

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 January, 2026



## Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	State Level Youth Festival – 2026
2.	68th National Shooting Championship: Rajasthan Secures Third Place
3.	Successful Test of Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile
4.	Integrated Cluster Development Scheme: 7 Common Facility Centers
5.	News in Shorts 1. Tribal Development Fund 2. Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE) 3. 'RAJ-UNNATI' Initiative 4. 53rd Rajasthan Bodybuilding Championship: Kota 5. 'Police Brand Ambassadors' to be appointed in Rajasthan
6.	German Chancellor's Visit to India
7.	International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP): 2026
8.	Western Disturbances
9.	Health Sector and Nanobots
10.	National Youth Day - 2026
11.	News in Shorts 1. Exercise Sanjha Shakti

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### State Level Youth Festival – 2026



#### Why in News?

- The closing ceremony of the State Level Youth Festival – 2026, was held on January 12, 2026, at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.



#### Key Points:

- The Rajasthan Youth Festival 2026, was organized from January 7 to 12, 2026.

#### Rajasthan Employment Policy-2026:

- **Released:** The 'Rajasthan Employment Policy-2026' was released by the Chief Minister in Jaipur during the closing ceremony of the state-level youth festival.
- **Job Creation:** Under this policy, 15 lakh employment opportunities will be made available by March 2029, through a multi-faceted strategy focused on employment and entrepreneurship.

--2:--

- To ensure the execution, monitoring, and successful implementation of the policy, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based digital platform will be created by integrating the Rajasthan Employment Portal (EEMS 2.0) and the Employment Exchange.
- The policy also includes the provision of e-job fairs to ensure the availability of national and international employment opportunities.

## Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana:

- **Launched:** By Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on January 12, 2026.
- Under this scheme, 1 lakh youth will be trained as micro-entrepreneurs by providing them with interest-free loans.
- **Eligibility:** Must be a permanent resident of Rajasthan and between 18 and 45 years of age.

## Rajasthan Youth Policy-2026

- **Released:** On January 12, 2026, during the closing ceremony of the state-level youth festival.
- **Objective:** To expand opportunities for youth in emerging sectors through education and skill development.
- This policy lays special emphasis on expanding youth-friendly health services and sports, preventing gender-based violence, promoting young artists, and the role of youth in sustainable development.

## Rajasthan Youth Icon Award:

- Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, on the lines of the National Youth Icon Award, honored talented young people aged 15 to 29, in the state with the 'Rajasthan Youth Icon Award' and a cash prize of ₹1,00,000.

## Award Recipients:

- Yash Vyas (Banswara)
- Kuldeep Verma (Jaipur)
- Naresh Kumar Meena (Dausa)
- Hira Lal Mahawar (Dausa)

## 68th National Shooting Championship: Rajasthan Secures Third Place

### Why in News?

- Rajasthan secured third place in the medal tally of the 68th National Shooting Championship held in New Delhi and Bhopal.



### Key Points:

- **Total Medals:** Rajasthan won a total of 51 medals, in this competition, including 15 gold, 15 silver, and 21 bronze medals.
- **First Place:** Haryana topped the medal tally with a total of 60 medals.
- Rajasthan secured first place nationwide in the Para-Shooting events with 9 gold medals.

--:4:--

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 January, 2026



## Individual Gold Medal Winners from Rajasthan:

S. No.	Player Name	Event
1.	Anushka Singh Bhati	Became Senior National Champion in Women's Double Trap (Shotgun).
2.	Sandeep Bishnoi	Junior Men's 50 Meter Pistol Event.
3.	Rahul Serawat	10 Meter Air Pistol (Civilian).
4.	Anjali Shekhawat	10 Meter Air Pistol (Civilian).
5.	Nikhil Chaudhary	50 Meter Pistol (Civilian).
6.	Sarosh Khan	Skeet (Men's Category).
7.	Pushpa Meghwal	10 Meter Air Pistol Super Master.
8.	Snehlata Singh Rajawat	Trap.

