

CRACK WITH KSHITIJ

JANUARY 2026 CURRENT AFFAIRS

COMPLETE MONTHLY CAPSULE • 1–31 JANUARY 2026

IBPS CLERK	SBI CLERK	BANKING
SSC	RAILWAY	DEFENCE

National • Banking • Economy • Defence • Science • Environment • International • Sports •
Appointments • Important Days

Crack With Kshitij • Monthly Study Material

January 2026: Why this month matters

January 2026 was exceptionally important for banking and government exams. Major themes included the Economic Survey, India–EU FTA, Republic Day, banking and pension reforms, defence indigenisation, AI and space policy, BRICS, UAE cooperation, sports and major appointments. This edition intentionally contains a much broader set of exam-relevant facts instead of a short 15–20 item list.

SECTION 1 — MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 77th Republic Day was celebrated on 26 January 2026 at Kartavya Path; the theme was '150 Years of Vande Mataram'.
- The European Union was represented by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa as the Republic Day Chief Guests.
- Budget Session of Parliament began on 28 January 2026; the session was planned in two phases.
- Jal Seva Aankalan was highlighted under Jal Jeevan Mission to shift attention from infrastructure creation towards service delivery.
- Sampoonata Abhiyan 2.0 was launched to accelerate saturation of development indicators in Aspirational Districts.
- Indian Railways reached about 99.2% electrification of the broad-gauge network.
- India's first sleeper Vande Bharat train was launched on the Kolkata–Guwahati route.
- India's first LNG-diesel dual-fuel train was highlighted as an indigenous railway technology milestone.
- India delivered 7.5 tonnes of cancer medicines to Afghanistan as part of humanitarian assistance.
- India became the world's largest rice producer, overtaking China, according to January monthly current-affairs compilations.
- India assumed the BRICS Chairship for 2026.
- National Sports Governance Rules 2026 were notified under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.
- At least four Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit are required in the National Sports Body general body under the new sports-governance framework, with 50% women among them.
- India's first indigenous 3D-printed Automatic Weather Station under Mission Mausam was highlighted as a technology milestone.
- MoSPI launched the mascot 'Sankhyiki' and a new logo with the theme 'Data for Development'.

BANKING & FINANCE

- Atal Pension Yojana was extended up to FY 2030-31.
- NPS Swasthya Pension Scheme was launched as a proof of concept under the regulatory sandbox framework.
- RBI granted PA-CB licences to fintech firms for cross-border payment-related activities.
- Small Savings Scheme interest rates were kept unchanged for Q4 FY2025-26.
- India's first Maritime NBFC was highlighted as an institution supporting shipping and logistics financing.
- Digital Rupee (CBDC) integration with banking payment gateways was highlighted as a major digital-payments development.
- Gold ETF holdings data placed India among the world's top six holders.
- RBI and the European Securities and Markets Authority signed an MoU to strengthen regulatory cooperation and information exchange.
- PM Jan-Dhan Yojana had 55.02 crore bank accounts as of March 2025, including 36.63 crore in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Gross NPAs of scheduled commercial banks fell to a multi-decade low of 2.2% in September 2025.

- NPA recovery rate approximately doubled from 13.2% in FY2018 to 26.2% in FY2025.
- India's unique investor base crossed 12 crore in September 2025, with nearly one-fourth being women.
- SBI launched CHAKRA, a Centre of Excellence focused on financing identified sunrise sectors.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

- India was reported as the world's fourth-largest economy with a nominal GDP of about USD 4.18 trillion, overtaking Japan.
- Economic Survey 2025-26 estimated FY26 real GDP growth at 7.4% and GVA growth at 7.3%.
- Economic Survey projected FY27 real GDP growth at 6.8–7.2%.
- Private Final Consumption Expenditure was estimated to rise to 61.5% of GDP in FY26.
- Manufacturing growth was estimated at 8.4% in the first half of FY26.
- Services GVA growth was estimated at 9.3% in the first half of FY26.
- India's total exports of merchandise and services reached a record USD 825.3 billion in FY25.
- India's services exports reached a record USD 387.6 billion in FY25, growing by 13.6%.
- India remained the world's largest recipient of remittances, with FY25 inflows of USD 135.4 billion.
- India's share of global merchandise exports increased from 1% in 2005 to 1.8% in 2024.
- India's innovation ranking improved to 38th in the Global Innovation Index 2025 from 66th in 2019.
- India was ranked among the top five countries for private investment in infrastructure among low- and middle-income economies by the World Bank.
- Revenue receipts of the Centre rose to 9.2% of GDP in FY25 (provisional).
- Retail inflation was reported on a declining trend during the first part of FY26, helped by lower food inflation.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- Indian Army declared 2026 as the 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'.
- Indian Army announced the 'Bhairav' drone warfare force to integrate drone technology into combat operations.
- India successfully tested the K4 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile from INS Arighat, strengthening sea-based deterrence.
- Suryastra rocket system procurement was highlighted as an indigenous long-range multi-calibre rocket-launching capability.
- HAL Dhruv-NG helicopter's inaugural flight was highlighted as a next-generation indigenous aviation milestone.
- A new naval base at Haldia, West Bengal was announced to strengthen Bay of Bengal maritime security.
- Tejas LCA completed 25 years since its first flight.
- DRDO developed SWaDeS, a sea-water desalination system intended for soldiers.
- Defence contracts worth ₹4,666 crore were signed in January under indigenous procurement priorities.
- Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework was released by the Chief of Defence Staff to guide defence adoption of quantum technologies.
- India-France defence cooperation and joint military engagement remained important strategic developments.
- Republic Day 2026 included a major display of indigenous defence platforms and military capabilities.

