

# CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2026

## Republic Day 2026

- ◆ India celebrated its 77th Republic Day on 26 January 2026, marking the enforcement of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950.

- ◆ **Chief Guests:**

Antonio Costa (European Council President) and Ursula von der



Leyen (European Commission President) were the chief guests on this Republic Day. It was the first time that two European Union leaders attended as chief guests.

- ◆ **Central Theme:** ‘150 Years of Vande Mataram’. This year, India is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the national song. The poem, Vande Mataram (“I bow to thee, Mother”), was composed in Bengali script by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875, and was adopted as the national song of India on 24 January, 1950.
- ◆ Sub-themes of the Republic Day were ‘Viksit Bharat’ and ‘Bharat – Loktantra ki Matraka’.



- ◆ Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to visit the International Space Station (ISS), received the Ashok Chakra, which is India’s highest peacetime gallantry award.
- ◆ The ‘Jan Bhagidari’ initiative continued this year as well, with around 10,000 guests invited, including the PM Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme beneficiaries.



## Notable Tableaux and Displays

- ◆ Ministry of I&B displayed ‘Bharat Gatha’, tracing India’s storytelling from ancient oral traditions (Shruti) to Lord Ganesha’s writing of the Mahabharata (Kriti) and modern cinema (Drishti).
- ◆ Tableaux of the Ministry of Home Affairs have featured two tableaux— one on ‘Jan Kendrit Nyay Pranali’ and the other on ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’.
- ◆ Tableaux of Uttar Pradesh were based on Bundelkhand’s cultural and industrial heritage, featuring Kalinjar Fort, Neelkanth Mahadev Temple and ‘One District One Product’ (ODOP) crafts.

- ◆ Tableaux of Kerala showcased modernisation through India's first Water Metro and the achievement of 100% digital literacy.
- ◆ Female personnel from the CRPF and SSB have performed a motorcycle display with high-skill formations, like the 'Desh Rakshak' pyramid.

#### Key Military Innovations and Displays:

- ◆ Several indigenous systems made their first appearance–
  1. Suryastra: It is India's first indigenous, universal, multi-calibre, long-range rocket launcher system for surface-to-surface strikes.



2. Bhairav Light Commando Battalion: It is a unit of around 250 personnel, for rapid-response and high-intensity missions, bridging the gap between infantry and Para Special Forces.
3. Shaktibaan Regiment: It is a drone warfare unit under the Regiment of Artillery, specialising in unmanned aerial combat using swarm drones and loitering munitions.

4. An EU military contingent also joined the parade, marking its first participation outside Europe to display deeper India-EU strategic ties.
5. The Indian Army demonstrated its first-ever 'Phased Battle Array Format'; demonstrating real-time coordination between ground reconnaissance and aerial combat assets.
6. The parade has also featured Bactrian camels, Zanskar ponies and black kites, highlighting their operational roles in high-altitude and modern warfare.
7. T-90 Bhishma, Arjun MBT, BrahMos missiles and the Navy tableau featuring *INSV Kaundinya* were also showcased in the parade.
8. Several tableaux and aerial formations also celebrated the success of Operation Sindoor 2025.

#### National News

- ◆ On 23 January 2026, Indian Railways has deployed the humanoid robot 'ASC ARJUN' at Visakhapatnam station to enhance passenger safety.
- ◆ On 22 January 2026, MSDE signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding with the World Economic Forum to strengthen India's TVET and skills ecosystem.
- ◆ On 22 January 2026, the Union Government released the 32nd NeSDA Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs.

- ◆ On 22 January 2026, Digital India BHASHINI Division signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Survey of India for AI-based top-onym data digitisation.
- ◆ On 23 January 2026, Gujarat and Odisha power utilities top this year's performance rankings.
- ◆ On 23 January 2026, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated Granth Kutir at Rashtrapati Bhavan to promote India's classical languages.
- ◆ National School of Drama (NSD) is going to host the 25th Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026 across 40 locations.
- ◆ On 23 January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the PM SVANidhi Credit Card, flagging off multiple Amrit Bharat Trains in Kerala.
- ◆ On 19 January 2026, GeM and WTC Mumbai signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost MSME participation and global outreach in public procurement.
- ◆ Indian Scientists has discovered a rare worm-like amphibian, *Gege-neophis valmiki*, in the Northern Western Ghats. The species was first collected in 2017 by K. P. Dinesh, senior scientist at ZSI, during surveys on the Valmiki Plateau in Satara.
- ◆ Kochi is going to host the Global Seaweed Expo and Summit on January 29-30.
- ◆ Simran Bala has become the first woman CRPF officer from Rajouri.
- ◆ India has ranked eighth in Global AI Investment as per white paper published by WEF.
- ◆ Adani Group is all set to begin the ₹9,700-crore phase 2 of Vizhinjam port.
- ◆ On 24 January 2026, BPCL is going to sign \$780 million crude oil deal with Brazil's Petrobras at India Energy Week 2026.
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh is observing 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture' under the 'Prosperous Farmers – Prosperous State' vision.
- ◆ On 30 January 2026, Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated Assam's largest multi-sports stadium in Dibrugarh.
- ◆ On 28 January 2026, the Ayush Ministry partnered with Zepto to boost online access to AYUSH medicines and wellness products.
- ◆ On 28 January 2026, NITI Aayog launched reports to boost circular economy for ELVs, e-waste, tyres and lithium-ion batteries.
- ◆ On 29 January 2026, Swiggy integrated AI tools like ChatGPT, Claude and Google Gemini for Grocery, Food and Dining Orders.
- ◆ On 13 January 2026, India launched the theme, logo and website for the BRICS 2026 presidency. The theme is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability,"