### Other important points:

- **Shotgun events (New Delhi):** December 1, 2025 to January 6, 2026 at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.
- **Pistol events (New Delhi):** December 11, 2025 to January 4, 2026 at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range.
- **Rifle events (Bhopal):** December 11, 2025 to January 2, 2026 at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy.

--:5:--

## Successful Test of Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile

### Why in News?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) on January 11, 2026, at the KK Range, Ahilya Nagar, in Maharashtra.



### Key Points:

- The Defence Laboratory in Jodhpur, developed a thermal target system to simulate the target tank for this missile.
- The MPATGM is a third-generation fire-and-forget missile that can engage moving targets in top-attack mode. Built with completely indigenous technology, this missile is capable of destroying modern tanks.

### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- **Established:** 1958
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman:** Dr. Samir V. Kamat
- **Motto:** Balasya Mulam Vigyanam (The source of strength is science)
- **Objective:** To achieve self-reliance in the defence sector through defence research.
- It is a research and development organization under the Ministry of Defence.

--:6:--

## Integrated Cluster Development Scheme: 7 Common Facility Centers

### Why in News?

- The Rajasthan government will establish 7 Common Facility Centers under the 'Integrated Cluster Development Scheme'.

### Key Points:

- **7 Common Facility Centers:** Bharatpur, Hanumangarh, Phalodi, Kotputli-Behror, Balotra, Dausa, and Jaipur.
- These Common Facility Centers will be equipped with modern machinery, which will be used by more than 100 small and micro-scale industrial units in the respective areas.

### Integrated Cluster Development Scheme:

- **Launch:** The Integrated Cluster Development Scheme was notified by the state government in December 2024. Detailed guidelines regarding this scheme were issued in January 2025.
- Under this scheme, the target is to develop 50 clusters in the handloom, handicrafts, and MSME sectors in the state over a period of 3 years.
- **Eligibility:** At least 20 MSME industries producing similar products and operating in the same location.
- To avail the benefits of the scheme, more than 10 units are required to form a non-profit company and apply.
- **Grant:** The state government will provide a grant of up to 80 percent of the total cost for support in production, testing, storage, processing, and marketing.
- **Note:** Up to 100 percent grant for the training of artisans and weavers.

--7--

## ✂ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.

News

1.

### Tribal Development Fund



- **Amount:** The Rajasthan government has increased the amount of the Tribal Development Fund from ₹1000 crore to ₹1750 crore, in the 2025-26 budget.
- **Tribal Memorial and Museum:** The state government is constructing tribal memorials and museums in Dungarpur (Dungar Baranda) and Banswara (Bansia Charpota).
- **Veer Balika Kalibai Museum:** The government is constructing the Veer Balika Kalibai Museum in Udaipur.

--8:--

2.

## Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE)

- The Indian Army showcased the Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULE) at the 'Know Your Army' exhibition held in Jaipur.



- The MULE resembles a metal dog and acts as a companion for soldiers in challenging conditions such as rugged mountains, dense forests, the scorching sands of the desert, and battlefields.
- It is an autonomous robot specifically designed to operate in areas where wheeled vehicles cannot go.
- Besides carrying equipment, its multi-utility features also make it a formidable weapon. Its thermal cameras and sensors can detect enemy movements even in the dark of night.

3.

## 'RAJ-UNNATI' Initiative



- Following the lines of PM-PRAGATI, the 'RAJ-UNNATI' platform has been developed in Rajasthan for strict monitoring of schemes.
- PM-PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) was launched by the central government in 2015, to implement projects, schemes, and public grievances with technology-based monitoring and timely resolution.

--9:--

4.

