

Important Weekly Current Affairs PDF 15 to 21 January 2026

Dear Readers, Here we have given the list of Important Weekly Current Affairs 03rd week of January 2026. Candidates those who are preparing for Upcoming IBPS, SBI and other competitive exams can make use of it.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Indian Army Day 2026** is observed on **15th January 2026**, marks the **75th birth anniversary** of Indian Army Day.

BANKING, FINANCE & BUSINESS

- **Surjit Bhujabal**, **Special Secretary & Member (Customs)**, **Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)**, under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, inaugurated the **Indian Customs Electronic Gateway – Land Port Management System (ICEGATE – LPMS) integration** at the **Integrated Check Post (ICP)**, **Agartala, Tripura**.
- **Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB)** created a national milestone by becoming the **1st Regional Rural Bank (RRB)** in India to introduce India's first **fully solar-powered mobile Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) van**, named '**TGB on Wheels**'.
- The **National Statistics Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for rural, urban, and combined segments for **December 2025**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the only Indian bank with a branch in **Israel**, plans to facilitate bilateral trade between India and Israel in **Indian Rupees (INR)**.
- **49 cryptocurrency exchanges** were registered with India's **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND)** during **FY 2024–25**, most of them domestic.
- **Innoviti Technologies Private Limited**, a **payments-centric retail Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform**, received a **Certificate of Authorization** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007** across India.
- **India's insurance penetration** remained stagnant at **3.7% in FY25**, which is almost half of the **global average of 7.3%** in 2024, indicating low insurance coverage in India.
- **Amazon Pay** has launched **fixed deposit (FD)** services on its fintech app as part of its expansion into **fixed-income assets**.
- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, **Ministry of Finance**, has advised **Public Sector Banks** to introduce a **Composite Salary Account Package** to enhance the financial well-being and social security of **Central Government employees**.
- The **World Bank Group (WBG)** released its flagship report titled "**Global Economic Prospects (GEP): January 2026**", which projected **India's GDP growth at 7.2%** in **FY26**, revised upward from the **6.3%** forecast in June 2025.
- The **Government of India** has launched **Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima** as an **optional retail health insurance** product for **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)** beneficiaries.
- **Karnataka Bank Limited** has enabled its **net banking platform** to support payment and receipt of **electronic receipts (e-receipts)** for **Government of Karnataka** transactions through the **Khajane-2** system.

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- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, a statutory body under the **Ministry of Finance (MoF)**, has constituted a **15-member high-level expert committee** to formulate a regulatory framework for **assured payouts** under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recognised the **Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association of India (FEDAI)** as a **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** for all **Authorised Dealers (ADs)** in the foreign exchange market.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **in-principle approval** to **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)**, Japan, to establish a **Wholly-Owned Subsidiary (WOS)** in India.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated banks and eligible **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** to implement a **fully automated Complaint Management System (CMS)** with direct access for the **Internal Ombudsman (IO)** and **Deputy IO (DIO)**.
- **Wholesale inflation (WPI)** rose to **0.83%** in **December 2025**, marking the first positive year-on-year print after two months of deflation and the **highest in eight months**.
- **Canara Bank** has partnered with **NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL)** to integrate bank plugins for providing **UPI services** on its **Canara ai1Pe** banking app.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has increased **ATM charges** effective from **December 1, 2025**, due to higher **interchange fees** paid when customers use other banks' ATMs.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has finalised an agreement on the **global minimum corporate tax**, with participation from the **United States** and over **100 countries**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued the **Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) 2026** to simplify and strengthen **grievance redressal** for customers of banks and financial institutions.
- The **Government of India** has continued the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)** for **2025-26** to provide **short-term crop loans** and **allied activity loans** to farmers through **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued draft amendment directions to clarify the calculation of **Owned Fund / Tier-1 Capital** for **NBFCs** and **Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)** to comply with **credit and investment concentration limits** and invited public comments till **28 January 2026**.
- **Piramal Finance Limited (PFL)** secured **USD 350 million** multilateral funding, marking its **first borrowing** from **Development Finance Institutions (DFIs)**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has proposed **reopening the licensing window** for new **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)** after **22 years**, as the previous window was closed in **2004** due to widespread failures of newly licensed banks.
- The **World Bank (WB)** approved **USD 286 million** financing for the **West Bengal Health System Reform Program (WBHSRP)** to improve quality of life and life expectancy for over **90 million people** through equitable access to quality healthcare services.

