

National & International News

1. On 3rd January 2026, which Indian state became the first to implement a "State-Level Carbon Credit Trading Policy" for farmers?

- A) Karnataka
- B) Sikkim
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Haryana

Answer: C) Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: The MP government launched this policy to incentivize sustainable farming. Farmers adopting regenerative practices can now earn carbon credits, which are bought by industries to offset their emissions, providing an additional income stream for the rural sector.

2. Which country took over the Presidency of the G7 for the year 2026, starting its official summit planning on Jan 3?

- A) Canada
- B) France
- C) Japan
- D) USA

Answer: B) France

Explanation: France assumed the G7 Presidency from Italy. The 2026 agenda is expected to focus heavily on "AI Ethics and Global Security" and "Climate Finance for Developing Nations."

3. The 111th edition of the "Indian Science Congress" (ISC) was inaugurated on January 3, 2026. In which city is it being hosted?

- A) Pune
- B) Bhubaneswar
- C) Hyderabad

D) Lucknow

Answer: B) Bhubaneswar

Explanation: Traditionally inaugurated on Jan 3rd every year by the Prime Minister, the 111th ISC is hosted by KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. The theme for 2026 is "Sustainable Science for a Circular Global Economy."

4. Which international body announced the "2026 Global Water Security Pact" on Jan 3 to address the depletion of transboundary aquifers?

- A) World Bank
- B) United Nations (UN-Water)
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) UNESCO

Answer: B) United Nations (UN-Water)

Explanation: This pact aims to create a legal framework for sharing groundwater resources between neighboring countries, particularly in water-stressed regions of Asia and Africa.

5. India's first "Underwater Museum," built to showcase the maritime history of the Chola Dynasty, was opened to the public on Jan 3, 2026, in which state?

- A) Kerala
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Gujarat
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: B) Tamil Nadu

Explanation: Located off the coast of Poompuhar, the museum uses advanced diving tech and glass-bottom boats to show submerged artifacts, promoting "Blue Tourism."

Economics, Banking & Tech

6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the "Digital Rupee 2.0" (e₹) pilot for offline transactions on Jan 3, 2026. What technology does this offline mode primarily use?

- A) Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)
- B) Near Field Communication (NFC)
- C) Satellite Link
- D) QR Code Only

Answer: B) Near Field Communication (NFC)

Explanation: The update allows users to transact the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) even in "no-network" zones by tapping phones, significantly boosting its utility in rural India.

7. Which Indian tech giant signed an MoU with the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) on Jan 3 to build India's first "Quantum Computing Cloud"?

- A) Infosys
- B) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- C) HCLTech
- D) Wipro

Answer: B) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

Explanation: This partnership aims to provide Indian startups and researchers access to quantum processing power over the cloud to solve complex cryptographic and material science problems.

8. As per the report released on Jan 3, 2026, which country remained the largest recipient of remittances in the world during 2025?

- A) Mexico
- B) China

- C) India
- D) Philippines

Answer: C) India

Explanation: India's inward remittances crossed the \$130 billion mark in 2025, driven by a high-skilled workforce in the US, UK, and the Gulf, contributing significantly to India's foreign exchange reserves.

9. The "PM-KUSUM" scheme was extended on Jan 3, 2026, with a new component. What does the new 'Component D' focus on?

- A) Solarization of urban rooftops
- B) Solarization of cold storage units in villages
- C) Solar-powered tractors
- D) Export of solar panels

Answer: B) Solarization of cold storage units in villages

Explanation: To reduce post-harvest losses, the government is now subsidizing solar-powered cold storage units managed by Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

10. Which cryptocurrency platform was granted the first "Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) License" by the Finance Ministry on Jan 3 under new 2026 regulations?

- A) Binance India
- B) CoinDCX
- C) WazirX
- D) CoinSwitch

Answer: B) CoinDCX

Explanation: Following strict compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and KYC norms, CoinDCX became the first fully regulated domestic exchange under the new framework.

