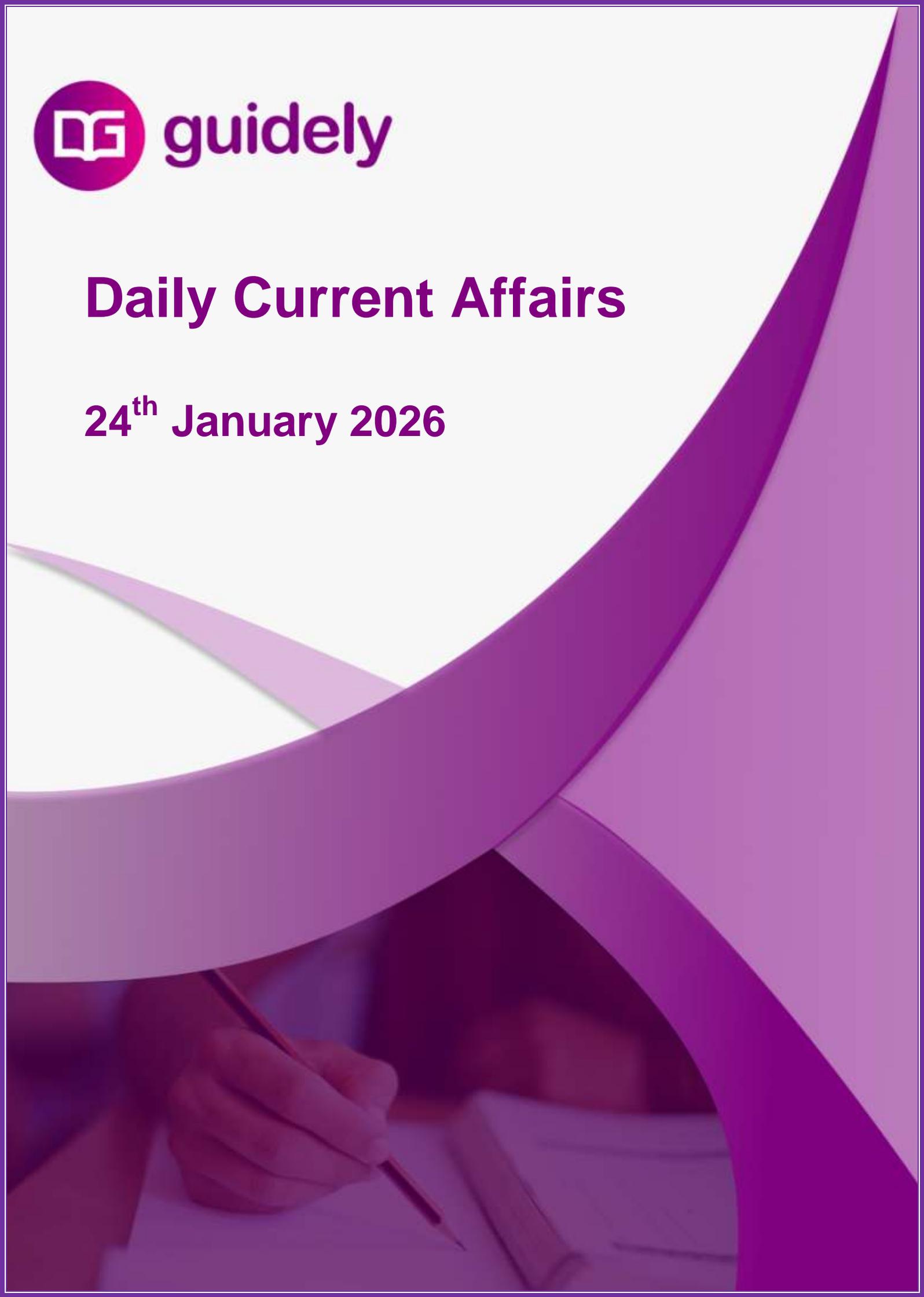




Daily Current Affairs

24th January 2026



BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

Reserve Bank of India Issues Updated FEMA Regulations for Export and Import Transactions Effective 1 October 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026 under FEMA, 1999, introducing **uniform timelines** and **enhanced monitoring** for trade-related foreign exchange transactions.
- These regulations **supersede** the **FEMA (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015** and will come into effect from **1 October 2026**.



Key Highlights :

- The regulations are notified under **Sections 7, 8, 10(6), and 47(2)** of **FEMA, 1999**.
- They are applicable to **exports, imports, and merchanting trade transactions**, covering goods, services, **software exports**, and **service imports**.
- All references to **RBI** must be routed via the Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and Authorisation (**PRAVAAH**) **portal**, and any doubtful transactions must be reported to the **Directorate of Enforcement (ED)** under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**.
- Exporters must submit an **Export Declaration Form (EDF)** specifying the **full export value** of goods at the time of export.
- **Authorized Dealer (AD) banks** must enter **EDF details** for goods exported through **non-EDI ports** into the Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) within **5 working days**.
- For **service exports**, **AD banks** must upload exporter-submitted **EDF details** into **EDPMS** within **5 working days**.
- For **service imports** through **non-EDI ports**, **AD banks** must enter import document details in Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS) within **5 working days**, and upload importer-declared details within the same timeframe.
- **Export proceeds** must be **realized and repatriated** within **15 months** of shipment/invoice, and for exports invoiced in Indian Rupees (INR), within **18 months**.
- All **inward and outward remittances** linked to exports, imports, and merchanting trade must be reported in **EDPMS** and/or **IDPMS**.
- **AD banks** are empowered to **monitor** all transactions in **EDPMS** and **IDPMS**, follow up with exporters, importers, and persons undertaking **Merchanting Trade Transactions (MTT)**, and ensure closure of outstanding entries.
- **Authorised Dealer (AD)**: Entity authorised by **RBI** to conduct foreign exchange transactions.
- **Export Declaration Form (EDF)**: Form through which exporters declare full value and details of goods or services exported from India.
- **Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS)**: Digital platform to track, monitor, and process export-related forex transactions.

- **Import Data Processing and Monitoring System (IDPMS):** Digital platform to track, monitor, and manage import-related forex transactions.

Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, **The RBI** has mandated banks and eligible **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to implement a **fully automated Complaint Management System (CMS)** with direct access for the **Internal Ombudsman (IO)** and **Deputy IO (DIO)**.

About RBI :

- Established: **1 April 1935**.
- Headquarters: **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- **Governor: Sanjay Malhotra**

Indian fintech firm ZET Secures National Payments Corporation of India Nod to Enable UPI Payments via RuPay Credit Cards

- Credit-focused Indian fintech firm **ZET** has received approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to operate as a **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)**.
- With this approval, **ZET** becomes eligible to offer **UPI services**, marking a major step in integrating **credit card functionality** with the **UPI ecosystem**.
- After receiving **NPCI approval**, the company launched **ZET UPI**, enabling users to make **UPI transactions** using **RuPay credit cards** issued via the **ZET platform**.
- **ZET UPI** service is supported through a banking partnership with **RBL Bank** (earlier known as **Ratnakar Bank Limited**).
- The transaction processing infrastructure is powered by **Juspay**, a payments technology platform.
- **ZET credit card users** with an active **subscription plan** will be eligible for **cashback benefits** on **UPI transactions**, in addition to existing **credit card-linked rewards**.
- The move strengthens **credit-based digital payments** and expands **RuPay credit card usage on UPI**, aligning with India's push for **fintech-led financial inclusion**.

[IMPACT]

ZET receives NPCI approval to launch UPI payments via RuPay credit cards



Razorpay POS Obtains Reserve Bank of India Approval to Operate as Offline Payment Aggregator

- Fintech major **Razorpay's** offline payments arm, **Razorpay POS**, has received authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an **offline payment aggregator (PA-P)**.
- With this approval, **Razorpay** now holds all **three key RBI licences: online payment aggregator, cross-border payment aggregator** (granted in **December 2025**), and **offline payment aggregator**.
- The **PA-P (Offline)** licence will enable **Razorpay POS**



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to expand **in-store payment infrastructure** and handle **high-volume transactions** across sectors such as **large retail chains** and **SMEs**.

- Currently, **Razorpay POS** offers a **hardware suite** including **Android Smart POS**, **mPOS (magnetic stripe POS)**, and **Soundbox devices**, supporting **secure and compliant** in-store payments.
- **MD & Co-founder of Razorpay : Shashank Kumar**

Reserve Bank of India Gives In-Principle Nod to Payoneer India to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted **in-principle approval** to **Payoneer India Private Limited** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)**.
- **Payoneer India Private Limited** is a subsidiary of **USA-based Payoneer Global**, strengthening its presence in India's **cross-border payments ecosystem**.
- The **PA-CB approval** allows **Payoneer** to facilitate **end-to-end inward and outward** cross-border payment transactions for **Indian importers and exporters**.
- Under this approval, **Indian exporters** can receive **overseas payments**, while **importers** can make **international payments** through the **Payoneer platform**.
- The key objective of **RBI's approval** is to support **Indian businesses**, especially **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups**, in accessing **global markets** and scaling **international trade operations**.
- As per **RBI's PA-CB guidelines**, **non-bank entities** must obtain **RBI authorisation** to operate as cross-border payment aggregators.
- **Net worth requirement for PA-CB entities: ₹15 crore initially**, increasing to **₹25 crore** by the end of the **third year**.
- The **per-transaction limit** under **PA-CB norms** is capped at **₹25 lakh**.
- **PA-CB entities** must maintain **separate accounts** for **import and export transactions**, with **no netting of balances** permitted.



Recent News :

- In Jan 2026, **Innoviti Technologies Private Limited**, a payments-centric retail **Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform**, received a **Certificate of Authorization** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007** across India.

Reserve Bank of India Releases Operational Guidelines for Interest Subvention on Export Credit under Niryat Protsahan

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **operational guidelines** for extending interest subvention on **pre- and post-shipment export credit** under the **Export Promotion**

RBI Issues Guidelines On Interest Subvention For Export Credit Under Niryat Protsahan



Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN (1st Component).

- The objective of **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN – Interest Subvention Component** is to facilitate improved access to **rupee export credit** for **MSME exporters** by **reducing the cost of credit**.

Key Highlights :

- **Eligible institutions** include all **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** (excluding RRBs), **Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**, **State Co-operative Banks (StCBs)**, and **All-India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)** to extend benefits to eligible exporters.
- **Eligible MSMEs** include all **manufacturer exporters** and **merchant exporters** holding a valid **Importer Exporter Code (IEC)** and **MSME Udyam Registration Number (URM)**.
- The **interest subvention rate** is **2.75% per annum (p.a)** on **pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit** for MSMEs.
- An **MSME exporter** may receive a **maximum subvention benefit** of **Rs 50 lakh** for **FY26**.
- The **Collateral Support Component** of **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN** aims to address **collateral constraints** and improve access to bank finance for MSME exporters.
- Under this, **collateral guarantee support** is provided in partnership with the **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)**.
- **Guarantee coverage:** Up to **85% for MSEs** and **65% for Medium exporters**, with a **maximum outstanding guaranteed exposure** of **Rs 10 crore** per exporter per financial year.
- The **RBI** has issued **operational guidelines** only for the **Interest Subvention component** of **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN**.

About Export Promotion Mission :

- The **Export Promotion Mission (EPM)** is jointly implemented by the **Department of Commerce (DoC)**, **Ministry of MSME**, and **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, with a **total outlay** of **Rs 25,060 Cr** for **FY26 to FY31**.
- It is implemented collaboratively by the **Department of Commerce**, the **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)**, and the **Ministry of Finance**.
- **EPM** has two integrated sub-schemes:
- **NIRYAT PROTSAHAN** – focuses on enabling access to **affordable and diversified trade finance**.
- **NIRYAT DISHA** – supports **non-financial enablers** such as **market access**, **branding**, **regulatory compliance**, **logistics**, and **trade intelligence**.

Bank of Baroda Enters Memorandum of Understanding with India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited for Joint Infrastructure Lending and Loan Syndication

- **Bank of Baroda** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL)** to facilitate **joint lending and loan syndication** for a wide range of infrastructure projects.

