

International & National News

1. On 1st January 2026, which country officially became the 21st member of the Eurozone after replacing its currency, the 'lev'?

- A) Croatia
- B) Bulgaria
- C) Romania
- D) Serbia

Answer: B) Bulgaria

Explanation: Bulgaria officially adopted the Euro on Jan 1, 2026, marking a full transition from the Bulgarian lev. To join, a country must meet "Maastricht criteria," including price stability and sound public finances.

2. Which international organization has designated the year 2026 as the "International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists"?

- A) UNESCO
- B) World Bank
- C) United Nations (UN)
- D) FAO

Answer: C) United Nations (UN)

Explanation: The UN General Assembly declared 2026 to focus on sustainable land management and the livelihoods of pastoralists who depend on rangelands.

3. The United States officially completed its withdrawal from which global body on January 1, 2026, following a mandatory one-year notice period?

- A) UNESCO
- B) World Health Organization (WHO)

- C) Paris Agreement
- D) UN Human Rights Council

Answer: B) World Health Organization (WHO)

Explanation: Citing dissatisfaction with the handling of past global health crises, the US finalized its exit. This has significant implications for global health funding and policy.

4. Which Indian state government launched the "Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana" on Jan 1, 2026, providing free insurance up to ₹10 lakh per family?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: B) Punjab

Explanation: The Punjab government introduced this scheme to ensure universal healthcare access, covering both secondary and tertiary treatments for all residents.

5. India became the first country in the world to commercially produce 'Bio-Bitumen' on 1st January 2026. What is the primary source of this Bio-Bitumen?

- A) Plastic Waste
- B) Agricultural Stubble/Residue
- C) Marine Algae
- D) Volcanic Ash

Answer: B) Agricultural Stubble/Residue

Explanation: Bio-bitumen is a sustainable alternative to petroleum-based bitumen used in road construction. This helps reduce "Parali" burning and promotes a circular economy.



Economics, Banking & Schemes

6. Which telecom major received a ₹638 crore GST penalty order on January 1, 2026, from the Ahmedabad GST office?

- A) Reliance Jio
- B) Bharti Airtel
- C) Vodafone Idea (Vi)
- D) BSNL

Answer: C) Vodafone Idea (Vi)

Explanation: The company intends to challenge the order legally. This comes amidst ongoing financial restructuring and government moratoriums on their AGR dues.

7. Effective from Jan 1, 2026, the price of which fuel was reduced by a steep 7.3% by Indian Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)?

- A) Petrol
- B) Diesel
- C) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)
- D) CNG

Answer: C) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)

Explanation: ATF prices are revised monthly based on global benchmarks. A reduction helps lower operating costs for airlines, potentially leading to cheaper airfare.

8. Under the updated Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) guidelines active in Jan 2026, what is the new eligibility criteria for senior citizens?

- A) Only BPL families
- B) All seniors above 60
- C) All seniors aged 70 and above, regardless of income
- D) Seniors with no pension only

Answer: C) All seniors aged 70 and above, regardless of income

Explanation: The government expanded the world's largest health insurance scheme to cover all citizens aged 70+, providing a ₹5 lakh annual cover.

9. Which organization launched the mascot 'Udai' on Jan 1, 2026, to humanize and simplify citizen services?

- A) ISRO
- B) UIDAI (Aadhaar)
- C) RBI
- D) SEBI

Answer: B) UIDAI (Aadhaar)

Explanation: 'Udai' was introduced to help citizens navigate Aadhaar-linked services and address grievances through an interactive AI-based interface.

10. What is the interest rate trend for Small Savings Schemes (like PPF/SSY) announced for the January–March 2026 quarter?

- A) Increased by 0.5%
- B) Decreased by 0.2%
- C) Kept Unchanged
- D) Linked to Gold prices

Answer: C) Kept Unchanged

Explanation: The Ministry of Finance typically reviews these rates quarterly. For Q4 of FY 2025-26 (starting Jan 1), rates were maintained to ensure stability for middle-class savers.

