MoE)**	**Minister:** Dharmendra Pradhan (Sambalpur, Odisha) **MoS:** Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha – UP), Dr. Sukanta Majumdar (Balurghat, West Bengal)	New Delhi	-	School and higher education, educational policy, NEP

Category	Entity Name	Leadership	Headquarters	Established	Key Details
Ministry	**Ministry of Railways (MoR)**	**Minister:** Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha) **MoS:** V. Somanna (Tumkur, Karnataka), Ravneet Singh Bittu (Rajya Sabha – Rajasthan)	New Delhi	-	Railway operations, infrastructure, passenger services, freight
Ministry	**Ministry of Communications**	**Minister:** Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia (Guna, MP) **MoS:** Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani (Guntur, Andhra Pradesh)	New Delhi	-	Postal services, telecommunications regulation, digital infrastructure
Ministry	**Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**	**MoS (Independent Charge):** Rao Inderjit Singh (Gurugram, Haryana)	New Delhi	-	Statistical data collection, policy monitoring, program evaluation
Ministry	**Ministry of Textiles**	**Minister:** Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar) **MoS:** Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha – Assam)	New Delhi	-	Textile industry, export promotion, skill development, heritage
Ministry	**Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**	**Minister:** Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar, Gujarat) **MoS:** Raksha Khadse (Raver, Maharashtra)	New Delhi	-	Sports development, athlete welfare, youth programs, Khelo India
Ministry	**Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**	**Minister:** Nitin Jairam Gadkari (Nagpur, Maharashtra) **MoS:** Harsh Malhotra (East Delhi, Delhi), Ajay Tamta (Almora, Uttarakhand)	New Delhi	-	Road infrastructure, highway development, transport policy, safety
Ministry	**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**	**Minister:** Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh (Munger, Bihar) **MoS:** Professor S. P. Singh Baghel (Agra, UP), George Kurian (Rajya Sabha – MP)	New Delhi	-	Fisheries, animal husbandry, dairy promotion, aquaculture
Department	**Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**	**Secretary:** Dr. N. Kalaiselvi	New Delhi	4 January 1985	Industrial research promotion, innovation support, deep-tech startups
Armed Forces	**Indian Army (IA)**	**Chief of Army Staff:** General Upendra Dwivedi	New Delhi	1895	**Motto:** Seva Paramo Dharma; land-based military operations, defense
Defence Organisation	**Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**	**Chairman:** Samir V. Kamat	New Delhi	1 January 1958	**52 Research Laboratories**; indigenous defense technology development
Defence Company	**Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**	**CMD:** Commodore A Madhavrao (Retired)	Hyderabad, Telangana	1970	Guided missile systems, defense technology manufacturing, weapons

Category	Entity Name	Leadership	Headquarters	Established	Key Details
Defence Company	**Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)**	**MD & CEO:** Sukaran Singh	Hyderabad, Telangana	2006	Advanced aerospace systems, defense technology solutions, aviation
Defence Company	**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**	**CMD:** Dr. D. K. Sunil	Bengaluru, Karnataka	22 Dec 1940 (restructured 1964)	Aircraft manufacturing, aerospace technology, defense procurement, Tejas
PSU	**Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**	**CMD:** Vikas Kaushal	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1974	Oil refining, petroleum products, energy infrastructure, sustainability
Rating Agency	**India Ratings and Research Private Limited (Ind-Ra)**	**CMD:** Rohit Karan Sawhney	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1995	Credit rating agency, economic forecasting, market analysis
CSIR Institute	**Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Physical Laboratory (CSIR–NPL)**	**Director:** Professor Venu Gopal Achanta	New Delhi	1947	**India's premier metrology institute**; standards, calibration, testing
Research Organisation	**Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**	**Chairman:** Dr. V. Narayanan	Bengaluru, Karnataka	1969	Space research, satellite launches, space technology, earth observation
Govt Body	**National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)**	**CEO:** B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	New Delhi	1 January 2015	Policy planning, think tank, economic strategy, development initiatives
Govt Body	**Telecommunications Engineering Centre (TEC)**	**Sr. DDG:** Syed Tausif Abbas	New Delhi	1991	Telecom standards, 6G research, network architecture, standardization
Standards Body	**Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**	**Director General:** Sanjay Garg	New Delhi	1 April 1987 (ISI founded 1947)	**Act:** BIS Act, 1986; standards development, certification, quality assurance
Trade Body	**Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)**	**Chairman:** Mohit Singla	New Delhi	2012	Export promotion, trade facilitation, international business development
Sports Body	**Athletics Federation of India (AFI)**	**President:** Bahadur Singh Sagoo	New Delhi	1946	Sports governance, athlete development, international competition, Olympic
International Alliance	**International Solar Alliance (ISA)**	**Director General:** Ashish Khanna	Gurugram, Haryana	2015	India-France COP21 Paris initiative; renewable energy cooperation, climate action
UN Organisation	**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**	**Executive Director:** Catherine M Russell	New York, USA	1946	**Member Countries:** 190; child welfare, education, health programs globally

Category	Entity Name	Leadership	Headquarters	Established	Key Details
UN Department	**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)**	**Under-Secretary-General:** Li Junhua	New York, USA	1948	Economic policy, sustainable development, social affairs coordination
International Org	**United Nations**	**Secretary-General:** António Guterres	New York, USA	1945	Global governance, peace, security, sustainable development
International Org	**World Bank**	**President:** Ajay Banga	Washington, D.C., USA	1944	International development institution, development finance, poverty alleviation
Entertainment Org	**Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)**	**President:** Lynette Howell Taylor	Beverly Hills, California, USA	1927	Academy Awards, film industry recognition, cinematic excellence
Entertainment Org	**Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)**	**President:** Scott Orlin	California, USA	1943	Golden Globe Awards, international film and television recognition
State	**Telangana State**	**CM:** A Revanth Reddy **Governor:** Jishnu Dev Varma	Hyderabad	2014	**Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Kinnerasani WLS, Pakhal WLS; IT hub, development
State	**Tamil Nadu State (TN)**	**CM:** M.K. Stalin **Governor:** R.N. Ravi	Chennai	1956	**National Parks:** Guindy NP, Mukurthi NP; manufacturing, textiles, AI hub
State	**Andhra Pradesh**	**CM:** Nara Chandrababu Naidu **Governor:** Justice (Retired) S. Abdul Nazeer	Amaravati	1956	**National Parks:** Rajiv Gandhi NP, Papikonda NP; aerospace, IT development
State	**Assam State**	**CM:** Himanta Biswa Sarma **Governor:** Lakshman Prasad Acharya	Dispur	1950	**National Parks:** Manas NP, Dibru-Saikhowa NP; biodiversity, tea, oil
State	**Arunachal Pradesh**	**CM:** Pema Khandu **Governor:** Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retired)	Itanagar	1987	**Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Talle WLS, Eagle Nest WLS; frontier state, tourism
State	**Gujarat**	**CM:** Bhupendra Patel **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat	Gandhinagar	1960	**Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Shoolpaneshwar WLS, Gaga WLS; manufacturing, trade