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- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Government of Tamil Nadu (TN)** to provide enhanced benefits under the **Corporate Salary Package (CSP)** for **State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** employees.
- **IREDA Global Green Energy Finance IFSC Limited (IGGEFIL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**, has sanctioned its **first international green energy loan**.
- **SBI Life Insurance** launched '**SBI Life – Smart Platina Advantage**', an individual, **non-linked, non-participating** life insurance savings plan offering long-term **guaranteed benefits** and life insurance protection to support financial goals across life stages, such as children's education, retirement, and wealth creation.

NATIONAL AND STATE NEWS

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has approved the **statewide implementation of the 'Akka Pade' scheme** across all **31 districts and five police commissionerates**, in coordination with the **Home Department**.
- **Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia** announced the launch of two new India Post services: **Speed Post 24** and **Speed Post 48**.
- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** has approved the **Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport project** in **Nellore district**.
- **India** will host the **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** in **New Delhi**.
- **Punjabi singer Kaka** has launched a women's safety mobile application named **Friendo**, marking his initiative beyond the music industry.
- **BamanwasKankar Panchayat in Rajasthan** has been declared the state's **first fully organic village body**, covering **seven hamlets**.
- **Kerala** recorded the **highest share of personal four-wheeler electric vehicle adoption in 2025** among the top electric vehicle-selling states in India.
- The **Delhi High Court** held that the **PM CARES Fund enjoys the right to privacy under the Right to Information Act, 2005**, even if it is considered a public authority.
- **Andhra Pradesh** will host the **world's largest green ammonia project** at **Kakinada**, being developed by **AM Green**, with a total investment of **USD 10 billion**.
- The **Department of Posts** successfully delivered its **first-ever online order through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**, marking its entry as a **Logistics Service Provider (LSP)** on the platform.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** marked the completion of **10 years of the Startup India Movement** on **National Startup Day (16 January)**.
- **Bharat Electricity Summit 2026** will be held from **19–22 March 2026** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi**.
- As per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin for December 2025**, **female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** and **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** reached their **highest levels of the year**, while the **overall unemployment rate (UR)** remained **broadly stable at 4.8%**, indicating resilience in India's labour market.

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- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** has completed **seven years** of the **Womaniya Initiative**, a flagship programme aimed at enhancing the participation of **women-led Micro and Small Enterprises** in **government public procurement**.
- The **Government of India** blocked **242 illegal betting and gambling website links** in **January 2026** as part of an intensified enforcement drive.
- **India witnessed** a new literary initiative with the launch of the **first-ever NAMO Book Fest** in **New Delhi**.
- The **Karnataka government** amended the land revenue law to address long-pending documentation issues related to **Jamma Bane lands** in **Kodagu district**.
- The **Supreme Court of India** ruled that **unreserved (general) category seats** in public recruitment are **open to all candidates purely on merit**, irrespective of social category.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched **India's first Sleeper Vande Bharat train**, flagging it off from **Malda, West Bengal**.
- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** approved **two new MSME Technology Centres** in **Himachal Pradesh** at **Pandoga (Una district)** and **Parwanoo (Solan district)**.
- **Jharkhand** has notified rules under the **Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)** nearly **25 years** after its enactment, marking a significant step towards **tribal self-governance** in **Fifth Schedule areas**.
- The **two-day SpitukGustor Festival** has commenced at **Spituk Monastery** in **Ladakh**, marking the **first monastic festival of the year** in the region.
- **India's electronics exports** crossed **\$47 billion** for the first time in **2025**, with **smartphone exports** under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** contributing nearly **two-thirds** of the total value.
- The **Maharashtra Cabinet** approved the **₹4,775 crore Bembla River Irrigation Project** in **Yavatmal district** and cleared the establishment of a new overseas employment facilitation agency named **MAHIMA**.
- **India** has notified its **first-ever Tailings Policy** to enable recovery of **critical and strategic minerals** from mining waste such as **tailings, mine dumps and overburden**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Union Minister Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, unveiled the **logo, theme, and official website** of **India's BRICS Chairship 2026** at a launch ceremony in **New Delhi** on **January 13, 2026**.
- **Federal Chancellor of Germany, Friedrich Merz**, visited India on a two-day official visit from **12 to 13 January 2026** at the invitation of **PM Narendra Modi**, marking his **first official visit** to India and the **Asian region**.
- A high-level Indian delegation led by **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying) visited **Israel** from **13–15 January 2026** to participate in the **Second Global Summit on "Blue Food Security: Sea the Future 2026"** held in **Eilat**.

