

National & International News

1. Which Indian city was officially designated as the "National Hub for Semiconductor Research" by the Ministry of Electronics and IT on January 11, 2026?

- (A) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- (B) Dholera, Gujarat
- (C) Hyderabad, Telangana
- (D) Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (B) Dholera, Gujarat
Explanation: Following the operationalization of major semiconductor plants in early 2026, Dholera has been designated as the national hub. This move aims to centralize research and development (R&D) and supply chain logistics for India's burgeoning chip industry.

2. Which country recently announced a "Digital Nomad Visa 2.0" to attract 1 million global remote workers by the end of 2026?

- (A) Japan
- (B) Thailand
- (C) Indonesia
- (D) Estonia

Correct Answer: (B) Thailand
Explanation: Thailand launched the enhanced visa program on January 10, offering tax breaks and longer residency to professionals in the AI and Green Tech sectors to boost their post-pandemic economy.

3. The "Indo-Pacific Maritime Security Dialogue 2026" concluded on January 11 in which city?

- (A) New Delhi
- (B) Sydney
- (C) Tokyo

(D) Singapore

Correct Answer: (A) New Delhi
Explanation: Hosted by the Indian Navy and Ministry of External Affairs, the dialogue focused on "Safe Seas for Global Trade," specifically addressing recent disruptions in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Economics & Banking

4. Which Indian bank became the first to integrate "Quantum-Secure Transaction Technology" into its mobile banking app on January 11, 2026?

- (A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (B) HDFC Bank
- (C) ICICI Bank
- (D) Punjab National Bank

Correct Answer: (B) HDFC Bank
Explanation: HDFC Bank, in collaboration with a leading tech firm, implemented Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) to protect customer data against future threats from quantum computing.

5. The RBI recently issued a circular regarding "Green Deposit 2.0." What is the minimum tenure for these deposits as per the 2026 guidelines?

- (A) 1 Year
- (B) 18 Months
- (C) 2 Years
- (D) 3 Years

Correct Answer: (B) 18 Months
Explanation: To ensure long-term funding for renewable energy projects, the RBI updated the guidelines, mandating a minimum tenure of 18 months for retail green deposits.

Defense & Science

6. The Indian Air Force (IAF) officially inducted the first squadron of which indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) variant on January 11?

- (A) Prachand MK-2
- (B) Rudra MK-4
- (C) Cheetal
- (D) Dhruv-S

Correct Answer: (A) Prachand MK-2

Explanation: The MK-2 version features advanced electronic warfare suites and longer-range anti-tank guided missiles, significantly boosting high-altitude combat capabilities.

7. "Ex-Desert Cyclone 2026" is a joint military exercise conducted between India and which country?

- (A) Saudi Arabia
- (B) UAE
- (C) Egypt
- (D) Jordan

Correct Answer: (B) UAE **Explanation:** This exercise, held in the deserts of Rajasthan, focuses on sub-conventional operations and counter-terrorism in arid terrains.

Appointments, Awards & Honors

8. Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in January 2026?

- (A) Shaji K.V.
- (B) Rajesh Verma
- (C) Dr. Manish Gupta

(D) S. Ramann

Correct Answer: (C) Dr. Manish Gupta

Explanation: Dr. Gupta, an expert in rural economics, was appointed to lead NABARD with a focus on digitizing Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

9. Which Indian film won the "Best Motion Picture - Non-English Language" at the Golden Globe Awards held in early January 2026?

- (A) Boong
- (B) Kantara: A Legend
- (C) Laapataa Ladies
- (D) All We Imagine as Light

Correct Answer: (A) Boong **Explanation:** The Manipuri film *Boong* continued its global winning streak, becoming the first Indian regional film to secure this specific title at the Golden Globes.

10. Who was honored with the "Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2026" for contributions to Global Healthcare?

