



# Daily Current Affairs

10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026



**BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS**
**Reserve Bank of India Revokes Registration of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies Over Regulatory Violations**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) exercised powers under **Section 45-IA(6) of the RBI Act, 1934** to cancel the **Certificate of Registration (CoR) of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for non-compliance with regulatory requirements**, with effect from **December 9 to 31, 2025**.
- Following the cancellation, these entities are **barred from carrying on the business of Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs)** as defined under **Section 45-I(a) of the RBI Act, 1934**.
- Additionally, **16 NBFCs voluntarily surrendered their CoR to the RBI**, leading to cancellation due to **strategic and operational reasons**.

RBI Cancels Registration Of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies For Regulatory Non-Compliance


**Key Highlights :**

- The **RBI noted that most of the cancelled NBFCs are concentrated in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR)**, with only a limited number located outside this region.
- Major **Delhi/NCR-based NBFCs** whose CoR was cancelled include **AG Securities, ALB Leasing & Finance, ATM Credit & Investments, Corporate Capital Services India, Decisive Finance, Divine Investments, Liberty Sales, Pearls Hire Purchase Corporation, Quasar India Fincap, Sunlife Securities, Sunrise Manufacturing Co, Swito Finance & Estates, and Triveni Vinimay**.
- Outside the **NCR**, notable NBFCs include **Shivom Investment & Consultancy Ltd (Mumbai, Maharashtra)** and **Satya Prakash Capital Investment Ltd (Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh)**.
- Among the **16 NBFCs that surrendered their CoR**, **8** belong to the **business exit category**, **3** met the criteria of **unregistered Core Investment Companies (CICs)**, and **5** exited due to **corporate restructuring**.
- NBFCs exiting business include **Dharmesh Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd (Mumbai), Millennium Holdings Pvt. Ltd (Kolkata), Celestial Consultants Pvt. Ltd (Kolkata), Damayanti Finance & Properties Pvt. Ltd (Chennai), Liquid Paper Finserve Pvt. Ltd (Delhi), Peerless Financial Services Ltd (Kolkata), Park Avenue Engineering Ltd (Mumbai), and Arvind Overseas Project Services Pvt. Ltd (Delhi)**.
- NBFCs meeting **CIC criteria** include **Shyam Basic Infrastructure Projects Pvt. Ltd (Jaipur), Shruti Finsec Pvt. Ltd (Kanpur), and Sita Investment Company Ltd (Raipur)**.
- NBFCs affected by **corporate restructuring through merger, amalgamation, dissolution, or voluntary strike-off** include **Edelweiss Retail Finance Ltd (Mumbai), Super Commodities Pvt. Ltd, Silfix Tradelink Pvt. Ltd, Sakthi Traders Pvt. Ltd, and Yaduka Financial Services Ltd (all based in Kolkata, West Bengal)**.
- An **NBFC** is a financial institution registered under the **Companies Act, 1956 or 2013**, engaged in **loans and advances** and in the **acquisition of shares, stocks, bonds, debentures, and government securities**.

- **NBFCs are regulated by the RBI** under the provisions of the **RBI Act, 1934**, and **cannot commence business without obtaining CoR** as mandated under **Section 45-IA**.
- At present, NBFCs must maintain a **minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of ₹10 crore**, which may be **higher depending on the specific category of NBFC**.
- Unlike banks, **NBFCs are not permitted to accept demand deposits**, are **not part of the RBI's Payment and Settlement System (PSS)**, and their depositors **do not receive deposit insurance cover** from the **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)**.
- Based on activities, NBFCs are classified into **Investment and Credit Companies (ICC)**, **Housing Finance Companies (HFC)**, **Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFC)**, **Infrastructure Debt Fund–NBFCs (IDF-NBFC)**, and **Core Investment Companies (CIC)**.
- Based on liabilities, NBFCs are further categorised into **Deposit-Taking NBFCs** and **Non-Deposit-Taking NBFCs**.

### Reserve Bank of India Proposes Mandatory 3-Year Cooling-Off Period for Co-operative Bank Directors After 10 Years

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed amendments to the **Governance Directions, 2025** for **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** and **State/Central Co-operative Banks**, introducing a **mandatory cooling-off period for directors**.
- The proposal aims to **prevent circumvention of tenure limits**, as RBI observed instances where **directors resigned briefly and re-entered boards through re-election or co-option**, defeating the intent of the **Banking Regulation Act**.
- The existing framework prescribes a **maximum continuous tenure of 10 years** for directors, effective from **June 2020 for UCBs** and **April 2021 for State and Central Co-operative Banks**, which was enhanced from **8 years to 10 years in August 2025**.
- As per the proposed amendment, a **director completing 10 years on a bank's board** can be **reappointed only after a cooling-off period of three years**, irrespective of the mode of appointment.
- During the **three-year cooling-off period**, the individual **cannot be associated with the same bank in any capacity**, except as a **member or customer**, though they may **serve on the board of another bank**.
- For the purpose of calculating **"continuous tenure,"** any **interruption of less than three years** will still be **counted as continuous service**, preventing **artificial breaks** to reset tenure limits.

#### RBI proposes 3-yr break for co-op bank directors after 10 yrs on board

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday proposed that a director on the board of a co-operative bank who has served continuously for 10 years can only be re-appointed to the same board after a three-year cooling period. Also, during this break, the director cannot be involved with the bank in any role except as a regular member or customer. However, this does not stop them from becoming a director on the board of another bank. In its draft circular, RBI said that for calculating the period of continuous tenure, total time served on board of the urban-co-operative bank, state and central co-operative banks will be counted, including the period of directorship before any interruption of less than three years. But this will exclude the period of directorship preceding at least a three-year interruption shall be reckoned. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act has prescribed a ceiling on continuous tenure of directors on both state and central co-operative banks and urban co-operative banks from eight to ten years. BS REPORTER

#### Axis Finance launches Vyapar business loan

**Bengaluru:** Axis Finance Ltd, an NBFC, has announced the launch of Axis Finance Vyapar business loan, a collateral-free credit solution for micro and small businesses (MSMEs) across semi-urban and rural markets. The loan aims to empower micro and small entrepreneurs across the retail, service and trading segments by offering loans of up to ₹10 lakh, flexible tenures and zero collateral requirements. OUR BUREAU

### Axis Finance Launches Collateral-Free Vyapar Business Loan for Micro and Small Businesses

- **Axis Finance Limited**, a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, has launched **Axis Finance Vyapar Business Loan**, a **collateral-free credit product** aimed at supporting **Micro and Small Businesses (MSMEs)**.

