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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS DIGEST

January 2026

Free APPSC & TGPSC Exam Preparation

- 37 Articles across 11 Subjects
- 40 Quick Revision One-Liners
- 20 Practice MCQs with Explanations

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How to use this digest: Each section begins with an icon and subject heading. Articles have a bold title followed by 4–6 fact bullets — ideal for quick reading. Use the One-Liners section for last-minute revision. Attempt the MCQs to test retention. This digest covers key January 2026 events relevant for APPSC, TGPSC, and UPSC aspirants.

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■ POLITY & GOVERNANCE

77th Republic Day Celebrations – January 26, 2026

- India celebrated its 77th Republic Day on January 26, 2026, at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, with the theme 'Swatantrata ka Mantra – Vande Mataram' and 'Samridhi ka Mantra – Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Chief Guests were Antonio Costa (President, European Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (President, European Commission) — marking the India-EU strategic partnership milestone.
- 30 tableaux from 17 states/UTs and 13 Central Ministries/Departments rolled down Kartavya Path; nearly 2,500 artists performed cultural items.
- Historic firsts included the debut of the Bhairav Light Commando Battalion and a specially curated animal contingent from the Remount & Veterinary Corps (RVC).
- The celebrations marked 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram and showcased India's military 'jointness' following Operation Sindoor.
- Indian Navy won the Best Marching Contingent award among the three Services at the parade.

Budget Session of Parliament Commences

- The Budget Session of Parliament commenced on January 28, 2026, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presenting the Union Budget 2026-27 on February 1.
- Finance Minister tabled the Economic Survey 2025-26 on January 29, 2026, projecting real GDP growth of 6.8%–7.2% for 2026-27.
- GDP in 2025-26 estimated to grow at 7.4%, primarily driven by domestic demand and private consumption.
- Retail inflation declined sharply from 4.6% in 2024-25 to 1.7% in 2025-26 (April–December period).
- The Economic Survey highlighted India as one of the fastest-growing major economies with improving macro-stability indicators.

National Youth Day – Swami Vivekananda Jayanti

- National Youth Day was celebrated on January 12, 2026, marking the 163rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (born 1863 as Narendranath Datta in Kolkata).
- The day aims to inspire youth with Vivekananda's ideals of service, self-reliance, and national pride.
- Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, dedicated to the twin ideals of Atmano Mokshartham Jagat Hitaya Cha (self-liberation and world welfare).
- His famous Chicago address at the 1893 Parliament of World Religions introduced Vedanta and yoga to the Western world.
- The Government of India designated January 12 as National Youth Day in 1984 to honour his contributions.

Supreme Court on Section 17A – Prevention of Corruption Act

- The Supreme Court delivered a split verdict on the validity of Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
- Section 17A mandates prior government sanction before investigating or prosecuting public officials for acts in discharge of official duties.
- The provision was introduced through the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018 to protect honest officials from frivolous prosecutions.
- Critics argue it creates an additional layer that can delay or stall anti-corruption investigations.
- The split verdict means the matter will be referred to a larger bench for final resolution.

■ ECONOMY & FINANCE

Economic Survey 2025-26: Key Highlights

- The Economic Survey 2025-26 projected GDP growth of 6.8%–7.2% for 2026-27, making India one of the world's fastest growing major economies.
- Real GDP growth in 2025-26 estimated at 7.4%, driven by robust domestic demand, private consumption, and capital formation.
- Retail CPI inflation declined from 4.6% in 2024-25 to a multi-year low of 1.7% (April–December 2025-26), aided by lower food prices.
- India's current account deficit remained manageable, with robust foreign exchange reserves providing macro-stability.
- The Survey highlighted challenges from global uncertainties including US tariff policies, geopolitical tensions, and commodity price volatility.

