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RAJASTHAN



Pandit Jhabarmal Sharma Journalism Award

Why in News?

- Recently, the Patrika Group organized the Pandit Jhabarmal Sharma Memorial Lecture Series and Journalism Awards ceremony in Jaipur.

Key Points:

- Chief Speaker at the ceremony:** Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, Chairman of the Central Law Commission.

Award Winners:

Story Award:

- First Prize:** Farooq Afridi (Jaipur) (Story - 'Jeevan Jaise Nadiya Ka Neer')
- Second Prize:** Rochika Arun Sharma (Chennai) (Story - 'Swadesh')

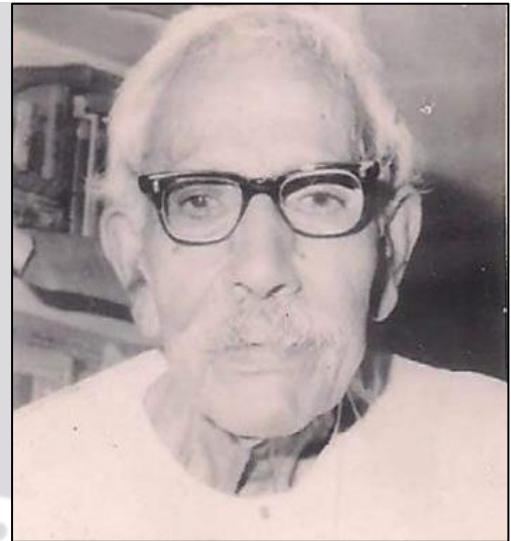
Poetry Award:

- First Prize:** Atul Chaturvedi (Kota) (Poem - 'Kuch Avsariye Siyar')
- Second Prize:** Kailash Manhar (Jaipur) (Poetic work - 'Yahi To Viral')

Facts for Prelims:

Pandit Jhabarmal Sharma:

- Pandit Jhabarmal Sharma, known as the 'Bhishma Pitamah of Journalism', was born in Jasrapur (Jhunjhunu) in 1880 AD.
- In 1905 AD, Pandit Durgaprasad Mishra imparted training in Hindi journalism and editing to Jhabarmal.
- He edited numerous books, including History of Sikar, History of Khetri, Khetri Naresh and Vivekananda, Adarsh Naresh, Shri Aurobindo Charit, Hindi Gita Rahasya Saar, Atma Vigyan Shiksha, Tilak Gatha, Bharatiya Godhan, etc.



Major Events to be held in January 2026

Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan Tourism Department released a list of major tourism events, cultural events, and travel trade fairs to be held in and outside Rajasthan in January 2026.

Key Points:



RAJASTHAN

The Incredible State of India !

S. No.	Event Name	Date	Location
1.	Kota Hadoti Travel Mart	2–4 January	Kota, Rajasthan
2.	IITM (India International Travel Mart)	8–10 January	Kochi, Kerala
3.	Camel Festival	9–11 January	Bikaner, Rajasthan
4.	Kite Festival	14 January	Jaipur, Rajasthan
5.	Jaipur Literature Festival	15–19 January	Jaipur, Rajasthan
6.	TTB (Travel and Tourism Business)	15–17 January	Kolkata, West Bengal
7.	TTJ (Travel and Tourism Journey)	16–17 January	Pune, Maharashtra
8.	Nagaur Cattle Fair	24–27 January	Nagaur, Rajasthan
9.	Beneshwar Fair	28 January – 1 February	Dungarpur, Rajasthan
10.	Desert Festival	30 January – 1 February	Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
11.	RIFF (Rajasthan International Film Festival)	31 January – 4 February	Jodhpur, Rajasthan