Appointments, Awards & Defense

11. Who assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the South Western Air Command on January 1, 2026?

- A) Air Marshal Tejinder Singh
- B) Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- C) Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- D) Air Marshal R.K. Bhadauria

Answer: A) Air Marshal Tejinder Singh

Explanation: An alumnus of NDA, Air Marshal Tejinder Singh took over this vital command, having previously served as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

12. The Indian Army has declared the year 2026 as the year of:

- A) Year of Technology Absorption
- B) Year of Networking & Data Centricity
- C) Year of Logistics Transformation
- D) Year of the Soldier

Answer: B) Year of Networking & Data Centricity

Explanation: Following the "Year of Technology Absorption" (2024), 2026 focuses on integrating secure data networks and AI-driven decision-making across all army wings.

13. On 1st January 2026, India celebrated the 25th anniversary of the first flight of which indigenous aircraft?

- A) LCA Tejas
- B) HAL Prachand
- C) INS Vikrant
- D) HTT-40

Answer: A) LCA Tejas

Explanation: The Tejas Light Combat Aircraft first took to the skies on January 1, 2004. The 25th-anniversary celebrations highlight India's journey toward *Atmanirbharta* in defense.

14. Justice Sangam Kumar Sahoo was appointed as the Chief Justice of which High Court on January 1, 2026?

- A) Kerala High Court
- B) Patna High Court
- C) Meghalaya High Court
- D) Delhi High Court

Answer: B) Patna High Court

Explanation: Previously a judge at the Odisha High Court, his appointment was notified by the President under Article 217 of the Constitution.

15. Which Indian film personality was posthumously honored with the Padma Vibhushan (announced shortly after New Year) for 2026?

- A) Mithun Chakraborty
- B) Dharmendra
- C) Chiranjeevi
- D) Vyjayanthimala

Answer: B) Dharmendra

Explanation: The veteran actor was recognized for his monumental contribution to Indian cinema spanning six decades.

Sports, Books & Important Days

16. Which nation will host the Men's T20 World Cup in 2026, which officially entered its "Host Year" on Jan 1?

- A) Australia and New Zealand
- B) India and Sri Lanka
- C) USA and West Indies
- D) England and Wales

Answer: B) India and Sri Lanka

Explanation: The 2026 edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup is scheduled to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka in the latter half of the year.

17. On January 1, 2026, which Indian Grandmaster was ranked World No. 1 in the FIDE Live Ratings?

- A) R. Praggnanandhaa
- B) Arjun Erigaisi
- C) Gukesh D
- D) Viswanathan Anand

Answer: B) Arjun Erigaisi

Explanation: Throughout late 2025 and early 2026, Arjun Erigaisi maintained a stellar run in international tournaments, consistently staying at the top of the live ratings.

18. The book "The 2026 Shift," which trended on New Year's Day for its insights into India's target to become a \$5 trillion economy, is authored by:

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) Arvind Subramanian
- C) Bibek Debroy (Posthumous/Legacy)
- D) V. Anantha Nageswaran

Answer: D) V. Anantha Nageswaran

Explanation: The Chief Economic Advisor's latest work discusses the structural reforms and digital infrastructure driving India's growth toward 2030.

19. Every year, January 1st is observed globally as:

- A) World Peace Day
- B) Global Family Day
- C) NRI Day

D) Both A and B

Answer: D) Both A and B

Explanation: January 1 is celebrated as Global Family Day (promoting peace and sharing) and is also recognized by the Vatican/UN as World Day of Peace.

20. Which state began a first-of-its-kind survey of "Birds of Prey" (Raptors) in its protected areas starting Jan 2026?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Kerala
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: A) Gujarat

Explanation: The Gujarat Forest Department initiated this survey to track the population and health of vultures, eagles, and hawks to bolster conservation efforts.