

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 23 January, 2026



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'Usta Art of Bikaner' to be featured in Republic Day Tableau



Why in News?

- The 'Usta Art of Bikaner' will be showcased in the Rajasthan tableau during the 77th Republic Day parade to be held on Kartavya Path in New Delhi.



Key Points:

- A total of 30 tableaux will be displayed on Kartavya Path on January 26, 2026, including tableaux from 17 states/union territories and 13 ministries/departments/services.
- **Theme of the Rajasthan tableau:** The Golden Touch of the Desert: The Golden Art of Bikaner (Usta Art).

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- **Designer and Supervisor of the tableau:** Har Shiv Kumar Sharma.
- The front of the Rajasthan tableau will feature an artist playing the Ravanahatha, a famous folk instrument of Rajasthan. Artists performing the Gair folk dance will surround the tableau.
- The tableau also displays scenes of artisans working on traditional flasks and handicrafts, showcasing the vibrant tradition of this art. The statue of a camel rider in the background depicts the desert culture and folk life of Rajasthan.

Facts for Prelims:

About Usta Art:

- Usta art is a traditional royal art of gold inlay work on camel hide, believed to have originated in Iran. The intricate and artistic paintings on these creations made from camel hide are called 'Munawwati'.
- The Usta art of Bikaner has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which certifies its authenticity and cultural significance.
- **Development:** It developed during the Mughal period and reached Bikaner during the reign of Maharaja Rai Singh, but its greatest development occurred during the time of Maharaja Anoop Singh Rathore, where local artisans gave it a distinct identity. Currently, its application has expanded to wood, marble, glass, and walls.
- The late Hisamuddin Usta of the Usta family was renowned for this work and was awarded the 'Padma Shri' by the President in 1986.
- **Usta Camel Hide Training Centre, Bikaner** - Established on August 15, 1975, in collaboration with the All India Handicrafts Board, New Delhi.
- **Prominent artists** – Mohammed Hanif Usta, Ilahi Baksh Usta, Qaderbakhsh, Ayub Usta, Aliraza, Asghar Usta, Ruknuddin Usta, Ajmal Hussain Usta, etc.

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Statewide Launch of Village Development Camps

Why in News?

- On January 22, 2026, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma launched the state-level 'Village Development Camps' from Sirohi.

Key Points:

- **Organization:** Under the Village Development Camps, programs will be organized at the Girdawar circle level across the state.
- **Duration:** The Village Development Camps will be held in two phases.
- **First Phase:** Starting from January 23, 2026 (Basant Panchami), with camps held on January 24, 25, and 31, 2026.
- **Second Phase:** Held from February 1 and February 5 to 9, 2026.
- **Total Camps:** A total of 2839 camps will be organized.
- **Participating Departments:** A total of 12 departments will participate in the Village Development Camps, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Dairy, Cooperatives, Water Resources, Energy, Industry, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj.
- **Nodal Department:** Department of Agriculture and Horticulture (Rajasthan).

Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in the News

Why in News?

- Recently, the Supreme Court stayed the shifting of spotted deer to the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve.



Key Points:

- The transfer of spotted deer from the Delhi Deer Park to the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve was proposed.
- The Central Empowered Committee constituted by the Supreme Court visited the core area of the Tiger Reserve and studied the status of the prey base. The Supreme Court then made this decision.
- Committee Members:** Sunil Limaye, Dr. J.R. Bhatt, and Dr. Sanath Muliya, a scientist from the Wildlife Institute of India.

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- **Petition:** A petition in this regard was filed in the Supreme Court by the New Delhi Nature Society.
- **Note:** On December 21, 2025, the state's first inter-state tiger transfer was successfully completed from Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh to Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
- **Note:** The spotted deer is the official mascot of Jaipur district.

