



Daily Current Affairs

22nd Jan 2026



BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

International Monetary Fund Upgrades India's FY26 Growth Projection to 7.3%

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released the **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** titled “**Global Economy: Steady amid Divergent Forces**”, revising **India's GDP growth for FY26 to 7.3%**, up from **6.6% (October 2025 estimate)**.
- The **upward revision** is driven by **strong corporate earnings in Q3** and **robust economic momentum in Q4**, with the IMF's estimate only slightly below the **Government of India's projection of 7.4%**.
- For the **medium term**, the IMF projects **India's growth to moderate to 6.4% in FY27 and FY28**, citing **easing cyclical and temporary growth factors**.
- **India's inflation** is expected to move closer to the **RBI's target band of 2%–6%**, supported by a **sharp decline in 2025**, mainly due to **easing food prices**.
- Among **emerging and developing Asian economies**, **India remains the fastest-growing**, contributing significantly to **Asia's projected 5.0% growth in 2026**.
- The **global economy** is projected to grow by **3.3% in CY25**, **3.2% in CY26**, and **3.2% in CY27**, supported by **easing trade tensions**, **accommodative financial conditions**, and **technology-driven investments**.
- **Global inflation** is forecast to decline from **4.1% (CY25)** to **3.8% (CY26)** and further to **3.4% (CY27)**.
- **Global trade volume growth** is projected to slow from **4.1% in CY25** to **2.6% in CY26**, before rebounding to **3.1% in CY27**, reflecting **policy adjustments and front-loading effects**.
- The IMF highlighted that **steady global growth** is shaped by a balance between **uncertain trade policies** and gains from **AI and technology investments**, particularly in **North America and Asia**.



Recent News :

- In Dec 2025, the **Goldman Sachs Forecasts Robust India GDP Growth of 6.7% in 2026 and 6.8% in 2027**

About International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- **Established : 1944.**
- **Headquarters : Washington DC, USA**
- **Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva**
- **Member Countries : 191**

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

India's First Sleeper Vande Bharat Train Launched Between Howrah and Guwahati

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off **India's first sleeper Vande Bharat train**, connecting **Kolkata (Howrah)** with **Guwahati (Kamakhya)**.
- The train was launched from **Malda, West Bengal**, marking a new phase in long-distance modern rail travel.
- The **Vande Bharat Sleeper Train** is an upgraded version of the Vande Bharat Express, specifically designed for **long-distance overnight journeys**. Unlike chair-



Vande Bharat sleeper train. File | Photo Credit: PTI

Nearly six years after the launch of the Vande Bharat train in 2019, India is set to experience the first commercial run of the Vande Bharat sleeper train on Thursday (January 22, 2026). The modernised train will be operated by the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) zone. The train journey from **Guwahati (Kamakhya)**-**Howrah**, will cover 972 km in 14 hours.

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car Vande Bharat trains, it features **sleeping berths** comparable to **Rajdhani-class comfort**, combined with **modern interiors and faster travel**.

- The train is **fully Made in India** and reflects Indian Railways' focus on **self-reliance, modernisation, and enhanced passenger comfort**.
- The sleeper Vande Bharat will operate between **Howrah and Kamakhya** six days a **week** in both directions.
- The train is equipped with **modern coaches, improved safety systems, and upgraded interiors**, offering faster and more reliable overnight travel between **West Bengal and Assam**.
- Along with the sleeper Vande Bharat, the Prime Minister also launched **four Amrit Bharat Express trains** from West Bengal, connecting **New Jalpaiguri–Nagercoil, New Jalpaiguri–Tiruchirappalli, Alipurduar–Bengaluru (SMVT), and Alipurduar–Mumbai (Panvel)**, improving **affordable long-distance connectivity** to southern and western India.
- At the same event, PM Modi laid the foundation stone for **rail and road projects worth ₹3,250 crore**, including the **Balurghat–Hili rail line, next-generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri, modernisation of loco sheds and Vande Bharat maintenance units, and four-laning of the Dhupguri–Falakata section of NH-31D**, aimed at strengthening **eastern India's infrastructure**.
- **Vande Bharat trains** are **semi-high-speed trains** introduced in **2019** and manufactured in India under **Make in India**.
- At present, around **150 Vande Bharat trains** operate across the country, with the **sleeper variant** designed specifically for **long-distance overnight routes**.

RECENT NEWS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Nagpur–Pune Vande Bharat Express, the longest-route Vande Bharat train in India, along with two other new train services. The flag-off ceremony was conducted through video conferencing, with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis present at the launch event at Nagpur Central Railway Station.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone of Kaziranga Elevated Corridor, Flags Off Amrit Bharat Express Trains

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **₹6,957 crore Kaziranga Elevated Corridor** in **Assam** and **virtually flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains**, aiming to improve road, rail, wildlife protection, tourism, and employment in the region.
- The **Kaziranga Elevated Corridor** is a **34.5-kilometre-long elevated road** being developed as part of the widening of **National Highway-715**, which runs along the **southern boundary of Kaziranga National Park**, separating it from the **Karbi Anglong hills**.
- During annual floods, wild animals naturally migrate southwards to higher ground, but heavy traffic on NH-715 blocks this movement. The elevated corridor will allow **vehicles to move above** while **animals cross safely underneath**.
- The project also includes **bypasses at Jakhlabandha and Bokakhat** to reduce traffic congestion.
- **NH-715** has been identified as one of the **major threats to wildlife** in Kaziranga due to rising traffic volume.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday performed the Shookhi Pujan of the Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project, a major infrastructure initiative worth over ₹6,950 crore, in Assam's Kallabor. The project aims to improve connectivity in the region while ensuring the protection of Kaziranga National Park's fragile ecosystem.