focusing on shared growth and addressing global challenges. The logo features a lotus with petals representing member countries and a “Namaste” gesture, symbolising unity and tradition.



- ◆ Bamanwas Kankar has become Rajasthan’s first fully organic certified gram panchayat.
- ◆ Navi Mumbai International Airport is going to be named after D. B. Patil.
- ◆ On 10 January 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the Dagadarthi greenfield airport in Nellore district.
- ◆ On 12 January 2026, GAIL joined PNGRB’s National PNG Drive 2.0 to promote PNG and CNG across India.
- ◆ On 12 January 2026, the Union Environment Minister chaired the NIRANTAR meeting to strengthen the MoEFCC coordination.
- ◆ On 12 January 2026, Essar signed a ₹5,100 crore Memorandum of Understanding with Gujarat for a large-scale biofuel project.
- ◆ On 14 January 2026, Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy conquered Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.
- ◆ On 14 January 2026, NITI Aayog released the Export Preparedness Index 2024.
- ◆ Makaravilakku festival celebrations commence at Sabarimala temple in Kerala.
- ◆ On 14 January 2026, the Government and Netflix concluded the ‘Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan’ initiative.
- ◆ On 14 January 2026, IPA launched Pharmaceutical Academy for Global Excellence (PAGE) in Ahmedabad to bridge the industry skill gap.
- ◆ Kochi is going to host the 9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026) in February.
- ◆ On 14 January 2026, the Centre launched ‘Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima’ for CGHS beneficiaries.
- ◆ NHAI has extended the ‘Clean Toilet Picture Challenge’ initiative till 30 June.
- ◆ India is going to host Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 from 19–22 March at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi.
- ◆ The University of New South Wales is all set to open the Bengaluru campus in August 2026.
- ◆ On 17 January 2026, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation imposed a ₹22.2 crore penalty on IndiGo for December 2025 flight disruptions.
- ◆ On 17 January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India’s first overnight sleeper Vande Bharat train on the Howrah–Guwahati Route.
- ◆ On 16 January 2026, India’s first green ammonia project was launched in Kakinada.

- ◆ On 15 January 2026, Ponduru Khadi from Andhra Pradesh received a GI tag.
- ◆ On 18 January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kaziranga elevated corridor project.
- ◆ India's electronics exports surged past \$47 billion in 2025.
- ◆ On 19 January 2026, IIT Delhi launched the Centre of Excellence for Regulatory Affairs in the power sector.
- ◆ On 19 January 2026, the Union Environment Minister chaired the 88th SC-NBWL meeting to review wildlife and eco-sensitive zone proposals.
- ◆ India and the UAE have set a trade target of \$200 billion by 2032.
- ◆ On 15 January 2026, the Wikimedia Foundation partnered with Big Tech for paid AI access to Wikipedia content.
- ◆ On 17 January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Bagumbura Dhou 2026 in Assam.
- ◆ On 19 January 2026, Tamil Nadu announced Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu to honour literary excellence in major Indian languages.
- ◆ On 19 January 2026, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the Hindi edition of C. Palanivelu's autobiography 'Palanivelu GUTS'.
- ◆ On 20 January 2026, India launched the Responsible Nations Index to assess ethical governance and global responsibility.
- ◆ The Ministry of Steel, Government of India, is hosting the Bharat Steel 2026 international conference and exhibition on April 16–17, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The summit focuses on the transition to a green, technologically advanced, and globally competitive steel industry, highlighting net-zero pathways, digitalisation and innovation.
- ◆ On 21 January 2026, the Union Cabinet extended Atal Pension Yojana till 2030-31 and approved a ₹5,000 crore equity support for SIDBI to boost MSMEs.
- ◆ On 21 January 2026, the Union Cabinet approved a ₹5,000 crore equity infusion into SIDBI to boost credit for MSMEs.
- ◆ On 20 January 2026, the Punjab Police launched 'Operation Parhar' to dismantle gangster networks across the state.
- ◆ The Republic Day 2026 Parade featured 30 tableaux at Kartavya Path.
- ◆ On 22 January 2026, the Election Commission launched the ECINET digital platform at IICDEM 2026.
- ◆ Lucknow has become UP's first zero fresh waste dump city.
- ◆ Punjab has launched the first dog sanctuary in Ludhiana as a pilot project.