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- **European Council President António Costa** and **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** will visit India from **25–27 January 2026** as **Chief Guests** for the **77th Republic Day** celebrations, at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- The **6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers’ Meeting (ADGMIN)** was hosted **virtually** by **Vietnam** under the theme **“Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence.”**

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

- **Mark Zuckerberg**, **Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Meta Platforms Inc.**, announced the appointment of **Dina Powell McCormick** as **President and Vice Chairman** of **Meta** to strengthen its **Artificial Intelligence (AI) strategy**.
- **Abhishek Dev** has received a **one-year extension** as **Chairman of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** on the proposal of the **Department of Commerce**.
- **Rakesh Aggarwal**, a **1994-batch IPS officer** of the **Himachal Pradesh cadre**, has been appointed as **Director General (DG)** of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** until **31 August 2028**, the date of his **superannuation**, or until further orders.
- **Anup Kumar Saha**, former **Managing Director (MD)** of **Bajaj Finance**, has been appointed as **Whole-Time Director** on the board of **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, subject to **RBI approval**, for a **three-year term**.
- The **Hon’ble President of India** appointed **Shri Praveen Vashista** as **Vigilance Commissioner** in the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** through a warrant dated **12 December 2025** under **Section 4(1)** of the **CVC Act, 2003**.
- **ICICI Bank Limited** has re-appointed **Sandeep Bakshi** as **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a further **two-year term**.
- **Yemen’s Presidential Leadership Council (PLC)** appointed **ShaeaMuhssin Mohammed Al-Zindani** as the new **Prime Minister of Yemen** on **15 January 2026**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- **Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan** has become the **first Indian to be formally inducted into Kenjutsu**, an ancient **Japanese samurai swordsmanship tradition**.
- **Karnataka Bank** emerged as the **winner in the ‘Best Fintech & Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Adoption’ category** at the **Indian Banks’ Association (IBA) Banking Technology Awards 2026**.
- **American evolutionary biologist Toby Kiers** has won the **Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement** for her **groundbreaking research on underground mycorrhizal fungal networks** and their role in **climate regulation and ecosystem stability**.
- **Railway Protection Force (RPF) officer Chandana Sinha** has been conferred **Indian Railways’ highest award** for her **exceptional contribution to preventing child trafficking and rescuing vulnerable children** at railway stations and trains.

APPS & PORTALS

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- The **Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD)**, Government of Karnataka launched the '**Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing**' portal at **Karmani Utsav–2026** in **Bengaluru** to promote **women entrepreneurship**, economic independence, and **digital inclusion**.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

- **ONGC** has decided to take a **50% stake** in two joint ventures — **Bharat Ethane One IFSC Private Limited** and **Bharat Ethane Two IFSC Private Limited** — formed with Japan's **Mitsui OSK Lines (MOL)** to transport **ethane** for India's petrochemical sector.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

- The **All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF)** will organise the **9th International Spice Conference (ISC 2026)** from **February 23–26, 2026** in **Kochi, Kerala**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority)** launched a new initiative named **BHARATI** to support **agri-food and agritech startups**.
- The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB)**, in partnership with the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)**, **Government of India (GoI)**, and the **Netflix Fund for Creative Equity**, launched the '**Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki NayiPehchaan**' skilling initiative.
- The **University of New South Wales (UNSW)**, a leading Australian university, announced plans to establish a new campus at **Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru, Karnataka** by **August 2026**.
- **Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation)** has entered partnerships with **Big Tech** firms such as **Microsoft, Meta, Amazon**, along with **AI startups** like **Perplexity** and France's **Mistral AI** to **monetise corporate use** of its content.
- Scientists have inaugurated the **world's first global ice vault** in **Antarctica** to preserve **mountain ice core samples** threatened by rapid **glacier melting** due to **global warming**.
- The **Adani Group** has partnered with Brazil's **Embraer** to set up India's first **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for **commercial fixed-wing aircraft**.
- **Galgotias University**, ranked among the world's leading universities by **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)** and **Times Higher Education (THE)**, inaugurated the **IIT Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre** at its campus in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**.
- The **DST–NIDHI Centre of Excellence (CoE)** has been launched at **IIM Ahmedabad** to promote **deep-tech entrepreneurship** and **technology translation**.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has developed an **Integrated Road Safety Dashboard** to strengthen **road safety governance** and help reduce road accidents across India.
- **Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (IC) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, launched India's **first-ever open-sea Marine Fish Farming project** from the **Andaman Sea** at **North Bay, Sri Vijaya Puram** on **January 18, 2026**.
- **BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)** has partnered with **Viasat, Inc. (USA)** to support the next phase of the **Indian Navy's Satellite Communications (SATCOM)** upgrade programme.