- The **Vyapar Business Loan** specifically targets **semi-urban and rural markets**, enhancing **access to formal credit** for **small entrepreneurs** traditionally underserved by banks.
- Under this scheme, **loans up to ₹10 lakh** are offered with **flexible repayment tenures** and **zero collateral requirement**, reducing financial entry barriers for MSMEs.
- The loan is designed to empower businesses operating in the **retail, service, and trading segments**, helping them meet working capital and growth needs.
- **Managing Director & CEO of Axis Finance : Sai Giridhar**

### National Statistics Office Projects 7.4% Real GDP Growth in FY26 in First Advance Estimates

- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, Ministry of **Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **First Advance Estimates (FAE)** of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** for **FY2025-26 (FY26)** at **Constant (2011-12)** and **Current Prices**.

#### Key Highlights :

- **Real GDP** is estimated to grow by **7.4%** in **FY26**, up from **6.5%** in **FY25**.
- **Real GDP at constant prices** is projected at **Rs 201.90 lakh crore** in **FY26**, against **Rs 187.97 lakh crore** in **FY25**.
- **Nominal GDP** growth at **current prices** is projected at **8%** in **FY26**, lower than **10.4%** in **FY25**.
- **Nominal GDP** is estimated at **Rs 357.14 lakh crore** in **FY26**, up from **Rs 330.68 lakh crore** in **FY25**.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA)** at constant prices is estimated at **Rs 184.50 lakh crore** in **FY26**, recording a growth of **7.3%**, compared to **Rs 171.87 lakh crore** in **FY25**.
- **Nominal GVA** is estimated at **Rs 323.48 lakh crore** in **FY26**, with a growth of **7.7%**, against **Rs 300.22 lakh crore** in **FY25**.
- **Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)** is estimated to grow at **7.0%** in **FY26**, slightly lower than **7.2%** in **FY25**.
- **Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE)** is estimated at **5.2%** in **FY26**, higher than **2.3%** in **FY25**.
- **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)** is projected at **7.8%** in **FY26**, up from **7.1%** in **FY25**.
- **Sector-wise GVA growth at 2011-12 prices:**
- **Primary Sector:** Estimated growth **2.7%** in **FY26**, down from **4.4%** in **FY25**; **Agriculture & Allied Sector** at **3.1%** (**FY26**) vs **4.6%** (**FY25**).
- **Secondary Sector:** Estimated growth **6.6%** in **FY26**, up from **6.1%** in **FY25**; **Manufacturing** growth **7.0%** in **FY26** vs **4.5%** in **FY25**.
- **Tertiary Sector:** Estimated growth **9.1%** in **FY26**, up from **7.2%** in **FY25**; **Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication & Broadcasting Services** projected at **7.5%** (**FY26**) vs **6.1%** (**FY25**).
- **New Base Year in Progress:** MoSPI is revising the **National Accounts base year** from **FY12** to **FY23**, which will lead to **revisions in Advance and Quarterly Estimates** due to changes in **methodology, data sources, and annual benchmarks**.



### NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

### India to Host Inaugural India International Conference on Democracy and Election

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## Management (IICDEM) 2026

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) will host the **first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026** from **January 21-23, 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
- Organized by the **India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM)** under the aegis of ECI.
- Theme: **“Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world”**.
- India holds the **Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for 2026**.
- Nearly **100 international delegates** from **Election Management Bodies (EMBs)** and global democracy-promoting organizations to participate.
- High-level Indian participation includes **Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar** and **Election Commissioners Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi**.
- **Academic Contribution:** 36 thematic groups from **IITs, IIMs, NLU, and IIMCs** to deliberate on electoral technology, governance, legal frameworks, and media.
- **Conference Structure:** Inaugural session, EMB leaders’ plenary, working group meetings, thematic sessions, launch of **ECINet**, and showcasing India’s electoral innovations.
- **Strategic Objectives:** Strengthen **democratic resilience**, promote **inclusive governance**, ensure **peace and stability**, and link democracy with **sustainable development**.
- **Bilateral Engagements:** Over **40 meetings** planned between ECI leadership and international EMB heads for knowledge exchange and cooperation.
- **Global Significance:** IICDEM 2026 is positioned as the **largest international electoral conference hosted by India**, promoting India as a global hub for **democratic governance and election management**.
- **Showcase:** IIIDEM Dwarka campus to demonstrate India’s capacity in **training electoral professionals** and sharing best practices internationally.

ECI to host the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management- 2026 from January 21-23

Posted On: 07 JAN 2026 5:09PM by PIB Delhi

1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) will host the inaugural India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM-2026) from 21st to 23rd January, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The three-day international conference is being organized by India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) under the aegis of ECI.
2. IICDEM 2026 will be the largest global conference of its kind hosted by India in the field of election management and democracy. It will be attended by nearly 100 international delegates representing Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from across the world, along with representatives from international organizations, foreign missions in India, and academic and practicing experts in the field of elections.
3. The conference will carry forward the agenda laid out by Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Gyanesh Kumar, upon India's assumption of the Chairship of the Council of Member States of International IDEA for the year 2026, anchored in the theme "Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world."
4. Director General, IIIDEM, Shri Rakesh Verma, held an interaction with media persons today, outlining the broad contours of IICDEM 2026. He stated that the conference will serve as a global platform for international cooperation among Election Management Bodies, enabling the development of a shared understanding of contemporary challenges, exchange of best practices and innovations, and co-creation of solutions. The address was followed by an unveiling of the official logo of IICDEM 2026.

## India Becomes First Country to Commercially Produce Bio-Bitumen

- India has become the **first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen** for road construction.
- Announcement made by **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** at the **CSIR Technology Transfer Ceremony, New Delhi**.
- The initiative was supported by **CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)** with cooperation from **Union Minister Jitendra Singh (Science & Technology)**.
- **Raw Materials:** Biomass and agricultural waste, including crop residues.
- **Applications:** Road and highway construction, asphalt pavements.