Addressing a large gathering, the Prime Minister described Kaziranga as "more than a National Park - it is the soul of Assam and a priceless jewel of India's biodiversity," recognised globally as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He stressed that conservation and development are not opposing forces, asserting that India is demonstrating how both can progress together.

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- Studies have recorded **over 6,000 animal deaths in a single year**, particularly during the **monsoon season**.
- The elevated corridor represents a **development–conservation model**, where infrastructure growth supports **wildlife protection**.
- By diverting heavy traffic onto elevated sections, the **natural movement corridors below remain intact**.
- Forest officials expect a **significant reduction in roadkill**, while conservationists stress the need for **careful construction** to minimise ecological disturbance.
- Once completed, the project will offer a **permanent solution to wildlife mortality**, while also strengthening **connectivity between Guwahati, eastern Assam, and Numaligarh**, boosting **trade, tourism, and local livelihoods**.
- **Kaziranga National Park** is located in **Assam**, along the **Brahmaputra River**, and lies in the **Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot**. It was declared a **National Park in 1974**, a **Tiger Reserve in 2006**, and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985**.
- The park is globally famous for the **one-horned rhinoceros** and is home to species such as **tiger, elephant, wild buffalo, and swamp deer**.
- Its vegetation mainly includes **wet alluvial grasslands and elephant grass**, while major threats include **poaching and flooding**.
- The two **Amrit Bharat Express trains** flagged off by the Prime Minister are expected to improve **long-distance rail connectivity**, supporting regional mobility, tourism, and economic activity.

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

RECENT NEWS

- Assam has taken a lead in government pay reforms by becoming the first state in the country to set up its 8th State Pay Commission. This proactive decision comes just before the end of the 7th Pay Commission's term on January 1, 2026.

Two MSME Technology Centres Approved in Himachal Pradesh

- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has approved the establishment of **two MSME Technology Centres in Himachal Pradesh** at **Pandoga (Una district)** and **Parwanoo (Solan district)** as part of a nationwide expansion initiative.
- The **MSME Ministry** plays a crucial role in promoting **small businesses, entrepreneurship, and industrial growth** through policy support, financial assistance, infrastructure development, and **skill training**.
- Approval of these centres reflects the ministry's focus on **regional industrial development**, particularly in **hill and less-industrialised states**.
- The **Technology Centres** will be set up at **Pandoga in Una district** and **Parwanoo in Solan district**. **Parwanoo** is a well-known industrial hub located near



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Chandigarh, while **Pandoga** is expected to emerge as a new growth centre, helping achieve **balanced regional development** within the state.

- Each centre will be developed at an estimated cost of **₹10 crore**.
- The two centres are among **13 new MSME Technology Centre Extension Centres** approved across India, aimed at strengthening **technical infrastructure** and improving MSME productivity.
- The centres will provide **modern technical support** to local industries, including **advanced manufacturing techniques, design assistance, and quality improvement**, which is expected to **attract new industrial investment** in manufacturing and allied sectors.
- A key objective is **employment generation and skill development**.
- The centres will offer **technical training, hands-on skill programmes, and entrepreneurship support**, improving **employability**, promoting **self-employment and startups**, and helping **reduce migration** by strengthening the local economy.

RECENT NEWS

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon Seller Services in New Delhi to support artisans enrolled under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. This partnership aims to improve online market access and help artisans reach customers across India.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi Pays Official 3-Day Visit to India (January 15–17, 2026)

- **Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi** undertook a **3-day official visit to India from January 15–17, 2026**, to strengthen **India–Japan bilateral relations**.
- During the visit, **FM Toshimitsu Motegi** along with **Japanese Ambassador Ono Keiichi** travelled on the **Delhi Metro, New Delhi**, highlighting **Japan's long-standing support** to the project.
- The **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has provided **financial assistance to the Delhi Metro Project since Phase-I**, reflecting strong **infrastructure cooperation**.
- **Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** and **FM Motegi** co-chaired the **18th India–Japan Strategic Dialogue** held in **New Delhi**.
- **India and Japan agreed to convene a Private Security Dialogue** under the **Economic Security Initiative**, aimed at enhancing **public-private cooperation**.
- Both countries **launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Dialogue**, which will be **led by the Foreign Ministers** of India and Japan.
- India and Japan also agreed to convene a **Joint Working Group (JWG) on Critical Minerals** in **early 2026**, strengthening **supply chain resilience**.
- The **second round of the Economic Security Dialogue**, co-led by the **Indian Foreign Secretary** and the **Japanese Vice Minister**, is scheduled for the **first half of 2026**.
- The visit reinforced **strategic, economic, technological, and infrastructure cooperation** under the **India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.