- Under the agreement, **IIFCL** and **Bank of Baroda** will collaborate to jointly finance **diverse infrastructure projects** across both established and emerging sectors, leveraging their respective strengths and expertise.
- **IIFCL** is a **wholly-owned Government of India** company, established in **2006** to provide long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.

About Bank of Baroda :

- Established : **20th July 1908**
- Headquarters : **Vadodara, Gujarat, India.**
- **Managing Director & CEO : Debadatta Chand**

BoB partners with IIFCL to boost infra financing

BANK OF BARODA (BoB) on Wednesday announced the signing of a pact with India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL) to facilitate joint lending and loan syndication for a wide range of infrastructure projects.

This partnership will accelerate the growth of key infrastructure projects being set up in India, the bank said in a statement.

Under the agreement, IIFCL and Bank of Baroda will collaborate to jointly finance a diverse range of infrastructure projects. Falash Srivastava, deputy

This collaboration will accelerate the growth of key infrastructure projects being set up in India

managing director of IIFCL said that IIFCL is actively supporting national objectives by enabling long-term and sustainable financing for infrastructure, with a strong focus on green finance, MSMEs and rural infrastructure - thereby fostering inclusive and resilient economic growth. —PTI

Suryoday Small Finance Bank Collaborates with HyperVerge to Deploy Video KYC

- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** partnered with **HyperVerge** to deploy an **AI-powered Video KYC (VKYC)** solution for **digital customer onboarding**.
- The **VKYC solution** will help the bank strengthen **regulatory compliance**, improve **operational efficiency**, and enhance **digital onboarding**.
- The system ensures high-level **data security**, with customer **personal data** stored securely, accessible only by **Suryoday Small Finance Bank**.
- The **VKYC solution** enables the bank to **scale onboarding volumes** without adding **operational overhead**, while maintaining a high-quality **customer experience**.
- Each agent can complete nearly **twice the number** of agent-approved verification calls per day compared to previous workflows, improving **conversions and productivity**.
- **HyperVerge** collaborated closely with the bank to deliver a solution that **onboards customers faster**, improves **success rates**, and ensures **regulatory adherence**.
- The **data privacy controls** are strict, ensuring **personal data security** and reinforcing the bank's **regulatory commitments**.
- **MD & CEO of Suryoday Small Finance Bank : Baskar Babu**
- **CEO of HyperVerge : Kedar Kulkarni**



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Global Risks Report 2026 by World Economic Forum Identifies Goeconomic Confrontation as Top Global Threat

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** published the **21st edition** of its annual risk assessment titled '**Global Risks Report: 21st Edition Insight 2026**'.
- Top global risks identified are **goeconomic confrontation**, **state-based conflict**, **extreme**



weather, social protection gaps, and misinformation.

Key Highlights :

- The **2026 global risks outlook** is marked by **pervasive uncertainty**.
- **Extreme weather** has dropped from **2nd to 4th place** in the **two-year outlook**, but remains the **most severe long-term (10-year) risk**.
- The report is based on the **Global Risks Perception Survey (GRPS)** with insights from **1,300 global leaders** and experts, covering **33 key global risks**.
- It also uses the **Executive Opinion Survey (EOS 2026)** with inputs from **11,000 business leaders** in **116 economies** to identify country-specific risks.
- **GRPS 2025-26** featured **4 key components: risk landscape, consequences, risk governance, and outlook**.
- The report examines global risks across **3 time horizons: immediate (2026), short-to-medium term (up to 2028), and long term (2036)**.
- **Geoeconomic confrontation** ranks as the **biggest risk** for the **immediate term (2026)** and **two-year horizon**, but drops to **19th place** over **10 years**.
- **State-based armed conflict** ranks **2nd** in the **immediate term**, and **5th** in the **two-year outlook**.
- **Non-environmental risks** such as **geoeconomic confrontation, misinformation, and societal polarization** dominate policy attention over the next two years, replacing **environmental threats** like **extreme weather, pollution, biodiversity loss, and critical changes to earth systems**.
- In the **two-year outlook, environmental risks decline: extreme weather** from **2nd to 4th, pollution** from **6th to 9th, biodiversity loss** and **critical changes to earth systems** fall by **5 and 7 places** respectively.
- **Long-term risks (up to 2036): extreme weather (1st), biodiversity loss & ecosystem collapse (2nd), critical changes to earth systems (3rd), misinformation & disinformation (4th), adverse AI outcomes (5th)**.
- **Key risks faced by India: cyber insecurity (major risk), inequality (wealth, income), insufficient public services & social protections, economic downturn (recession, stagnation), and state-based armed conflict (proxy wars, civil wars, terrorism)**.

About WEF:

- President & CEO : Børge Brende
- Headquarters : Geneva Canton, Switzerland
- Established : 1971.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

Assam Government Announces Monthly Financial Assistance for Research Scholars

- The **Government of Assam** announced a **monthly financial assistance scheme** for research scholars under the **Atal Vichal Agragami Assam programme**.
- The scheme will be **launched on February 11, 2026**.

- ₹25,000 per month will be provided to **regular research scholars**.
- ₹40,000 per month will be provided to **Divyang research scholars**, ensuring **inclusive higher education support**.
- The scheme is applicable to scholars enrolled in **universities and higher education institutions across Assam**.
- The initiative aims to **reduce financial stress**, allowing scholars to focus on **quality research and academic excellence**.
- The announcement was made by **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma**, who described it as a **transformative step for Assam's academic ecosystem**.
- The scheme focuses on **empowering young talent**, promoting **high-quality and interdisciplinary research**, and strengthening Assam as a **knowledge-driven economy**.
- Higher financial support for **Divyang scholars** highlights the government's commitment to **inclusive growth and social justice**.
- The assistance will help scholars meet expenses related to **research materials, fieldwork, data collection, and living costs**.
- It is expected to encourage **long-term and in-depth research projects** and improve overall **research productivity**.
- The scheme forms part of Assam's **broader education reform agenda**, complementing initiatives in **skill development and industry-academia collaboration**.
- It aligns with **national priorities of research, innovation, and self-reliance**, while helping **attract and retain research talent within the state**.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday announced a huge initiative to support research scholars in the state, describing it as a significant step towards strengthening Assam's academic and innovation ecosystem.