## 53rd Rajasthan Bodybuilding Championship: Kota

- **Venue:** Kota
- **Mr. Rajasthan:** Arshan Khan (Jodhpur)
- **Runner-up:** Mahfuz Ahmed (Jaipur)
- **Mr. Rajasthan (Junior Category):** Ramkrishna Prajapat (Jaipur)
- **Runner-up:** Indra Sain (Bikaner)

5.

## 'Police Brand Ambassadors' to be appointed in Rajasthan



- On the occasion of National Youth Day (January 12), the Rajasthan Police organized special awareness programs for students and youth at all police stations across the state.
- The most important aspect of this program is to make young people brand ambassadors of the police. Active youth aged 18 to 25 in the state will be trained on the lines of Community Liaison Group (CLG) members.
- These young brand ambassadors will act as a bridge between the police and the general public in their respective areas.

-:10:-

## NATIONAL

### German Chancellor's Visit to India

#### Why in News?

- At the invitation of the Indian Prime Minister, the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich Merz, paid an official visit to India from January 12 to 13, 2026.



-:11:-

## Key Points:

- This visit followed the successful 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations held in New Delhi on October 25, 2024.
- The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the India-Germany strategic partnership, and 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations.
- Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Germany exceeded US\$50 billion in 2024, accounting for more than 25% of India's trade with the European Union.
- **Memorandum of Understanding:** Defence and security, trade and economy, critical and emerging technologies, traditional medicine, renewable energy, green hydrogen, science and research, and skill development and mobility.

## Announcements:

S. No.	Announcements	Sector
1.	Announcement of visa-free transit through Germany for Indian passport holders.	People-to-People Relations
2.	Establishment of Track 1.5 Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue.	Foreign Policy and Security
3.	Establishment of a bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific region.	Indo-Pacific
4.	Adoption of the work plan for the India-Germany Digital Dialogue (2025-2027).	Technology and Innovation

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 January, 2026



5.	New financing commitments of €1.24 billion under the flagship bilateral Green and Sustainable Development Partnership (GSDP) to support priority projects in renewable energy, green hydrogen, PM e-bus service, and climate-resilient urban infrastructure.	Green and Sustainable Development
6.	Launch of the Battery Storage Working Group under the India–Germany Renewable Energy Investment Platform.	Green and Sustainable Development
7.	Expansion of projects under the India–Germany Triangular Development Cooperation in Ghana (Digital Technology Center for Bamboo Design and Processing), Cameroon (Climate-adaptive RAC Technology Laboratory for nationwide potato seed innovation), and Malawi (Center for Technological Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Agricultural Value Chains for Women and Youth).	Green and Sustainable Development
8.	Inauguration of the Honorary Consulate of Germany in Ahmedabad.	Cultural and People-to-People Relations

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP): 2026

#### Why in News?

- Rangelands are underrepresented in global and national climate plans.
- The United Nations has declared 2026, as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).



