

## National & International News

1. On 4th January 2026, which Indian state officially launched the 'Safe-Himalaya Project' to monitor glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)?

- A) Himachal Pradesh
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Sikkim
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer: B) Uttarakhand**

**Explanation:** Following recent climate shifts, the Uttarakhand government, in collaboration with ISRO, installed real-time sensor-based monitoring systems in high-risk glacial lakes to provide early warnings to downstream populations.

2. Which country's space agency launched the 'Astra-Search' mission on Jan 4, 2026, to study "Oumuamua-like" interstellar objects?

- A) USA (NASA)
- B) Japan (JAXA)
- C) European Union
- (ESA) D) China (CNSA)

**Answer: A) NASA**

**Explanation:** NASA launched the mission to intercept and study interstellar objects passing through our solar system, aiming to understand the chemical composition of matter from other star systems.

3. The 'World Braille Day' is observed globally on 4th January. It commemorates the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who was born in which country?

- A) United Kingdom

- B) France
- C) Germany
- D) USA

**Answer: B) France**

**Explanation:** Born in 1809 in Coupvray, France, Louis Braille invented the tactile reading and writing system for the visually impaired. The UN has observed this day since 2019 to emphasize human rights for the blind.

4. Which Indian city was declared the "First Smart Zero-Waste City" of India on January 4, 2026?

- A) Indore
- B) Surat
- C) Ambikapur
- D) Mysuru

**Answer: A) Indore**

**Explanation:** Already a leader in cleanliness, Indore achieved a 100% waste-to-energy conversion rate for all municipal solid waste, making it the first city to reach a "Net-Zero Waste" status in the country.

5. On Jan 4, 2026, India signed a landmark agreement with which country to develop a 'Trans-Oceanic Fiber Cable' link?

- A) Maldives
- B) Australia
- C) Singapore
- D) Mauritius

**Answer: D) Mauritius**

**Explanation:** This agreement strengthens India's "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative, providing high-speed

data connectivity and enhancing maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean.

## Economics, Banking & Schemes

6. Which organization released the 'Global Economic Outlook 2026' on Jan 4, predicting India's GDP growth at 7.2% for the fiscal year?

- A) IMF
- B) World Bank
- C) WEF
- D) Morgan Stanley

**Answer: B) World Bank**

**Explanation:** The report cited robust domestic demand, infrastructure spending, and a surge in the manufacturing sector (PLI schemes) as the primary drivers for India's sustained growth.

7. The RBI announced on Jan 4, 2026, that it would increase the 'Capital Conservation Buffer' (CCB) for which type of banks?

- A) Small Finance Banks
- B) Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)
- C) Payments Banks
- D) Cooperative Banks

**Answer: B) Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**

**Explanation:** To ensure financial stability, RBI increased the buffer for banks like SBI, HDFC, and ICICI, requiring them to hold more capital against potential economic shocks.

8. Which Ministry launched the 'PRAGATI 2.0' portal on Jan 4, 2026, to fast-track the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- C) Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
- D) Ministry of Rural Development

**Answer: C) Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**

**Explanation:** PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) 2.0 uses advanced data visualization and AI to identify bottlenecks in multi-crore infrastructure projects across states.

9. The SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) introduced a 'T+0' settlement cycle for the top 500 stocks effective from Jan 2026.

What does 'T+0' signify?

- A) Trade is cancelled in 0 hours
- B) Same-day settlement of funds and securities
- C) Zero tax on trades
- D) Trading with zero brokerage

**Answer: B) Same-day settlement of funds and securities**

**Explanation:** Moving from T+1 to T+0 makes India one of the fastest markets in the world, allowing investors to receive their money or shares immediately after the trade is executed.

10. Which government scheme completed its 11th year on Jan 4, 2026, having been launched in 2015 for urban rejuvenation?

- A) PM Awas Yojana
- B) HRIDAY Scheme
- C) Smart Cities Mission
- D) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

**Answer: D) AMRUT**

**Explanation:** AMRUT was launched to ensure every household has access to a tap with an assured supply of water and a sewerage connection, focusing on 500 cities.