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

- The Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam, inaugurated Sanskaar Shaala, a value-based education programme for children, in Guwahati. The initiative aims to promote moral education, Indian cultural values, and social responsibility among children, complementing formal education in a modern, technology-driven society.

Vice President Releases Book on Ram Janmabhoomi Issue

- **Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the book titled **“Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response”** at the **Vice President’s Enclave, New Delhi**.
- The book is authored by **Shri Surendra Kumar Pachauri**, a **former Secretary to the Government of India**.
- The Vice President stated that the book presents the **long and complex journey of reclaiming the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram** in a **balanced, factual, and scholarly manner**, without exaggeration or bias.
- He described the **construction of Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya** as a **landmark moment in India’s civilisational history**, where **faith, history, law, and democracy converged peacefully**.
- The Vice President credited **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** for guiding the revival of the sacred site in a manner consistent with **democratic values and cultural confidence**.
- The event was attended by dignitaries including **Shri Nripendra Mishra, Shri Vinod Rai, Shri Deepak Gupta, Shri Amit Khare, and Shri Ashish Gosain of Har Anand Publications**, among others.

Vice President releases book on Ram Janmabhoomi Movement

Construction of the Shri Ram Mandir at Ayodhya represents a defining moment in India’s civilisational journey: Vice President

2019 Supreme Court Verdict Fulfilled Aspirations of Millions and Strength of Indian Democracy Proven Through Ram Janmabhoomi Verdict, Says Vice President

Lord Ram is the Soul of the Nation and India’s Dharma; Ram Mandir Restored Self-Respect of Indians Worldwide: Vice President

Public Participation and Crowd Funding Made Ram Mandir a People’s Movement: Vice President

Ram Rajya Represents Justice and Equality for All, Says Vice President

Book Documents Historic Struggle to Preserve Civilisational Values: Vice President

Rajasthan to develop Alwar Biological Park in NCR region

- **Rajasthan government** has planned a new **Biological Park** in **Alwar district**, which will become the **first biological park of its kind in the National Capital Region (NCR)**.
- The park will be developed in the **Kati Ghati–Jaisamand area of Alwar** and will cover around **100 hectares of land**.
- **30% area will be developed as a zoo**, while the remaining **70% will be maintained as green and natural forest space** to ensure an eco-friendly environment.
- The biological park will house **over 400 wild animals belonging to 81 species**, including **lions, cheetahs, Indian tiger species and African giraffes**.
- A key attraction will be the availability of **lion safari, tiger safari and herbivore safari at a single location**, a **first-of-its-kind feature in the NCR region**.
- A **high-tech animal rescue centre** will be set up inside the park, developed on the lines of the **Gir National Park rescue facility in Gujarat**.
- The park will also include a **modern veterinary hospital with advanced medical facilities** and a **dedicated team of wildlife doctors and forest officials**.
- A **butterfly park** will be developed within the complex to showcase different butterfly species and enhance **educational and ecological awareness**.



- **Animals will be sourced from around 25 zoos across India**, with transfers to be carried out in a **phased and regulated manner** after approvals.
- A **Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared**, and the project will commence after clearance from the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**.
- The Alwar Biological Park is expected to **boost wildlife conservation, eco-tourism and regional development** while strengthening Rajasthan's position in **sustainable tourism and biodiversity protection**.

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

RECENT NEWS

- Rajasthan has achieved an important milestone in sustainable agriculture. Bamanwas Kankar Panchayat has officially become the first fully organic village body in the state, covering seven hamlets. The achievement highlights India's growing focus on chemical-free farming, environmental protection, and farmer-friendly agricultural practices

India notifies GEI targets under Carbon Credit Trading Scheme

- **Government of India notified Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) targets in January 2026 for additional carbon-intensive sectors** under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**.
- **208 new obligated entities** have been brought under the compliance framework, expanding coverage of the **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)**.
- With this notification, the **total number of obligated entities has increased to 490**, strengthening India's industrial decarbonisation framework.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI)** refers to **emissions per unit of output**, focusing on **efficiency improvement rather than absolute emission cuts**.
- **GEI-based targets allow industrial growth while reducing carbon footprint**, making them suitable for **developing economies like India**.
- The move encourages **adoption of cleaner technologies, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable production practices** in emission-intensive industries.
- The notification was issued by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, the nodal ministry for **climate policy and emission regulation**.



The Government has notified Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) targets for additional carbon-intensive sectors under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said that a total of 208 obligated entities across these sectors will now be required to meet specified emission intensity reduction targets. It added that with this expansion, the compliance mechanism of the Indian Carbon Market now covers 490 obligated entities across India's most emission-intensive industries.

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- Under **CCTS**, entities that **exceed GEI targets earn carbon credits**, while those **failing to meet targets must purchase credits**, ensuring compliance through a **market-based mechanism**.
- **One carbon credit represents reduction or removal of one tonne of CO₂ equivalent**, creating **financial incentives for emission reduction**.
- Expansion of obligated entities will **improve market liquidity, credibility, and effectiveness** of the Indian Carbon Market.
- For industries, the scheme increases **short-term compliance responsibility** but offers **long-term benefits through efficiency gains, innovation, and access to carbon finance**.
- Overall, the notification strengthens **India's climate commitments**, supports **industrial decarbonisation**, and aligns **environmental sustainability with economic growth**.

India delivers cancer medicines to Afghanistan as humanitarian medical aid

- **India delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul**, reinforcing its humanitarian support to the **people of Afghanistan**, particularly in the **health sector**.
- **The assistance was confirmed by the Ministry of External Affairs** and forms part of India's **ongoing humanitarian outreach** to Afghanistan.
- **Cancer patients in Afghanistan face severe challenges** due to **shortages of medicines, weak healthcare infrastructure, and high treatment costs**, making external medical support critical.
- **The consignment aims to ensure continuity of cancer treatment**, prevent therapy interruptions, and **save lives of vulnerable patients** dependent on essential oncology drugs.
- **India reiterated its commitment to the Afghan people irrespective of political developments**, focusing on **health, food security, and essential humanitarian needs**.
- **The medical aid reflects India's "people-first diplomacy"**, prioritising humanitarian assistance in **conflict-affected and fragile regions**.
- **Afghanistan's healthcare system remains under strain** due to prolonged conflict and economic difficulties, with **cancer patients among the worst affected** because of the need for specialised and long-term treatment.
- **India's support helps bridge immediate gaps in medical supplies**, providing relief to hospitals and healthcare providers in **Kabul and surrounding regions**.