- ◆ Sukanya Samridhi Yojana has completed 11 years of empowering the girl child.
- ◆ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the 'One District, One Cuisine' (ODOC) initiative in Uttar Pradesh, aimed at giving a distinct identity to the traditional food and beverage specialities of each district. It is in line with the state's flagship 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) programme.
- ◆ On 22 January 2026, the Chief of Defence Staff released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework to integrate quantum technologies in the armed forces.
- ◆ Hyderabad is going to host Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event.
- ◆ On 22 January 2026, India partnered with the World Economic Forum to launch a skills accelerator for a future-ready workforce.
- ◆ On 9 January 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the statewide roll-out of the 'Akka Pade' scheme to prevent atrocities against women and minors.
- ◆ On 12 January 2026, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen research, innovation and capacity building in India's dairy sector.
- ◆ The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) Conference was held in New Delhi from 14–16 January 2026.
- ◆ On 8 January 2026, Union Minister Chirag Paswan inaugurated Indus-food 2026 in Greater Noida.
- ◆ On 6 January 2026, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India Chairperson Ravi Mittal launched the IICA PGIP programme website.
- ◆ On 6 January 2026, Dharmendra Pradhan released 55 literary works in classical Indian languages.
- ◆ On 6 January 2026, the Ministry of I&B's WaveX signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FITT-IIT Delhi to boost innovation in broadcasting and entertainment.
- ◆ On 7 January 2026, CSIR-NIScPR, IIT Indore and IIT Jodhpur organised the third technical Hindi symposium 'Abhyuday-3'.
- ◆ On 7 January 2026, NITI Aayog unveiled the fifth edition of Trade Watch Quarterly.
- ◆ Siddaramaiah has become the longest-serving chief minister of Karnataka.
- ◆ On 8 January 2026, the Election Commission hosted a CEOs' Conference to prepare for IICDEM (India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management) 2026 in New Delhi.
- ◆ On 8 January 2026, Assam hosted a two-day National Textiles Ministers'

- ◆ Conference to boost India's textile sector.
- ◆ The Department of Posts and the Ministry of Rural Development have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost rural financial inclusion.
- ◆ On 5 January 2026, the Supreme Court of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Bhutan Apex Court to exchange young legal professionals.
- ◆ Rajasthan hosted the Regional AI Impact Conference ahead of the India AI Impact Summit 2026.
- ◆ DA&FW partnered with India Post to fast-track pesticide, seed and fertiliser sample testing across India.
- ◆ On 8 January 2026, UIDAI launched the Aadhaar mascot 'Udai' to make services more people-friendly.
- ◆ India has become the first country to commercially produce bio-bitumen for sustainable road construction.
- ◆ Nagauri Ashwagandha received a GI tag.
- ◆ Simplilearn has partnered with IndiaAI Mission to launch the 'YUVA AI for ALL' foundational course.
- ◆ The New Delhi World Book Fair 2026 has concluded at Bharat Mandapam.
- ◆ Uttarakhand police has secured first rank among all states in ICJS 2.0 rankings.
- ◆ A new reed snake species, Calamaria mizoramensis, was discovered in Mizoram.
- ◆ India Energy Week 2026 was held in Goa from 27–30 January.
- ◆ India's first fully paperless district judiciary was inaugurated in Kalpetta, Kerala.
- ◆ Bengaluru has ranked first in India's 2025 Women-Friendly Cities Ranking for safety and employment.
- ◆ NHAI sets four Guinness World Records during the construction of the Bengaluru–Kadapa–Vijayawada corridor.
- ◆ On 2 January 2026, Rajasthan launched the 'e-Swasthya Samvad' digital platform to strengthen medical education governance.
- ◆ On 1 January 2026, Army Hospital created history with India's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iS-tent.
- ◆ On 2 January 2026, National Test House and NHAI signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance quality assurance in national highway projects.
- ◆ The Delhi Government partnered with IIT Kanpur to launch an AI-based unified grievance redressal system (called the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System) was announced on December 29, 2025.
- ◆ On 1 January 2026, the Gujarat Chief Minister approved the establishment of the Indian AI Research Organisation (IAIRO) to boost AI R&D.
- ◆ Union Minister of Jal Shakti C. R. Patil launched 'Jal Seva Aankalan' to