Road, Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has said that India has become the first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen in road construction. Bitumen is a black, viscous mixture of hydrocarbons produced by the fractionation of crude oil, and it serves as a crucial binder in road construction.

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- Reduces dependence on fossil fuels, prevents crop residue burning, lowers carbon emissions, and promotes clean and green infrastructure.
- Supports **Viksit Bharat 2047** and **Atma Nirbhar Bharat**, strengthening indigenous scientific innovation and self-reliance.
- Traditional bitumen is petroleum-based and energy-intensive. Bio-bitumen is an eco-friendly alternative produced from agricultural waste, promoting a **circular economy**.
- **Economic Significance:** Converts crop residue into valuable construction input, reduces import dependence, and addresses air pollution challenges.
- **CSIR's Role:** Developed technology from laboratory research to **commercial-scale production**, demonstrating practical scientific innovation for national development.
- Bio-bitumen exemplifies converting waste into economically valuable resources, contributing to sustainable infrastructure.
- **Health and Environmental Impact:** Reduces air pollution from stubble burning and lowers carbon footprint compared to conventional petroleum-based bitumen.
- The initiative reflects India's commitment to **sustainable, climate-resilient, and technologically advanced highway development**.

### Launch of 'History That India Ignored' – Second Edition in Goa

- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** launched the **second edition** of the book '**History That India Ignored**' in **Panaji, Goa** in **January 2026**.
- The book is authored by **Prem Prakash**, veteran journalist and **Chairman of Asian News International (ANI)**, and was first published in **April 2025** by **Vitasta Publishing Private Limited**.
- Highlights **lesser-known aspects of India's freedom struggle**, ensuring these narratives reach **students and history enthusiasts**.
- Revisits India's independence struggle from **neglected perspectives**, challenging mainstream historical narratives.
- Covers **unsung heroes and revolutionary movements**, emphasizing contributions beyond popular non-violent movements.
- Focuses on the **Indian National Army (INA)** led by **Subhas Chandra Bose**, showcasing armed resistance alongside political negotiation.
- Highlights **overlooked uprisings** such as **Vellore Mutiny (1806)** and **Battle of Imphal**, significant events during the freedom struggle.
- Recognizes **marginalized contributors**, documenting the efforts of lesser-known freedom fighters and communities.
- Reinforces the importance of **comprehensive historical education** and encourages a **nuanced understanding** of India's independence achieved through multiple methods and narratives.
- Particularly relevant for **competitive exam aspirants**, covering topics frequently appearing in **UPSC and state-level history exams**, including INA, regional uprisings, and revolutionary movements.
- **Prem Prakash**, as **Chairman of ANI**, demonstrates commitment to factual reporting and uncovering overlooked historical truths, reflecting a dedication to presenting a **multifaceted account of India's freedom struggle**.

Panaji (Goa) [India], January 5 (ANI): Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday launched the new edition of 'History That India Ignored', a book authored by veteran journalist and Asian News International (ANI) Chairman Prem Prakash.

Addressing the event, the Chief Minister lauded the ANI Chairman for the book, stating that it will help ensure that the truth of the country's freedom struggle reaches people, especially the younger generation.

#### About Goa:

- Chief Minister: Dr. Pramod Sawant
- Governor: Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju
- Capital: Panaji

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- National Parks: Bhagwan Mahavir National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary, Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary

### Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 Held

- The **Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference** was held bringing together policymakers, industry experts, startups, and academia to discuss **inclusive, ethical, and responsible AI**.
- The event acted as a precursor to the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** scheduled from **15–20 February 2026**.
- AI in **governance and public service delivery, infrastructure and innovation, workforce skilling and employment, and ethical AI adoption**.
- **Dignitaries Present:** Bhajan Lal Sharma (Chief Minister, Rajasthan), Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister for Electronics & IT, virtual), Jitin Prasada (MoS Electronics & IT), Rajyavardhan Rathore (Cabinet Minister IT & Communication, Rajasthan), and senior officials from **MeitY** and Rajasthan government.
- **Key Announcement:** Launch of a programme to train **1 million youth in AI skills**, aiming for **AI democratization** across individuals, households, and enterprises.
- Jitin Prasada highlighted **₹10,000 crore investment** under the mission to deploy AI in **agriculture, healthcare, education, and environment**, with goals to **enhance income, ease of living, and national productivity**.
- **Major AI Initiatives:**
  - **YUVA AI for All** – National AI Literacy Program under IndiaAI Mission to build foundational AI awareness among students and youth with AI-101 self-paced course.
  - **iStart Learning Management System (LMS)** for skill development and entrepreneurship.
  - **Rajasthan AVGC-XR Portal** to strengthen Animation, VFX, Gaming, Comics & Extended Reality ecosystem.
  - Launch of **AI-themed video** showcasing India and Rajasthan's AI vision.
- **MoUs Signed:** Collaborations with **Google, IIT Delhi, National Law University Jodhpur, and Wadhvani Foundation** to enhance **AI research, skilling, ethical frameworks, and innovation ecosystems**.

The Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference was held on Tuesday, 06<sup>th</sup> January 2026, bringing together national and state leadership, policymakers, industry leaders, startups, and academia to deliberate on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in governance, infrastructure, innovation, and workforce development. The conference serves as a precursor to the India AI Impact Summit to be held from 15-20 February 2026.

The conference was attended by Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (attended virtually), Shri. Jitin Prasada, Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics & IT, Government of India, and Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore, Cabinet Minister for IT & Communication, Government of Rajasthan, along with senior officials from the MeitY and Government of Rajasthan. Their participation underscored the strong Centre-State collaboration in positioning Rajasthan as a key contributor to India's AI-led growth journey.



### About Rajasthan:

- Capital: Jaipur
- Governor: Haribhau Bagade
- Chief Minister: Bajan Lal Sharma
- National Parks: Ranthambhore National Park, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary), Desert National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuary, Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary

### India's First Fully Paperless District Court Inaugurated in Kalpetta, Kerala

- **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** virtually inaugurated **India's first fully paperless district court in Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala**.
- The initiative marks the **complete digital transformation** of district

The Kalpetta judicial district in Kerala's Wayanad has become the first district in the country to function as a completely paperless court system, marking a major milestone in India's judicial digitisation efforts. Under the new system, all courts in the district judiciary will operate entirely in digital mode, from the filing of cases to the delivery of final judgments.