New Delhi [India], January 22 (ANI): India on Thursday dispatched humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, reiterating its commitment to support partner countries in times of need.

In a post on X, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "India delivers 7.5 tons of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul to address the urgent needs of cancer patients."

The medicines were sent to meet the shortage in Afghanistan

"India remains committed to supporting the friendly people of Afghanistan," Jaiswal added.

Odisha imposes complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and tobacco products

- **Odisha State Health and Family Welfare Department announced a complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and all products containing tobacco or nicotine** to safeguard public health and prevent misuse.
- **The ban covers manufacture, processing, packaging, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale** of these products across the state.
- **Both packaged and unpackaged products are included**, even if components are sold separately but intended to be mixed for consumption.
- **The notification makes Odisha fully compliant with the Supreme Court's nationwide directives** on prohibition of gutkha and pan masala.
- **Odisha had earlier banned the sale of tobacco products in 2013**, but the new notification removes loopholes and ensures **strict and uniform enforcement**.
- **The ban applies to all chewable food products**, whether **flavoured or unflavoured, scented, or mixed with additives**, and irrespective of the name or form under which they are sold.
- **Health Secretary Aswathy S stated that the decision follows Supreme Court directions** and aims at zero tolerance towards tobacco-related violations.
- **From February 1, 2026, higher central taxes will apply to tobacco and pan masala products**, including **40% Goods and Services Tax on pan masala and cigarettes** and **18% Goods and Services Tax on beedis**.
- **A Health and National Security Cess along with additional excise duty** will also be levied on tobacco products from the same date.
- **New rules for chewing tobacco, jarda scented tobacco, and gutkha packing machines** will come into force from **February 1, 2026**, and the existing **Goods and Services Tax compensation cess** will be discontinued.
- **The comprehensive ban is expected to reduce tobacco consumption, protect public health, and strengthen enforcement of national health regulations**, making Odisha a strict no-gutkha and no-pan-masala state.



Odisha announced complete ban on all tobacco-related products (Image for representation)

In line with the directions issued by the Supreme Court and to safeguard public health, the Odisha government has imposed a statewide ban on all tobacco and nicotine-containing products, such as gutkha, pan masala, zarda, khaini, and more.

The production, sale, and trade of tobacco-related products have been strictly prohibited across the state, as the government outlined

that such products pose a major threat to public health. The ban has been enforced to safeguard public health.

About Odisha:

- Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi
- Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati
- Capital: Bhubaneswar
- National Parks: Simlipal National Park, Bhitarkanika National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chandaka Wildlife Sanctuary, Nandankanan Zoological Park, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Kotagarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Lakhari Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary

RECENT NEWS

- Odisha is set to create history as senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Anu Garg assumes charge as the state's first woman Chief Secretary from January 1, 2026. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in the administrative history

of Odisha, reflecting growing representation of women in the country's top bureaucratic positions.

Tamil Nadu announces Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu to promote multilingual Indian literature

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin announced a new annual state-sponsored literary award named "Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award)"** during the valedictory ceremony of the **Chennai International Book Fair**.
- The award will have a **national-level character** and will recognise **outstanding literary works in major Indian languages other than Hindi**, highlighting India's **linguistic diversity and inclusive cultural policy**.
- **Each selected language will carry a cash prize of ₹5 lakh**, making it one of the **highest-value state-backed literary honours in India**.
- In the **first phase**, the award will recognise best literary works in **seven Indian languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Bengali, and Marathi**. The government has indicated that **more languages may be included in future phases**.
- The initiative aims to **strengthen multilingual literature**, with the Chief Minister emphasising that **language should act as a bridge, not a barrier**, and that national unity is reinforced through linguistic diversity.
- The award is designed as a **structured annual honour**, reflecting Tamil Nadu's effort to **institutionalise state support for literature**, similar to support extended to sports, science, and innovation.
- The announcement comes amid concerns over **uncertainty surrounding Sahitya Akademi awards**, with allegations of **interference by the Union Culture Ministry** in the cancellation of award announcements.
- To ensure **independence and transparency**, the **Tamil Nadu government will act only as a patron**, not as a selector. **Separate expert committees will be formed for each language**, comprising **reputed writers and literary experts**, to select awardees.



The award, under the auspices of the state government, will carry a cash prize of ₹5 lakh.

Chennai: Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday announced an annual literary award for best works in languages including Tamil, Telugu, Bengali and Marathi.

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

Lucknow becomes first Zero Fresh Waste Dump city in Uttar Pradesh

- **Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC)** has adopted a **scientific and modern waste management system** to manage solid waste generated by a population of around **40 lakh** and nearly **7.5 lakh establishments**.
- **Lucknow inaugurated its third fresh waste processing plant at Shivari**, making it the **first city in Uttar Pradesh to process 100% of its fresh municipal waste scientifically**. With this, the city has achieved the status of a **'Zero Fresh Waste Dump' city**.
- The **Shivari waste processing plant** has a capacity of **700 metric tonnes per day (MT/day)**. With three plants operational, **Lucknow's total waste processing capacity is 2,100 MT/day**, which matches the city's **daily waste generation of around 2,000 MT**.
- LMC has partnered with **Bhumi Green Energy** to operate the three waste processing plants. **Door-to-door waste collection efficiency stands at 96.53%**, and **over 70% waste is segregated at source**.
- Daily waste is segregated into **organic waste (55%)** and **inorganic waste (45%)**.
- **Organic waste** is converted into **compost and biogas**, while **inorganic waste** is recycled or converted into **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)** used in **cement and paper industries**.
- Lucknow earlier had about **18.5 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste**, out of which **12.86 lakh metric tonnes has been scientifically processed** using eco-friendly methods.
- From processed waste, **2.27 lakh metric tonnes of RDF** has been supplied for industrial co-processing.
- Other materials generated include **coarse waste (4.38 lakh MT)**, **bio-soil (0.59 lakh MT)**, and **construction and demolition waste (2.35 lakh MT)**, used for **infrastructure development and filling low-lying areas**.
- Continuous processing of legacy waste has helped **reclaim over 25 acres of land**, which has been developed into a **fully equipped waste treatment complex with windrow pads, internal roads, sheds, and weighbridges**.
- LMC is planning to establish a **15 MW Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plant at Shivari**, which will use **1,000–1,200 MT of RDF daily** to generate electricity and reduce long-distance transportation of RDF.