Budget Session & Union Budget Preparations

- The Budget Session of Parliament opened on January 28, 2026, with the President's Joint Address to both Houses of Parliament.
- The Union Budget 2026-27 was scheduled for presentation on February 1, following pre-budget consultations with industry and state governments.
- Key expectations included rural development, infrastructure push, income tax relief, and fiscal consolidation towards the 4.5% FRBM target.
- Gross Tax Revenue collections showed strong momentum in 2025-26, aided by robust GST and direct tax buoyancy.
- Capital expenditure focus continued with a 10%+ increase targeted over the revised estimates of 2025-26.

India-EU Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- India-EU FTA negotiations gained momentum with the visit of European Council President Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for Republic Day.
- The FTA discussions cover market access for goods, services, investment protection, and geographical indications.
- Trade between India and EU stood at over €120 billion annually, making the EU India's largest trading partner.
- Key sticking points include tariff reductions on automobiles, wines/spirits, and the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).
- Both sides expressed intent to fast-track negotiations towards a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

56th World Economic Forum (Davos 2026)

- The 56th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting was held January 19–23, 2026, in Davos, Switzerland.
- The Forum convened amid heightened geopolitical tensions between the US and NATO allies, including disputes over Greenland and transatlantic trade.
- Key themes included AI governance, climate transition financing, global trade fragmentation, and future-proofing supply chains.
- World leaders, CEOs, and civil society representatives debated geopolitical realignment and the risk of a new cold war.
- India showcased its economic growth story and positioned itself as a stable global investment destination.

US Captures Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro

- The US military captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores in a large-scale operation.
- Maduro was swiftly flown to the United States and charged with narco-terrorism, cocaine trafficking, and related offences.
- The move marked an unprecedented US intervention against a sitting head of state and triggered sharp global reactions.
- Venezuela's political crisis had deepened after the disputed 2024 elections; the US had imposed extensive sanctions over narco-trafficking allegations.
- Latin American nations were divided in their response; the UN Security Council held emergency sessions on the matter.

Iran Crackdown on Nationwide Protests

- On January 8, Iranian forces launched a severe crackdown on nationwide protests triggered by an economic crisis and political repression.
- The crackdown was described as the deadliest incident of state repression since the Islamic Republic took power in 1979.
- Death toll estimates ranged from 12,000 to 30,000, with an internet blackout imposed to suppress information flow.
- Iranian diaspora worldwide held solidarity protests against the Islamic Republic; Western nations condemned the violence.
- The protests were originally sparked by high inflation, unemployment, and demands for political freedoms.

Croatia Reinstates Compulsory Military Service

- Croatia reintroduced compulsory military service in January 2026, 18 years after scrapping it.
- The decision was driven by growing security concerns in Europe following Russia's Ukraine invasion and NATO's renewed emphasis on collective defence.
- Several European nations reconsidered or reinstated conscription to strengthen defence readiness.
- Croatia's military service period was set for several months, targeting young adults in a phased rollout.
- The move reflected a broader European trend toward re-arming and boosting standing military capacity.

US DOJ Releases Epstein Files

- The US Department of Justice released more than three million pages of documents related to Jeffrey Epstein on January 30, 2026.
 - The files included records from Epstein's decades-long operations involving trafficking and exploitation.
 - The release followed sustained public and legal pressure for transparency about Epstein's associates and co-conspirators.
 - The documents were expected to implicate high-profile individuals in politics, business, and entertainment globally.
 - The release reignited debates about accountability for the wealthy and powerful in the US justice system.
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■ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DRDO 68th Foundation Day – January 1, 2026

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 68th Foundation Day on January 1, 2026, having been established on January 1, 1958.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh extended greetings and highlighted DRDO's contributions to indigenisation of defence technology.
- DRDO has developed over 1,000 technologies and systems for the Armed Forces, including missiles, radars, electronic warfare, and armoured vehicles.
- The day was marked by exhibitions of DRDO's latest developments in hypersonic technology, AI-driven defence systems, and quantum communication.
- DRDO's Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) ensures quality standards across the defence supply chain.

Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM) Unveiled

- DRDO unveiled the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM) at the Republic Day Parade on January 26, 2026.
- The LR-AShM is a first-of-its-kind hypersonic glide missile with indigenous avionics and high-accuracy sensor packages.
- It is designed to strike naval targets at extended ranges at hypersonic speeds (Mach 5 and above), severely limiting adversary response time.
- The missile incorporates indigenous navigation, guidance, and propulsion systems aligned with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat defence goals.
- Its debut at the Republic Day Parade signalled India's entry into the elite club of nations with operational hypersonic anti-ship capability.

India's AI and Space Technology Push

- January 2026 saw increased government focus on AI startups, with revised startup definitions enabling more entities to qualify for DPIIT recognition and tax benefits.
- The revised definition extended the period for a startup to 15 years from incorporation (previously 10 years), providing longer runway for deep-tech companies.
- Priority Sector Lending reforms were announced to channel more bank credit towards technology startups and innovation hubs.
- ISRO continued its lunar and space station preparatory missions, building on the success of Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1.
- India's space economy was projected to reach \$44 billion by 2033, aided by the private sector participation framework introduced in 2024.

■ ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

State of India's Environment 2026 Report

- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released the State of India's Environment 2026 Report, highlighting rising climate risks, wildlife conflicts, and pollution monitoring gaps.
- The report flagged India's increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events including floods, droughts, cyclones, and heatwaves.
- Wildlife conflict incidents increased significantly, driven by habitat loss and human encroachment into forest areas.
- Air quality monitoring gaps were highlighted in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, calling for expanded CPCB monitoring networks.
- India recorded the highest number of forest fire alerts in its history in 2025, covering millions of hectares across 15+ states.

Climate Risk Index 2026 – India Among Most Vulnerable

- Germany-based Germanwatch released the Climate Risk Index 2026, with India among the most climate-vulnerable nations.
- In the past 30 years, India recorded more than 400 climate-related extreme events including floods, cyclones, droughts, and heatwaves.
- Andhra Pradesh is identified as a drought-prone state, along with Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan.
- States including Telangana and AP are also among those prone to forest fires, compounding agricultural and biodiversity risks.
- The index called for enhanced adaptation finance, early warning systems, and nature-based solutions to protect vulnerable communities.

India's Renewable Energy Progress

- India achieved over 200 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, making significant strides towards its 500 GW target by 2030.
- Solar energy led the addition with utility-scale and rooftop installations contributing to energy access in rural areas.
- The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana continued enrolling households under the rooftop solar scheme, targeting one crore households.
- India's renewable energy progress was cited positively at WEF Davos 2026 as a model for emerging economies.
- Green hydrogen and offshore wind policies were under formulation to diversify India's clean energy portfolio.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

Operation Sindoor – Indigenous Systems Recognition

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated on January 27, 2026, that Operation Sindoor demonstrated that indigenous systems are effectively strengthening India's operational readiness.
- DRDO-developed technologies were successfully used on the battlefield during Operation Sindoor, validating years of R&D; investments.
- The operation became a landmark in showcasing India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Key systems that performed included indigenous radars, communication networks, and precision-guided munitions.
- The success accelerated procurement decisions for several DRDO-developed systems across all three Services.

Republic Day Military Showcase

- The 77th Republic Day Parade featured DRDO's latest innovations including the LR-AShM and a tableau on Naval Technologies for Combat Submarines.
- The Bhairav Light Commando Battalion made its debut at the parade, representing India's modernised special forces capability.
- A specially curated animal contingent from the Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) marched for the first time, showcasing a unique facet of military heritage.
- Indian Air Force displayed next-generation aircraft and drone swarm capabilities, reflecting India's air superiority push.
- The parade highlighted India's military 'jointness' — the integration of Army, Navy, and Air Force operations established post-Operation Sindoor.