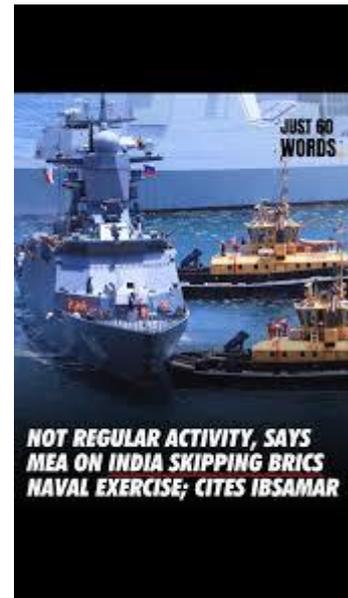


Ministry of External Affairs Clarifies 'BRICS Naval Exercise' Was South Africa-Led, Not an Official BRICS Activity

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- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that the so-called ‘BRICS Naval Exercise’ was not an official BRICS activity and was entirely a South Africa-led initiative.
- MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the exercise is neither regular nor institutionalised under the BRICS framework.
- He highlighted that not all BRICS members participated, and India has never taken part in such South Africa-led naval drills.
- The MEA reiterated that India’s regular maritime engagement with BRICS nations is through IBSAMAR, a trilateral naval exercise involving India, Brazil and South Africa, with the latest edition held in October 2024.
- Separately, a week-long naval exercise ‘Will for Peace 2026’ commenced off the coast of South Africa, led by China.
- Participating countries in Will for Peace 2026 include Russia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and South Africa, while India and Brazil opted out.
- Egypt, Indonesia and Ethiopia joined the drill as observer countries, indicating broader international interest despite India’s non-participation.



APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Uganda’s Yoweri Museveni Wins Seventh Consecutive Presidential Term

- Uganda’s Electoral Commission declared 81-year-old President Yoweri Museveni of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) as the winner of the 2026 presidential election, securing 71.65% of the votes and a seventh term (2026–2031).
- Opposition leader Bobi Wine, a 43-year-old singer-turned-politician from the National Unity Platform (NUP), secured 24.72% of the vote, reflecting strong support among Uganda’s youth population.



About Yoweri Museveni :

- Yoweri Museveni has been Uganda’s leader since 1986, making him one of the world’s longest-serving heads of government.
- He led a rebellion against dictator Idi Amin in 1979, playing a key role in Uganda’s modern political history.
- He became President through Uganda’s first direct presidential election in 1996.
- In 2023, he was conferred the Order of Katonga (Nishani ya Katonga), Uganda’s highest military honour, for extraordinary heroism.
- He received the Global Peace Award (2018) for contributions to peace in the Great Lakes region and Africa.
- The AfrikaVerein Award (2016) was awarded to him in Berlin for leadership excellence, making him the first African president to receive it.
- He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by institutions such as the Humphrey School of Public Affairs (USA) and the Latin University of Theology (USA).

About Uganda :

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- Prime Minister : Robinah Nabbanja.
- Capital : Kampala.
- currency : Ugandan Shilling (UGX).

AWARDS AND HONOURS

C-DOT Wins SKOCH Award 2025 for Cell Broadcast Solution

- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has received the SKOCH Award 2025 at the 104th SKOCH Summit for its Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS), a national disaster and emergency alerting platform.
- The Cell Broadcast Solution developed by C-DOT is an advanced system designed to deliver **real-time, life-saving disaster alerts** directly to mobile phones in **geo-targeted areas** through cellular networks.
- Unlike SMS, **cell broadcast messages reach all devices instantly**, even during **network congestion**, making it highly effective during emergencies.
- The platform integrates multiple **disaster alert generation agencies** on a single unified system, including the **India Meteorological Department** (weather alerts), **Central Water Commission** (floods), **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services** (tsunamis), **Directorate General of Resettlement Engineering** (landslides), and **Forest Survey of India** (forest fires).
- Alerts are approved by the **State Disaster Management Authorities** and the **National Disaster Management Authority**, and then broadcast by **all mobile operators**.
- The **Cell Broadcast Solution** is **fully indigenous, automated, and cost-effective**. It supports **multi-hazard alerts** and delivers messages in **21 Indian languages**, ensuring **wide inclusivity**.
- The system provides **near real-time warnings**, helping citizens take timely action and **reducing loss of life and property**, thereby strengthening **disaster risk reduction and management** across India.
- C-DOT's solution aligns with the **United Nations' "Early Warnings for All" (EW4All) initiative** and follows the **International Telecommunication Union's Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)**.
- It also contributes to the **Sustainable Development Goals** by enhancing disaster resilience and places **India among a select group of global technology providers** offering advanced cell broadcast systems, supporting the vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The **SKOCH Award** recognises outstanding contributions by government and private institutions in **governance and development**, honouring impactful work in areas such as **technology, finance, health, education, and innovation**.
- Receiving this award highlights **C-DOT's excellence in public-interest technology and citizen-centric digital infrastructure**.
- **C-DOT** is a premier **telecom research and development organisation** under the **Department of Telecommunications, Government of India**.
- It has played a key role in developing **indigenous telecom technologies** supporting **Digital India** and **Make in India**, and is currently working in advanced domains such as **5G, 6G, Quantum technologies, Artificial Intelligence, and Cybersecurity**.



