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Today in History on 18 JAN

➤ 1997- "Nafisa Joseph" became "Miss India".

Nafisa Joseph was an Indian model, video jockey and beauty pageant winner. She was the winner of Femina Miss India Universe 1997 and a finalist of the Miss Universe 1997 pageant in Miami Beach. Joseph started modeling at the age of 12 when her neighbor gave her a chance to model for a Warehouse advertisement. Prasad Bidapa groomed her as a model.



Rabindranath Tagore visited Sabarmati Ashram in the year 1930. During this visit, he talked to Mahatma Gandhi. Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi were admirers of each other. Tagore gave Gandhi the title of Mahatma, while Gandhi called him Gurudev.



➤ 1951: Lie detector machine was used for the first time in Netherlands.

Lie detector machine was not used in Netherlands in 1951. The lie detector machine is called polygraph and it was invented by John Augustus Larson in 1921. Polygraph machine is used to detect crime. This machine tracks the physical response of the person and on that basis it decides whether the person is telling the truth or lying.



➤ 1930: Rabindranath Tagore visited Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram.





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➤ 1886: The Hockey Association was formed in England.

In 1886, the Men's Hockey Association was formed in England. It was this association that created the first formal set of rules for field hockey. One of the oldest sports in the world, hockey probably originated in Scotland as early as 1527. It was then known as Hokie in English.



➤ 1997- India's first electric car 'Reva' was launched in Bangalore.

India's first electric car 'Reva' was not launched in Bangalore. This car was launched by Mahindra & Mahindra in the year 2001. India's first electric car was 'Lovebird', which was launched in the year 1993. However, this car did not work as per its promise.



Important NEWS on 18 JAN

➤ ICC Players of the Month for December 2024 Announced

International Cricket Council (ICC) recognizes exceptional individual performances in international cricket by awarding the ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month titles. For December 2024, these honors have been bestowed upon India's Jasprit Bumrah and Australia's Annabel Sutherland, acknowledging their stellar contributions on the global cricketing stage.



➤ Cabinet Nod for 8th Pay Commission Implementation

On January, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his cabinet approved the formation of the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC) for central government employees. This decision, announced by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to revise the salaries and allowances of central government employees, along with pensioners. The 8th Pay Commission will work to address the financial needs



of the workforce and ensure a timely revision of compensation structures.



➤ India's Hydrogen Train Engine Sets a Power Benchmark

India's Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, recently shared a remarkable achievement in the field of green energy technology during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Indian Railways has developed the world's most powerful hydrogen fuel-run train engine, setting a new benchmark in global railway innovation. The engine, built with indigenous technology, reflects India's growing capabilities in green energy and sustainable development.



➤ ISKCON Temple Inaugurated by PM Modi in Navi Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sri Sri Radha Madanmohanji Temple of ISKCON in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, on January, 2025. Built over 12 years at a cost of ₹170 crore, this temple is Asia's second-largest ISKCON temple. It stands as a fusion of spirituality and knowledge, featuring various facilities that reflect ISKCON's mission to serve society.



➤ Singapore Confers Honorary Citizenship on Tarun Das

Singapore has awarded its highest honor for non-citizens, the Honorary Citizen Award, to Tarun Das, former Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in recognition of his significant contributions to strengthening Singapore-India relations.



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In a significant diplomatic development, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced that India and Spain will commemorate 2026 as a 'dual year' focusing on culture, tourism, and advancements in artificial intelligence (AI). This initiative aims to strengthen bilateral ties and promote mutual understanding between the two nations.



➤ India Set to Surpass Japan as World's Fourth-Largest Economy by 2026

India is projected to overtake Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2026, according to the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). This optimistic outlook is underpinned by robust GDP growth forecasts and strategic policy recommendations aimed at enhancing economic resilience and fostering sustainable development.

ECONOMY



➤ India-Spain Declare 2026 as 'Dual Year' for Culture, Tourism, and AI

Current affairs MCQS on 18 JAN

Q.1. Recently, India and which country have discussed 'crime free border cooperation'?

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Bhutan
- (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (a) Bangladesh

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Mohammad Nurul Islam to South Block to discuss border security concerns and ongoing measures to deal with cross-border crimes. During the meeting, the MEA informed that India has followed all protocols and agreements established between the two countries as well as the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) with





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regard to security measures, including border fencing.

Q.2. Pavana river, which was in news recently, flows in which state?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (c) Maharashtra

The National Green Tribunal recently directed the state-appointed rejuvenation committee to convene a meeting of stakeholders to set a new timeline for implementing the action plan to tackle pollution in the Pavana river. It is located in Pune district in the west of Maharashtra.

Q.3. Recently, which country has built the world's most powerful hydrogen train engine?

- (a) America
- (b) Russia
- (c) India
- (d) Japan

Answer: (c) India

India's Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently shared a remarkable achievement in the field of green energy technology during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Indian Railways has developed the world's most powerful hydrogen-fueled train engine, setting a new benchmark in global railway innovation. This engine, built with indigenous technology, reflects India's growing capabilities in green energy and sustainable development.

Q.4. Recently, India and which country have announced to celebrate 2026 as a dual year?

- (a) Spain
- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) Germany

Answer: (a) Spain

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced during his official visit to Spain that 2026 will be

marked as a 'double year' to celebrate advances in culture, tourism and artificial intelligence between India and Spain. Addressing members of the Indian diaspora, Jaishankar acknowledged their role in shaping India's positive image globally and emphasised the growing potential of India-Spain relations.

Q.5. Recently, which has become the first private company to build its own constellation of satellites?

