

Weekly Current Affairs (January 2026 – Week 4)

1) Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

AP FIRST-Tirupati Project Approved

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu approved establishment of **Andhra Pradesh Futuristic Innovation and Research in Science and Technology (AP FIRST)** at Tirupati.
- Developed jointly by **IIT Tirupati and IISER Tirupati**.
- It will be AP's **largest and most prestigious research centre**.
- Focus areas: **aerospace, defence, space technology, AI, cybersecurity, semiconductors, quantum technology, biotechnology, green energy, healthcare, and rural technologies**.

Exam Angle

AP Science & Technology • Research infrastructure • IIT-IISER collaboration • Futuristic sectors.

Kakinada Declared 'Green Hydrogen Valley of India'

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu declared Kakinada as "**Green Hydrogen Valley of India**".
- Foundation stone ceremony of **₹15,600-crore Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia Production Complex** by AM Green (Greenko Group).
- The project is spread over **495 acres** in Kakinada.
- Touted to be the **world's largest green hydrogen and green ammonia complex**.
- Green ammonia produced will be exported mainly to **Europe, with Germany as major importer**.

Exam Angle

Andhra Pradesh Attracts 25% of India's FDI at WEF Davos

- CM announced at World Economic Forum (WEF), Davos that AP attracted **25% of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** entering India.
- Attributed to **policy stability, speed of doing business, and proactive governance.**

Key Highlights

- **UAE support:** Collaboration between AP's food processing sector and Dubai Food Cluster, with facilitation of investments from 40 Emirati companies
- **USD 10 billion strategic investment partnership** between AP government and RMZ Corporation
- Proposed projects: **Global Capability Centre (GCC) Park and hyperscale data centre cluster** in Visakhapatnam
- **Industrial & logistics park** in Rayalaseema
- Focus areas: green energy, green ammonia, digital infrastructure, logistics, manufacturing, natural farming

Gandabherunda Image Inscription Discovered

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered a rare **Gandabherunda image inscription** at Sri Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy Temple in **Vinukonda, Palnadu district.**
- Gandabherunda: mythological **double-headed bird associated with Lord Vishnu.**
- Inscriptions carved on stone slab inside sanctum sanctorum, written in **Telugu language and script.**
- Dates back to **Saka 1399 (Hemalambi year), corresponding to October 16, 1477 CE.**
- Temple, sikhara, and mandapa constructed by **Sagi Gamnamanayini.**

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- Provides insights into **15th century Vaishnava traditions, temple architecture, and socio-religious history.**

2) Polity & Governance

Praveen Vashista Appointed Vigilance Commissioner

- The President of India appointed **Shri Praveen Vashista** as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
- Appointed under provisions of the **Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.**
- Took oath on **16 January 2026** before the Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- Tenure: **4 years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years.**

Current CVC Composition

- **Central Vigilance Commissioner:** Praveen Kumar Srivastava
- **Vigilance Commissioners:** A S Rajeev, Praveen Vashista

EU Leaders to be Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day

- European Union leaders **Antonio Costa (President of European Council)** and **Ursula von der Leyen (President of European Commission)** will be chief guests at India's 77th Republic Day celebrations on **January 26, 2026.**
- Announced by Defence Secretary **Rajesh Kumar Singh.**
- Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path themed around **"150 years of Vande Mataram"**.
- This theme will also anchor the Beating the Retreat ceremony.

First-Time Military Showcases

- Bhairav Battalions
- Shaktibaan regiments

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- Drone Shakti
- Universal rocket launcher
- **First European naval contingent** to participate in Republic Day parade

Supreme Court Guidelines on Child Trafficking

- In judgment **K. P. Kiran Kumar vs State**, SC issued strict guidelines to prevent child trafficking.
- Held that trafficking **grossly violates fundamental right to life guaranteed under Article 21** of the Constitution.
- Emphasized **preventive, victim-centric and coordinated approach** involving both Centre and States.

Legal Framework

- **Palermo Protocol (2000)**: Provides global definition of child trafficking
- **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 Section 143**: Defines trafficking broadly to include recruitment, transport, harbouring or receipt of persons for exploitation
- **Constitutional safeguards**: Articles 23, 24, and Article 39 protect children from exploitation, forced labour, hazardous employment
- Other laws: POCSO Act, JJ Act, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act
- Despite multiple laws, **conviction rates remain low**, highlighting need for stronger enforcement, rehabilitation, Centre-State coordination

Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary Guidelines

- The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) framed guidelines for permitting religious structures inside wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas.
- Guidelines state that **any construction or expansion on forest land after 1980 should generally be treated as encroachment**, in line with forest conservation principles.
- Exceptional cases may be considered if State government issues reasoned and documented order justifying regularisation.
- The centre will examine such cases on a **case-by-case basis**.