The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has been conferred the SKOCH Award-2025 for its Cell Broadcast Solution. The Ministry of Communications said that the award was conferred at the 104th SKOCH Summit on the theme of Resourcing Viksit Bharat. C-DOT's Cell Broadcast Solution is a disaster and emergency platform which brings disaster alert generation agencies, including the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for weather and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for disaster management, onto a single integrated unified platform.

Ilaiyaraaja to Receive Padmapani Award at 11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film

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Festival 2026

- Renowned music maestro **Ilaiyaraaja** has been selected for the **Padmapani Award**, which will be conferred at the **11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival** in early **2026**.
- The **Padmapani Award** is one of the **most prestigious honours** of the Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival and is presented to individuals who have made **extraordinary contributions to cinema and the arts**.
- The award includes a **Padmapani memento**, a **citation certificate**, and a **cash prize of ₹2 lakh**, symbolising **artistic excellence and cultural impact**.
- **Ilaiyaraaja** is regarded as one of the **greatest composers in Indian cinema**. With a career spanning **over four decades**, he has composed music for **more than 1,000 films** across **multiple Indian languages**.
- His innovative fusion of **Western classical techniques** with **Indian folk and classical music** transformed Indian film music and influenced **generations of musicians and composers**.
- The **Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival** is a prominent cultural event celebrating **world cinema and Indian artistic excellence**.
- The **11th edition** will be held from **28 January to 1 February 2026** at **Mahatma Gandhi Mission, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar**, and serves as a platform for **filmmakers, artists, and scholars** to exchange ideas and showcase meaningful cinema.
- The festival is organised with the support of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** and the **Department of Cultural Affairs, Maharashtra**, and is co-presented by the **National Film Development Corporation** and the **Maharashtra Film, Stage and Cultural Development Corporation**, highlighting its **national cultural significance**.



RANKING AND INDEX

Abu Dhabi Ranked World's Safest City for 10th Consecutive Year

- **Abu Dhabi**, the capital of the **United Arab Emirates**, has been ranked the **world's safest city for the 10th consecutive year** in an international safety ranking released by **Numbeo**, reaffirming its global reputation for security and high quality of life.
- The global safety ranking is released by **Numbeo**, a well-known international database that compares cities based on **crime rates, public safety perception, law enforcement efficiency, and overall quality of life**.
- The index is based on **user-contributed data, surveys, and crime statistics**.
- Abu Dhabi has topped this ranking **continuously since 2017**, reflecting long-term consistency in governance and public safety policies.
- Abu Dhabi is considered the safest city due to its **low crime rates, strict enforcement of laws, and proactive policing**.
- The city makes extensive use of **advanced surveillance systems, smart city technologies, and rapid emergency response mechanisms**, which significantly enhance public safety.
- **Political stability, strong social cohesion, and high public trust in institutions** further contribute to a secure living environment.



In a remarkable achievement that underscores its ongoing commitment to public safety, Abu Dhabi has once again been named the world's safest city in the latest Numbeo Global Safety Index, marking the tenth consecutive year the UAE capital has topped the global rankings. The 2026 safety report evaluated 400 cities across more than 150 countries and placed Abu Dhabi at number one for overall safety, including walking alone safely in broad daylight and at night, consolidating its status as a global leader in urban security and quality of life.

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Responsible Nations Index Launched by Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi

- Former President **Ram Nath Kovind** officially launched the **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** in **New Delhi**, introducing a new global framework to assess countries based on **responsibility rather than power or wealth**.
- The **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** is a global evaluative framework designed to measure how responsibly countries behave towards their **citizens, the environment, and the global intellectual community**.
- Unlike traditional indices focused on **GDP, military strength, or influence**, the RNI emphasises **ethical governance, human-centric policies, inclusive development, and sustainable progress**.
- The index aims to encourage nations to adopt **moral responsibility in policymaking**, ensuring that development benefits society as a whole.
- By redefining benchmarks of national success, RNI promotes a **balanced, humane, and sustainable model of global development**.
- The RNI has been developed by the **World Intellectual Foundation** in academic collaboration with **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)**.
- This partnership combines **policy research and academic expertise**, strengthening the **credibility, analytical depth, and evidence-based assessment** of the index.