- (a) Aurezon
- (b) Lyrics
- (c) Pixel
- (d) Tesla

Answer: (c) Pixel

Two Indian space startups Pixxel and Digantara announced the launch of their satellite on a SpaceX rocket. With the launch, Pixxel became the first private company in India to build its own constellation of satellites. The company plans to launch three additional satellites in the next two months, followed by 18 more satellites to complete its global hyperspectral constellation.

Q.6. Where was the cattle festival 'Kanuma' celebrated recently?

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (a) Telangana

Kanuma Panduga is an important festival celebrated in Telangana, India, which coincides with the Sankranti festival. It falls on the day after Makar Sankranti and is dedicated to honoring cattle, mainly cows and bulls, symbolizing the bond between humans, animals and nature. The festival marks the sun's journey towards the northern hemisphere, announcing the arrival of spring and longer days. The festival is celebrated with great enthusiasm, traditional rituals and cultural ceremonies.





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Q.7. Recently, which state government will give pension to the people who went to jail during the Emergency?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Assam
- (d) Odisha

Answer: (d) Odisha

The Odisha state government has announced a significant welfare measure for individuals jailed during the Emergency from 1975 to 1977. From January 1, 2025, all surviving prisoners in Odisha will receive a monthly pension of ₹20,000 along with medical coverage and other benefits. The move is part of the government's effort to honour and support those jailed under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during the Emergency declared by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Q.8. Recently, "Gaan-Ngai" 2025 festival is being organized in which state?

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Assam

Answer: (a) Manipur

The annual festival of Zeliangrong community Gaan-Ngai began in a colourful manner in Manipur. The state-level function was celebrated at Sagolband Ramji Kabui village near Imphal under the aegis of State Level Gaan-Ngai 2025 Celebration Committee. Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh along with his Cabinet colleagues Thomgam Biswajit Singh and Awangbo Newmai, Hill Area Committee chairman Dinganglung Gangmei, MLAs Sapam Kunjakeshwar Singh, Thangjam Arunkumar Singh, M Rameshwar Singh and Janghemlung Panmei attended the state-level function.

Q.9. Recently, in which state did Prime Minister Modi inaugurate Asia's second largest ISKCON temple?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Navi Mumbai

- (c) Surat
- (d) Nagpur

Answer: (b) Navi Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia's second largest ISKCON temple in Navi Mumbai. This temple is spread over 9 acres. Modi said that to understand India, spirituality has to be imbibed. He said that service is the symbol of true secularism. The government is also working with the spirit of service like ISKCON. PM said- When the country was in the chains of slavery, Prabhupad ji Swami started a mission like ISKCON. Spirituality and various traditions are also visible in this temple. A museum of Ramayana and Mahabharata is being built here.

Q.10. Recently, Parshuram Kumbh Mela 2025 has started in which northeastern state?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Assam
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Mizoram

Answer: (a) Arunachal Pradesh

The Parshuram Kund Mela has begun in Arunachal Pradesh. Parshuram Kund is a Hindu pilgrimage site located on the Brahmaputra plateau near the Lohit River. Also known as the "Kumbh of the Northeast", this festival attracts thousands of devotees from across the country and abroad.

Q.11. Recently, which state has become the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Jan Arogya Yojana?

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Assam

Answer: (b) Odisha

Odisha has become the 34th state to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) after National Health Authority (NHA), Union Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Health & Family Welfare,





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Government of Odisha. The MoU was signed between Smt. L.S. Changsan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Chief Executive Officer, NHA and Smt. Aswathy S., Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Odisha at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Q.12. Who has recently been selected as the 'ICC Player of the Month' for December 2024?

- (a) Annabel Sutherland
- (b) Jasprit Bumrah
- (c) Both of the above
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Both of the above

The International Cricket Council (ICC) awards the ICC Player of the Month award to male and female players in recognition of exceptional individual performances in international cricket. For December 2024, the honour has been given to India's Jasprit Bumrah and Australia's Annabel Sutherland for their outstanding contributions to the global cricket stage.

Q.13. Who has recently inaugurated the 'Mega Entrepreneurship Summit'?

- (a) Rajiv Ranjan
- (b) Amit Shah
- (c) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- (d) Narendra Modi

Answer: (a) Rajiv Ranjan

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurated the Mega Entrepreneurship Summit in Pune. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurated the Mega Entrepreneurship Development Summit in Pune. He inaugurated 40 livestock projects worth over Rs 545 crore. The main objective of the summit is to bring together policy makers, federations, cooperatives, industry associations, entrepreneurs and financial institutions. The platform is a forum for stakeholders to discuss challenges, share solutions and promote entrepreneurship.

Q.14. Who has recently become the highest run-scorer in the history of the Women's Under-19 ODI Trophy?

- (a) Anupriya Sharma
- (b) Isha Jain
- (c) Ira Jadhav
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Ira Jadhav

Mumbai's Ira Jadhav created a sensational record when she became the first batsman to score a triple century in the BCCI Women's Under-19 One-Day Tournament. Opening the batting at the Alur Cricket Stadium near Bengaluru, Jadhav smashed an unbeaten 346 off just 157 balls with 16 sixes and 42 fours against the Meghalaya Women's Under-19 team.

Q.15. Recently the 10th 'Ajanta Verul International Film Festival' has started in which state?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Uttarakhand
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (a) Maharashtra

Inspired by the rich cultural heritage of the Marathwada region of the Indian state of Maharashtra, the Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival (AIEFF) is an annual celebration of acclaimed films from India and around the world. This is the special 10th edition of the festival. Organised by the Marathwada Art, Culture and Film Foundation and presented by the Nath Group, Mahatma Gandhi Mission and Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, AIEFF is proudly supported by FIPRESCI, a renowned international federation of film critics, and FFISI, Federation of Film Societies of India. It is also supported by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, National Film Development Corporation Limited, Government of Maharashtra and Maharashtra Film, State and Cultural Development Corporation Limited.