#### Key Points:

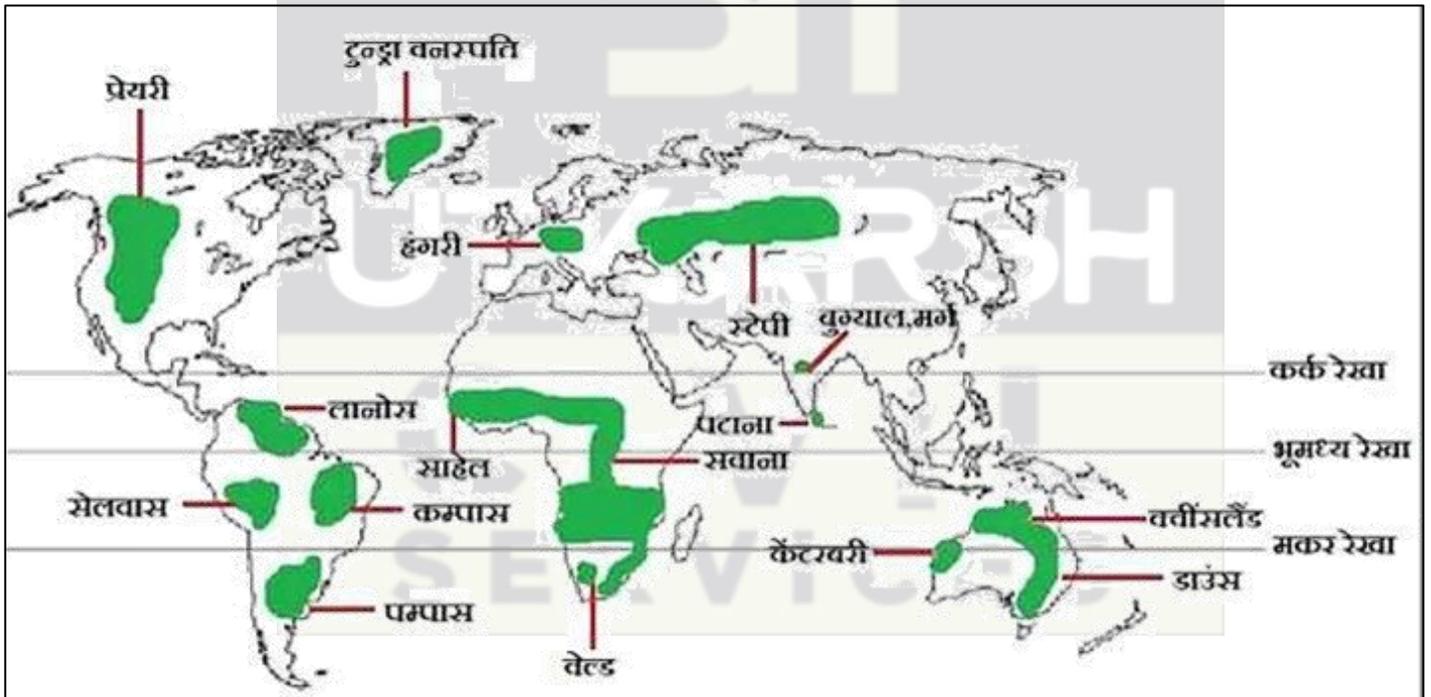
- **Grasslands:** These are open terrestrial ecosystems dominated by grasses with sparse tree cover. They include savannas, rangelands, and pastures.
- **According to UNESCO:** Land with less than 10% tree and shrub cover, with 10 to 40% woody grass cover.
- **Area:** They cover approximately 40.5% of the Earth's land surface.
- **Climate:** Tropical and subtropical

--:14:--

## ■ Importance:

1. **Carbon Sink:** Tropical and subtropical grasslands store approximately 15% of the global terrestrial carbon.
2. **Human Activities:** They are home to 20% of the world's population, including pastoralist and farming communities.
3. **Livelihood Support**
4. **Biodiversity Conservation**
5. **Soil Conservation**

## Major Grasslands of the World:



## Grasslands in India:

- **Area:** They cover approximately 24% of India's geographical area.
- **Distribution:** Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, the Terai region of Assam + Alpine grasslands of the Himalayan region.
- **Kutch, Gujarat:** The Banni grassland is the largest grassland in Asia.

## GEOGRAPHY

### Western Disturbances

#### Why in News?

- According to new research, the main reason for insufficient rainfall in the Himalayas is the weakening of Western Disturbance systems.

#### Key Points:

##### Western Disturbances:

- It is an extra-tropical/temperate storm that originates in the Mediterranean region.
- This disturbance moves from west to east, passing through Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan before entering India.