Facts for Prelims:

Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve:

- **Location:** Located in Bundi district, its area extends to Kota and Bhilwara.
- It is situated in the ancient Aravalli hills, with seasonal rivers like Mej, Ramgarh, and Khari flowing through it.
- It was declared the fourth tiger reserve of Rajasthan in 2022, after Ranthambore, Sariska, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserves.

Facts for Prelims:

Tiger Reserves located in Rajasthan:

| S. No. | Tiger Reserve | Year of Declaration | Included Districts |
|--------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Ranthambore Tiger Reserve | 1973 | Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bundi, Tonk |
| 2. | Sariska Tiger Reserve | 1978 | Alwar, Jaipur, Kotputli-Behror |
| 3. | Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve | 2013 | Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Chittorgarh |
| 4. | Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve | 2022 | Bundi, Kota |
| 5. | Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve | 2023 | Dholpur, Karauli |

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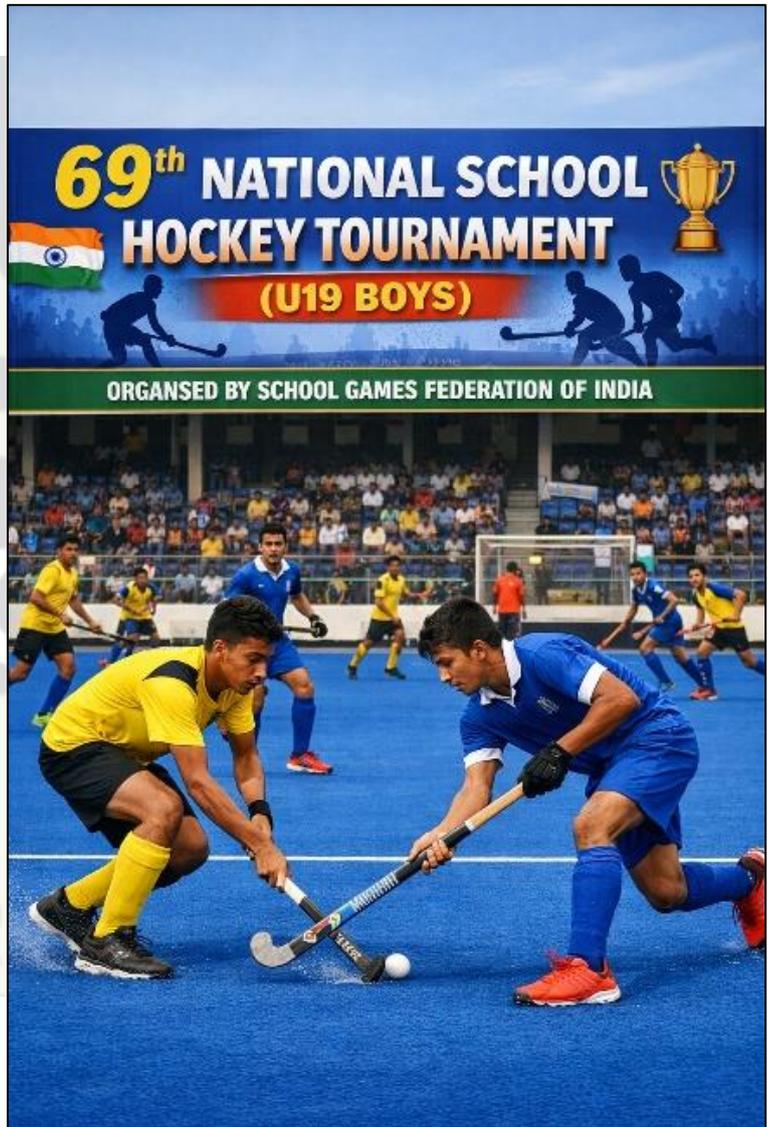
69th National School Hockey Tournament (U19 Boys): Rajasthan Emerges Victorious

Why in News?

- Rajasthan defeated Odisha in the final of the 69th National School Hockey Tournament (U19 Boys) held in Udaipur to win the title.