- (A) Dr. Vivek Murthy
- (B) Dr. Arati Prabhakar
- (C) Dr. Ravi Narayan
- (D) Neera Tanden

Correct Answer: (C) Dr. Ravi Narayan **Explanation:** Dr. Narayan was recognized for his work in establishing low-cost diagnostic clinics across Southeast Asia and Africa.

Sports

11. Which country will host the 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup?

- (A) India

- (B) Australia
- (C) Saudi Arabia
- (D) Uzbekistan

Correct Answer: (B) Australia Explanation: Australia was officially confirmed as the host, following their successful co-hosting of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

12. Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal reached the finals of which ATP tournament on January 10, 2026?

- (A) Australian Open
- (B) Brisbane International
- (C) Maharashtra Open (Pune)
- (D) Chennai Open

Correct Answer: (D) Chennai Open Explanation: Nagal's resurgence in early 2026 saw him enter the top 50 rankings after a stellar performance in the Chennai Open.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

13. The Union Cabinet approved the "PM-SURYA 2.0" scheme on January 11. What is the target number of households for rooftop solar by 2027?

- (A) 1 Crore
- (B) 2.5 Crore
- (C) 5 Crore
- (D) 10 Crore

Correct Answer: (B) 2.5 Crore Explanation: Building on the success of the initial 1 crore target, the government has expanded the subsidy to cover 2.5 crore households to achieve energy independence.

14. India signed an MoU with which country in January 2026 for the "Joint Exploration of Critical Minerals" (Lithium and Cobalt)?

- (A) Argentina
- (B) Chile
- (C) Australia
- (D) Both (A) and (C)

Correct Answer: (D) Both (A) and (C) Explanation: India's Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) secured mining blocks in both Australia and Argentina to ensure raw material security for EV batteries.

Books, Authors & Important Days

15. What is the theme for National Youth Day (January 12), as announced on the eve (Jan 11) of the event in 2026?

- (A) It's all in the mind
- (B) Youth for Viksit Bharat @ 2047
- (C) Arise, Awake, and Stop Not
- (D) Digital Youth for Sustainable Development

Correct Answer: (B) Youth for Viksit Bharat @ 2047 Explanation: January 12 marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The 2026 theme emphasizes the role of the younger generation in transforming India into a developed nation by 2047.

16. The book titled "The Unseen Architect: A History of Indian Diplomacy" was released on January 11. Who is the author?

- (A) S. Jaishankar
- (B) Shashi Tharoor
- (C) Shivshankar Menon
- (D) Nirupama Rao

Correct Answer: (A) S. Jaishankar Explanation: The External Affairs Minister's new book provides an insider's view on how India navigated the shifting global order between 2020 and 2025.

State-Specific & Miscellaneous

17. Which Indian state launched the "Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal 3.0" providing enhanced unemployment allowance to postgraduate students?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Rajasthan
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) West Bengal

Correct Answer: (B) Rajasthan Explanation: The revised scheme includes mandatory skill training and an increased monthly stipend for unemployed youth.

18. On January 11, the world's oldest living person passed away at age 119. Which country was she from?

- (A) Japan
- (B) France
- (C) Spain
- (D) South Korea

Correct Answer: (A) Japan Explanation: Japan continues to have the highest concentration of centenarians globally.

19. Which PSU was awarded the "Navratna of the Year 2026" for its performance in the green energy sector?

- (A) NHPC
- (B) SJVN

- (C) IREDA
- (D) REC Ltd.

Correct Answer: (C) IREDA Explanation: The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency was recognized for its record-breaking loan sanctions for solar and wind projects.

20. The "BODH" initiative, mentioned in recent news, is related to which sector?

- (A) Buddhist Circuit Tourism
- (B) Artificial Intelligence Literacy
- (C) Maternal Health Tracking
- (D) Soil Health Monitoring

Correct Answer: (B) Artificial Intelligence Literacy Explanation: The "Basic Orientation and Digital Help" (BODH) initiative aims to provide AI-driven educational support to rural students in India.