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- The move follows a controversial proposal involving land diversion for religious trust inside **Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat**.
- Clearances were initially granted and later revoked due to unresolved forest rights.

Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya Statehood Day

- Every year on **January 21**, northeastern States of Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya observe their Statehood Day.
- Marks transitioned to full-fledged States of Indian Union in **1972**.
- **Tripura became 19th State** of India
- **Manipur became 20th State** of India
- **Meghalaya became 21st State** of India
- Statehood granted under **North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971**, which came into effect on January 21, 1972.
- Day highlights constitutional, political, and administrative integration of these States and their role in strengthening India's federal structure.

For Better Understanding

Tripura, Manipur, and Meghalaya attained statehood in 1972 due to historical identities, tribal autonomy demands, dissatisfaction with Assam-centric administration, and need for tailored federal approach in Northeast India.

International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (ICDEM-2026)

- Election Commission of India (ECI) inaugurated **3-day ICDEM-2026** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The conference brought together nearly **60 international delegates, representatives from 42 Election Management Bodies (EMBs), and ambassadors from 27 countries**.
- Experts from **70+ national institutions**, and **36 Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs)** from across India.

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- Led by CEC **Shri Gyanesh Kumar**, along with ECs **Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu** and **Dr. Vivek Joshi**.
- Theme: “**Democracy for an inclusive, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world.**”

3) Economy & Development

IMF Upgrades India’s GDP Growth Forecast

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) upgraded India’s GDP growth projection for **FY 2025-26 to 7.3%**, from an earlier estimate of 6.6%.
- According to the January **2026 update of World Economic Outlook (WEO)**.
- The IMF projected **Global growth at 3.3% and 3.2% in 2026 and 2027** respectively.

Atal Pension Yojana Extended till 2030-31

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, approved continuation of **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** up to **FY 2030-31**.
- Decision includes extension of government funding support for promotional, developmental, and gap-funding activities.
- Launched on **9 May 2015**, aims to provide old-age income security to workers in the unorganised sector.
- Subscribers receive **guaranteed minimum pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month** after attaining age of 60, depending on contribution.
- As of **19 January 2026: over 8.66 crore subscribers** enrolled, making it one of India’s largest social security schemes.

Anna Chakra Wins Franz Edelman Award Nomination

- Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) selected among **top six global finalists for 2026 Franz Edelman Award**, often referred to as “Nobel Prize of Operations Research and Analytics”.

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- Recognition for flagship initiative “**Anna Chakra**”, an operations research (O.R.)-based decision support system for Public Distribution System (PDS).
- Developed in collaboration with **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) India and IIT Delhi**.
- Optimises state-wise food grain logistics using advanced analytical models.
- Launched in **December 2025** by Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi.

Impact

Annual savings of ₹250 crore, 35% reduction in emissions, improved efficiency benefiting over 81 crore PDS beneficiaries.

4) Environment & Agriculture

Coconut Root Wilt Disease

- **Issue:** Phytoplasma-induced root wilt disease severely affecting coconut plantations in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka.
- These states together contribute **82-83% of India's coconut production**.
- **Cause & Spread:** Disease spreads through insect vectors, wind movement, and continuous coconut belts.
- Spread accelerated due to climate change, erratic temperatures, and rising whitefly infestations.
- **Impact:** Over **30 lakh coconut palms** already affected, leading to loss of productivity and collapse of intercropping systems (e.g., cocoa, nutmeg).
- **Current Research Status:** Despite 150+ years of research, no permanent cure exists.
- Breeding resistant and tolerant varieties remains the most effective management strategy.

Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project

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- PM Narendra Modi performed Bhoomi Pujan of **Kaziranga Elevated Corridor Project** (4-laning of Kaliabor-Numaligarh section of NH-715) in Kaliabor, Assam.
- The project is worth **₹6,950 crore** and spans **86 km**.
- Includes a 35 km **elevated wildlife corridor** through Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Corridor designed to ensure **uninterrupted movement of wildlife** such as rhinos, elephants, and tigers.
- Will improve road safety and regional connectivity.
- It passes through **Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, and Golaghat districts**.
- Enhances connectivity to Upper Assam, including Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.