MOUS AND AGREEMENT

India-UAE Agree to Double Bilateral Trade to USD 200 Billion by 2032

- **India and the United Arab Emirates** agreed to **double bilateral trade to USD 200 billion by 2032** during delegation-level talks held in **New Delhi** between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**.
- Several agreements were signed across strategic and economic sectors.
- The decision to raise bilateral trade to **USD 200 billion by 2032** reflects the **deepening economic interdependence** between the two countries.
- The **UAE is one of India's largest trading partners** and serves as a key gateway to **West Asia and Africa**.
- Both sides aim to diversify trade beyond traditional sectors by strengthening cooperation in **manufacturing, energy, logistics, technology, and services**, ensuring **sustained and resilient economic growth**.
- In the **defence sector**, India and the UAE signed a **Letter of Intent** to conclude a **framework agreement on a strategic defence partnership**, highlighting growing trust and shared security interests.
- Another **Letter of Intent** was signed to promote cooperation in **space infrastructure development and its commercialisation**.
- In the **energy sector**, a **sales and purchase agreement** was signed between **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) India** and **ADNOC Gas UAE**,



India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have agreed to double bilateral trade to 200 billion dollars by 2032. The decision was taken during the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in New Delhi yesterday. During the meeting, several agreements were also signed in the fields of Defence, Space, Energy and Food Safety between India and the UAE.

reinforcing **long-term energy security** and strengthening bilateral energy cooperation.

- Cooperation in **infrastructure and advanced technology** was enhanced with an agreement to establish a **supercomputing cluster in India**.
- The UAE will also participate in developing a **Special Investment Region at Dholera, Gujarat**, covering projects such as an **international airport, railway connectivity, energy infrastructure, pilot training schools, and smart urban townships**.
- Both countries agreed to promote **bilateral civil nuclear cooperation**, expanding collaboration in **clean, safe, and reliable energy**.
- In the **financial sector**, **First Abu Dhabi Bank** and **DP World** announced plans to set up operations in **GIFT City, Gujarat**, strengthening India's **global financial integration**.
- To enhance **cultural and people-to-people ties**, India and the UAE agreed to establish the **House of India in Abu Dhabi**, which will include a **museum of Indian art, heritage, and archaeology**, reinforcing cultural diplomacy between the two nations.

DEFENCE NEWS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Unit at Solar Defence, Nagpur

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated a **Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Facility at Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra**.
- The inauguration strengthens **India's Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence production**, aligning with the government's indigenous manufacturing push.
- The **fully automated facility** will manufacture **30 mm ammunition**, which is extensively used by the **Indian Army (IA) and Indian Navy (IN)**.
- During the visit, **Rajnath Singh** also reviewed the **Pinaka Rocket Manufacturing Facility** of the **Solar Group**.
- He flagged off the **first tranche of Guided Pinaka rockets** exported to **Armenia**, marking a key milestone in **India's defence exports**.
- **India's domestic defence production** increased from **₹46,425 crore in 2014** to approximately **₹1.51 lakh crore in 2025–26**.
- The **private sector contribution** to defence production has crossed **₹33,000 crore**, reflecting growing private participation.
- **India's defence exports** surged to **₹24,000 crore**, compared to **less than ₹1,000 crore** a decade ago, highlighting strong global demand for **Made-in-India defence equipment**.
- The developments underscore India's progress in becoming a **global defence manufacturing and export hub**.

Govt is committed to achieving Aatmanirbharta in ammunition manufacturing & make the country a global production hub: Raksha Mantri

Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Facility at Solar Defence & Aerospace Limited in Nagpur; Flags-off first tranche of Guided Pinaka rockets to Armenia

"Our aim is to increase private sector's role in defence manufacturing to 50% or more soon"

"Increased involvement of private sector in manufacturing and R&D is the need of the hour"

"India possesses a unique & effective blend of public & private sectors in its defence manufacturing ecosystem; Need to deepen this synergy for national benefit"

PHOTOS ON: 18 JAN 2026 7:04PM BY PIB Delhi

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has visited Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's commitment to achieving Aatmanirbharta in ammunition manufacturing and make the country a global production hub in the field. Inaugurating the Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Facility at the Solar Defence & Aerospace Limited in Nagpur, Maharashtra on January 15, 2026, he flagged the first tranche ammunition shipments shipped to the country's defence partners with the Government making the trend to become self-reliant in the field.



© PIB/Ankur Kulkarni

Indian Air Force to Showcase Operation Sindoor Formation at Republic Day Parade

- **India's 2026 Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path** will mark a major shift from **traditional static displays** to an **operational, battle-based narrative**, reflecting **modern warfare preparedness** and **defence communication strategy**.

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- For the **first time**, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will showcase an **operational formation** based on **Operation Sindoor**, highlighting **real-world joint battle integration** instead of ceremonial presentations.