##### Impact:

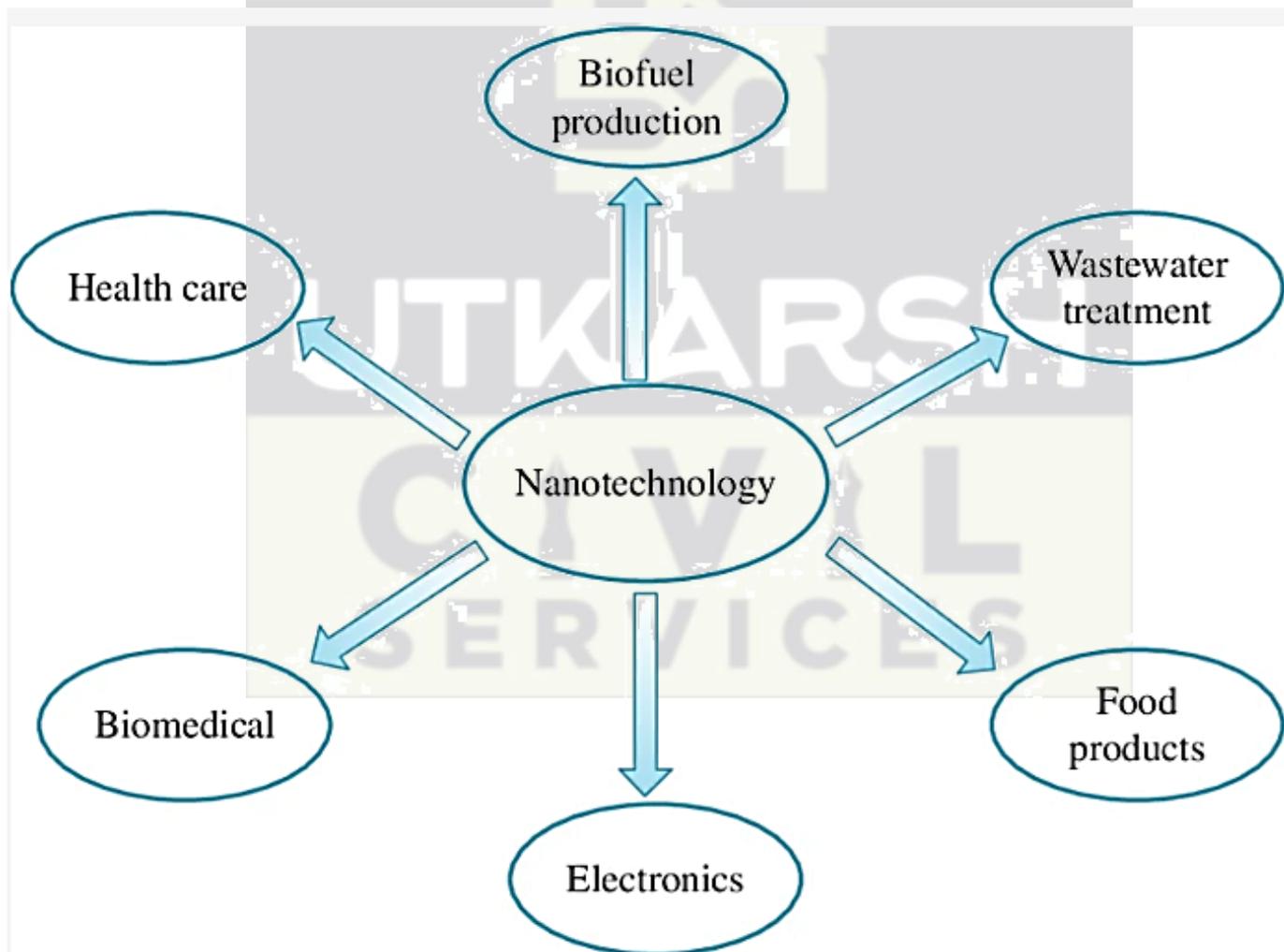
- It brings rain, snowfall, and fog to North India (Rajasthan - Mavath), which is important for the production and productivity of Rabi crops.
- It sometimes causes extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, storms, cold waves, and hailstorms, which negatively impact physical infrastructure.
- Western Disturbances play a significant role in ensuring the perennial flow of Himalayan rivers in the Indian subcontinent.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Health Sector and Nanobots

#### Why in News?

- Dr. Ambarish Ghosh of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has been awarded the prestigious "New York Academy of Sciences - Tata Sons Transformation Award" for the year 2025.