Every stage of the judicial process—including pre-trial proceedings, recording of evidence, interlocutory applications and final adjudication—will now be conducted electronically. The system also integrates Artificial Intelligence-based judicial assistance tools that generate structured case summaries from digital records, helping judges quickly grasp the factual and procedural background of cases.

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judiciary operations, covering **case filing to final judgment**.

- Developed **in-house by Kerala High Court**, the system integrates **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to assist judicial processes and improve efficiency.
- AI-powered case summaries, interactive Q&A for case analysis, digital annotations, voice-to-text for depositions, automated transcripts, and secure **digital signatures**.
- Significant reduction in **clerical delays**, minimized **court visits**, lower **litigation costs**, no physical **file storage**, instant **order communication**, and faster **case processing**.
- Online case filing, digital document uploads, AI-assisted analysis, digital hearing notices, electronic proceedings, AI-generated summaries, and secure digital judgment delivery.

#### About Kerala:

- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- Capital: Thiruvananthapuram
- National Parks: Eravikulam National Park, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Silent Valley National Park, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, Chilika Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

#### National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026 Held in Guwahati, Assam

- The **National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026** was held in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- Organised by the **Ministry of Textiles** in collaboration with the **Government of Assam**, the conference focused on strengthening India's **textile ecosystem** and aligning **Centre–State strategies**.
- The conference was held under the theme **“India’s Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation”**.
- Key participants included **Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh**, **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**, **Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita**, along with senior officials from States and Union Territories.
- The conference aimed at positioning **India as a global textile manufacturing hub by 2030**, combining **economic growth** with **cultural preservation**, following the ethos **“Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi”**.
- Sessions covered critical areas including **infrastructure and investment**, **export expansion**, **raw material security**, **technical textiles**, **new-age fibres**, and **handloom and handicraft preservation**.
- **PM MITRA Parks (PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks)** were highlighted as a **flagship initiative** to integrate textile value chains, attract investment, generate employment, and enhance **global competitiveness**.
- The conference emphasised **sustainable textile practices**, **environmental compliance**, and development of **integrated value chains**.
- A special regional conclave focused on the **North-Eastern Region**, highlighting **Eri, Muga, and Mulberry silk**, **bamboo-based textiles**, **women-led enterprises**, and strategies for **branding and market access**.



वस्त्र मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
TEXTILES

The National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026 will begin on January 8 in Guwahati, Assam, bringing together textile ministers and senior officials from States and Union Territories for two days of discussions on policy, investment and innovation in the sector. The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Textiles in collaboration with the Government of Assam under the theme "India's Textiles: Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation".

- The conference provided a platform for **Centre-State collaboration**, sharing best practices, addressing policy challenges, and creating a **roadmap for a competitive, sustainable, and inclusive textile sector**.

#### About Assam:

- Chief Minister: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya
- Capital: Dispur
- National Parks: Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Bura-Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Nameri Wildlife Sanctuary

### National Crime Records Bureau Releases ICJS 2.0 Rankings: Uttarakhand Police Tops National List

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** released the **2nd edition of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 rankings**.
- **Uttarakhand Police ranked 1st** with a score of **93.46**, showcasing strong **digital policing and crime data management**.
- **Haryana Police ranked 2nd** with **93.41**, and **Assam Police ranked 3rd** with **93.16**.
- The recognition highlights India's push towards **modernizing the criminal justice system** using technology-driven platforms.
- **ICJS 2.0** is a digital platform integrating **Police, Courts, Prosecution, Prisons, Forensic Labs, Fingerprint & Crime Record Systems** for **real-time data sharing**.
- Works on the principle of **"One Data, One Entry"** ensuring faster investigations, reduced duplication, improved accuracy and **digital case tracking from FIR to conviction**.
- Uttarakhand's top rank reflects **successful statewide digital integration**, strong **infrastructure** and **training of police officers**, ensuring effective implementation at ground level.
- ICJS 2.0 benefits include **reduced investigation time**, elimination of delays, enhanced **transparency**, improved **evidence-based investigation**, secure digital records and increased **public trust** in justice delivery.



#### About Uttarakhand:

- **Chief Minister:** Pushkar Singh Dhami
- **Governor:** Gurmit Singh
- **Capital:** Dehradun
- **National Parks:** Jim Corbett National Park, Nanda Devi National Park, Rajaji National Park, Gangotri National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary, Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Govind Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandi Devi Wildlife Sanctuary

### Tamil Nadu Unveils India's First DeepTech Startup Policy 2025–26

- **Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025–26** is the **first dedicated policy in India** for science-driven entrepreneurship, aiming to



The policy was announced by Chief Minister MK Stalin at the fourth edition of the Ummagine TN technology summit in Chennai.

Tamil Nadu on Thursday launched its Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-26, unveiling a ₹100 crore commitment to nurture science- and IP-intensive ventures, as part of efforts to boost the state's **innovation ecosystem**.

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- convert cutting-edge research into **commercial solutions**.
- ₹100 crore to support **100 deeptech startups** with long-gestation, science-based innovations.
- **Policy Focus:** Funding, infrastructure, mentorship, and industry partnerships to nurture innovation.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Advanced Computing, Semiconductors, Biotechnology, Space Technologies, and Clean & Green Energy.
- The policy was **launched by CM M. K. Stalin** at the **fourth edition of Umanage Technology Conference** in Chennai, a platform connecting startups, global tech companies, investors, policymakers, and academia.
- **Major MoUs and Investments Announced:**
  - **Better Compute Works:** AI data centre, ₹5,000 crore, 1,450 jobs.
  - **Eros GenAI:** Expansion of AI R&D centre, ₹3,600 crore, 1,000 jobs.
  - **Phantom Digital Effects:** Expansion of VFX operations, ₹100 crore, 1,000 jobs.
- Workshops and technology lectures in **60 institutions across 23 districts** under **Umanage DX initiative**.
- Through **StartupTN**, 40 startups were selected to showcase innovations at Umanage and pitch to investors in **Dubai, Singapore, and Sharjah**, facilitated in collaboration with the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.
- The policy aims to **position Tamil Nadu as a hub for frontier and deep science technologies**, promoting high-value intellectual property, global competitiveness, and international market access for startups.