Key Highlights :

- **Operation Sindoor** was a **high-precision tri-services military campaign** launched in **May 2025** after a **major terror attack in Pahalgam**, and has been chosen as the **central military narrative** due to strong **public interest**.
- According to **Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh**, the **90-minute parade** will **weave a sequential story** of a modern battle, covering **reconnaissance, logistics, long-range strikes, backup support, and air power integration**.
- The parade will feature **live commentary**, aimed at improving **public understanding of contemporary warfare, joint operations, and the actual deployment of manpower, equipment, and technology**.
- A key highlight will be the **Indian Army's phased Battle Array**, displayed alongside an **IAF aerial battle array**, demonstrating **land–air coordination** in real-time combat scenarios.
- The **flypast** will include frontline platforms such as **Rafale, Su-30, MiG-29 fighter jets, Apache helicopters, and Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)**.
- **Strategic and maritime aircraft** including **C-130, C-295, and P-8I** will also participate, showcasing **strategic lift and surveillance capabilities**.
- **Specialised animal contingents**, including **Zanskar ponies and Bactrian camels**, will highlight the **Army's logistical strengths in high-altitude and desert terrains**.
- The parade will include **18 marching contingents and 13 military bands**, featuring units such as the **Ladakh Scouts and the Bhairav contingent**.
- The **2026 celebrations commemorate the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram"**, which serves as the **overarching theme of tableaux and cultural performances**.
- A total of **30 tableaux** will be showcased, including **17 from States and Union Territories and 13 from Central Ministries**, based on the themes **"Swatantrata ka Mantra" and "Samriddhi ka Mantra"**.
- Around **2,500 artists** will participate in a **mega cultural programme**, presenting **classical, folk, and tribal dance forms** celebrating India's heritage.
- **European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** will attend as **Chief Guests**, coinciding with the **India–EU Summit**, underlining India's **strategic global engagement**.



ENVIRONMENT

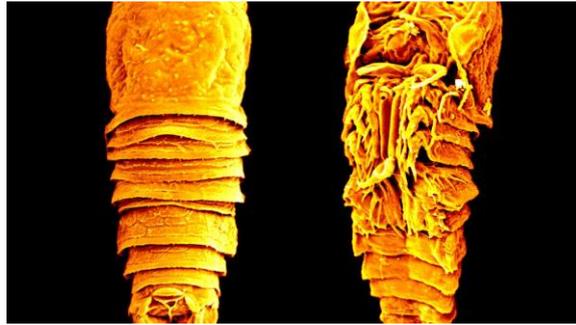
New Genus and Species *Indiaphonte bijoyi* Discovered in Lakshadweep Waters

- **Researchers from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)** discovered a **new genus and species of microscopic harpacticoid copepod** from the **Kavaratti lagoon, Union Territory of Lakshadweep**.
- The discovery has been published in **'Zootaxa'**, a **leading international journal for animal taxonomy**.
- The newly identified crustacean belongs to the **family Laophontidae** under the **Class Copepoda**.

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- It has been classified as a **new genus** due to its **distinct and unique morphological features** that do not match any previously recorded genus within the **Laophontidae** family.
- The species has been named ***Indiaphonte bijoyi***.
- The **genus name 'Indiaphonte'** honours **India**, while the **species name 'bijoyi'** is dedicated to **S. Bijoy Nandan, Dean, Faculty of Marine Sciences, CUSAT, and former Vice-Chancellor of Kannur University, Kerala.**
- The organism is a **meiofauna**, referring to **tiny invertebrates less than 1 millimetre (mm)** in size that live in **sediments of aquatic ecosystems.**
- It possesses a **semi-cylindrical, depressed body**, which is **broader in the middle and tapers towards the posterior**, along with **antennae-like appendages at the anterior end.**
- The **body length of females ranges from 518 to 772 micrometres (µm)**, which is **slightly larger than males**, whose body length ranges from **508 to 756 micrometres (µm).**



Recent News :

- In Dec 2025, Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered a new **soil-dwelling micro-arthropod species** named '**Neelus sikkimensis**' in the **high-altitude regions of Sikkim.**

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

India Hosts 28th CSPOC Conference at New Delhi from January 14–16, 2026

- The **Government of India (GoI)** hosted the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** from **January 14–16, 2026** at the **Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi.**
- The conference was **organised by the Parliament of India** and **chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.**
- **India hosted CSPOC for the fourth time**, earlier editions being held in **1970–71, 1986, and 2010.**

28th Conference Of Speakers And Presiding Officers Of Commonwealth Countries To Begin Today In New Delhi



Key Highlights :

- The **CSPOC** is a **high-level parliamentary forum** bringing together **Speakers and Presiding Officers** of national and sub-national legislatures from **Commonwealth countries.**
- **CSPOC was established in 1969** on the initiative of **Lucien Lamoureux**, then **Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada.**
- The conference follows a **biennial cycle**, holding a **full-membership meeting every two years.**
- The key objective of **CSPOC** is to **promote parliamentary democracy and good governance** by strengthening the **independence and impartiality** of Speakers and Presiding Officers and sharing best practices.
- The forum focuses on **legislative procedures, decorum, use of technology, ethics, parliamentary privileges, and women's participation.**