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Rajasthan Digifest TiE Global Summit-2026 Main Sessions and Keynote Speakers (05/01/2026)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Leadership Beyond Labels: Women, Power and Public Service: Former Union Minister Smt. Smriti Irani.■ Destination Madhya Pradesh – India's Next Platform for Scalable Tech and Innovation: Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav.■ No Fear, No Limits: Lessons from the World's Most Aggressive Opener: Former Indian Cricketer Virender Sehwag.
2.	<p>National (Junior) Equestrian Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Diya Sharma, Divjot Kore, Siddharth Dutta, Arjun Mallaya, Krishna Gehlot, Hanisha Gupta and Tanisha Gupta from Jaipur won medals in the Junior National Equestrian Competition held at the Army Polo and Riding Center in Delhi Cantt.■ These players won a total of 7 medals, including 2 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze.
3.	<p>Rajasthan in the 17th Junior Rollball National Championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan won the gold medal in the 17th Junior Rollball National Championship held at MA Stadium in Jammu.■ Organizers: Jammu Sports Council and Roll Ball Federation of India.■ It is noteworthy that the Rajasthan Junior team has been winning the gold medal in this tournament for the past 5 years.■ In the final, the Rajasthan team defeated Uttar Pradesh with a score of 5-0 to win the gold medal.

4.

State Level Women Entrepreneurs Conference in Jodhpur

- A 'State Level Women Entrepreneurs Conference' was organized on January 4, 2026, as part of the 'Western Rajasthan Industry Handicrafts Festival-2026'.
- **Organizers:** Jodhpur District Administration, Laghu Udyog Bharti, District Industries and Commerce Center and Enterprise Promotion Institute.
- **Chief Guest of the conference:** Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari.

5.

National Road Safety Month

- The Transport and Road Safety Department in Rajasthan organized 'National Road Safety Month' from January 1 to 31, 2026.

6.

Three Individuals Honored at Saras Rajsakhi National Fair

- Three individuals who contributed to the 'Saras Rajsakhi National Fair – 2025', organized by the Rajasthan Rural Livelihood Development Council (Rajeevika) at Jawahar Kala Kendra (Jaipur), were honored by the Government of Rajasthan.
- The honorees included entrepreneur Aastha Jain Agarwal, Dilip Rathore, who played an active role in digital and media outreach, and Vishwajeet Shekhawat, who enhanced the fair's reach through creative and public engagement.
- **Event Dates:** December 18, 2025 to January 4, 2026.

7.

Rajasthan State Senior Shootingball Championship

- The 'Rajasthan State Senior Shootingball Championship' was held in Sikar from January 2 to 4, 2026.
- **Winner (Men's category):** Ganganagar defeated Jaipur.
- **Winner (Women's category):** Ajmer defeated Jaipur.



8.

Fifth Session of the Sixteenth Legislative Assembly

- The fifth session of the Sixteenth Rajasthan Legislative Assembly will begin on January 28, 2026.
- The state budget for the financial year 2026-27 will be presented during this session.

9.

69th National School Games Hockey (Under-19 Boys) Championship

- The 69th National School Games Hockey (Under-19 Boys) Championship will be held in Udaipur from January 12 to 17, 2026.
- 44 teams from across the country will participate in this championship.

UTKARSH
CIVIL
SERVICES

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Venezuela's New President: Delcy Rodríguez

Why in News?

- Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has been detained in New York on drug-related charges under a US military operation.
- The Venezuelan Supreme Court has ordered Vice President Delcy Rodríguez to assume the role of acting/interim president.
- Delcy Rodríguez was sworn in on January 5, 2026.
- Recently, the Venezuelan government declared a state of emergency due to external interference, granting the president broad powers.



Key Points:

Delcy Rodríguez:

- Rodríguez served as Vice President since 2018 and oversaw Venezuela's oil-dependent economy and intelligence services.
- Delcy also served as Foreign Minister between 2014 and 2017.
- **Monroe Doctrine:** According to the US, Nicolás Maduro was detained based on the Monroe Doctrine.
- **Proclamation:** By James Monroe, the 5th President of the United States, on September 2, 1823.



- **Introduction:** The Monroe Doctrine is a principle of US foreign policy that asserts that the Western Hemisphere is the exclusive sphere of influence of the United States, and any external (especially European) intervention would be considered a hostile act against the US.
- In January 2026, following the detention of Nicolás Maduro by the US military, President Trump described the operation as a modern update of the Monroe Doctrine.