#### About Tamil Nadu:

- **Capital:** Chennai
- **Chief Minister:** M. K. Stalin
- **Governor:** R. N. Ravi
- **National Parks:** Mudumalai National Park, Mukurthi National Park, Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, Indira Gandhi (Anamalai) National Park, Guindy National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, Vettangudi Bird Sanctuary, Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary, Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary, Vallanadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### UN General Assembly Proclaims 2026 as International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2026 as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)** during its 76th session held in **New York, USA**.
- **IYRP 2026** aims to **raise global awareness** about the importance of **rangelands and pastoralist communities** and promote **sustainable management practices** and **secure livelihoods**.
- The **UNGA resolution** for IYRP was **adopted on 28 February 2022**, initiated by **Mongolia** and supported by **60 UN Member States**.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has been designated as the **lead implementing agency**, working in collaboration with **international and national stakeholders**.



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- **Key objectives of IYRP 2026** include **sharing traditional pastoralist knowledge, encouraging innovation, building partnerships, and supporting policy frameworks** for sustainable rangelands.
- **Rangelands cover nearly 50% of Earth’s land surface** and support **over 2 billion people** and **more than 50% of the world’s livestock**.
- These ecosystems are crucial for **biodiversity conservation, ecosystem regulation, and enhancing climate resilience**, making them vital for **global environmental sustainability**.

**United States Exits 66 Global Organisations, Including India-Led International Solar Alliance**

- The **United States of America (USA)** announced its withdrawal from **66 international organisations, treaties, and commissions** through an **Executive Order (EO) 14199** and a **Presidential Memorandum** issued by **President Donald Trump** as part of the **“America First”** policy review.
- The decision was taken citing concerns related to **national sovereignty, resource utilisation, and alignment with US strategic interests** in multilateral engagements.
- The withdrawal list includes **35 non-UN organisations** and **31 United Nations (UN)–affiliated bodies**, reflecting a broad reassessment of international cooperation frameworks.
- Major **non-UN organisations** exited by the USA include the **International Solar Alliance (ISA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- Prominent **UN-affiliated entities** affected by the withdrawal include the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Water, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Peacebuilding Commission**.
- The USA formally exited the **India–France–led International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, ending its participation and discontinuing approximately **USD 2.1 million** in financial contributions made between **2022 and 2025** toward global solar energy initiatives.
- Under the **US Constitution**, Senate approval is required to enter into treaties; however, it does not clearly define procedures for withdrawal, making **unilateral exits legally uncertain** and potentially subject to **judicial challenge**.



**About International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

- The **ISA** was conceptualised jointly by **India and France** during the **21st Conference of Parties (COP21)** held in **Paris, France, in 2015**.
- The first Assembly of the ISA was held in **October 2018 in Greater Noida, India**.
- **Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana,**
- **Established : 2015**
- **Director General : Ashish Khanna**

**DEFENCE NEWS**

**Indian Navy’s First Training Squadron Undertakes Long-Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia**

- The **First Training Squadron (1TS)** of the **Indian Navy (IN)** began its **Long-Range Training**

LONG RANGE TRAINING DEPLOYMENT OF INDIAN NAVY’S FIRST TRAINING SQUADRON (1TS) TO SOUTH EAST ASIA

0908 0908 07 JAN 2024 4 09PM BY PIB/COM  
 The ships of the First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy – INS Trishul, Suvaris and KCR Suvaris – will be participating in a Long Range Training Deployment (LRTD) to South East Asia as part of a training exercise of the 11th Integrated Officers’ Training Centre (IOTC).  
 As part of the deployment, the squadron is scheduled to undertake port calls at Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. The deployment is aimed at providing comprehensive operational and cross-cultural exposure to officer trainees, while reinforcing India’s continued maritime engagement with South East Asian nations in consonance with India’s Act East Policy and vision for a free, open and inclusive Indian Ocean Region.  
 During these port visits, a wide range of professional interactions, meeting engagements and cooperative activities are planned with the host nations and maritime agencies. These include maritime training exchanges, cross-ship visits, interactions with various defence science experts and Joint Maritime Partnership exercises.  
 These engagements are designed to further enhance interoperability, mutual trust and understanding, while promoting the exchange of best practices at sea.  
 The 11th Integrated Officers’ Training Centre includes six international officer trainees, reflecting Indian Navy’s continued commitment to capacity building and professional training of personnel from friendly foreign navies.  
 In addition, personnel from the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are also embarked for the deployment, further strengthening partners and collaborations between the services.  
 The Long Range Training Deployment underscores the Indian Navy’s emphasis on training excellence while contributing to maritime diplomacy, goodwill and cooperative approach to regional maritime security.

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**Deployment (LRTD) to Southeast Asia** as part of the **110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC)**, providing **real operational sea experience** to naval cadets.

- **Long-Range Training Deployment (LRTD)** is a specialised naval training mission in which ships with **cadets and trainees sail for extended durations across long distances**, often entering **foreign waters**.
- The deployment comprises vessels from the **Indian Navy (IN)** and **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, including **INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi**.
- During the **LRTD**, trainees gain **hands-on exposure** in **seamanship, navigation, and professional naval operations** across diverse **maritime environments**.
- The squadron is scheduled to undertake **port calls** in **Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand**, enabling **training engagements and maritime interactions**.
- The deployment strengthens **India's Act East Policy**, reinforces ties with **Southeast Asia**, and supports the vision of a **free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific**.