SCIENCE, SPACE & TECHNOLOGY

- India's space economy was valued at about USD 8.4 billion, with a long-term target of USD 44 billion by 2033.
- ISRO tested an enhanced SSLV configuration during January.

- Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 was released with 3,340 monographs.
- A sovereign AI park was announced as part of India's AI infrastructure push.
- China's superconducting maglev test reached 700 km/h in about two seconds, setting a record for acceleration testing.
- Mission Mausam supported indigenous weather-observation infrastructure through a 3D-printed Automatic Weather Station.
- Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme: MeitY approved 22 proposals worth ₹41,863 crore to strengthen the electronics and semiconductor ecosystem.
- India's rare-earth reserves were highlighted at around 6.9 million tonnes of rare-earth oxides, placing India third globally by reserves.
- India and the EU strengthened cooperation on secure 6G technologies and trusted telecom supply chains.

ENVIRONMENT & AGRICULTURE

- India's Ramsar wetland count reached 98 after the addition of two new sites.
- New wildlife corridors were highlighted across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- India was reported as the world's largest rice producer.
- 184 new crop varieties were released as part of agricultural productivity efforts.
- A new snake species was reported from Mizoram, adding to India's biodiversity discoveries.
- Carbon Credit Trading Scheme coverage was expanded to additional sectors.
- Madhya Pradesh reported 55 tiger deaths during 2025, renewing focus on habitat and corridor protection.
- India's agriculture and allied services were estimated to grow by 3.1% in FY26.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- India and the European Union concluded negotiations for a landmark Free Trade Agreement after three years of negotiations.
- The India–EU FTA provides market access for more than 99% of India's exports by trade value.
- India and the EU adopted a comprehensive strategic agenda and advanced cooperation on security, defence, finance and mobility.
- India and the EU launched/advanced negotiations on a Security of Information Agreement.
- UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited India on 19 January.
- India-UAE outcomes included a Strategic Defence Partnership framework, LNG cooperation, Dholera investment and space/supercomputing cooperation.
- India and UAE set a target to double bilateral trade to USD 200 billion by 2032.
- Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States, with JD Vance as Vice President.
- Bulgaria adopted the euro on 1 January 2026 and became the 21st member of the euro area.
- EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) entered its definitive phase for carbon-intensive imports from January 2026.
- India exchanged lists of nuclear installations with Pakistan under the annual bilateral arrangement.
- India held strategic dialogues and cooperation with Germany and Japan during the month.

AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS & CULTURE

- Padma Awards 2026 included 131 awards: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri.

- 19 Padma awardees were women, 16 awards were posthumous, and 6 awardees were from foreign/NRI/PIO/OCI categories.
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla received the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award, on Republic Day.
- Rakesh Agarwal (IPS) was appointed interim Director General of the NIA.
- Justice M. S. Sonak was appointed Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court.
- P. T. Usha was named President of the National Olympic Academy and Gagan Narang its Director.
- Nitin Nabin was elected National President of the BJP, succeeding J. P. Nadda.
- Ida Liu was appointed CEO of HSBC Private Bank.
- Amelia Valverde was appointed head coach of the Indian women's football team for the 2026 Asian Cup campaign.
- Anu Garg became the first woman Chief Secretary of Odisha.
- A. K. Balasubramanian took charge as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.
- Justice Revati Mohite Dere became the first woman Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