Lucknow becomes UP's First 'Zero Fresh Waste Dump' City

- Lucknow achieved a major milestone in urban sustainability by becoming the first city in Uttar Pradesh to achieve **100% scientific processing of municipal solid waste** under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- Achievement followed commissioning of **Shivari Solid Waste Management Plant**, with processing capacity of **700 metric tonnes per day**.
- With three waste processing plants of 700 MT/day capacity each, Lucknow Municipal Corporation (LMC) can now process over **2,100 metric tonnes of waste daily**.
- Completely eliminated fresh waste dumping.
- City's door-to-door waste collection efficiency: **96.53%**
- Source segregation: **exceeds 70%**

GI-tagged Kaladi Upscaled under ODOP

- **Kaladi**, the GI-tagged traditional dairy product of **Udhampur district, Jammu & Kashmir**, to be scientifically upscaled.
- Under **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative.

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- Focus: wider food applications while preserving original taste, texture, and nutritional value.

India's First Open-Sea Marine Fish Farming Project

- India launched first-ever **open-sea Marine Fish Farming project in Andaman Sea**.
- Marks major milestone in advancing **Blue Economy**.
- Inaugurated by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences.
- Location: **North Bay, Sri Vijaya Puram** in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Implemented through collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences, National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), and A&N UT Administration.
- Pilot focuses on open-sea cultivation of marine finfish and seaweed using **NIOT-developed cages**.

5) Science & Technology

Gravitons Detection Experiment Proposed

- Scientists from **Stevens Institute of Technology (USA) and Yale University** proposed an experiment to detect gravitons.
- **Gravitons**: hypothetical quantum particles that mediate gravity.
- If successful, it would be the first **experiment explicitly designed to detect individual gravitons**.
- Gravitons are analogous to photons for electromagnetism.
- Gravity is extremely weak compared to other fundamental forces, making graviton detection extremely difficult.

Soft Matter Physics

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- Soft matter refers to class of materials exhibiting properties of both solids and liquids depending on applied force and time scale.
- Common examples: toothpaste, shampoo, gels, creams.
- These materials can flow like liquids under pressure but retain shape when force is removed.
- Unique behaviour arises from internal structure consisting of large molecular assemblies (droplets, clusters, flexible macromolecules) held together by weak interactions.
- Response is highly time-dependent and force-dependent.
- Studied under a branch of physics known as **rheology**.

C-DOT Wins SKOCH Award 2025

- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), premier telecom R&D organisation under Department of Telecommunications, awarded **SKOCH Award 2025**.
- Recognition for **Cell Broadcast Solution (CBS)**.
- Award presented during **104th SKOCH Summit**, themed “Resourcing Viksit Bharat”.
- SKOCH Awards recognise outstanding contributions in governance, technology, public service delivery, and development across India.

Darwin’s Bark Spider Silk – Toughest Ever Recorded

- Scientists found that **Darwin’s bark spiders (Caerostris darwini)** produce the toughest spider silk ever recorded.
- Found in **Madagascar**.
- Tensile strength: **about 1.6 gigapascals**, making it stronger than steel and iron.

30 GHz Spectrum for Vehicle-to-Vehicle Communication

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- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, **Shri Nitin Gadkari**, informed that the Department of Telecommunications allocated **30 GHz radio frequency band** for developing **Vehicle-to-Vehicle (V2V) communication systems**.
- V2V technology will enable vehicles to exchange real-time information such as speed, position, braking, and potential hazards.
- Helps prevent collisions and improve road safety.
- The ministry also collaborating with **IIT Kanpur** to develop AI-enabled road safety technologies.
- Strengthening accident prevention, black-spot identification, and emergency response systems.

Palaeoclimatology

- With accelerating climate change, scientists increasingly turn to **palaeoclimatology** to understand how Earth's climate behaved over centuries, millennia, and geological time scales.
- By reconstructing past climates, researchers can better predict future climate patterns and assess long-term impacts of global warming.
- Branch of science that studies past climates using natural archives known as **climate proxies**.

Climate Proxies

- Ice cores
- Ocean and lake sediments
- Tree rings
- Fossil pollen
- Marine micro-organisms

6) International Relations

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Board of Peace Charter

- U.S. President **Donald Trump** inaugurated a new multilateral initiative called “**Board of Peace**” at World Economic Forum (WEF), Davos.
- Aimed at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel’s war against Hamas and shaping future governance of Gaza.
- Trump claimed **59 countries have signed on**, but representatives from only **19 countries attended the founding** ceremony.
- **India was notably absent** despite PM Modi being invited.
- According to official sources, India has not yet taken a decision on joining the Board.
- Trump projected the Board of Peace as a body that could eventually rival or even replace some UN functions.
- Later clarified it would work in conjunction with the UN.
- Countries that accepted the invitation: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, among others.