**Indian Navy Sets Up New Naval Detachment at Haldia, West Bengal**

- The **Indian Navy (IN)** has initiated a new **naval base at Haldia, West Bengal (WB)** to strengthen **operational presence, maritime surveillance, and rapid response capabilities** in the **Bay of Bengal (BOB)**.
- The **Haldia detachment** aims to enhance **maritime security, coastal defence, rapid response, and protection of sea lanes** amid **rising extra-regional naval activity**.
- The base is located on the **Hooghly River** near the **Haldi River**, approximately **130 km from the Sandheads**, leveraging the **Haldia Dock Complex** with a **jetty, admin-logistics facilities**, and accommodation for around **100 personnel**.
- The naval detachment will conduct **coastal security, anti-piracy patrols, maritime domain awareness, humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and non-combatant evacuation operations (NEOs)**.
- The facility will primarily support **small, high-speed warships**, including **Fast Interceptor Crafts (FICs)** and **New Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts (NWJFACs)**, in line with **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**-approved procurement for **coastal security enhancement**.
- India's existing naval commands include the **Western Naval Command (WNC)** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, the **Eastern Naval Command (ENC)** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**, and the **Southern Naval Command (SNC)** for training in **Kochi, Kerala**.

**INDIAN NAVY SETTING UP A NEW BASE AT HALDIA, WEST BENGAL TO INCREASE PRESENCE IN THE BAY OF BENGAL**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2026 BY INDIAN DEFENCE NEWS



The Indian Navy is establishing a new naval base at Haldia in West Bengal to bolster its operational footprint in the Bay of Bengal. This development underscores India's strategic intent to enhance maritime surveillance and rapid response capabilities amid evolving regional security dynamics.

Situated on the Hooghly River near its confluence with the Haldi River, Haldia benefits from proximity to the Bay of Bengal, approximately 130 kilometres from the deep-sea Sandheads area. The existing Haldia Dock Complex, operational since the 1970s, already handles bulk cargo and accommodates vessels up to Panamax size with a draft of 9.1 metres, providing a solid infrastructural foundation for naval adaptation.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**Indian Institute of Technology Madras Unveils Indigenous 3.1 Petaflop Supercomputer 'Param Shakti'**

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has launched **Param Shakti**, an **indigenously developed supercomputing system** with a computing capacity of **3.1 petaflops**.

**IIT-Madras unveils Param Shakti; will spearhead India's high-performance computing revolution**

Our Bureau Chennai

IIT-Madras has launched Param Shakti, an indigenously developed and manufactured supercomputing system. The 3.1 petaflop (a unit of computing speed) system can perform over 3.1 quadrillion calculations per second, placing it among the most powerful computing facilities in India.

**RESEARCH BOOST** This level of performance will enable researchers to solve large, complex problems faster and more accurately, reducing years of experimental work and allowing India to compete in critical sectors such as aerospace, materials, climate modelling, drug discovery



**PROCESSING POWER.** The Param Shakti system was inaugurated by S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, in the presence of V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT-Madras, and E. Magesh, Director-General, C-DAC.

percomputing Mission, we are supporting a wide range of use cases and application-driven projects with dedicated funding, designed to operate at a scale that can make a real difference. With 37 supercomputers already installed across institutions nationwide and more in the pipeline, including the largest system planned for Bengaluru, these efforts are strengthening India's research and innovation ecosystem," Krishnan said. He added that the department deliberately avoids promoting a single technology or GPU type, instead enabling access to multiple GPU architectures, allowing innovators, scientists and researchers to gain broad exposure and develop the capability to master diverse

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- **Param Shakti** can perform over **3.1 quadrillion calculations per second**, placing it among **India's most powerful supercomputers**.
- The supercomputer will significantly enhance **advanced research** in areas such as **aerospace, materials science, climate modelling, drug discovery, and advanced manufacturing** by drastically **reducing computation time**.
- **Param Shakti** has been built **entirely in India** by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** using the **RUDRA server series** and operates on **open-source software**.
- The system functions as part of the **Param Rudra supercomputing cluster**, supported by integrated **power, cooling, and data-centre infrastructure**.
- The project is funded under the **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)**, jointly implemented by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

### European Space Agency Officially Cancels Mars Sample Return Mission with NASA, Reshaping Planetary Exploration Plans

- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** has officially **cancelled the Mars Sample Return Mission**, a joint project with **NASA**, marking a major shift in planetary exploration plans.
- The cancellation was announced at **ESA's annual media briefing in Paris**, following **budgetary constraints on NASA** after the **return of Republicans under President Donald Trump in 2025**.
- The mission, originally planned for the **early 2030s**, aimed to **bring scientifically selected samples from Mars to Earth**, which would have been a **first-of-its-kind planetary science endeavour**.
- **ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher** stated that **Europe alone cannot afford the mission**, leading ESA to **reorganise its Mars exploration strategy**.
- Despite the cancellation, **ESA's ExoMars Rosalind Franklin rover** is now scheduled for **launch in 2028** and will **drill up to 2 metres into Martian soil to search for signs of past or present life**.
- For **2026**, ESA is preparing **65 missions**, including **48 Earth observation missions**, with a total budget of **€8.26 billion**, mainly funded by **Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Spain**.

#### ESA-NASA Mars Return Sample mission called off

After US budgetary sanctions on NASA, Europe not able to afford the mission alone: ESA officials

Anjali Marar  
Bengaluru, January 8

**THE FIRST** of its kind Mars Return Sample mission, planned between Europe and the US, has been officially called off.

Officials of the European Space Agency (ESA) shared this development during their annual media briefing in Paris on Thursday.

The cancellation of this collaborative mission between ESA and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) comes in the aftermath of the Donald Trump administration's heavy budgetary sanctions imposed on NASA since the return of the Republicans in 2025. Projected to be lifted-off sometime in the early 2030s, the Mars Return Mission was one of the most strategic missions, involving the return of scientifically selected samples from another planet (Mars) and the first to be launched from the surface of another planet (Mars) back to Earth.

"Europe, alone, cannot afford the Mars Return Mission. ESA is thus re-

organising the mission goals and is looking at ways to plan future missions," said Josef Aschbacher, ESA Director General, while responding to a query on ESA's working relations with NASA over the past one year.

Another ESA official noted that it was not only budgetary but also mission priorities that different space agencies were now considering while planning.

The ESA chief, however, underlined that cooperation and collaboration with NASA on all other missions were progressing well.

On ESA's Rosalind Franklin rover, part of the ExoMars mission, Aschbacher said the mission launch was being planned for 2028.