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- Participants included Speakers and Presiding Officers from 53 Commonwealth countries and 14 semi-autonomous legislatures.
- CSPOC 2026 commenced on 14 January 2026 with a Standing Committee meeting comprising 15 members, with five as quorum, chaired by Om Birla at Sangeeti Conference Hall, Red Fort, New Delhi.
- The conference was inaugurated on 15 January 2026 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The 9th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' (P20) Summit was also inaugurated alongside CSPOC 2026 in New Delhi.
- CSPOC 2026 recorded the largest participation, with 61 Speakers and Presiding Officers from 42 Commonwealth countries and representatives of 4 semi-autonomous parliaments.
- Special invitees included Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Dr. Christopher Kalila, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
- Countries not represented at CSPOC 2026 were Barbados, Bermuda, Cyprus, New Zealand, Uganda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Vanuatu, and Eswatini.
- Semi-autonomous parliaments not represented included British Virgin Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Niue, and St. Helena.
- The conference deliberated on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Parliament, social media's impact on parliamentarians, citizen participation beyond voting, security, health and wellbeing of MPs and staff, and the role of Speakers in safeguarding democratic institutions.
- Om Birla chaired the Lightning Round, Special Plenary and Closing Plenary and delivered the keynote address on "The Role of Speakers and Presiding Officers in Maintaining Strong Democratic Institutions."
- A high-tech multimedia exhibition 'Bharat on the Move' was inaugurated, showcasing India's democratic heritage, parliamentary processes and development achievements with emphasis on technology and governance.
- During the event, Om Birla handed over the chairmanship of the 29th CSPOC to Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the UK House of Commons.
- The 29th CSPOC will be held in London, United Kingdom, in 2028.

About United Kingdom (UK):

- Prime Minister : Keir Starmer
- Capital : London
- Currency : Pound Sterling (GBP).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GalaxEye to Launch First Satellite 'Mission Drishti' in Q1 2026, Boosting India's Private Space Sector

- GalaxEye, an Indian space start-up, is set to launch its first satellite 'Mission Drishti' in the first quarter of 2026, marking a major milestone for India's private space sector.
- Mission Drishti is a multi-sensory Earth observation satellite that combines optical imaging and radar sensing on a single platform, a global first in satellite technology.
- The satellite is India's largest privately developed satellite, highlighting the growing capabilities of private space enterprises in the country.



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- It uses GalaxEye's **patented SyncFused OptoSAR technology**, which **fuses optical data and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** to provide **all-weather Earth observation**, including imaging **through cloud cover**.
- This advanced technology enables **high-reliability, continuous imaging**, overcoming limitations of conventional optical-only satellites.
- **GalaxEye** plans to deploy a **constellation of 10 satellites by 2030**, enabling **near real-time data delivery at scale** for global applications.
- The mission aligns with India's push for **indigenous space innovation** and enhanced **Earth observation capabilities** under the **New Space ecosystem**.
- **CEO of GalaxEye : Suyash Singh**

China Reveals Advanced Type 096 Tang-Class SSBN to Strengthen Sea-Based Nuclear Deterrence

- **China** unveiled its most advanced **ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, the **Type 096 Tang-Class**, marking a major upgrade in its **sea-based nuclear deterrence**.
- The **Type 096** signals a strategic shift as **China narrows the gap** with the **United States and Russia** in the **naval leg of the nuclear triad**.
- Unlike earlier Chinese submarines, the **Tang-Class** places strong emphasis on **stealth, survivability, and long-duration patrols in contested waters**.
- The submarine has an estimated **submerged displacement of 15,000–20,000 tonnes**, placing it in the same category as the **US Ohio-class** and upcoming **Columbia-class submarines**.
- Its larger size allows for **improved nuclear reactor performance**, greater internal space, and advanced **noise-reduction technologies** such as **raft-mounted machinery, hull isolation systems, and vibration dampening**.
- Reports suggest possible **Russian technical influence**, with comparisons drawn to **Russia's Borei-class submarines**, particularly in **acoustic stealth capabilities**.
- The **Type 096** is expected to carry up to **24 JL-3 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs)**, significantly extending **China's nuclear strike range**.
- It is powered by a **pressurised water-cooled nuclear reactor**, driving a **single shaft steam turbine**, enhancing **endurance and submerged performance**.
- Advanced **propulsion systems**, possibly **quieter propellers or pump-jet technology**, further reduce **acoustic signatures** and improve **stealth**.
- The submarine is armed with **six 533 mm torpedo tubes**, capable of launching **Yu-6 wire-guided torpedoes**, strengthening its **conventional combat role**.
- It is equipped with **towed array sonar, acoustic decoys, and countermeasures**, enhancing **defensive survivability** against enemy detection and attacks.
- Overall, the **Type 096 Tang-Class SSBN** represents a major step in **China's undersea nuclear modernization** and its ambition to establish a **credible, survivable second-strike capability**.