Quantum Technology in Military Applications

- India's military moved to formulate a quantum technology policy to leverage quantum computing and quantum communication for defence.
- Quantum key distribution (QKD) trials were conducted between military establishments to test hack-proof communication channels.
- The National Quantum Mission (approved in 2023) continues to fund research with applications in secure military communications.
- DRDO partnered with IITs and ISRO to develop quantum sensors for submarine detection and stealth surveillance.
- India's quantum defence push is part of a global race among major powers including the US, China, and EU members.

■ SPORTS

India-Bangladesh Cricket Diplomatic Tensions

- The Bangladesh Cricket Board raised security concerns on January 4, 2026, ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup amid bilateral tensions.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) terminated Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman's IPL contract, citing deteriorating India-Bangladesh diplomatic relations.
- The move sparked debate about the politicisation of cricket and sports diplomacy in South Asia.
- Bangladesh officials called for Cricket Council intervention to maintain the separation of sports from political tensions.
- The incident highlighted how bilateral relations can directly impact sporting engagements and contracts.

Government Reforms for National Sports Federations

- The Government of India advised all recognised National Sports Federations (NSFs) to constitute dedicated International Relations and Make in India in Sports committees.
- The International Relations Committee monitors changes in international sporting federations, competition rules, governance frameworks, and athlete programmes.
- The Make in India in Sports Committee engages with domestic manufacturers, startups, research institutions for sports product development and certification.
- The initiative aligns with India's ambition to host major international sporting events and reduce dependence on imported sports equipment.
- The move is part of a broader push to professionalise sports administration in India ahead of the 2036 Olympic bid.

Padma Awards for Sporting Excellence

- Rohit Sharma (cricket), Harmanpreet Kaur (women's cricket), Savita Punia (women's hockey), and Praveen Kumar (para-athletics) were among Padma awardees.
- Rohit Sharma's Padma Bhushan recognised his leadership of the Indian cricket team and his role in India's T20 World Cup 2024 victory.
- Harmanpreet Kaur was honoured for captaining India's women's team to consistent podium finishes in ICC tournaments.
- Praveen Kumar won Paralympic gold in T64 high jump at Paris 2024 and was recognised with the Padma Shri for his sporting achievement.
- The awards underlined India's growing strength in women's sports and para-sports on the international stage.

■ ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

150 Years of Vande Mataram

- India celebrated 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram during the 77th Republic Day festivities.
- Vande Mataram was composed by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay in 1876 and first published in the novel Anandamath in 1882.
- The song was first sung at the Indian National Congress session in 1896 by Rabindranath Tagore.
- It served as a powerful rallying cry during the Indian independence movement, especially during the Partition of Bengal (1905).
- The first two stanzas of Vande Mataram were given equal status with the national anthem Jana Gana Mana by the Constituent Assembly in January 1950.

National Youth Day and Swami Vivekananda Legacy

- National Youth Day (January 12) programmes across India highlighted Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of universal brotherhood, self-confidence, and service.
- His famous opening words 'Sisters and Brothers of America' at the 1893 Chicago Parliament of World Religions drew a standing ovation.
- Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission in 1897, combining spiritual awakening with humanitarian service.
- His philosophy, rooted in Advaita Vedanta, emphasised the potential divinity of every human being and the harmony of religions.
- National Youth Parliament programmes were held across schools and colleges to encourage civic participation in Vivekananda's spirit.

Padma Awards 2026 – Cultural Legends Honoured

- Veteran actor Dharmendra received the Padma Vibhushan for his six-decade contribution to Indian cinema.
- Malayalam film legend Mammooty was honoured with the Padma Bhushan for his prolific and critically acclaimed acting career.
- Legendary playback singer Alka Yagnik, who lost hearing to a rare sensory neuropathy, received the Padma Bhushan for her extraordinary musical legacy.
- Former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandan received the Padma Vibhushan, recognising his decades of political and social service.
- Retired Supreme Court judge K.T. Thomas received the Padma Bhushan for his landmark contributions to Indian judicial jurisprudence.