SPORTS

- Karnataka topped the medal tally at the 2nd Khelo India Beach Games in Diu.
- Vidarbha won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025-26.
- Khelo India Winter Games 2026 began its first phase in Leh, Ladakh.
- Magnus Carlsen won the World Rapid and Blitz Chess titles held for the 2025 season.
- Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest Indian to ski to the South Pole.
- Elena Rybakina won the Australian Open 2026 women's singles title.
- Haryana won the 72nd Women's Senior National Kabaddi Championship.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 1 January – Global Family Day / World Peace Day.
- 4 January – World Braille Day.
- 9 January – Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- 10 January – World Hindi Day.
- 12 January – National Youth Day.
- 15 January – Army Day.
- 23 January – Parakram Diwas.
- 24 January – National Girl Child Day.
- 25 January – National Voters' Day and National Tourism Day.
- 26 January – Republic Day.
- 27 January – International Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- 30 January – Martyrs' Day / Shaheed Diwas.
- 30 January – World Leprosy Day.

HIGH-PRIORITY NUMBERS & FACTS

Indicator	Value
FY26 real GDP growth	7.4%
FY27 real GDP projection	6.8–7.2%
FY25 services exports	USD 387.6 billion
FY25 total exports	USD 825.3 billion
FY25 remittances	USD 135.4 billion
Gross NPA	2.2%
PMJDY accounts	55.02 crore
5G availability	99.9% districts
India GDP size/rank	USD 4.18 trillion / 4th
Padma Awards 2026	131
Ramsar sites	98
Rare-earth reserves	6.9 million tonnes
ECMS approvals	22 proposals / ■41,863 crore
SIDBI equity infusion	■5,000 crore
Space economy	USD 8.4 billion
Space economy target 2033	USD 44 billion
Republic Day	77th
India–EU FTA export coverage	99%+ by trade value

ONE-LINER REVISION — 50 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD KNOW

1. Which theme was used for Republic Day 2026? — 150 Years of Vande Mataram.
2. Which edition of Republic Day was celebrated? — 77th.
3. Who were the Republic Day 2026 Chief Guests? — Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa.
4. When did the Budget Session begin? — 28 January 2026.
5. When was Economic Survey 2025-26 tabled? — 29 January 2026.
6. FY26 real GDP growth? — 7.4%.
7. FY27 GDP projection? — 6.8–7.2%.
8. India's nominal GDP and global rank highlighted in January? — USD 4.18 trillion; 4th.
9. India's FY25 services exports? — USD 387.6 billion.
10. India's FY25 remittances? — USD 135.4 billion.
11. Gross NPA of SCBs? — 2.2%.
12. PMJDY accounts by March 2025? — 55.02 crore.
13. India's 5G district availability? — 99.9%.
14. India's share of global merchandise exports in 2024? — 1.8%.
15. India's innovation rank in 2025? — 38th.
16. Padma Awards 2026 total? — 131.
17. Padma Vibhushan awards? — 5.
18. Padma Bhushan awards? — 13.
19. Padma Shri awards? — 113.
20. Highest peacetime gallantry award? — Ashoka Chakra.
21. Ashoka Chakra recipient in 2026? — Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla.
22. Indian Army's 2026 theme? — Year of Networking & Data Centricity.
23. Indian Army drone force? — Bhairav.
24. K4 was launched/tested from which submarine? — INS Arighat.
25. What is Suryastra? — Indigenous long-range multi-calibre rocket system.
26. Kavach 4.0 is what? — Indigenous Automatic Train Protection system.
27. India's Ramsar sites after January additions? — 98.
28. India's rare-earth reserve position? — 3rd globally.
29. India's space economy value? — USD 8.4 billion.
30. Space economy target for 2033? — USD 44 billion.
31. Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 monographs? — 3,340.
32. ECMS approvals? — 22 proposals worth ₹41,863 crore.
33. SIDBI equity infusion approved? — ₹5,000 crore.
34. Atal Pension Yojana extended till? — FY 2030-31.
35. Bulgaria became which euro-area member? — 21st.
36. India–EU FTA export coverage? — More than 99% by trade value.
37. UAE–India trade target by 2032? — USD 200 billion.

- 38. Khelo India Beach Games winner in medal tally? — Karnataka.
- 39. Vijay Hazare Trophy winner? — Vidarbha.
- 40. Australian Open 2026 women's singles winner? — Elena Rybakina.
- 41. National Youth Day? — 12 January.
- 42. Army Day? — 15 January.
- 43. Parakram Diwas? — 23 January.
- 44. National Girl Child Day? — 24 January.
- 45. National Voters' Day? — 25 January.
- 46. World Hindi Day? — 10 January.
- 47. World Braille Day? — 4 January.
- 48. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas? — 9 January.
- 49. Martyrs' Day / Shaheed Diwas? — 30 January.
- 50. World Leprosy Day? — 30 January.