- ◆ boost community-led water governance under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ◆ Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana successfully completed its nine years.
- ◆ Goa is all set to get its third district named 'Kushavati'; Quepem to be the headquarters.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 50th PRAGATI meeting, reviewed ₹40,000+ crore projects, and pushed outcome-oriented governance.
- ◆ President Droupadi Murmu has launched 'Skill the Nation' AI Challenge to Prepare India's Workforce for an AI driven future.
- ◆ MoSPI has unveiled a new logo and mascot 'सांख्यिकी' to promote data-driven governance and public trust.
- ◆ Sagarmala Finance Corporation started its lending operations and sanctioned ₹4,300-crore to boost India's maritime sector.
- ◆ 18-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan has become the youngest Indian to ski to the South Pole.
- ◆ India is going to extend the PLI scheme for textiles to March 2026 to boost MMF and technical textile production.
- ◆ The Government of Punjab will launch the 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' on January 15, 2026. The scheme aims to provide cashless health insurance coverage of up to ₹10 lakh per family to eligible beneficiaries across the state.
- ◆ Assam has become the first state to constitute the Eighth State Pay Commission ahead of the Seventh Pay Commission's expiry.
- ◆ India has ranked third in rare earth reserves, but lags in global production due to mining and processing bottlenecks.
- ◆ NHAI-backed Raajmarg Infra InvIT has been rated AAA (Stable) by CARE Ratings, signalling strong creditworthiness.
- ◆ The Union Government has launched the integrated e-bill platform for ₹2 lakh crore fertiliser subsidy.
- ◆ Asian Development Bank has approved a ₹4,100 crore loan in principle for Phase-I of Telangana's Musi River development project.
- ◆ The government has removed the three-year eligibility condition for startups to access the RDI fund.
- ◆ On 3 January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the grand exposition of sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha in New Delhi.
- ◆ The Transport Ministry proposed 'Battery Pack Aadhaar' for end-to-end tracking and recycling of EV batteries.
- ◆ Tamil Nadu is going to distribute free high-configuration laptops to college students under the 'Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil' scheme.
- ◆ Tamil Nadu's first jallikattu of 2026 has begun at Thatchankurichi.

- ◆ The Boramdev Corridor project was launched under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 in Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ Jaipur will host the 78th Army Day Parade on 15 January 2026. The event will be organized in coordination with the Indian Army and concerned authorities.
- ◆ Rajasthan is going to host the regional AI Impact Conference 2026 in Jaipur.
- ◆ India has become the world's largest rice producer by surpassing China with record output. In early January 2026, it was officially reported that India produced 150.18 million tonnes, surpassing China's 145.28 million tonnes.
- ◆ On 5 January 2026, AYUSH received formal recognition in trade agreements with Oman and New Zealand.
- ◆ The government has launched the ₹4,531 crore market access support scheme to boost exports.
- ◆ The Indian Army launched 'Radio Sangam' in Rajouri, J&K, to strengthen border communication.
- ◆ Karnataka has recorded the first sighting of the ultra-rare 'Sandalwood Leopard' in Vijayanagara.
- ◆ ONGC has partnered with NSTFDC to boost Infrastructure and education in Eklavya Model residential schools.
- ◆ MeitY, IndiaAI and IIT Guwahati hosted the Human Capital Working Group Meeting on AI on 5–6 January 2026.
- ◆ SAMPANN has integrated the pension system, enhanced with DigiLocker Access for DoT pensioners.
- ◆ The Delhi Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the RBI to streamline borrowings and cash management.
- ◆ India lost 166 tigers in 2025; Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths i.e., 55.

### International News

- ◆ France moved a bill to ban social media for under-15s to protect mental health.
- ◆ India made a historic debut as partner country at Gulfood 2026 in Dubai.
- ◆ Abu Dhabi ranked the world's safest city for the 10th consecutive year.
- ◆ UAE has become India's second-largest LNG supplier after a new agreement.
- ◆ Israel announced its withdrawal from seven UN agencies over alleged bias.
- ◆ India and Germany signed 19 strategic deals to boost defence, tech and minerals cooperation.
- ◆ The United Nations declared 2026 the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- ◆ German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited India on 12–13 January and reviewed progress in the India–Germany Strategic Partnership.

- ◆ Delcy Rodriguez has been named Venezuela's interim president after Maduro's arrest by the U.S. Forces.
- ◆ Bulgaria has officially adopted the Euro, becoming the 21st member of the Eurozone.
- ◆ The Central Asian country, Turkmenistan, has legalised cryptocurrency mining and trading.
- ◆ Guinea junta leader Mamady Doumbouya has been elected as president.
- ◆ Warren Buffett has stepped down as the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway.
- ◆ Israel has become the first country to recognise Somaliland as an independent state.
- ◆ Israel has announced that President Donald Trump will be awarded Israel's highest civilian honour, the Israel Prize for Peace.
- ◆ India and Namibia have agreed to deepen cooperation in defence, critical minerals and other key sectors.
- ◆ India has sent 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul as part of healthcare cooperation.
- ◆ India was ranked eighth among eleven countries in AI investment in a World Economic Forum white paper published on January 23, 2026.
- ◆ Japan has restarted a reactor at the world's largest Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant after 15 years.
- ◆ India-EU Free Trade Agreement concluded: A strategic breakthrough in India's global trade engagement.
- ◆ India achieved 80th position in the Global Passport Index 2026.
- ◆ Ashwini Vaishnaw is going to participate in the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting in Washington DC.
- ◆ Finke River has been recognised as the world's oldest flowing river.
- ◆ Madrid is going to host the Laureus World Sports Awards for the third consecutive year.
- ◆ Sixth ASEAN-India Digital Ministers Meeting focuses on an inclusive, secure and connected digital ecosystem.
- ◆ The United States has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organisation, citing COVID-19 mismanagement.
- ◆ Germany has allowed visa-free transit for Indian passport holders.
- ◆ India has launched the e-B-4 visa for Chinese business professionals to boost industrial and investment activities.
- ◆ The WEF Annual Meeting 2026 was held in Davos-Klosters from 19–23 January. The theme of the meeting was a spirit of dialogue.
- ◆ The US has withdrawn from 66 international organisations, including UN bodies and the ISA.
- ◆ Australia is going to grant duty-free access to all Indian exports from January 2026 under ECTA.
- ◆ Iran has launched three indigenous satellites into orbit with a Russian Soyuz rocket.