Other Important Points:

Venezuela:

- **Location:** A federal multi-party republic in South America.
- **Borders:** Its northern coastline borders the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. (Shares borders with Guyana, Brazil, and Colombia.)
- **Capital:** Caracas

Main Features:

1. **Guiana Highlands:** Ancient crystalline highlands located in the southeast, including tepuis and Angel Falls (the world's tallest waterfall).
2. **Lake Maracaibo:** A major oil-producing region.
3. **Llanos Plains:** Vast tropical plains located along the Orinoco River (important for livestock farming and hydrocarbon production).
4. **Andes Mountains:** Located in the northwest (Cordillera de Mérida), including Bolívar Peak.

Cryptocurrency and Turkmenistan

Why in News?

- Recently, Turkmenistan has legalized cryptocurrency mining and exchanges.



Key Points:

S E R V I C E S

- Under the new law, crypto assets have been brought under the purview of civil law.
- Crypto exchanges are now required to obtain a license from the Central Bank.
- This law legalizes cryptocurrency mining and exchanges from January 2026.
- NOTE:** Cryptocurrency has not been given the status of legal tender/security.

Other Important Points:

- Turkmenistan's economy:** Highly dependent on exports.
- Turkmenistan holds the world's fourth-largest natural gas reserves.



Cryptocurrency:

- **Introduction:** A digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security.
- It is a decentralized currency, meaning it is not regulated or controlled by any government or institution.

Major Examples:

1. **Bitcoin** (Invented: The first cryptocurrency invented by Satoshi Nakamoto in 2009)
2. **Ethereum** (Decentralized open-source blockchain platform)
3. **Litecoin (LTC)** (Open-source software and peer-to-peer cryptocurrency)
4. **Ripple** (Based on a protocol for cross-border payments)

- **Secure:** Transactions related to cryptocurrencies are recorded in a public digital ledger called a blockchain.



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Year 2025 Review

Why in News?

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has detailed India's major achievements in environmental protection, climate action, and institutional reforms in its 2025 review.



Key Points:

1. **Forest Conservation and Green Cover:** According to FAO, 2025, India ranks 9th globally in terms of forest area.
 - India ranks 3rd globally in terms of annual net forest increase.
2. **Wildlife Conservation:** A new Madhav Tiger Reserve has been declared in Madhya Pradesh.
 - The 6th All India Tiger Estimation has been launched.
 - The number of elephant reserves has increased to 33 by 2025.

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- **Number of Protected Areas - 1134**
- **Number of Community Reserves - 309**
- **Project Cheetah:** Under this project, the total number of cheetahs has reached 30.
- **5 national-level projects have been launched** - Project Dolphin - Phase II, Sloth Bear, Gharial, Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, and a project on tigers outside Tiger Reserves.

3. Coastal, Wetland and Mangrove Conservation: Under the MISHTI scheme, 4536 hectares of mangroves were restored in 2025.

- 11 new Ramsar sites have been added in 2025, bringing the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 96.
- India has the highest number of Ramsar sites in Asia, and Udaipur and Indore have been designated as India's first Ramsar Wetland Cities.
- 18 beaches have been certified as Blue Flag beaches by 2025-26.

4. Climate Change: Installed capacity from non-fossil fuels exceeded 50% in June 2025, five years ahead of the target (2030).

- The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) has been launched.

5. Air Quality and Urban Environment: A reduction in PM-10 levels was recorded in 103 cities.

- 75 projects were approved under the Nagar Van Yojana (Urban Forest Scheme) in 2025.

⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡

Suryastra Rocket System

➡ Why in News?

- The Indian Army has signed an emergency procurement contract worth ₹293 crore with NIBE Limited in collaboration with Elbit Systems.
- This contract will include the Suryastra rocket system, a long-range universal launcher with a range of up to 300 km.



📌 Key Points:

- **Introduction:** India's first indigenous universal multi-caliber long-range rocket launcher system.
- It is capable of surface-to-surface strikes with a range of 150 km.
- **Manufacturer:** NIBE Limited (India)
- **Assistance:** By Elbit Systems.
- **Basis:** Based on the Israeli PULS (Precise and Universal Launching System). (Under a technology cooperation agreement; July 2025)
- **Objective:** To enhance the Indian Army's deep strike and stand-off firepower.
- **Range:** 150 km to 300 km.
- **Significance:** Greater capability than Pinaka, increased deterrence, and enhanced joint strike capability.