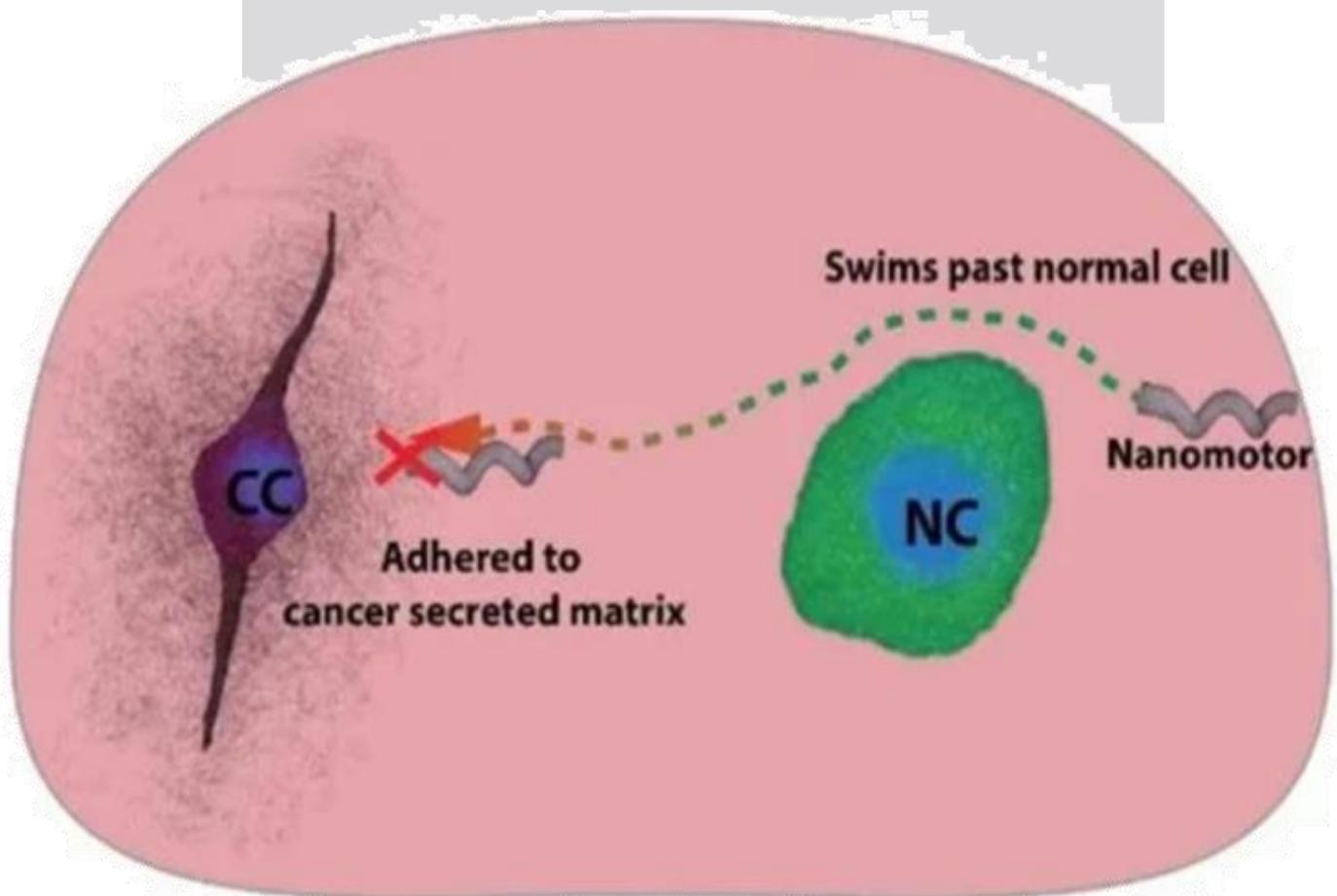
#### Key Points:

- Contribution:** This honor has been bestowed upon him for the magnetic nanobots he developed for targeted cancer therapy.