- ◆ Sheikh Khalifa Medical City created global history with the first administration of ITVISMA gene therapy.
- ◆ The UN General Assembly has approved \$3.45 billion regular budget for 2026.
- ◆ Turkmenistan legalised cryptocurrency mining and exchanges under a new law.
- ◆ Adani Group has launched the 570 MW Wangchhu Hydro Electricity Project in Bhutan under a 5,000 MW Memorandum of Understanding with DGPC.
- ◆ European Union leaders Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa became chief guests at India's Republic Day 2026.
- ◆ Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched the deferred annuity 'Swabhimaan Retirement' plan.
- ◆ The World Bank has approved ₹5,700-crore for the 'Jal Sanrakshit Haryana Project'.
- ◆ DFS has launched the composite salary account package for the Central Government employees with banking and insurance benefits.
- ◆ The World Bank has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 percent for FY 2025–26.
- ◆ Tripura Gramin Bank launched India's first solar-powered ATM van to boost rural banking.
- ◆ Innoviti Technologies received RBI authorisation to operate as a payment aggregator.

### **Banking and Financial**

- ◆ RBI is going to inject over ₹2 lakh crore into the banking system through liquidity measures.
- ◆ ZET has got NPCI nod to launch UPI payments on RuPay Credit Cards.
- ◆ ITBP has won the title at the fifth LG Cup Ice Hockey Championship in Kargil, Ladakh.
- ◆ FDI inflows to India have surged by 73 percent to \$47 billion in 2025, as per a United Nations report.
- ◆ PFRDA has constituted the SAARG Committee to review and modernise the NPS investment framework.
- ◆ PFRDA launched the NPS Swasthya Pension scheme as proof of concept for medical expenses.
- ◆ Wholesale inflation has turned positive at 0.83 percent in December 2025.
- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India approved Japan's SMBC to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in India.
- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India has recognised FEDAI as a self-regulatory organisation for all authorised dealers.
- ◆ Piramal Finance has secured \$350 million multilateral funding from IFC and the Asian Development Bank.
- ◆ The Reserve Bank of India has notified the revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

- ◆ LTIMindtree has won a ₹3,000-crore CBDT contract for AI-Based tax analytics platform modernisation.
- ◆ CareEdge has predicted 7 percent GDP growth for India in FY 2026–27 despite global economic uncertainties.
- ◆ International Monetary Fund has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast to 7.3 percent for FY 2025–26.
- ◆ Canara Bank has become the first to integrate NBSL's plugin-based UPI solution into Canara aiPe.
- ◆ Payoneer India received Reserve Bank of India in-principle approval to operate as a cross-border payment aggregator.
- ◆ JP Morgan is going to setup international branch in GIFT City for trading equities and financial instruments.
- ◆ Razorpay POS has secured the Reserve Bank of India licence to operate as an offline payment aggregator.
- ◆ The Competition Commission of India has approved Nippon Steel Corporation's acquisition of Krosaki Harima Corporation.
- ◆ SBI launched India-Israel trade in rupees as FTA talks gain momentum.
- ◆ The first meeting of the payments regulatory board was held under RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- ◆ EXIM Bank raised \$1 billion through dual-tranche U.S. dollar bonds in its first 2026 debt issue.
- ◆ India's GDP is projected to grow 9 percent in FY 2026-27, as per the Ind-Ra report.
- ◆ The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation has insured 5 percent of bank deposits, fund balance rises to ₹2.29 lakh crore as of March 2025.
- ◆ SBI launched the first Global Capability Centre in Bengaluru.
- ◆ Goldman Sachs projected India's GDP growth at 8 percent in FY 2026–27.
- ◆ Amazon Pay launched fixed deposits through the app in partnership with NBFCs and Banks. IDFC FIRST Bank launches Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve credit card for global travellers.
- ◆ Axis Bank launched 'Safety Centre' on the mobile app to enhance digital banking security.
- ◆ The government predicted India's GDP growth at 7.4 percent for FY 2025–26 in the first advance estimates.
- ◆ HDFC Bank has integrated CBDC into SmartGateway to enable digital rupee payments.
- ◆ Federal Bank has unveiled 'The Fortuna Wave' brand identity to reflect a modern, future-ready vision.
- ◆ FSS has become the first payments company in India and APAC to achieve ISO/IEC 42001 AI governance certification.
- ◆ Skydo received RBI approval to operate as a cross-border payment aggregator.
- ◆ The United Nations projected India's GDP growth at 7.4 percent in 2025–26.