About China:

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi (CNY)
- President: Xi Jinping
- Prime Minister: Li Qiang

SPORTS NEWS

BCCI Signs ₹270 Crore Sponsorship Deal with Gemini Ahead of IPL 2026

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- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has signed a **₹270 crore sponsorship agreement** with **Google's AI platform Gemini** for the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, starting from the **2026 season**, providing a major commercial boost to the league.
- The **Gemini–BCCI sponsorship deal** is valued at **₹270 crore** and is a **three-year agreement** covering multiple IPL seasons. The deal further strengthens the **global brand value of the IPL** and reflects its status as the **world's most-watched T20 cricket tournament**, attracting leading global technology companies.
- The partnership highlights the **rising role of artificial intelligence companies in Indian cricket**. AI platforms are increasingly associating with cricket due to its massive reach and fan base.
- **ChatGPT**, a rival AI platform, is already a sponsor of the **Women's Premier League**, indicating a broader trend of **AI-driven brands entering sports sponsorship** to enhance digital engagement and visibility.
- The **IPL sponsorship landscape** continues to remain strong across categories.
- The **Tata Group** remains the **title sponsor** of the IPL. **Apollo Tyres** replaced **Dream11** as the **official jersey sponsor** following the government ban on real-money gaming platforms.
- Apollo Tyres secured the jersey sponsorship rights for **₹579 crore**, ensuring continuity in IPL branding.
- The **IPL 2026 season** will be played from **26 March to 31 May 2026** and will feature top **Indian and international cricketers**.
- The IPL continues to be the **most valuable T20 league globally**, and the new sponsorship agreements enhance its **financial stability and commercial strength** ahead of the season.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti / Parakram Diwas 2026 Observed on 23 January

- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti 2026** is observed on **23 January 2026** to mark the **birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, one of India's most prominent freedom fighters.
- The day is also celebrated as **Parakram Diwas 2026**, meaning the **Day of Courage or Valor**.
- The Government of India designated **23 January as Parakram Diwas** to inspire citizens, especially the **youth**, to imbibe Netaji's values of **fortitude, selflessness, patriotism, and unwavering determination**, even in the face of adversity.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** was born on **23 January 1897** in **Cuttack, Odisha**. His parents were **Janakinath Bose** and **Prabhavati Dutt**.
- During **World War II**, Netaji organised and led the **Azad Hind Fauj (Indian National Army)** in **1942** in Southeast Asia, mobilising around **5,000 soldiers** with the powerful slogan "**Delhi Chalo**".



- He also founded the **Forward Bloc** to strengthen political mobilisation, particularly in **Bengal**.
- As per reports, Netaji suffered **third-degree burns** following a **plane crash near Tohoku, Japanese Taiwan**, on **18 August 1945**. Although the authorities announced his death in **2017**, his fate continues to be a subject of **public debate and speculation**.
- On **19 January 2021**, the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India**, announced that Netaji's **125th birth anniversary celebrations** would begin from **23 January 2021**.
- To honour his **sacrifice and immense contribution to India's freedom struggle**, the day was officially named **Parakram Diwas**.

Daily CA One- Liner: January 22nd

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** flagged off **India's first sleeper Vande Bharat train**, connecting **Kolkata (Howrah)** with **Guwahati (Kamakhya)**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the **₹6,957 crore Kaziranga Elevated Corridor** in **Assam** and **virtually flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express trains**, aiming to improve road, rail, wildlife protection, tourism, and employment in the region
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has approved the establishment of **two MSME Technology Centres** in **Himachal Pradesh** at **Pandoga (Una district)** and **Parwanoo (Solan district)** as part of a nationwide expansion initiative
- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** has received the **SKOCH Award 2025** at the **104th SKOCH Summit** for its **Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS)**, a national disaster and emergency alerting platform
- Renowned music maestro **Ilaiyaraaja** has been selected for the **Padmapani Award**, which will be conferred at the **11th Ajanta–Ellora International Film Festival** in early **2026**
- **Abu Dhabi**, the capital of the **United Arab Emirates**, has been ranked the **world's safest city for the 10th consecutive year** in an international safety ranking released by **Numbeo**, reaffirming its global reputation for security and high quality of life
- Former President **Ram Nath Kovind** officially launched the **Responsible Nations Index (RNI)** in **New Delhi**, introducing a new global framework to assess countries based on **responsibility rather than power or wealth**
- **India and the United Arab Emirates** agreed to **double bilateral trade to USD 200 billion by 2032** during delegation-level talks held in **New Delhi** between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
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- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti 2026** is observed on **23 January 2026** to mark the **birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**, one of India's most prominent freedom fighters.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** released the **World Economic Outlook (WEO)** titled "**Global Economy: Steady amid Divergent Forces**", revising India's **GDP growth for FY26 to 7.3%**, up from **6.6% (October 2025 estimate)**.
- **Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi** undertook a **3-day official visit to India from January 15–17, 2026**, to strengthen **India–Japan bilateral relations**.

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- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that the so-called ‘BRICS Naval Exercise’ was not an official BRICS activity and was entirely a South Africa-led initiative.
- Uganda’s Electoral Commission declared 81-year-old President Yoweri Museveni of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) as the winner of the 2026 presidential election, securing 71.65% of the votes and a seventh term (2026–2031).
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a Medium Calibre Ammunition Manufacturing Facility at Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- India’s 2026 Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path will mark a major shift from traditional static displays to an operational, battle-based narrative, reflecting modern warfare preparedness and defence communication strategy.
- Researchers from Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) discovered a new genus and species of microscopic harpacticoid copepod from the Kavaratti lagoon, Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
- The Government of India (GoI) hosted the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) from January 14–16, 2026 at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi.
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