About Uttar Pradesh:

- **Chief Minister:** Yogi Adityanath
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Capital:** Lucknow
- **National Parks:** Dudhwa National Park

- **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (Shahid Chandra Shekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary), Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sur Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Ranipur Wildlife

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Banaras Literature Festival announces winners of 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026

- Banaras Literature Festival announced the winners of the 2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026, recognising outstanding literary contributions in English, Hindi, and other Indian languages.
- The awards honour fiction, poetry, non-fiction, translation, along with lifetime achievement and youth contribution, reflecting India's diverse literary ecosystem.
- Veteran writer **Namita Gokhale** received the **Bhartendu Harishchandra Lifetime Achievement Award** for her long-standing contribution to Indian literature.
- She is best known for “**Paro: Dreams of Passion**” and is also the **co-founder of the Jaipur Literature Festival**.
- In the **English language category**, major award winners include:
 - **Ruskin Bond Award for Fiction** – **Shinie Antony** for *Eden Abandoned: The Story of Lilith*.
 - **Sarojini Naidu Award for Poetry** – **Abhay K** for *The Hanuman Chalisa*.
 - **Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Award for Non-Fiction** – **Peggy Mohan** for *Father Tongue, Motherland: The Birth of Language in South Asia*.
 - **Rabindranath Tagore Award for Translation** – **Arunava Sinha** for *Limited / Unlimited* (English translation from Bengali).
- In the **Hindi literature category**, key winners are:
 - **Premchand Award for Fiction** – **Mamta Kalia** for *Doorasth Dampatya*.
 - **Kabir Award for Poetry** – **Udayan Vajpeyi** for *Pagal Ganitagya Ki Kavitayein*.
 - **Rahul Sankrityayan Award for Non-Fiction** – **J Sushil** for *Dukh Ki Duniya Bheetar Hai*.
 - **Mahadevi Verma Award for Translation** – **Rajgopal Singh Verma** for translating *1857 Ki Kranti Ka Awadh*.
- Under **special honours**, **Mahadev Toppo** received the **Kalidas Award for Indian Languages**, recognising his contribution to regional literature.
- The **Vivekanand Award for Youth** was presented to **Parag Pawan**, acknowledging young literary talent.
- **All awardees will be formally honoured during the Banaras Literature Festival**, scheduled to be held in **Varanasi from January 30 to February 1, 2026**.



- From an **IBPS Current Affairs exam perspective**, the event is important for **literary awards, authors, award categories, and cultural developments in India**.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Albinder Dhindsa Appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Eternal Group Following Deepinder Goyal's Exit

- Deepinder Goyal** resigned as **Director, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Eternal Limited** with effect from **1 February 2026**, subject to **shareholders' approval**.
- Albinder Singh Dhindsa**, currently **CEO of Blinkit**, has been appointed **Group CEO and Key Managerial Personnel (KMP)** of **Eternal Limited**, effective **1 February 2026**.
- Deepinder Goyal** will continue on the **Board of Directors (BoD)** of **Eternal Limited** as **Vice Chairman**, pending shareholder approval.
- As **Vice Chairman**, **Deepinder Goyal** will focus on **high-risk and experimental ideas** outside the company's immediate **strategic scope** while remaining involved in **long-term strategy and governance**.
- Deepinder Goyal** began his professional career as a **management consultant** at **Bain & Company**.
- In **2008**, **Deepinder Goyal** co-founded **Zomato Ltd.** and served as its **CEO** since inception.
- Zomato Limited** was listed on stock exchanges in **2021**, marking a major milestone in India's **startup ecosystem**.
- In **2025**, **Zomato's** holding entity was rebranded as "**Eternal Limited**" to reflect its expanded **business ecosystem**.

About Eternal Limited :

- It is an **Indian technology company** headquartered in **Gurugram, Haryana**.
- It is the **parent company** of **Zomato** (food delivery platform) and **Blinkit** (quick commerce delivery arm).

Ganesh Lakshminarayanan Appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tata Communications Limited

- Tata Communications Limited** appointed **Ganesh Lakshminarayanan** as its new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- He will succeed **A. S. Lakshminarayanan**, who is set to retire on **13 April 2026**.
- Ganesh Lakshminarayanan** brings over **30 years of international management experience** across **technology, telecommunications, B2B start-ups, multinational corporations, and Indian enterprises**.



- Prior to this appointment, he served as **Managing Director and Group Vice President of ServiceNow India and the SAARC region.**
- He was formerly the **CEO of Airtel Business (India)** and also headed **Airtel's Enterprise Business Unit.**
- His leadership experience spans **global enterprise services, digital transformation, and large-scale telecom operations.**
- He has been **elected twice to the Executive Council of NASSCOM**, highlighting his role in India's **IT and technology ecosystem.**
- He also served as a **Council Member of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**

Bharatiya Janata Party Names Nitin Nabin as New National President of the Party

- **Nitin Nabin** has been elected as the **National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**, marking a significant organisational development for the party.
- His election was officially announced on **20 January 2026** by the party's **National Returning Officer, Dr. K. Laxman**, during the **Sangathan Parv** event at the **BJP headquarters, New Delhi.**
- He became the **youngest National President** in BJP's history and the **first leader from Bihar** to hold this **position.**
- **Nitin Nabin** currently represents the **Bankipur Assembly constituency** in **Patna** district and serves as the **Road Construction Minister** in the **Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government.**
- On **14 December 2025**, he was declared the **BJP's national working president** after an 18-month selection process, signaling he was the high command's choice for the post of national president.
- He has now become the **12th president** of the **BJP**, which was formed in **1980**, the same year he was born.

