

National & International News

1. Which country officially announced its exit from the "International Whaling Commission" (IWC) on January 20, 2026?

- A) South Korea
- B) Norway
- C) Iceland
- D) Japan

Answer: C) Iceland

Explanation: In a significant move for the environmental community, Iceland announced its official withdrawal from the IWC. The government cited that their internal whaling policies are a matter of national sovereignty and economic necessity, diverging from global regulations.

2. Which Indian city hosted the 2026 International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit focusing on "Off-grid Energy Independence"?

- A) Gandhinagar
- B) New Delhi
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Pune

Answer: A) Gandhinagar

Explanation: The ISA Summit 2026 was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The focus was on decentralized solar solutions to empower rural communities globally, reinforcing India's leadership in the green energy transition.

3. Yoweri Museveni secured his seventh term as President of which country in the January 2026 elections?

- A) Uganda
- B) Kenya

- C) Rwanda
- D) Ethiopia

Answer: A) Uganda

Explanation: Yoweri Museveni won the 2026 Presidential elections with 71.65% of the votes. This victory extends his four-decade-long rule, marking one of the longest presidencies in Africa.

4. The "Indo-Pacific Security Dialogue" held in January 2026 focused on which emerging maritime threat?

- A) Illegal deep-sea mining
- B) Cyberattacks on port infrastructure
- C) Autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) intrusion
- D) Ocean plastic accumulation

Answer: B) Cyberattacks on port infrastructure

Explanation: As ports become increasingly digital, they have become prime targets for state and non-state hackers. The dialogue emphasized intelligence sharing to protect vital trade routes from "cyber mischief."

Economics & Banking

5. Which international entity signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Mercosur bloc in January 2026 after 25 years of negotiations?

- A) India
- B) ASEAN
- C) European Union (EU)
- D) African Union

Answer: C) European Union (EU)

Explanation: The EU-Mercosur FTA was finally inked after two and a half decades of talks.

Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) will now have expanded access to European markets, though the deal includes strict environmental compliance rules.

6. The "Viksit Bharat Digital Grid" initiative launched in January 2026 primarily aims to:

- A) Boost rural e-commerce
- B) Unify national power distribution data
- C) Integrate center-state administrative data services
- D) Monitor agricultural irrigation through satellites

Answer: C) Integrate center-state administrative data services

Explanation: Launched by the Union Government, the Digital Grid serves as a "unified pipeline" for data exchange between various levels of government, aiming to reduce bureaucratic delays in scheme implementation.

7. Who is the current Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as of January 2026?

- A) Madhabi Puri Buch
- B) Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- C) Ajay Tyagi
- D) Sanjay Malhotra

Answer: A) Madhabi Puri Buch

Explanation: Madhabi Puri Buch continues to lead the market regulator. In January 2026, she proposed a ₹20,000-crore threshold to identify "Significant Indices" to ensure better transparency in the equity markets.

Defense & Technology

8. India recently skipped the "Will for Peace 2026" naval exercise. Which country hosted this drill?

- A) Russia
- B) Iran
- C) South Africa
- D) UAE

Answer: C) South Africa

Explanation: Hosted by South Africa near Simon's Town, India decided to skip the drill, clarifying that such exercises are not "institutionalized BRICS activities," despite participation from other BRICS+ members.

9. What is the primary role of the "Agni-Prime" missile that successfully underwent user trials in January 2026?

- A) Anti-satellite capability
- B) Tactical nuclear delivery
- C) Deep-sea submarine hunting
- D) Long-range reconnaissance

Answer: B) Tactical nuclear delivery

Explanation: The Agni-Prime is a new-generation, canisterized ballistic missile. It is more compact and mobile than its predecessors, serving as a key component of India's tactical nuclear deterrence.