- ◆ IEPFA organised Niveshak Shivir in Bengaluru to resolve unclaimed investment claims.
- ◆ RBI revised WMA limits to strengthen cash management for states and UTs.
- ◆ RBI proposed a mandatory cooling-off period for directors of co-operative banks.
- ◆ Bajaj Finserv acquired Allianz's stake, gaining complete control of insurance businesses.
- ◆ Retail inflation hits three-month high at 1.33 percent in December.
- ◆ Go Digit General Insurance Board approved the merger with the holding company in a landmark move.
- ◆ LIC has partnered with Sahaj Insurance Services to expand insurance reach in rural India.
- ◆ Rediff.com received NPCI (National Payment Corporation of India) approval for TPAP (Third Party Application Provider) license.
- ◆ The Union Government has retained interest rates on small savings schemes for the eighth straight quarter.
- ◆ ATM numbers have declined in FY25 as digitisation rises and the bank branch network continues to expand, as per the RBI Report.
- ◆ India Post and SIDBI signed a Memorandum of Understanding to verify informal micro enterprises on the Udyam Assist platform.
- ◆ IDFC FIRST Bank launched 'Gaj,' an invitation-only premium metal credit card for high net-worth individuals.
- ◆ UPI Transactions have surged 29 percent in December, and created a record with 21.6 billion Transactions in December 2025.
- ◆ ICICI Bank entered the Capital Gains Account Scheme, offering a tax-saving option from 2026.
- ◆ HDFC AMC launched a ₹2,500-crore structured credit fund to tap the private credit market.
- ◆ Gross GST collections have risen 6.1 percent in December.
- ◆ Ashika Group got SEBI nod to launch Ashika Mutual Fund.

### **Appointment and Resignation**

- ◆ Tata Communications appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as the managing director and chief executive officer-Designate.
- ◆ Arijit Basu has been appointed the chairman of IndusInd Bank.
- ◆ Amelia Valverde has been appointed the head coach of the senior Indian women's football team.
- ◆ Kotak Mahindra Bank named former Bajaj Finance MD Anup Kumar Saha as a whole-time director.
- ◆ PFRDA formed an expert panel to develop an assured pension income product under NPS. The panel is chaired by S. Sahoo.
- ◆ Senior IPS officer Praveen Kumar was named BSF chief, whereas Sha-

- trujeet Singh Kapoor was appointed DG ITBP.
- ◆ President Droupadi Murmu appointed Praveen Vashista as the new vigilance commissioner.
  - ◆ M.S. Dhoni has been appointed the goodwill ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026.
  - ◆ Yemen appointed Shaya Mohsen Zindani as the new prime minister.
  - ◆ Sandeep Bakhshi is re-appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.
  - ◆ Uganda President Yoweri Museveni won for his seventh term.
  - ◆ Five-time Bihar MLA Nitin Nabin has been elected unopposed as the youngest BJP national president.
  - ◆ RBI has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as the deputy managing director of HDFC Bank for a three-years term.
  - ◆ Deepinder Goyal to step down as the chief executive officer of Eternal Group.
  - ◆ Justice Revati Mohite Dere has been sworn in as the first woman chief justice of Meghalaya High Court.
  - ◆ Justice Soumen Sen has been sworn in as the new chief justice of the Kerala High Court.
  - ◆ Meta has appointed Dina Powell McCormick as the president and vice chairman.
  - ◆ Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque has been sworn in as the 24th chief justice of the Sikkim High Court.
  - ◆ Prakash has been appointed the CEO of the Health Insurance Ecosystem by the General Insurance Council.
  - ◆ Ida Liu has been appointed the CEO of HSBC Private Bank.
  - ◆ Balasubrahmanian has assumed charge as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB).
  - ◆ Ramesh Kumar Juneja has assumed charge as the chairman of the Council for Leather Exports (CLE).
  - ◆ Barham Salih has been appointed as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, effective January 2026.
  - ◆ Rakesh Aggarwal has been assigned additional charge as interim the DG of NIA, following Sadanand Date's repatriation.
  - ◆ Lav Aggarwal has been appointed DG of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade amid a key bureaucratic reshuffle.
  - ◆ Tarun Garg has been appointed as the managing director and chief executive officer of Hyundai Motor India, becoming the first Indian to lead HMIL.
  - ◆ Guinea coup leader Mamady Doumbouya has won the presidential election.
  - ◆ Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor has been appointed the vice chief of Air Staff.
  - ◆ Karthikeyan Manickam has been appointed the chairman of the ESAB Small Finance Bank.