Key Points:

- **Event Dates:** January 12-17, 2026, in Udaipur.
- **Organizer:** Organized by PM Shri Fateh Higher Secondary School under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI).
- **Final Match:** Rajasthan defeated Odisha 3-2 in the final to win the title for the first time.
- **Bronze Medal (Third Place):** Punjab secured the bronze medal by defeating Himachal Pradesh 6-0.



NEWS IN SHORTS

| S. No. | News |
|--------|---|
| 1. | <p>Alka Batra: National Women's Achievement Award</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Alka Batra, an international badminton player, entrepreneur, and social worker from Jaipur, was recently honored with the 'National Women's Achievement Award'.Alka Batra represented India at the Pan-American Masters Tournament held in Cleveland, USA in July 2024.She has previously been awarded the "Women Super Achiever Award" (2019) by the World Women Congress for benchmarking, talent, and human resource practices, the "Indian National Achiever Award", the "Udyog Ratna Award", and the "Women of the Future Award". |
| 2. | <p>150 Years of the National Song (Second Phase of Commemoration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Rajasthan government is organizing the second phase of the commemoration of 150 years of the national song from January 19 to 26, 2026.Organizer: Department of Art and Culture (Government of Rajasthan).The first phase of the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of the national song 'Vande Mataram', composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, was held from November 7 to 14, 2025. |
| 3. | <p>Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar's 10th Guinness World Record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, a member of the Mewar royal family, set his 10th Guinness World Record through a philanthropic event.He had more than 1400 earthen pots made and distributed them to needy families. |

4.

India Skills – 2025: State Level Competition

- The Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) organized the 'India Skills 2025' state-level competition from January 20 to 24, 2026.
- This competition was held at the state level across 10 educational institutions.
- **Objective:** To identify skilled youth in vocational fields and provide them with training and mentorship.
- The 'India Skill Competition' is organized at the national level by the Central Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- This competition provides a national platform for young people to showcase their talent and compete at the highest level.

5.

Operation Enforcement – Vigilant Citizens, Safe City

- **Organizer:** Campaign conducted by the Jaipur District Administration against the illegal business of gas refilling and storage.

6.

'Reform-Perform-Transform and Inform' Workshop

- **Event:** January 22, 2026, in Jaipur.
- **Organizers:** Jointly organized by the Central Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the State Department of Information and Public Relations.
- **Objective:** To establish coordination among all departments for better dissemination of information related to the state government's schemes, policies, and programs to the general public.

| | |
|----|--|
| 7. | <p style="text-align: center;">Amrit Mahotsav 2026 organized in Baran</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Organizers: Baran District Administration, Department of Women Empowerment, and Rajeevika.■ Amrit Mahotsav - 2026 is an innovative initiative based on the holistic empowerment of girls and women.■ Brand Ambassador for Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in Baran district: Dr. Sudhira. |
| 8. | <p style="text-align: center;">State-Level Painting Workshop on National Voters' Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Organized by: The Chief Electoral Officer of Rajasthan organized a state-level painting workshop on the occasion of the 16th National Voters' Day (January 25).■ Venue: Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur, on January 23, 2026.■ Theme of National Voters' Day 2026: My India, My Vote. |



INTERNATIONAL

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and Spain

Why in News?

- Spain has formally joined the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.



Key Points:

- Introduction:** The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) is a non-treaty, voluntary cooperative framework for practical maritime cooperation among like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Background:** It is based on the SAGAR initiative announced by India in 2015.
- Launch:** 2019 (Announcement: East Asia Summit, Bangkok)
- Objective:** To promote a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific and maintain a balance between security, development, and stability in the maritime domain.

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7 Thematic Pillars of the Initiative:

1. Maritime Ecology (Australia and Thailand)
 2. Maritime Security (India and the United Kingdom)
 3. Maritime Resources (France and Indonesia)
 4. Capacity Building and Resource Sharing (Germany)
 5. Science and Technology Cooperation (Italy and Singapore)
 6. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (India and Bangladesh)
 7. Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport (Japan and the USA)
- Focus on a non-military and non-aligned approach to cooperation.
 - Promotes maritime awareness, sustainability, and infrastructure resilience.
 - **NOTE:** A country can independently lead different pillars.