■ AWARDS & HONOURS

Padma Awards 2026 – Complete Overview

- President Droupadi Murmu approved 131 Padma Awards 2026, comprising 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri.
- Announced on the eve of Republic Day (January 25, 2026), the awards recognised distinguished individuals in art, public affairs, medicine, literature, sports, science, and social work.
- 19 of the 131 awardees are women; 16 awards are posthumous, honouring those whose contributions were not recognised in their lifetime.
- International awardees/NRIs/PIOs include two recipients from foreign countries, reflecting India's global diaspora recognition.
- The Padma Awards were instituted in 1954 and are among India's highest civilian honours after the Bharat Ratna.

Republic Day Parade Awards

- Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth presented awards to the Best Marching Contingents and Best Tableaux of Republic Day Parade 2026.
- Indian Navy won the Best Marching Contingent award among the three Services (Army, Navy, Air Force).
- Among the 30 tableaux, awards were given across state/UT and Central Ministry categories based on themes, presentation, and execution.
- Tableaux on themes of cultural heritage, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and technological progress were among the top performers.
- 10,000 special guests were invited for the 77th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, including veterans and awardees.

Gallantry Awards and Bravery Medals

- Republic Day 2026 saw the announcement of Gallantry Awards for armed forces personnel who performed outstanding deeds of bravery.
- Awards include Param Vir Chakra (highest), Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra, and lower-category Sena/Nao/Vayu Sena Medals.
- National Bravery Awards were given to children aged 5–18 years for excellence in bravery, art, environment, innovation, science, social service, and sports.
- Several awards recognised bravery during Operation Sindoor and counter-terrorism operations in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The President of India conferred these awards at the Civil Investiture Ceremonies in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

■ ■ ANDHRA PRADESH & TELANGANA

AP & Telangana's Climate Vulnerability

- Andhra Pradesh was identified as a drought-prone state by the Centre in its climate vulnerability assessment, alongside Bihar, Gujarat, and eight other states.
- Cyclone MONTHA, formed over the Bay of Bengal, claimed 9 human lives from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and killed 42 livestock in AP.
- Telangana and AP are also classified among states highly prone to forest fires, posing risks to agriculture and biodiversity.
- The Climate Risk Index 2026 (Germanwatch) placed India—including AP and Telangana—among the top 10 most climate-affected nations globally.
- State governments were called to urgently integrate climate adaptation measures into their development plans and disaster management frameworks.

Andhra Pradesh: Talliki Vandanam Scheme

- The Andhra Pradesh government's flagship Talliki Vandanam (Mother's Salute) scheme provides ■15,000 annually to mothers of school-going children from Class 1 to Intermediate.
- The financial assistance is credited directly to the mother's bank account, promoting women's economic empowerment and school retention.
- The scheme covers children in government and government-aided schools across Andhra Pradesh.
- In January 2026, the scheme saw expanded outreach with digital enrollment platforms for remote mandals.
- The initiative aligns with the Centre's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme's goal of keeping girls in school.

Telangana Welfare Schemes Update

- The Telangana government continued implementation of Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, and Indiramma Indlu schemes across 561 villages.
- Over 6.15 lakh citizens were beneficiaries of these schemes, receiving total financial support of ■570 crore through direct bank transfer.
- New ration cards under the Public Distribution System were issued in January 2026 to eligible beneficiaries across all 33 districts.
- Telangana's MEPMA (Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas) extended micro-credit support to urban women-led self-help groups.
- The state government's focus on welfare delivery through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) was highlighted as a model for paperless, corruption-free governance.

AP & Telangana Republic Day Tableaux

- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana presented tableaux at the 77th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path showcasing their cultural heritage and development milestones.
- AP's tableau highlighted the state's maritime heritage, port infrastructure, and semiconductor/electronics hub ambitions.
- Telangana's tableau showcased the iconic Charminar, Hyderabad's IT/pharma legacy, and the Kakatiya dynasty's heritage.
- Both states used the Republic Day platform to attract national and international investment attention.
- The tableaux were judged on theme, cultural authenticity, artistic presentation, and national relevance.

■ APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Key National Appointments – January 2026

- The government announced several key appointments at the senior level across regulatory bodies and PSUs during the Budget Session preparations.
- National Sports Federations (NSFs) were directed to constitute International Relations Committees and Make in India in Sports Committees at leadership level.
- DRDO celebrated its 68th Foundation Day with leadership emphasising succession planning and the next generation of scientist-administrators.
- Several IAS and IFS officers were transferred in advance of the Republic Day security arrangements across Delhi and border states.
- The Supreme Court Collegium recommended appointments to fill judicial vacancies in High Courts across multiple states.

India-EU Leadership for Republic Day

- Antonio Costa assumed the role of President of the European Council in December 2024 and made his first official India visit for Republic Day 2026.
- Ursula von der Leyen, re-elected as European Commission President in 2024, co-led the EU delegation alongside Costa.
- Their presence signalled the EU's strategic intent to deepen trade and security ties with India.
- Discussions covered the India-EU FTA, digital connectivity, green energy cooperation, and the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act.
- India and EU committed to accelerating negotiations under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) framework established in 2023.

UN & International Organisation Appointments

- India's diplomatic presence at multilateral forums was reinforced during January 2026 with active participation at WEF Davos and UNHRC sessions.
- India's candidate for key UN committee chairpersonships received broad support from the Global South.
- WEF recognised India's Amitabh Kant (India's G20 Sherpa) for his contribution to the Digital Public Infrastructure framework adopted globally.
- Several Indian economists and policy experts took up advisory roles with international financial institutions including the IMF and World Bank.
- India's Ambassador Arindam Bagchi continued diplomatic engagement as Permanent Representative at the UN, Geneva.

■ QUICK REVISION ONE-LINERS

1. DRDO's 68th Foundation Day: January 1, 1958 → January 1, 2026 — 68 years of defence R&D.;
2. 77th Republic Day: Held at Kartavya Path; themes — 'Vande Mataram' & 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
3. Republic Day Chief Guests: Antonio Costa (EU Council) & Ursula von der Leyen (EU Commission).
4. 30 tableaux at Republic Day from 17 states/UTs and 13 Central Ministries.
5. Indian Navy won Best Marching Contingent at the 77th Republic Day Parade.
6. Bhairav Light Commando Battalion made its Republic Day debut in 2026.
7. 150 years of Vande Mataram celebrated during Republic Day 2026 events.
8. LR-ASHM (Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile) unveiled at Republic Day Parade.
9. Padma Awards 2026: 131 recipients — 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri.
10. Dharmendra: Padma Vibhushan 2026 for six-decade film career.
11. V.S. Achuthanandan: Padma Vibhushan 2026 for decades of political and social service.
12. Mammooty: Padma Bhushan 2026 for Malayalam cinema contributions.
13. Alka Yagnik: Padma Bhushan 2026; suffered hearing loss from rare sensory neuropathy.
14. Rohit Sharma: Padma Bhushan 2026 for cricket; led India to T20 World Cup 2024 victory.
15. Harmanpreet Kaur: Padma Shri 2026 for captaining India women's cricket team.
16. Savita Punia: Padma Shri 2026 for women's hockey goalkeeping excellence.
17. Praveen Kumar: Padma Shri 2026; Paralympic gold (T64 High Jump) at Paris 2024.
18. National Youth Day: January 12 — Swami Vivekananda's 163rd birth anniversary.
19. Vivekananda founded Ramakrishna Mission in 1897; Chicago speech was 1893.
20. Budget Session of Parliament commenced: January 28, 2026.
21. Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled: January 29, 2026 by FM Nirmala Sitharaman.
22. GDP projected growth: 6.8–7.2% for 2026-27; 7.4% estimated for 2025-26.
23. Retail inflation 2025-26 (Apr–Dec): 1.7% — down from 4.6% in 2024-25.
24. 56th WEF Davos 2026: January 19–23 in Davos, Switzerland.
25. US captured Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro; charged with narco-terrorism & cocaine trafficking.
26. Iran: January 8 crackdown on protests — deadliest repression since 1979.
27. Croatia reinstated compulsory military service in January 2026, 18 years after scrapping it.
28. US DOJ released 3 million+ Epstein documents on January 30, 2026.
29. Operation Sindoor: Defence Min. Rajnath Singh confirmed indigenous systems used effectively.
30. India's GDP at 7.4% makes it one of the fastest-growing major economies in 2025-26.
31. India-EU FTA negotiations accelerated during Republic Day EU leadership visit.
32. India's installed renewable energy capacity exceeded 200 GW by January 2026.
33. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana targets 1 crore household rooftop solar installations.
34. India's space economy projected to reach \$44 billion by 2033.
35. Cyclone MONTHA: 9 deaths in AP & Telangana; 42 livestock perished in AP.
36. Climate Risk Index 2026 (Germanwatch): India recorded 400+ extreme weather events in 30 years.
37. AP identified as drought-prone state in Centre's climate vulnerability assessment.
38. NSFs directed to form IR and Make in India in Sports committees — January 2026.
39. India-Bangladesh T20 World Cup 2026: BCCI terminated Mustafizur Rahman's IPL contract.
40. Vande Mataram: Composed 1876 by Bankimchandra; first sung at INC in 1896 by Tagore.