BJP Appoints Nitin Nabin As New National Party President; PM Shows Confidence in His Leadership



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Pixel-Led Consortium to Develop India's First Private National Earth Observation Satellite Constellation with Launches Planned Next Year

- India's first privately built national **Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation** will be developed by a **consortium led by Pixxel Space**, with the first satellite launches expected **next year.**
- The **Pixxel-led consortium** signed an agreement with **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre)** to build India's first **indigenous commercial EO**

Pixxel consortium signs pact to launch satellites next year

New Delhi: The first set of satellites of India's privately-built national earth observation constellation is expected to be launched next year by a consortium of start-ups led by Bengaluru-based Pixxel Space. The Pixxel-led consortium signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACe) in Bengaluru on Tuesday to build India's first indigenous commercial earth observation satellite constellation.

PTI

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constellation.

- The consortium includes **PierSight**, **SatSure Analytics India**, and **Dhruva Space**, and will deploy a total of **12 satellites**.
- The project is valued at over **₹1,200 crore**, marking a major boost to **India's private space ecosystem**, with the government entrusting a **strategic national mission to startups**.
- By **Q1 2027**, the **first four satellites** are planned to be placed in orbit, with the remaining satellites launched in **phases** over subsequent years.
- **Pixxel** is a **global space data company** operating the world's **highest-resolution commercial hyperspectral imaging constellation**.

China's Fengyun-3D Satellite Detects Antarctic Iceberg A23a Approaching Complete Disintegration

- **China's Fengyun-3D meteorological satellite** detected that **iceberg A23a**, once the **largest iceberg in the world** by surface area, has entered the **final stage of disintegration**.
- **A23a** detached from **Antarctica** in **1986** and drifted across the **Southern Ocean** for nearly **four decades**.
- Recent satellite observations indicate that **A23a's main body** has reduced to around **506 square kilometres**, down from **4,170 square kilometres** at detachment, and **948 square kilometres** just three weeks earlier.
- The **Fengyun-3D satellite**, part of **China's Fengyun-3 constellation**, has been tracking **A23a** continuously since **2023**, providing high-resolution imagery with a **spatial resolution of 250 metres**.
- The **rapid breakup** of **A23a** is primarily due to **hydrofracturing**, where **meltwater** accumulates on the iceberg's surface, forming **ponds and lakes** that exert pressure on **internal cracks**.
- Satellite imagery shows **blue meltwater** pooling in the iceberg's central region, trapped by **natural ridges** along its edges.
- **Seasonal summer conditions** in the **Southern Hemisphere**, including higher air temperatures and **warmer seawater exceeding 3°C**, are accelerating melting.
- **Ocean currents** are carrying smaller ice fragments toward **warmer northern waters**, further weakening the remaining ice mass.
- **Zheng Zhaojun** of **China's National Satellite Meteorological Center** confirmed that **A23a** is nearing **complete disintegration**, marking the end of a **nearly four-decade-long drift**.



RANKING AND INDEX

Brand Finance Global 500 2026 – IT Services Brands

- **Brand Finance** released the “**Brand Finance Global 500 2026**” report, ranking the world's most valuable **IT services brands**.

- **Infosys** ranked **3rd globally** among IT services brands, with a **brand value of USD 16.4 billion**, **Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 86.8/100**, and achieved a **15% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** over the last six years.
- **Accenture** retained the **1st position** as the world's most valuable IT services brand, valued at **USD 42.2 billion**, with a **BSI score of 90.7**, reflecting strong investments in **technology, consulting, and digital services**.
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** secured the **2nd position** with a **brand value of USD 21.2 billion** and **BSI score of 84.6**, holding the rank for the **fifth consecutive year** and achieving an **AAA brand rating for the first time**.
- The **combined brand value of the world's top 25 IT services brands** stood at **USD 167.2 billion** in 2026.
- Other **Indian IT companies** featured among the **top 25** include **HCLTech, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, LTIMindtree, Persistent Systems, and Hexaware**, highlighting India's strong global presence in the IT services sector.



MOUS AND AGREEMENT

Odisha–Meghalaya MoU to Strengthen Early Childhood Care, Education and Development

- The **Governments of Odisha and Meghalaya** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to strengthen **Early Childhood Care, Education and Development (ECCED)** through **inter-state collaboration**.
- The MoU focuses on **nutrition, health, early learning, responsive caregiving, capacity building, and knowledge exchange**.
- The agreement aims to create a **structured framework for cooperation** to improve **quality and outreach of early childhood services**.
- Key areas of collaboration include **sharing best practices, joint research and documentation, exposure visits for officials and frontline workers, and capacity building at multiple administrative levels**.
- The partnership promotes **mutual learning**, with **Odisha contributing experience in community-based and culturally responsive ECCED initiatives** and **Meghalaya sharing innovative service delivery models for tribal and geographically challenging regions**.
- Officials highlighted that **early childhood years are critical for cognitive development, nutrition outcomes, health, and social skills**, making ECCED vital for long-term human development.



In a significant step towards strengthening Early Childhood Care, Education and Development (ECCED) through inter-state collaboration, the government of Odisha and the government of Meghalaya on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at mutual learning, capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in Early Childhood Development (ECD).