UTKARSH

CIVIL
SERVICES

⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡️

Lokayan 26 Expedition

📣 Why in News?

- The Indian Navy's sailing training vessel INS Sudarshini commenced the Lokayan 26 expedition on January 20, 2026.



📌 Key Points:

- **Introduction:** This is a 10-month-long sea voyage covering a distance of over 22,000 nautical miles and includes visits to 18 foreign ports in 13 countries.
- **India's leadership in various events:** INS Sudarshini will participate in the Tall Ship events 'Escale à Sète' in France and 'Sail 250' to be held in New York, USA.

- **Significance of Lokayan 26:** It showcases India's rich maritime heritage and the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) in the oceans.
1. This voyage will provide intensive sailing training to over 200 trainees from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.
 2. They will gain experience in long-distance ocean navigation and traditional seamanship skills.
 3. This deployment will familiarize the trainees with the intricacies of life on a large ship and provide an opportunity to interact with other naval trainees.

INS Sudarshini:

- It is an indigenously built sailing training vessel.
- **Manufacturer:** Goa Shipyard Limited
- **Commissioned:** Year 2012
- This three-masted vessel is capable of operating on both sail and electric power.

Sagar Maitri Initiative (SM-5)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Indian Navy dispatched INS Sagardhwani from Southern Naval Command, Kochi, for the 5th edition of the Sagar Maitri (SM-5) mission.



Key Points:

- Introduction:** This is a major initiative to enhance shared underwater domain awareness (UDA) for maritime security.
- Operation:** It is a joint program of the Indian Navy and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Objective:** To collect oceanographic and acoustic data along designated observation routes and strengthen scientific cooperation among the Indian Ocean littoral states.

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- **Significance:** It strengthens India's long-term joint research and capacity building with partner countries under India's Ocean (Mutual and Comprehensive Regional Security and Development) initiative and its scientific component MAITRI (Maritime and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative).
- **Other Details:** Under the SM-5 mission, INS Sagardhwani will follow the historical routes of INS Kistna, which participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition of 1962-65.

Other Important Points:

INS Sagardhwani; Marine Acoustic Research Vessel:

- **Design:** Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, Kochi
- **Construction:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- **Commissioned:** July 1994
- **Function:** To conduct long-term oceanographic observations and marine research for India.

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Orobanche aegyptiaca

Why in News?

- Mustard crops in India are facing a serious threat from a weed called *Orobanche aegyptiaca*.



Key Points:

Additional information-

- It is also called Egyptian broomrape. It is a parasitic weed that grows on the roots of crops and lacks chlorophyll. Therefore, it is completely dependent on crops like mustard.

Other threats-

- Mustard is also attacked by pests, especially aphids.
- It is also susceptible to several fungal diseases, such as white rust, leaf blight, stem rot, and powdery mildew.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Green Transition Roadmap in Cement, Aluminium, and MSME Sectors



Why in News?

- NITI Aayog has released three reports on roadmaps for reducing carbon emissions in the cement, aluminium, and MSME sectors.



Key Points:

- **Preparation:** These three reports have been prepared in consultation with the concerned ministries/departments, industry stakeholders, research institutions, and knowledge partners.

Need for Green Transformation:

1. Access to Global Markets (Meeting international environmental standards and making MSMEs competitive in global supply chains).
2. **Achieving National Goals:** 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.
 - Increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP from 17% to 25%.
 - Building a developed India by 2047 and achieving a \$30 trillion economy.

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- Commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070.
- Meeting the net-zero carbon emissions target by 2070.
- 3. **Others:** Capacity building to combat climate change, regulatory compliance, and creating long-term profitability.