Project Iceworm Environmental Legacy

- Amid renewed geopolitical interest in Greenland, reports highlighted the serious environmental legacy of U.S. Cold War activities buried beneath Arctic ice.
- Abandoned **Camp Century**, constructed in **1959** as part of secret **Project Iceworm**.
- Left behind hazardous materials including radioactive waste, diesel fuel, sewage, and toxic chemicals.
- Materials presumed to remain permanently frozen.
- Climate change and accelerating ice melt now threaten to release these pollutants into subglacial aquifers and eventually the ocean.
- Issue raises complex questions of environmental accountability, climate justice, and diplomatic responsibility between the U.S., Greenland, and Denmark.

7) Awards & Recognition

Graca Machel Selected for Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace 2025

- Renowned Mozambican human rights activist and humanitarian **Graca Machel** selected for **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2025**.
- Announced by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- Honoured for path-breaking contributions in education, health and nutrition, economic empowerment, and humanitarian work.
- Often carried out under challenging circumstances.
- The award carries a cash prize of **₹1 crore**, along with citation and trophy.

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026

- Announced to recognise outstanding contributions in disaster management.
- **Institutional Category:** The Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)
- **Individual Category:** Lieutenant Colonel Seeta Ashok Shelke (Indian Army)
- Award instituted by Government of India.
- Announced annually on **23 January**, birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- Honours individuals and organisations for exemplary service in disaster management.

Responsible Nations Index 2026

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- India launched the Responsible **Nations Index (RNI)** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- Under the aegis of **World Intellectual Foundation (WIF)**.
- Academic contributors: **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** and **Indian Institute of Management Mumbai (IIM Mumbai)**.
- Index provides a global framework to assess nations beyond economic strength.
- Focuses on ethical and moral dimensions of governance and development.
- **India's rank:** 16th with overall score of **0.5515**

8) Sports & Culture

Aaryan Varshney Becomes India's 92nd Chess Grandmaster

- Indian chess achieved another milestone as **Aaryan Varshney (21) from Delhi** became India's 92nd Grandmaster.
- Secured third and final Grandmaster norm by winning **Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia**.
- Clinched the title with a round to spare.
- Earlier, **A.R. Ilamparthy** and **V.S. Raahul** became India's 90th and 91st Grandmasters in late 2025.

Amelia Valverde Appointed India Women's Football Head Coach

- All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed **Amelia Valverde of Costa Rica** as head coach of the Indian senior women's football team.

Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2026

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- **25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) 2026**, world's largest international theatre festival, organised by National School of Drama (NSD).
- Dates: **27 January to 20 February 2026**
- Landmark edition held in the largest-ever format.
- Spanning **40 locations across India**.
- Features at least one participating country from each of the **seven continents**.

Key Highlights

- Theatre Bazaar to promote new playwrights
- Launch of 17 books under 'Shruti' initiative
- **33 productions directed by women**

Sunita Williams Retired from NASA

- NASA astronaut **Sunita Williams** retired after a distinguished **27-year career** with the U.S. space agency.
- Completed **three missions aboard the International Space Station (ISS)**.
- Carried out **nine spacewalks**, contributing significantly to human spaceflight and space research.
- Created history by becoming the first **person to run a marathon in space**.

Book "Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi" Released

- Vice President of India, **C. P. Radhakrishnan**, released a book titled "**Chalice of Ambrosia: Ram Janmabhoomi – Challenge and Response**".
- Location: Vice President's Enclave, New Delhi.

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- Authored by **Shri Surendra Kumar Pachauri**, former Secretary to Government of India.
- Publication documents historical, legal, and administrative challenges associated with Ram Janmabhoomi movement and institutional responses over time.

9) Important Days

National Girl Child Day 2026 – 24 January

- India observed National Girl Child Day on **24 January 2026**.
- Reaffirming commitment to rights, education, health, safety, and empowerment of girls.
- Day observed annually since **2008**.
- Initiated by the Ministry of **Women and Child Development (MWCD)**.
- Addresses gender discrimination and promotes equal opportunities for girls.

Toppers' Strategy for Current Affairs

Rewrite this **Quick Revision Table** in your current affairs notebook. One table per week means just **52 tables = complete one-year current affairs recap** before Prelims.

This is how **toppers revise an entire year of current affairs** using just a few pages.