"This will be the first mission to dig 2 metres deep into Martian land and look for traces of any life," he said. Having fully recovered from the fewer space missions launched during 2023 and 2024, ESA, Aschbacher said, in 2026 is gearing up for a record number of missions and launches. A total of 65 space missions, of which 48 are earth observation missions, are being readied for launch this year. Some of these also include missions planned with other countries and private players.

"2023-2024 saw a crisis in ESA's space launches, but we are now in a strong position," he said. For 2026, ESA has chalked out a budgetary outlay worth Euro 8.26 billion and major contributions made by Germany, France, Italy, UK, Belgium and Spain.

### Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Empanels RANext Technologies as Digital Connectivity Rating Agency for Property Infrastructure

- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has empanelled **RANext Technologies** as a **Digital Connectivity Rating Agency (DCRA)** to assess digital infrastructure in properties.
- As a **TRAI-authorized DCRA**, **RANext Technologies** will evaluate **residential, commercial, and mixed-use properties** from a **user-centric, real-world perspective**.
- The **digital connectivity assessment** will cover **fibre infrastructure standards, in-building connectivity, broadband performance, Wi-Fi**



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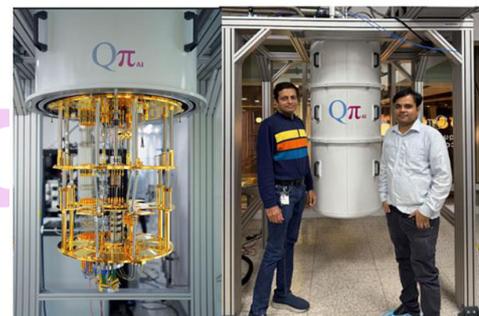
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quality, and readiness for future smart technologies.

- Properties will be rated under a **standardised star-based rating system**, enabling **objective measurement of digital readiness** and easy comparison across projects.
- The **DCRA framework** addresses the gap in real estate where buildings often lack **structured evaluation of digital infrastructure**, despite rising digital dependence.
- The initiative supports India's **digital-first economy**, where reliable connectivity is vital for **work, education, healthcare, banking, entertainment, and smart living**.
- With nearly **one billion internet users** and growing adoption of **smart homes and offices, digital performance** is becoming a key factor in **property usage and valuation**.
- For **developers and property owners**, a **DCRA rating** acts as a **credibility marker**, helping projects stand out and signal **long-term digital preparedness**.
- For **homebuyers, tenants, and enterprises**, the ratings reduce uncertainty about **internet quality** and support **remote work, streaming, gaming, and smart lifestyles**.
- The empanelment aligns with national initiatives like **Digital India** and the vision of **Viksit Bharat**, emphasizing **robust digital connectivity** as a core element of **modern real estate development**.

### India to Deploy First Indigenous Quantum Computer for Commercial Use at IIIT Dharwad

- India's first indigenously built quantum computer will be deployed for **commercial use** at **IIIT Dharwad**, marking a major milestone in India's quantum journey.
- The **Government of Karnataka** has announced a **Centre of Excellence in Quantum AI and Computing** at **IIIT-Dharwad** in collaboration with **QpiAI**.
- **Priyank Kharge** held meetings with **QpiAI** to advance the **Karnataka Quantum Roadmap** and strengthen the State's leadership in **quantum technologies**.
- **QpiAI** outlined plans to scale quantum systems from **25 qubits to 1,000 qubits** within **2–3 years**, positioning **Karnataka** as a hub for **quantum research, talent, and industry collaboration**.



### ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

#### Bajaj Finserv Acquires Allianz's 23% Stake in Bajaj Allianz Insurance Businesses

- **Bajaj Finserv** has completed the acquisition of **Allianz SE's stake** in **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** and **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**, ending a long-standing partnership.
- The acquisition involved **23% stake in each company**, valued at approximately **₹12,190 crore** in **general insurance** and **₹9,200 crore** in **life insurance**.
- Following the transaction, **Bajaj Finserv's stake** in each insurance company has increased to **75.01%**, while the **Bajaj Group's overall holding** has risen to about **97%**.

#### Bajaj Finserv completes Allianz stake buyout in insurance arms

Bajaj Finserv on Thursday said it had completed the acquisition of Allianz SE's stake in Bajaj General Insurance and Bajaj Life Insurance worth ₹12,190 crore and ₹9,200 crore, respectively.

Bajaj Finserv, along with Bajaj Holdings & Investment and Jannalal Sons, acquired the foreign insurer's 23 per cent stake in the businesses, marking the largest transac-

tion in the Indian insurance sector.

The acquisition takes the ownership of the Bajaj Group in both insurance companies to 97 per cent from 74 per cent, giving Bajaj Finserv complete control of the insurance companies.

The transfer of Allianz's remaining 3 per cent stake is expected to be completed over the next few months through a

proposed buyback of shares by the insurance companies, subject to applicable law and necessary approvals. If the buyback is completed, the stake of Bajaj Finserv is expected to go up to approximately 77.3 per cent, with Bajaj Holdings & Investment Limited holding approximately 18.1 per cent stake, with the balance being held by Jannalal Sons. BS REPORTER

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- **Allianz SE's remaining 3% stake** is expected to be transferred in the coming months through a **proposed share buyback** by the insurance companies.
- The deal marks the conclusion of a **24-year joint venture** between **Bajaj Finserv and Allianz SE** and is regarded as the **largest transaction in India's insurance sector**, significantly **reshaping industry ownership structures**.

**OBITUARIES**

**Renowned Ecologist and Conservationist Madhav D. Gadgil Passed Away at 83**

- **Renowned ecologist, scholar, and conservationist Madhav Dhananjaya Gadgil** passed away at the age of **83** in **Pune, Maharashtra**.