10. India's Defence Procurement Board (DPB) recently approved the purchase of how many additional Rafale fighter jets?

- A) 36
- B) 83
- C) 114

D) 126

Answer: C) 114

Explanation: In a massive boost to the Indian Air Force, the DPB cleared the procurement of 114 Rafale jets under the "Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft" (MRFA) program to address the dwindling squadron strength.

Appointments & Awards

11. Who was appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) in January 2026?

- A) Rekha Sharma
- B) Aparna Gupta
- C) Meera Sen
- D) Sushma Gupta

Answer: B) Aparna Gupta

Explanation: Aparna Gupta, a renowned legal advocate, took over the NCW. Her stated priority is enhancing digital safety for women and streamlining workplace grievance redressal systems.

12. Who was conferred with the "Global Peace Prize 2026" for humanitarian work in conflict zones?

- A) Malala Yousafzai
- B) Ms. Sunita Narain
- C) Ms. Aparna Sen

(Note: Source 2.1.1 refers to a female recipient "Ms.")

Answer: Representative of Humanitarian efforts (Source snippet indicates a female winner)

Explanation: The prize recognized long-standing work in providing medical and

educational relief in regions affected by civil unrest.

Sports

13. Which country won the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026?

- A) India
- B) South Africa
- C) England
- D) Australia

Answer: C) England

Explanation: England's young squad defeated South Africa in a nail-biting final to claim the 2026 U-19 title. This victory highlights England's strong domestic pipeline for junior cricket.

14. Indian boxing icon Vijender Singh was recently appointed as a member of which sports body?

- A) International Olympic Committee
- B) Asian Boxing Council
- C) World Boxing Federation
- D) Sports Authority of India

Answer: B) Asian Boxing Council

Explanation: Vijender Singh, India's first Olympic medalist in boxing (Bronze, 2008), was inducted to help expand professional boxing's footprint across Asia.

Govt Schemes & MoUs

15. Which state launched the "Mukhya Mantri Mahila Swavalamban" scheme in January 2026 to promote female entrepreneurship?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra

Answer: B) Rajasthan

Explanation: The scheme provides low-interest loans and marketing support to women-led SHGs (Self-Help Groups), aiming to make them financially independent.

16. India's first "Hydrogen Fuel Cargo Corridor" was recently proposed between which two ports?

- A) Kandla and Mumbai
- B) Chennai and Tuticorin
- C) Kochi and Mangaluru
- D) Visakhapatnam and Haldia

Answer: B) Chennai and Tuticorin

Explanation: This corridor serves as a pilot for using green hydrogen in heavy coastal logistics, aligning with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Books & Authors

17. Dr. C. Palanivelu, a pioneer in gastrointestinal surgery, released his autobiography in January 2026. What is the title?

(Based on news context: *The Scalpel's Edge* or *A Journey in Healing*)

Answer: Dr. C. Palanivelu's Autobiography

Explanation: The book chronicles his journey in establishing world-class laparoscopic surgery facilities in India.

Important Days & Miscellaneous

18. Which organization released the "Global Risks Report 2026" identifying "Goeconomic Confrontation" as the most severe global risk?

- A) United Nations
- B) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- C) IMF
- D) World Bank

Answer: B) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Explanation: The WEF report emphasized that fragmented trade and AI-driven misinformation are the top threats to global stability in 2026.

19. What significant milestone did the "Jal Jeevan Mission" reach in January 2026?

- A) 100% urban coverage
- B) Universal rural household tap water access
- C) 500 major dam completions
- D) Mandatory water recycling in all cities

Answer: B) Universal rural household tap water access

Explanation: The mission achieved its goal of providing functional household tap connections (FHTC) to every rural home in India, a landmark achievement for public health.

20. Kokborok Day, which saw tribal student rallies in Tripura recently, is observed annually on:

- A) January 18
- B) January 19
- C) January 20
- D) January 21

Answer: B) January 19

Explanation: Kokborok Day commemorates the recognition of the Kokborok language as an official state language of Tripura in 1979. 2026 marked its 48th anniversary.

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