- Strong ECCED systems help **reduce long-term inequalities** and support **inclusive human capital formation**.
- The MoU aligns with **national priorities on nutrition, education, and health**, and supports **inclusive growth**.
- It strengthens **cooperative federalism** by encouraging **state-to-state learning and collaboration**.
- **Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD)** covers **integrated services for children from birth to eight years**, addressing **health, nutrition, learning, and care needs**, especially in **vulnerable and marginalized communities**.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signs MoU with World Economic Forum to strengthen vocational education and skills

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** to strengthen **vocational education, training and skill development in India**.
- The MoU aims to enhance India's **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ecosystem** through **global collaboration, industry alignment and innovation-driven skilling models**.
- A key outcome of the partnership is the launch of the **India Skills Accelerator**, a **multi-stakeholder platform** designed to **identify and bridge current and future skill gaps**.
- The initiative focuses on **aligning training programmes with industry needs**, improving **employability**, and promoting **lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling**.
- The partnership brings together **government, industry, educational institutions and global experts** to ensure India's skilling ecosystem matches **emerging labour market demands and global standards**.
- Special emphasis will be placed on **Future of Work domains** such as **artificial intelligence, robotics, green energy, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing**.
- The MoU supports **flexible curricula, integration of vocational and higher education pathways**, and **mutual recognition of qualifications** to enhance global mobility of Indian talent.
- The initiative is aligned with **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and **Vision India@2047**, positioning **skilling as a core pillar of inclusive growth and economic transformation**.
- Implementation will be guided by a **structured governance framework** with **co-chairs from government and private sector**, supported by WEF.



- Institutions such as **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** and **University Grants Commission (UGC)** will collaborate with MSDE to scale adoption and awareness.
- The MoU reinforces India's objective of becoming a **global hub for skilled talent** by leveraging **international best practices and public-private partnerships**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Education 2026 – January 24

- **International Day of Education 2026** is observed on **24 January** worldwide.
- The day was **declared by the UN General Assembly in December 2018** to honour education and highlight its **role in peace, development, and progress**.
- The day aims to **advocate for universal access to quality education** and to campaign for **education reforms**.
- Millions of children around the world are still **denied this basic human right**, with **UNESCO estimating 258 million children out of school**.
- Marginalized groups, people in unequal regions, and citizens of developing countries are the **most affected**.
- International Day of Education **calls on governments, civil society, institutions, and individuals** to ensure **primary and secondary education for all children**.
- The observance encourages the design of **inclusive learning programs** that cater to diverse populations, equipping children with the **skills needed for employment and improved livelihoods**.
- The day reminds everyone that **education is key to escaping poverty and building a better future**, and that **everyone has a role in promoting high-quality education**.



National Girl Child Day 2026 – January 24

- **National Girl Child Day 2026** is observed on **24 January 2026** across India.
- The day was **established in 2008** by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India**.
- The main objective is to **highlight discrimination, inequality, and injustice faced by girl children** in society.
- It aims to **promote awareness about the rights of the girl child**, including **education, health, dignity, and equal opportunities**.
- Girl children in India often face **gender-based discrimination**, are **denied higher education**, and are pushed into **household responsibilities at an early age**.



- The observance emphasizes the **urgent need for equal treatment of female children** and ensuring they receive opportunities they **rightfully deserve**.
- On this day, the government organizes **awareness programmes and campaigns** to encourage **positive societal attitudes towards the girl child**.
- National Girl Child Day supports broader goals of **gender equality, women empowerment, and inclusive social development**.

Daily CA One- Liner: January 24th

- The **Government of Assam** announced a **monthly financial assistance scheme** for research scholars under the **Atal Vichal Agrabami Assam programme**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) Regulations, 2026** under **FEMA, 1999**, introducing **uniform timelines** and **enhanced monitoring** for trade-related foreign exchange transactions.
- Credit-focused Indian fintech firm **ZET** has received approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to operate as a **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP)**.
- Fintech major **Razorpay's** offline payments arm, **Razorpay POS**, has received authorisation from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as an **offline payment aggregator (PA-P)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted **in-principle approval** to **Payoneer India Private Limited** to operate as a **Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA-CB)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued **operational guidelines** for extending **interest subvention** on **pre- and post-shipment export credit** under the **Export Promotion Mission (EPM) – NIRYAT PROTSAHAN (1st Component)**.
- **Bank of Baroda** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited. (IIFCL)** to facilitate **joint lending and loan syndication** for a wide range of infrastructure projects.
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank** partnered with **HyperVerge** to deploy an **AI-powered Video KYC (VKYC)** solution for **digital customer onboarding**.
- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** published the **21st edition** of its annual risk assessment titled '**Global Risks Report: 21st Edition Insight 2026**'.
- **Deepinder Goyal** resigned as **Director, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Eternal Limited** with effect from **1 February 2026**, subject to **shareholders' approval**.
- **Tata Communications Limited** appointed **Ganesh Lakshminarayanan** as its new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.
- **Nitin Nabin** has been elected as the **National President** of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)**, marking a significant organisational development for the party.
- **India's first privately built national Earth Observation (EO) satellite constellation** will be developed by a **consortium led by Pixxel Space**, with the first satellite launches expected **next year**.

- **China's Fengyun-3D meteorological satellite** detected that **iceberg A23a**, once the **largest iceberg in the world** by surface area, has entered the **final stage of disintegration**.
- **Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan** released the book titled **"Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response"** at the **Vice President's Enclave, New Delhi**.
- **Rajasthan government** has planned a new **Biological Park** in **Alwar district**, which will become the **first biological park of its kind in the National Capital Region**.
- **Government of India** notified **Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity (GEI) targets in January 2026** for **additional carbon-intensive sectors** under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme**
- **India delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul**, reinforcing its humanitarian support to the **people of Afghanistan**, particularly in the **health sector**
- **Odisha State Health and Family Welfare Department** announced a **complete ban on gutkha, pan masala, and all products containing tobacco or nicotine** to safeguard public health and prevent misuse
- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin** announced a new annual state-sponsored literary award named **"Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu (Classical Language Literary Award)"** during the valedictory ceremony of the **Chennai International Book Fair**
- **Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC)** has adopted a **scientific and modern waste management system** to manage solid waste generated by a population of around **40 lakh** and nearly **7.5 lakh establishments**
- **Banaras Literature Festival** announced the winners of the **2nd Banaras Lit Fest Book Awards 2026**, recognising **outstanding literary contributions in English, Hindi, and other Indian languages**
- **Brand Finance** released the **"Brand Finance Global 500 2026"** report, ranking the **world's most valuable IT services brands**
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- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** to strengthen **vocational education, training and skill development in India**
- **International Day of Education 2026** is observed on **24 January** worldwide.
- **National Girl Child Day 2026** is observed on **24 January 2026** across India.