**About Madhav Dhananjaya Gadgil :**

- He was born on **April 24, 1942**, in **Poona, Bombay Province, British India** (present-day **Pune, Maharashtra**).
- **Madhav Gadgil**, widely recognized as the **father of modern Indian ecology**, was a distinguished **Indian ecologist, academic, author, and environmental conservationist**.
- He began his career as a **scientist and ecological researcher in the 1960s** and joined the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**.
- He became a **founding faculty member of the Centre for Ecological Sciences (CES)** at IISc, where he played a key role in **designing ecology curricula, establishing long-term ecological field studies, and training students in scientific methods**.
- From **1981 to 2005**, he served as **Professor of Ecology at IISc**, conducting research on **forest ecosystems and biodiversity** and contributing to **environmental education and sustainable development**.
- In **2010**, he was appointed **Chairman of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)**, popularly known as the **Gadgil Commission**.
- He served as a **member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** and the **National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**.
- **Madhav Gadgil** was a member of the **Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister** and chaired international bodies, including the **Science and Technology Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility**.
- He played a pivotal role in establishing **India's first Biosphere Reserve, the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**, and in framing the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- He authored **more than 250 scholarly papers** on ecology and conservation, many of which were **translated into multiple Indian languages**.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri in 1981** in the field of **Civil Service** and the **Padma Bhushan in 2006** in the field of **Science and Engineering**.
- In **2024**, he was honoured with the **United Nations (UN) Champion of the Earth Award**.
- His other major awards include the **Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (2015)**, **Harvard Centennial Medal (2002)**, and the **Vikram Sarabhai Award (1990)**.

**Ecologist Madhav Gadgil, champion of Western Ghats conservation, dies**



**MADHAV GADGIL**  
1942-2026

He is in 1971, when he was elected to the Institute's chairmanship in 2010.

Earlier, he had undertaken extensive field studies ranging from the forest ecology to the management of business resources in Karnataka. His field work with his colleagues inspired him to write a book on the conservation of the Western Ghats in 1994.

He was an eminent policy scientist and advisor to me, a Harvard and member of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

In all, Gadgil wrote 233 scientific papers and several books, including articles in the public domain.

His commitment to ecological conservation was widely recognised, and he was a member of the Prime Minister's Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and chaired international bodies, including the Science and Technology Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility.

After teaching biology at Harvard for two years, he returned to India and joined

**Veteran BJP Leader and Former Union Minister Kabindra Purkayastha Passed away**

- **Kabindra Purkayastha**, veteran **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** leader and former **Union Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Communications**, passed away at the age of **94** in **Silchar, Assam**.
- He was **born on 15 December 1931** at **Kamarkhal**, then part of the **Sylhet district** (now in **Bangladesh**).
- He is remembered as the **patriarch of the BJP in Assam**, playing a crucial role in shaping the party's ideological and organisational growth in the state.
- **Kabindra Purkayastha joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in 1951** and served as a **pracharak across the Northeast**, after working as a **teacher**.
- He was a **founding member of the BJP** and was instrumental in **strengthening the party's base in Assam and Northeast India**, especially in the **Barak Valley**.
- He worked extensively for **refugee rehabilitation** and **regional development** in Assam.
- He was elected as a **three-time Member of Parliament (MP)** from the **Silchar Lok Sabha constituency** in **1991, 1998, and 2009**.
- He served as **Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Communications** during **1998–1999** under **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.



### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### World Hindi Day 2026 Observed on 10th January

- **World Hindi Day 2026** is observed on **10th January** to promote the **Hindi language globally**.
- Also known as **Vishwa Hindi Divas**, the day honors the **Hindi language and its contributors**.
- The **first World Hindi Conference (Vishva Hindi Sammelan)** was held in **1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra**, marking the inception of World Hindi Day.
- The Hindi Conference is conducted **every three years** to spread awareness about the language and its literary contributors.
- Celebrations are held by **public and private organizations in India**, while **Hindi-speaking communities abroad** also observe the day with cultural and literary events.
- The day emphasizes the **promotion of Hindi literature, language awareness, and global recognition** of Hindi as a medium of communication and culture.



#### Daily CA One- Liner: January 10

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** will host the **first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026** from **January 21-23, 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**
- **India** has become the **first country in the world to commercially produce bio-bitumen for road construction**
- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** launched the **second edition** of the book **'History That India Ignored'** in **Panaji, Goa in January 2026**
- The **Rajasthan Regional AI Impact Conference** was held bringing together policymakers, industry experts, startups, and academia to discuss **inclusive, ethical, and responsible AI**

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- **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant** virtually inaugurated **India's first fully paperless district court in Kalpetta, Wayanad, Kerala**
- The **National Textiles Ministers' Conference 2026** was held in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** released the **2nd edition of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0 rankings**
- **Tamil Nadu Deep-Tech Startup Policy 2025–26** is the **first dedicated policy in India** for science-driven entrepreneurship, aiming to convert cutting-edge research into **commercial solutions**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** exercised powers under **Section 45-IA(6) of the RBI Act, 1934** to cancel the **Certificate of Registration (CoR) of 35 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** for non-compliance with regulatory requirements, with effect from **December 9 to 31, 2025**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **amendments to the Governance Directions, 2025 for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and State/Central Co-operative Banks**, introducing a **mandatory cooling-off period for directors**.
- **Axis Finance Limited**, a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, has launched **Axis Finance Vyapar Business Loan**, a **collateral-free credit product** aimed at supporting **Micro and Small Businesses (MSMEs)**.
- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **First Advance Estimates (FAE) of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for FY2025-26 (FY26) at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices**.
- The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** declared **2026** as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)** during its **76th session** held in **New York, USA**.
- The **United States of America (USA)** announced its withdrawal from **66 international organisations, treaties, and commissions** through an **Executive Order (EO) 14199** and a **Presidential Memorandum** issued by **President Donald Trump** as part of the **"America First"** policy review.
- The **First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy (IN)** began its **Long-Range Training Deployment (LRTD) to Southeast Asia** as part of the **110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC)**, providing **real operational sea experience** to naval cadets.
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- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has launched **Param Shakti**, an **indigenously developed supercomputing system** with a computing capacity of **3.1 petaflops**.
- The **European Space Agency (ESA)** has officially **cancelled the Mars Sample Return Mission**, a **joint project with NASA**, marking a major shift in planetary exploration plans.
- **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has **empanelled RANext Technologies** as a **Digital Connectivity Rating Agency (DCRA)** to assess digital infrastructure in properties.
- **India's first indigenously built quantum computer** will be deployed for **commercial use** at **IIIT Dharwad**, marking a major milestone in India's **quantum journey**.
- **Bajaj Finserv** has completed the **acquisition of Allianz SE's stake in Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**, ending a long-standing partnership.

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