## Defense, Appointments & Awards

11. The Indian Army conducted the 'Agni-Shakti' integrated fire-power exercise on Jan 4, 2026, in which region?

- A) Pokhran, Rajasthan
- B) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Rann of Kutch, Gujarat
- D) Ladakh

**Answer: A) Pokhran, Rajasthan**

**Explanation:** The exercise demonstrated the synergy between the artillery, air force, and indigenous drone swarms, testing the "theatre command" concept in a desert environment.

12. Who was appointed as the 'Chief Coordinator' for the upcoming G20 Summit in India (scheduled for 2028), announced on Jan 4, 2026?

- A) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
- B) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- C) Ruchira Kamboj
- D) Amitabh Kant

**Answer: A) Vinay Mohan Kwatra**

**Explanation:** The former Foreign Secretary was brought back to lead the strategic planning for the next Indian presidency of the G20, focusing on the "Global South" agenda.

13. Which Indian naval ship (INS) participated in the 'Bridges of Friendship' visit to Kenya on Jan 4, 2026?

- A) INS Vikrant
- B) INS Sumedha
- C) INS Tarkash
- D) INS Delhi

**Answer: B) INS Sumedha**

**Explanation:** Part of the Indian Navy's mission-based deployment, the visit aimed to strengthen bilateral ties and conduct joint EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance with the Kenyan Navy.

14. The 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award 2026' was conferred upon which social activist on Jan 4 for their work in digital literacy?

- A) Kailash Satyarthi
- B) Dr. R. Ravi Kumar
- C) Medha Patkar
- D) Bezwada Wilson

**Answer: B) Dr. R. Ravi Kumar**

**Explanation:** He was recognized for bridging the digital divide by providing free coding and AI education to over 1 lakh students in rural Dalit communities.

15. Which defense organization successfully test-fired the 'Pralay-II' short-range ballistic missile on Jan 4, 2026?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) HAL
- D) Bharat Dynamics Ltd

**Answer: B) DRDO**

**Explanation:** Pralay-II is a surface-to-surface semi-ballistic missile with an increased range of 500-700 km, designed to give the Indian Army a tactical edge in conventional warfare.

## Sports, Books & Important Days

16. In the Jan 4, 2026 sports updates, which Indian cricketer became the fastest to reach 15,000 runs in International T20s (including leagues)?

- A) Shubman Gill
- B) Suryakumar Yadav
- C) Ruturaj Gaikwad
- D) Yashasvi Jaiswal

**Answer: B) Suryakumar Yadav**

**Explanation:** His consistent strike rate and performance across global leagues and international matches allowed him to reach this milestone in record time.

17. Who is the author of the new book titled "The AI Republic: Governance in the Age of Algorithms," released on Jan 4, 2026?

- A) Nandan Nilekani
- B) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- C) Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- D) S. Jaishankar

**Answer: C) Rajeev Chandrasekhar**

**Explanation:** The book explores the legal and ethical frameworks needed for sovereign AI and how India can lead the global conversation on AI safety.

18. Which country won the 'United Cup 2026' (Tennis) finals held in Sydney on January 4?

- A) USA
- B) Germany
- C) Poland
- D) Australia

**Answer: C) Poland**

**Explanation:** Led by world No. 1 Iga Świątek and Hubert Hurkacz, Poland defeated Germany in a thrilling final to lift the mixed-team trophy.

19. On Jan 4, 2026, the government of which state declared 'Kalaripayattu' as a mandatory elective in state-run schools?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Odisha

**Answer: B) Kerala**

**Explanation:** To preserve the "Mother of all martial arts" and promote physical fitness, the Kerala government integrated it into the school curriculum.

20. The 'National Startup Day' in India is approaching. It is celebrated every year on:

- A) Jan 1
- B) Jan 16
- C) Jan 4
- D) Jan 10

**Answer: B) Jan 16**

**Explanation:** While Jan 4 sees the start of "Startup India Innovation Week," the official day is Jan 16, marking the anniversary of the launch of the Startup India initiative in 2016.