- ◆ Maharashtra's first woman Director General of Police, Rashmi Shukla, has retired after 37.5 years of service.
- ◆ Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia has been appointed as the interim managing director and chief executive officer of Canara Bank.
- ◆ Former vice president Venkaiah Naidu has been elected as the president of the Atal Smriti Nyas Society.
- ◆ Andre De Grasse has been named the international event ambassador for the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2026.
- ◆ Sjoerd Marijne has been reappointed as the chief coach of the Indian Women's hockey team.
- ◆ Justice Mahesh Sharadchandra Sonak has been appointed the chief justice of the Jharkhand High Court.
- ◆ Reliance has signed Amitabh Bachchan as the brand ambassador for Campa Sure packaged water.
- awarded the Ashok Chakra at the 77th Republic Day parade.
- ◆ President Murmu has honoured 30 individuals with Jeevan Raksha Padak awards.
- ◆ Karnataka Bank has won the 'Best Fintech & DPI Adoption' at the IBA Banking Technology awards.
- ◆ Tunisian filmmaker Zoubeir Jlassi has won the \$1-million AI Film Award for 'Lily' at the Dubai Summit.
- ◆ American scientist Toby Kiers has won the Tyler Prize for revealing hidden fungal networks.
- ◆ C-DOT has won the SKOCH Award 2025 for the indigenous cell broadcast solution, enhancing disaster alerts.
- ◆ Kerala has announced the Science Literature awards 2024 for excellence in Malayalam science writing.
- ◆ Indian-origin mathematician Nalini Joshi has been named New South Wales' Scientist of the Year.
- ◆ Italy has conferred the prestigious 'Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia' honour on Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo.
- ◆ Indian Army officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar has won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025.
- ◆ Bombay Stock Exchange has won the Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026.
- ◆ IRFC has earned its fifth consecutive 'Excellent' DPE Rating for FY 2024-25.

### Awards

- ◆ The Union Government has announced 131 Padma Awards for 2026.
- ◆ Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke and the Sikkim Disaster Authority have been honoured with the Subhas Chandra Bose National Award 2026.
- ◆ President Murmu has approved Gallantry Awards for 70 armed forces personnel on the 77th Republic Day eve.
- ◆ Indian Air Force Group Captain and astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla was

- ◆ NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang has won the 2026 IEEE Medal of Honour for pioneering accelerated computing.
- ◆ Bharatanatyam exponent Urmila Satyanarayanan has been conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi Award at the 19th Music Academy Dance Festival.
- ◆ Indian doctor Chandrakant Lahariya has won the Wiley Research Heroes Prize for 2025 in the 'Impact Beyond Academia' category.
- ◆ Maharashtra Tableaux has secured first place at Republic Day 2026 for its tableau titled 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta'.
- ◆ The Indian Navy was adjudged the best marching contingent at the Republic Day 2026.
- ◆ Dharmendra Singh Deol (posthumous) has been nominated for Padma Vibhushan 2026 for his contribution to art.
- ◆ Rohit Sharma has been honoured with the Padma Sri 2026 for achievements in sports.
- ◆ R. Madhavan has received the Padma Sri 2026 recognition for his contributions to art.
- ◆ Mozambique's human rights activist Graca Machel has been honoured with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.
- ◆ Veteran music composer Ilaiyaraaja is going to receive the Padmapani Award at the Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival 2026.
- ◆ Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has become the first Indian to receive a rare Samurai Martial Arts Honour.

### Science

- ◆ SpaceX has completed the first-ever medical evacuation from the International Space Station.
- ◆ ISRO's PSLV-C62 Mission has failed to place 16 satellites into orbit.
- ◆ NASA astronaut Sunita Williams has retired after a stellar 27-year career.
- ◆ Hyderabad start-ups TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs 14 kg Earth Observation Satellite is all set to launch from Sriharikota, A.P.
- ◆ SpaceX has successfully launched Italy's COSMO-SkyMed second-generation earth observation satellite.

### Defence

- ◆ Indian naval vessel INSV Kaundinya has reached Muscat to celebrate 70 years of India-Oman diplomatic ties.
- ◆ ICGS Varaha and Atulya have arrived at the Port of Colombo for an official visit.
- ◆ Adani and Embraer have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set up India's first commercial aircraft assembly line.
- ◆ The Indian Army has inducted a solar-powered MAPSS Drone for long-endurance border surveillance.
- ◆ Indian Navy's first training squadron has reached Singapore's Changi Naval Base.

- ◆ INS Sudarshini is going to embark on a 10-month Lokayan 26 voyage.
  - ◆ India has delivered the first batch of guided Pinaka rockets for Armenia.
  - ◆ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned ICGS Samudra Pratap.
  - ◆ The Indian Air Force has celebrated 25 years of the Tejas LCA's first flight.
  - ◆ Military-civil fusion exercise 'Sanjha Shakti' has concluded at Khadki Military Station.
  - ◆ Indian Navy's first training squadron has embarked on a long-range deployment to Southeast Asia.
  - ◆ China has launched 'Justice Mission 2025' military drills around Taiwan amid rising tensions.
  - ◆ IAF's Software Development Institute (SDI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Madras to develop an indigenous digital communication system for airborne use.
  - ◆ Ministry of Defence has signed ₹4,666 crore defence contracts for CQB carbines and heavyweight torpedoes.
  - ◆ India has successfully conducted a salvo launch of indigenous 'Pralay' ballistic missiles from the Odisha coast.
  - ◆ The Indian Army has declared 2026 as the 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity' to boost combat readiness.
- ## Sports
- ◆ Elena Rybakina has won the Australian Open 2026 women's singles title after defeating World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in a thrilling final at Melbourne.
  - ◆ Carlos Alcaraz has won the Australian Open 2026 men's singles by defeating Novak Djokovic. He has become the youngest player to win this title.
  - ◆ England all-rounder Nat Sciver-Brunt has created history by becoming the first batter to score a century in Women's Premier League history during WPL 2026.
  - ◆ Aaryan Varshney has become India's 92nd chess grandmaster.
  - ◆ Virat Kohli has surpassed Kumara Sangakkara to become the second-highest run-scorer in international cricket.
  - ◆ Australia Women's Captain Alyssa Healy announced her retirement from international cricket.
  - ◆ Mitchell Starc and Laura Wolvaardt were named ICC Players of the Month for December 2025 on 15 January 2026, honoured for their stellar performances in international cricket during December.
  - ◆ The FIFA World Cup 2026 Trophy was unveiled in India by Mansukh Mandaviya and Gilberto D'Silva.
  - ◆ Vidarbha has won its maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy by beating Saurashtra in the final.