10) Quick Revision Table

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Topic	Keyword / Fact
Vigilance Commissioner	Praveen Vashista • 16 Jan 2026 • Tenure: 4 years/65 age • CVC Act 2003
Republic Day 2026	EU leaders Antonio Costa & Ursula von der Leyen • Theme: 150 years Vande Mataram • First European naval contingent
AP FIRST	Tirupati • IIT-IISER collaboration • Aerospace, AI, semiconductors, quantum tech
Green Hydrogen Valley	Kakinada • ₹15,600 cr • 495 acres • World's largest • AM Green (Greenko) • Export to Europe/Germany
AP FDI at Davos	25% of India's total FDI • USD 10 bn RMZ partnership • GCC Park Vizag • UAE 40 companies
Gandabherunda Inscription	ASI • Vinukonda, Palnadu • Telugu script • Saka 1399 (1477 CE) • Double-headed bird • Vishnu

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Child Trafficking	K.P. Kiran Kumar vs State • Article 21, 23, 24, 39 • Palermo Protocol 2000 • BNS Sec 143
Wildlife Sanctuary	SCNBWL guidelines • Post-1980 = encroachment • Balaram Ambaji, Gujarat
NE Statehood Day	21 Jan • Tripura (19th), Manipur (20th), Meghalaya (21st) • 1972 • NE Reorganisation Act 1971
IICDEM-2026	ECI • Bharat Mandapam • 60 delegates, 42 EMBs, 27 ambassadors • CEC Gyanesh Kumar
IMF GDP Forecast	India 7.3% FY26 (from 6.6%) • WEO Jan 2026 • Global 3.3% 2026, 3.2% 2027
Atal Pension Yojana	Extended till 2030-31 • 9 May 2015 • ₹1K-5K/month • 8.66 cr subscribers

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Anna Chakra	Franz Edelman Award finalist • PDS O.R. system • WFP+IIT Delhi • ₹250 cr savings, 35% emission cut
Trucks-on-Trains	Western DFC • Rewari-Palanpur 636 km • 30h→12h • Amul major user
Coconut Root Wilt	Phytoplasma • 30 lakh palms • Kerala TN Karnataka • No cure • Climate change factor
Kaziranga Corridor	₹6,950 cr • 86 km (35 km elevated) • NH-715 • UNESCO site • Rhinos elephants tigers
Lucknow Zero Waste	UP's 1st • 100% scientific processing • Shivari 700 MT/day • Total 2,100 MT • 96.53% collection
Kaladi GI Tag	Udhampur J&K • ODOP • Dairy product • Scientific upscaling
Marine Farming	India's 1st open-sea • Andaman Sea • North Bay • NIOT • Blue Economy • Dr Jitendra Singh

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Gravitons	Hypothetical quantum particles • Mediate gravity • Stevens+Yale • First detection experiment
Soft Matter	Solid+liquid properties • Toothpaste, gels • Rheology • Time/force dependent
C-DOT SKOCH Award	Cell Broadcast Solution • 104th Summit • Viksit Bharat • DoT R&D
Darwin's Spider Silk	Caerostris darwini • Madagascar • 1.6 gigapascals • Stronger than steel
V2V Communication	30 GHz spectrum • DoT • Nitin Gadkari • IIT Kanpur AI • Road safety
Palaeoclimatology	Past climate study • Climate proxies: ice cores, sediments, tree rings, pollen
Board of Peace	Trump • WEF Davos • Israel-Hamas • 59 claimed, 19 attended • India absent

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Project Iceworm	Camp Century 1959 • Greenland • Radioactive waste • Climate threat • US-Denmark
Indira Gandhi Prize	Graca Machel • Mozambique • 2025 • ₹1 cr + citation + trophy
SC Bose Aapda Puraskar	23 Jan • Institutional: SSDMA • Individual: Lt Col Seeta Ashok Shelke
Responsible Nations Index	WIF • JNU+IIM Mumbai • India 16th (0.5515) • Ethical governance
Chess GM	Aaryan Varshney (21) • Delhi • 92nd GM • Armenia tournament
Women's Football	Amelia Valverde • Costa Rica • AIFF • India head coach
Bharat Rang Mahotsav	25th edition • 27 Jan-20 Feb 2026 • 40 locations • NSD • 7 continents • 33 women directors

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Sunita Williams	Retired • 27 years NASA • 3 ISS missions • 9 spacewalks • 1st space marathon
National Girl Child Day	24 Jan • Since 2008 • MWCD • Gender equality • Girl empowerment