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- **Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (Milma)** has partnered with the **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)** to operationalise a **food-testing laboratory** in **Kochi**.
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has delivered **MS Heinz**, the first vessel of the **HS EcoFreighter** series of **Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs)**.
- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** took **suo motu** action against **e-commerce platforms** for selling **unauthorised walkie-talkies**, violating the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** and **telecom laws**.
- **National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS)**, under the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)**, Bengaluru, has developed a **deep-learning tool** named **Disobind** to predict how **intrinsically disordered proteins (IDPs)** bind to their partners.

MOUS AND AGREEMENT

- The **Tamil Nadu government** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Sarvam AI** to set up a **full-stack Sovereign AI Park**.
- The **Government of Madhya Pradesh** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Digital India BHASHINI Division** to integrate **multilingual and AI-powered language technologies** across state government digital platforms.
- **India and Germany** signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** on **Telecommunications Cooperation** during the official visit of **German Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz** to India in **January 2026**.

DEFENCE NEWS

- **INSV Kaundinya**, a traditionally built **stitched-plank** Indian sailing vessel, completed a maiden overseas voyage of about **1,400 km** from **Porbandar, Gujarat** to **Muscat, Oman** in **17 days**.
- **INS Sagardhwani**, India's **oceanographic research vessel** under the **Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL)** of **DRDO**, was flagged off for the **5th edition of Sagar Maitri (SM-5)** from **Southern Naval Command, Kochi** on **17 January 2026**.
- The **16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Experts Working Group (EWG)** on **Counter Terrorism (CT)** will be held in **New Delhi** from **14–16 January 2026**.
- The **17th edition** of the biennial trilateral Coast Guard exercise '**DOSTI 17**' commenced in **Male, Maldives**, involving the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, **Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG)**, and **Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)** Coast Guard from **17–19 January 2026**.
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and the **Japan Coast Guard (JCG)** conducted a joint **Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS)** response drill in **Mumbai**, strengthening maritime partnership and commitment to a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.

RANKING AND INDEX

- A new global assessment framework named the **Responsible Nations Index** will be launched on **January 19**.
- The **Henley Passport Index 2026** has ranked **India** at **80th position globally**, reflecting a **modest improvement** in international travel access.

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- **NITI Aayog** released the **Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024**, which assesses the **export readiness and performance of Indian States and Union Territories**.
- The **World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2026 (21st edition)** warns that the world is entering an **“Age of Competition”**, marked by intensified rivalry among countries.
- **India** has been ranked **6th among 11 Asian countries** in the **Asia Manufacturing Index (AMI) 2026**, reflecting steady progress but highlighting gaps in competitiveness.

SPORTS NEWS

- The **Union Government** has notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026**.
- **Australia women’s cricket captain Alyssa Healy** has announced her **retirement from all formats of international cricket**.
- **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc** has been awarded the **ICC Men’s Player of the Month for December 2025** for his outstanding performances in the **Ashes series**.
- **South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt** won the **ICC Women’s Player of the Month for December 2025** for her **record-breaking performances against Ireland** across **T20I and ODI formats**.
- Indian boxing icon **Vijender Singh** has been appointed as a **member of the Asian Boxing Council (ABCO)**, strengthening **India’s representation in Asian boxing governance**.
- Indian chess player **Aaryan Varshney** became **India’s 92nd Grandmaster** after securing his final GM norm at the **Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament** in **Armenia**.
- **Vidarbha** won their **first-ever Vijay Hazare Trophy title**, defeating **Saurashtra by 38 runs** in the final held at the **BCCI Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru**.

OBITUARIES

- **Ueli Kestenholz**, the **Swiss snowboarder and Olympic bronze medallist**, passed away at age **50** after being caught in an **avalanche** in the **Swiss Alps**.
- Veteran **Kerala Congress (M)** leader and former **Member of Parliament (MP)**, **Thomas Kuthiravattam**, passed away at the age of **80** in **Alappuzha, Kerala**.