Report:

1. Cement Sector:

- **Cement Production:** Cement production is projected to increase sevenfold from 391 million tonnes in 2023 to approximately 2100 million tonnes by 2070.
- **Carbon Emission Reduction:** Under the carbon emission reduction strategy, the cement sector aims to reduce its carbon intensity from 0.63 tCO₂e per tonne of cement to approximately 0.09 - 0.13 tCO₂e per tonne by 2070.
- The report proposes prioritizing the use of refuse-derived fuels, clinker substitution, expansion of carbon capture, utilization and storage, and effective implementation of a carbon credit trading scheme for deep decarbonization in this sector.

2. Aluminium Sector:

- **Aluminium Production:** Aluminium production is estimated to increase from 4 million tonnes in 2023 to 37 million tonnes by 2070.
- The decarbonization roadmap identifies three phased solutions:
 - A. In the short term, transitioning to 24/7 renewable energy power and improving grid connectivity.
 - B. Adoption of nuclear energy in the medium term.
 - C. Integration of CCUS in the long term.

3. MSME Sector:

The roadmap for the green transformation of MSMEs focuses on 3 key factors:

- A. Deployment of energy-efficient equipment.
- B. Adoption of alternative fuels.
- C. Integration of green electricity.

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- **Contribution of MSMEs:** This sector is the backbone of the Indian industrial landscape:

| Indicator | Contribution |
|---|--------------|
| Contribution to GDP | 30% |
| Employment (Second largest employment-providing sector) | 25 crore |
| Share in Exports | 46% |

NOTE:

- **MSME Emissions:** In 2022, approximately 135 million tonnes of CO₂e were emitted, mainly due to heavy reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Cluster Integration:** India has over 140 industrial clusters, which produce up to 80% of specific national goods.
- **Energy Intensity:** MSMEs consume more than 25% of the total energy used by the industrial sector in India.

Other Important Points:

Green Transformation Initiatives:

1. ADEETIE Scheme (Interest subsidy and technical assistance)
2. GIFT Scheme (Waste management)
3. SPICE Initiative (Adoption of circular economy in plastics and electronics)
4. Zero Defect, Zero Effect Scheme (ZED)
5. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

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INDEXES AND REPORTS



National Legislative Index (NLI)



Why in News?

- During the 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference, the Lok Sabha Speaker announced the launch of the National Legislative Index to objectively assess and comparatively study the performance of the Legislative Assemblies of various states and Union Territories.



Key Points:

- **Introduction:** It is a proposed performance evaluation framework that will be used to objectively measure and compare the functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures using pre-defined indicators.
- **Objective:** To make the functioning of Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils more efficient, transparent, competitive, and accountable.

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- **Criteria:** The Assemblies will be evaluated based on measurable parameters such as the number of sittings, legislative output, committee work, and utilization of House time.

Significance:

1. Increased efficiency.
2. Enhanced transparency.
3. Ensured accountability to the public.
4. Promotion of healthy competition.
5. Dissemination of best practices.
6. Assistance in policy reforms.
7. Standardization and uniformity.



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Report on Global Water Bankruptcy

Why in News?

- The United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment and Health released a report on global water bankruptcy.

Key Points:

- The report emphasized that the Earth has now entered an era of global water bankruptcy.
- **Water Bankruptcy:** This occurs when long-term water use exceeds renewable inflows and safe extraction limits, making the replenishment of water resources impossible.
- **Water Stress:** A situation where demand exceeds water supply, but its negative impacts can be mitigated.
- **Water Crisis:** A situation where water systems are temporarily disrupted due to sudden shocks, but can be restored through emergency and recovery measures.

Factors responsible for water bankruptcy:

- Degradation of the quality of surface and groundwater reserves
- Excessive expansion of development infrastructure
- Ecological liquidation such as wetlands and floodplains
- Climate-induced immediate crises such as the intensification of El Niño events