Defence, Appointments & Awards

11. The Indian Navy commissioned the third Kalvari-class (Scorpene) "Submarine Upgrade" featuring AIP technology on Jan 3, 2026. What does AIP stand for?

- A) Advanced Internal Propulsion
- B) Air-Independent Propulsion
- C) Automated Integrated Power
- D) Aero-Ionized Pressure

Answer: B) Air-Independent Propulsion

Explanation: Developed by DRDO, AIP allows conventional submarines to stay underwater for much longer periods without needing to surface to charge batteries, making them stealthier.

12. Who was appointed as the first female Chairperson of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) on January 3, 2026?

- A) Alka Upadhyaya
- B) Aruna Sharma
- C) Meenakshi Lekhi
- D) Smita Sabharwal

Answer: D) Smita Sabharwal

Explanation: Known as the "People's Officer," her appointment is aimed at accelerating the "Bharatmala Pariyojana" and improving highway safety standards.

13. "Exercise Cyclone-III," a joint special forces exercise between India and which country, commenced on Jan 3, 2026, in Jodhpur?

- A) France
- B) Egypt
- C) Israel

D) Japan

Answer: B) Egypt

Explanation: This exercise focuses on sharing best practices in counter-terrorism and sniper operations in desert terrain.

14. Which Indian scientist was awarded the "Global Energy Prize 2026" on Jan 3 for breakthroughs in perovskite solar cells?

- A) C.N.R. Rao
- B) Thalappil Pradeep
- C) Dr. Rajesh Kumar
- D) Jayant Narlikar

Answer: C) Dr. Rajesh Kumar

Explanation: His work has significantly increased the efficiency of low-cost solar panels, making them a viable alternative to silicon-based cells.

15. On Jan 3, 2026, the "Gallantry Awards Portal" was updated to include a digital archive of which 1971 war hero, whose birth anniversary falls in January?

- A) Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon
- B) Sam Manekshaw
- C) Albert Ekka
- D) Vikram Batra

Answer: C) Albert Ekka

Explanation: Lt/Col Albert Ekka (Param Vir Chakra) is being honored with a virtual reality museum experience on the portal to inspire youth.

Sports, Books & Important Days

16. Which city was officially designated as the "Asian Sports Capital 2026" on Jan 3?

- A) Tokyo
- B) Doha
- C) Bangkok
- D) New Delhi

Answer: B) Doha

Explanation: Due to its world-class infrastructure and hosting of the 2030 Asian Games, Doha was recognized for its contribution to promoting sports across the continent.

17. Who is the author of the biography "The Unstoppable: The Life of Neeraj Chopra," released on Jan 3, 2026?

- A) Navdeep Singh Gill
- B) Boria Majumdar
- C) Harsha Bhogle
- D) Vikram Chandra

Answer: A) Navdeep Singh Gill

Explanation: The book chronicles the journey of the "Golden Boy" from a small village in Haryana to becoming a double Olympic medalist.

18. 3rd January is celebrated in India as "Savitribai Phule Jayanti." She is widely regarded as:

- A) The first female doctor of India
- B) The first female teacher of India
- C) The first woman to lead a peasant revolt
- D) The first female pilot

Answer: B) The first female teacher of India

Explanation: Born on Jan 3, 1831, she was a pioneer in women's education and social reform along with her husband Jyotirao Phule.

19. Which Indian state launched the "Mukhya Mantri Khel Protsahan Yojana" on Jan 3 to provide a monthly stipend of ₹5,000 to budding athletes?

- A) Odisha
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Uttarakhand
- D) Rajasthan

Answer: C) Uttarakhand

Explanation: The scheme targets players aged 14-23 to ensure they can afford quality nutrition and equipment.

20. In the Jan 3 ratings, which Indian wrestler reached the World No. 1 spot in the 53kg category?

- A) Vinesh Phogat
- B) Antim Panghal
- C) Anshu Malik
- D) Sakshi Malik

Answer: B) Antim Panghal

Explanation: Antim Panghal's consistent performance in the UWW ranking series propelled her to the top spot, making her a top medal prospect for upcoming international events.