## Magnetic Nanobots:

- **Introduction:** Magnetic nanobots are microscopic, externally controlled machines made of or coated with magnetic materials such as iron oxide.
- Guided by magnetic fields from outside the body, they can be precisely navigated through blood vessels or tissues without an internal power source.

## Working Mechanism:



- These nanobots are bacteria-inspired, helical-structured nanoswimmers that function like a propeller.
- The iron (Fe) component in them allows them to be precisely steered through the bloodstream and dense tissues with the help of an external magnetic field.
- Drugs are coated on the surface of these nanobots so that they deliver the medication directly to cancer cells without affecting healthy cells.

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 January, 2026



- These nanobots can generate heat exceeding  $42^{\circ}\text{C}$  locally under the influence of a magnetic field, thereby destroying cancer cells.
- **Structure:** Their structure is biocompatible, made of silica and iron, and can be coated with cancer drugs, making them effective targeted delivery vehicles.

## Applications:

1. **Diagnostic Tools:** Biosensing, imaging enhancement, or biofilm removal.
2. **Therapeutic:** Delivering therapeutic materials directly to disease sites such as tumors to increase effectiveness and reduce side effects.



-:19:-

## ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS

### National Youth Day - 2026

#### Why in News?

- National Youth Day is celebrated every year on January 12th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

#### Key Points:

- His ideas on character, courage, service, and nation-building guide India's youth-oriented policies today.
- With more than 65 percent of India's population under the age of 35, youth empowerment is central to the vision of Developed India @ 2047.

#### Swami Vivekananda

- **Born:** January 12, 1863
- In 1893, at the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of Khetri, he changed his name to Vivekananda.

#### Contributions:

- **Philosopher:** He introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.
- He propagated Neo-Vedanta, which is an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western perspective. He believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- **Spiritual:** Vivekananda's messages on human values were inspired by the Upanishads, the Gita, and the examples of Buddha and Jesus Christ, emphasizing self-realization, compassion, and selfless service.

# Daily Current Affairs

Date : 13 January, 2026



- He advocated the principle of service; he considered service to humanity as service to God.
- In his Rajyoga, Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga, and Bhakti Yoga, he provided paths to attain liberation from worldly pleasures and attachments.
- **Revivalism:** He emphasized education for the upliftment of the motherland. He advocated man-making, character-building education.

## Associated Organizations:

1. **Ramakrishna Mission:** Founded in 1897, to propagate the ideals of service, education, and spiritual upliftment.
  2. **Belur Math:** Founded in 1899.
  3. **International Recognition:** He addressed the Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893, where he represented Hinduism.
- In July 1896, he addressed a conference of the London Hindu Association in London.

## Government Initiatives for Youth Empowerment:

1. My Youth India
2. National Service Scheme and Developed India Young Leaders Dialogue
3. Agnipath Scheme
4. Prime Minister's Scheme for Transformation through Skill and Employment Enhancement (PM-SETU)
5. Skill India Mission
6. PM Developed India Employment Scheme
7. Startup India and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
8. Youth Spiritual Summit and Kashi Declaration

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## NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p><b>Exercise Sanjha Shakti</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ The Indian Army conducted a civil-military fusion exercise, “Sanjha Shakti,” at the Dighi Hills Range under the aegis of the Southern Command, specifically in the Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa region.</li></ul> <p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ To strengthen civil-military coordination.</li><li>■ To address internal security challenges.</li><li>■ To enhance internal public safety.</li></ul>