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ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Rice Production: India is the largest producer globally

Why in News?

- According to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, India has surpassed China to become the world's largest rice producer with a production of 150.18 million tonnes.



Key Points:

Global Ranking:

Rank	Country	Contribution
I st	India	150.18 million tonnes (28%)
II nd	China	145.28 million tonnes (27%)
III rd	Bangladesh	36.7 million tonnes (36.7%)
IV th	Vietnam	34.1 million tonnes (6%)

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- **NOTE** - India is the world's largest rice exporter with a 30-33% share in global rice exports in 2024-25.
- **State-wise Ranking:** According to the 2023-24 Economic Survey –

Rank	State	Contribution (Approx.)
I _{st}	Telangana	12.17%
II _{nd}	Uttar Pradesh	11.50%
III _{rd}	West Bengal	11.06%

Rice:

- **Crop:** Kharif crop
- **Climate:** Humid and hot climate (tropical)
- **Average annual rainfall:** 150 cm
- **Soil:** Loamy soil (river valleys, floodplains, deltas, coastal plains)



IMPORTANT DAYS



World Braille Day: January 4



Why in News?

- World Braille Day is celebrated every year on January 4 to commemorate the birthday of Louis Braille.



Key Points:

- **Braille Script in India:** Braille script arrived in India in 1887, although Indian Braille was accepted as the sole standard only in 1951.
- **Braille Script:** Braille is a tactile (touch-based) writing and reading system used by people who are blind or have low vision. It is based on a cell of six dots, arranged in two columns of three dots each. Different combinations of these raised dots represent letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and symbols, enabling users to read through touch.

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Standard Indian Braille Code:

- **Publication:** January 4, 2025
- **Publisher:** Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities.
- **Objective:** To officially adopt a uniform Braille system in Indian languages for education and accessibility.

Accessible India Campaign:

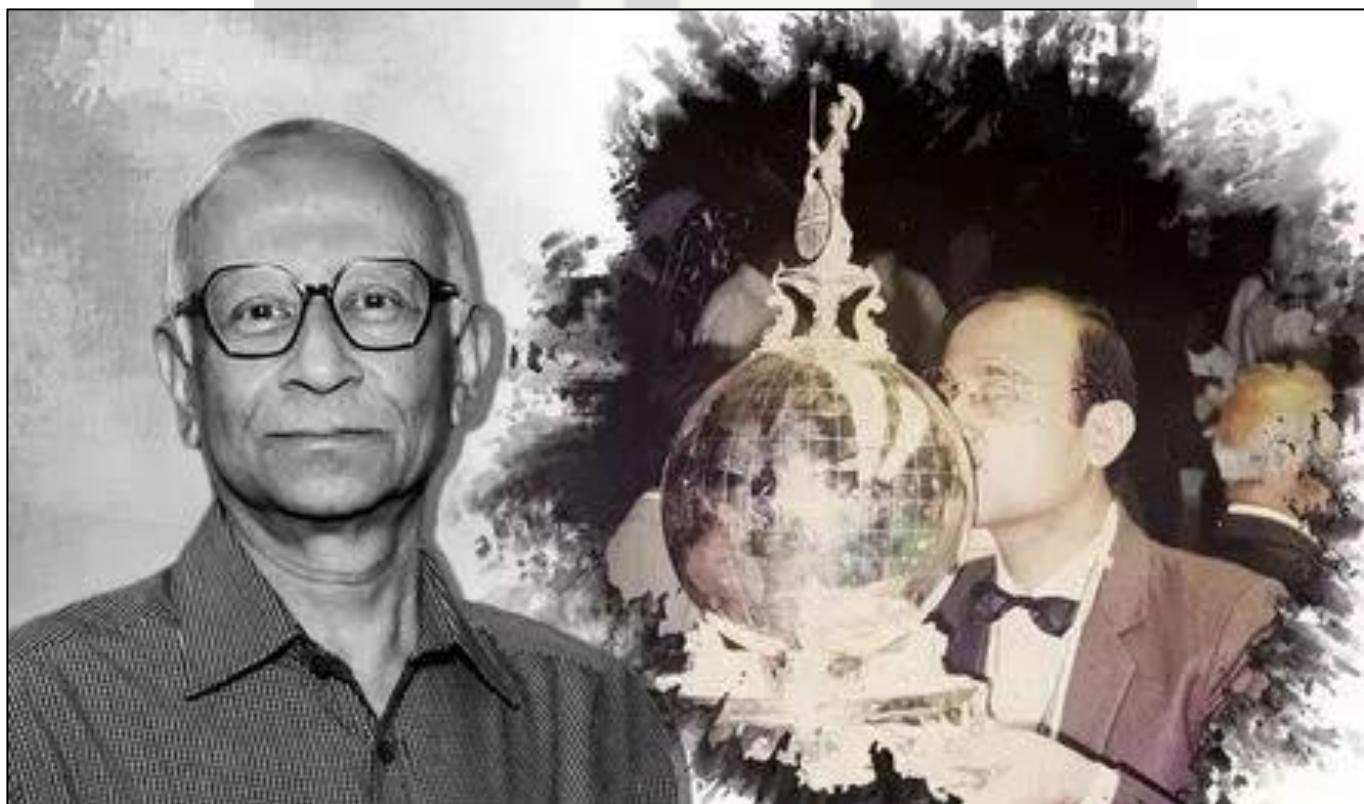
- **Launched:** 2015
- **Department:** Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD)
- **Objective:** To create a barrier-free and inclusive environment for all persons with disabilities, including visually impaired individuals.
- Enacted under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