■ PRACTICE MCQs

Q1. Which country's leaders were the Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day on January 26, 2026?

- A) United States
- B) European Union
- C) United Kingdom
- D) France

Q2. What was the theme of India's 77th Republic Day celebration related to the national song?

- A) Jai Hind
- B) Vande Mataram
- C) Jana Gana Mana
- D) Saare Jahan se Achha

Q3. On which day does India celebrate National Youth Day, marking Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary?

- A) January 12
- B) January 15
- C) January 26
- D) January 30

Q4. How many Padma Awards were announced in 2026?

- A) 119
- B) 128
- C) 131
- D) 145

Q5. Which military branch won the Best Marching Contingent at the 77th Republic Day Parade?

- A) Indian Army
- B) Indian Air Force
- C) Indian Navy
- D) CRPF

Q6. What is the LR-AShM unveiled by DRDO at the Republic Day Parade 2026?

- A) Light Reconnaissance Anti-Ship Missile
- B) Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile
- C) Long Range Airborne Strike Hypersonic Missile
- D) Land-based Remote Anti-Ship Missile

Q7. When was DRDO's 68th Foundation Day celebrated?

- A) January 1, 2026
- B) January 26, 2026
- C) January 15, 2026
- D) January 10, 2026

Q8. The 56th World Economic Forum (Davos 2026) was held in which Swiss city?

- A) Geneva
- B) Zurich
- C) Davos
- D) Bern

Q9. Which veteran Bollywood actor received the Padma Vibhushan in 2026?

- A) Amitabh Bachchan
- B) Dharmendra
- C) Rajinikanth
- D) Mammooty

Q10. Which cricketer's IPL contract was terminated by BCCI in January 2026 citing diplomatic tensions?

- A) Shakib Al Hasan
- B) Rashid Khan
- C) Mustafizur Rahman
- D) Liton Das

Q11. What GDP growth rate was projected for India in 2025-26 by the Economic Survey?

- A) 6.5%
- B) 7.0%
- C) 7.4%
- D) 8.2%

Q12. Which European nation reinstated compulsory military service in January 2026?

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) Poland
- D) Croatia

Q13. Vande Mataram was composed by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay in which year?

- A) 1860
- B) 1876
- C) 1882
- D) 1896

Q14. Which organisation released the Climate Risk Index 2026 identifying India as highly vulnerable?

- A) IPCC
- B) Germanwatch
- C) CSE India
- D) WWF

Q15. Praveen Kumar, who received the Padma Shri 2026, won gold in which event at Paris Paralympics 2024?