- ◆ BCCI has got a ₹270 crore Gemini sponsorship deal ahead of IPL 2026.
  - ◆ Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal has announced her retirement from competitive badminton.
  - ◆ Steve Smith has become the second-highest run-scorer in Ashes history, only behind Don Bradman.
  - ◆ Australian Open 2026 is going to feature a record \$111.5 million prize pool.
  - ◆ Anahat Singh has won silver in women's U-19 at the British Junior Open Squash Championships.
  - ◆ Asian Games gold medalist Jinson Johnson announces retirement from athletics.
  - ◆ Nihal Sarin clinches the Tata Steel Chess India 2026 Open rapid title.
  - ◆ India has achieved the top position in the global doping list for the third consecutive year as per the WADA 2024 report.
  - ◆ Former New Zealand all-rounder Doug Bracewell has announced his retirement from international cricket.
  - ◆ Deepti Sharma has become the highest wicket-taker in women's T20Is.
  - ◆ Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja has announced his retirement after the final Ashes test at Sydney Cricket Ground.
  - ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 72nd National Volleyball tournament in Varanasi.
  - ◆ The 2nd Khelo India Beach Games have kicked off at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, with 2,100+ athletes.
- Book and Author**
- ◆ Dharmendra Pradhan has released an Urdu compilation of PM Modi's Independence Day speeches.
- Important day**
- ◆ 1 January: Global Family Day
  - ◆ 1 January: DRDO Day
  - ◆ 2 January: World Introvert Day
  - ◆ 3 January: International Mind–Body Wellness Day
  - ◆ 4 January: World Braille Day
  - ◆ 5 January: National Birds Day
  - ◆ 6 January: World Day of War Orphans
  - ◆ 8 January: African National Congress Foundation Day
  - ◆ 8 January: Earth's Rotations Day
  - ◆ 9 January: NRI (Non-Resident Indian) Day/Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
  - ◆ 10 January: World Hindi Day (Theme 2026: Promoting Hindi on Global Platforms)
  - ◆ 12 January: National Youth Day (Theme 2026: Ignite the Self, Impact the World)
  - ◆ 11 January: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
  - ◆ 16 January: National Startup Day
  - ◆ 20 January: Penguin Awareness Day
  - ◆ 21 January: Foundation Day of Tripura, Manipur and Meghalaya

- ◆ 23 January: Parakram Diwas
- ◆ 24 January: National Girl Child Day (Theme 2026: Empowering Every Daughter, Building a Stronger India)
- ◆ 24 January: International Day of Education (Theme 2026: The power of youth in co-creating education)
- ◆ 25 January: National Voters' Day (Theme 2026: "My India, My Vote")
- ◆ 25 January: National Tourism Day (Theme 2026: Rural and Community Centric Tourism)
- ◆ 26 January: International Customs Day (Theme 2026: Customs Protecting Society Through Vigilance and Commitment)
- ◆ 27 January: National Geographic Day
- ◆ 25 January: Himachal Pradesh Statehood Day
- ◆ 27 January: International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
- ◆ 28 January: International Day of Peaceful Coexistence
- ◆ 28 January: International Data Privacy Day (Theme 2026: Take Control of Your Data)

### Obituary

- ◆ Veteran journalist **William Mark Tully** has passed away recently.
- ◆ Maharashtra Deputy CM **Ajit Pawar** died in a plane crash near Baramati.
- ◆ Veteran Malayalam cinema art director **K. Shekhar** has passed away at the age of 72.
- ◆ Former Union Minister and Congress leader **Suresh Kalmadi** has passed away at the age of 81.
- ◆ Indian Idol 3 winner and actor **Prashant Tamang** has passed away at the age of 43.
- ◆ Former world billiards champion **Manoj Kothari** has passed away at the age of 67.
- ◆ Veteran BJP leader **Kabindra Purkayastha** has passed away at the age of 94.
- ◆ Senior Kerala Congress leader **Thomas Kuthiravattam** has passed away at the age of 80.
- ◆ Renowned ecologist and environmentalist **Madhav Gadgil** has passed away.