SPORTS

Manoj Kothari: Passed away

Why in News?

- Former Indian World Billiards Champion and head coach of Team India, Manoj Kothari, has passed away.



Key Points:

- Affiliation:** Tamil Nadu
- Kothari won the World Championship in 1990.
- He was awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Award in 2005.
- Manoj Kothari's son, Saurav Kothari, also won the World Championship.
- They are the only father-son duo in the world to have won world titles in the same sport.

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>Sjoerd Marijne: Hockey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Hockey India has appointed Sjoerd Marijne as the head coach of the Indian women's hockey team.■ This is Marijne's second tenure (the first was from 2017 to 2021).■ Under the Dutch coach Marijne's leadership, India secured fourth place at the Tokyo Olympics, 2020.
2.	<p>Mini Earth Observation Satellite</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Hyderabad-based startups TechMe2Space and EON Space Lab have developed a 14 kg mini Earth observation satellite.■ Name: MoI-1■ Launch: To be launched by ISRO's PSLV.■ It will operate in a Low Earth Orbit at an altitude of 500 km.
3.	<p>Sanjay Takale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Sanjay Takale achieved a significant milestone in Indian motorsport with his outstanding performance in the Dakar Rally, 2026.■ He secured first place in Group H3 with a high average speed in the initial stages of the rally and 35th place in the car category.
4.	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between Reserve Bank and Delhi Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Delhi government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This brings the national capital under the RBI's full banking, cash management, and debt framework for the first time.



Impact of the agreement:

- This agreement will enable the RBI to act as the banker, debt manager, and financial agent for the Delhi government.
- It will facilitate access to facilities such as borrowing from the market through state development loans, automatic investment of surplus funds, professional cash management, and low-cost liquidity.

5.

'Khutbat-e-Modi' Book

- **Release:** By Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan
- **Subject:** A compilation of the Independence Day speeches delivered by the Prime Minister from the Red Fort between 2014 and 2025.
- **Publisher:** National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi.

6.

Solar Cell Calibration Standard Facility: India Becomes the Fifth Country in the World

- India has become the fifth country in the world to establish a solar cell calibration standard facility.
- **Solar Cell Calibration Standard Facility:** This is a state-of-the-art laboratory that establishes national and international standards for accurately measuring and certifying the efficiency and performance of solar energy devices (such as solar panels).

7.

Gas Leak from Mori-5 Well

- A gas leak occurred in a well operated by ONGC in the Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Location:** Situated in the Krishna-Godavari basin at Jharusumanda village (Andhra Pradesh).