- A) Shot Put T44
- B) 100m T64
- C) High Jump T64
- D) Long Jump T44

Q16. Which Padma Award recipient lost hearing to a rare sensory neuropathy?

- A) Lata Mangeshkar
- B) Alka Yagnik
- C) Asha Bhosle
- D) Usha Uthup

Q17. The Budget Session of Parliament 2026 commenced on which date?

- A) January 20, 2026
- B) January 28, 2026
- C) February 1, 2026
- D) January 15, 2026

Q18. Which scheme by Andhra Pradesh government provides ₹15,000 annually to mothers of school-going children?

- A) Amma Vodi
 - B) YSR Cheyutha
 - C) Talliki Vandanam
 - D) Jagananna Vidya Deevena
-

Q19. How many tableaux were displayed at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?

- A) 26
- B) 28
- C) 30
- D) 32

Q20. US DOJ released documents related to Jeffrey Epstein on which date in January 2026?

- A) January 8
 - B) January 19
 - C) January 26
 - D) January 30
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■ ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

Q1. Answer: (B) — The Chief Guests were Antonio Costa (President, European Council) and Ursula von der Leyen (President, European Commission), representing the EU.

Q2. Answer: (B) — One of the themes was 'Swatantrata ka Mantra – Vande Mataram', celebrating 150 years of the national song composed by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay.

Q3. Answer: (A) — National Youth Day is celebrated on January 12, marking Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary (1863). The Government of India designated this day in 1984.

Q4. Answer: (C) — President Droupadi Murmu approved 131 Padma Awards 2026: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri.

Q5. Answer: (C) — The Indian Navy won the Best Marching Contingent award among the three Services at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026.

Q6. Answer: (B) — LR-AShM stands for Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile — a first-of-its-kind hypersonic glide missile with indigenous avionics, unveiled at the Republic Day Parade.

Q7. Answer: (A) — DRDO was established on January 1, 1958. Its 68th Foundation Day was celebrated on January 1, 2026.

Q8. Answer: (C) — The 56th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting was held January 19–23, 2026, in Davos, Switzerland.

Q9. Answer: (B) — Dharmendra received the Padma Vibhushan 2026 for his six-decade contribution to Indian cinema. Mammooty received the Padma Bhushan.

Q10. Answer: (C) — BCCI terminated Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman's IPL contract in January 2026, citing deteriorating India-Bangladesh diplomatic relations.

Q11. Answer: (C) — The Economic Survey 2025-26 estimated India's GDP growth at 7.4% for 2025-26, driven by domestic demand and private consumption.

Q12. Answer: (D) — Croatia reinstated compulsory military service in January 2026, 18 years after scrapping it, driven by growing European security concerns.

Q13. Answer: (B) — Vande Mataram was composed by Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay in 1876, though it was first published in his novel Anandamath in 1882.

Q14. Answer: (B) — Germanwatch, a Germany-based NGO, published the Climate Risk Index 2026, showing India recorded 400+ extreme climate events in 30 years.

Q15. Answer: (C) — Praveen Kumar won the gold medal in the T64 High Jump event at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and was subsequently honoured with the Padma Shri.

Q16. Answer: (B) — Playback singer Alka Yagnik, who received the Padma Bhushan 2026, lost her hearing due to a rare sensory neuropathy — a fact that made her recognition especially poignant.

Q17. Answer: (B) — The Budget Session of Parliament commenced on January 28, 2026, with the President's Address. The Union Budget 2026-27 was presented on February 1.

Q18. Answer: (C) — Talliki Vandanam (Mother's Salute) is AP's flagship scheme providing ₹15,000 per year directly to mothers of children studying from Class 1 to Intermediate.

Q19. Answer: (C) — 30 tableaux from 17 states/UTs and 13 Central Ministries/Departments rolled down Kartavya Path at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026.

Q20. Answer: (D) — The US Department of Justice released more than three million pages of Epstein-related documents on January 30, 2026, following sustained legal pressure for transparency.

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