Daily Current Affairs

📰 **Date : 10 January, 2026**

CIVIL SERVICES
UTKARSH CLASSES

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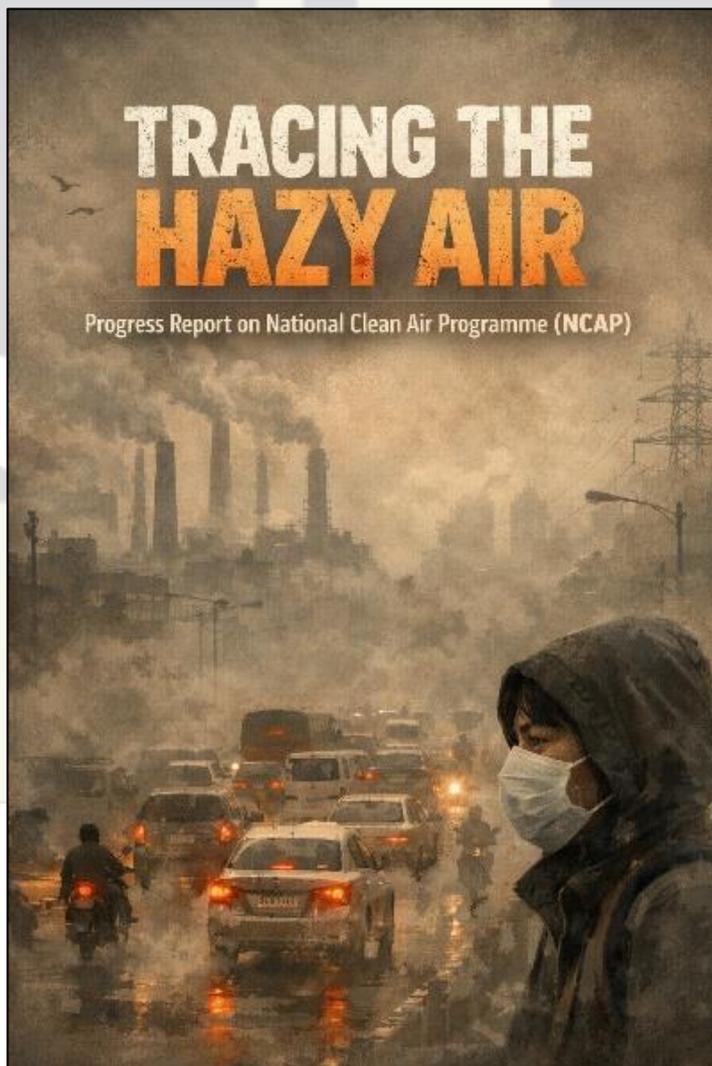## 🌵 🐫 RAJASTHAN 🏰

'Tracing the Hazy Air 2026' Report: Rajasthan

📢 **Why in News?**

■ Recently, the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) released a report on air pollution in the country, titled 'Tracing the Hazy Air 2026'.

📌 **Key Points:**

■ According to the report, the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) run by the central government has failed to control air pollution.

- The report evaluated PM2.5 levels in 4041 cities, across the country.

- **Rajasthan's Status:** Second most polluted state in the country. (First – Uttar Pradesh)

- 158 cities in Rajasthan are in the non-attainment (continuously polluted) category.

- Bhiwadi is the 7th most polluted city in the country in terms of PM2.5 pollution, while in terms of PM10 pollution levels, Bhiwadi ranks 9th in the country.

- Of the top 50 cities with the highest PM10 pollution in the country, 18 cities (Sri Ganganagar – 6th, Bikaner – 8th) are from Rajasthan, while 17 cities from Rajasthan are included in the top 61 most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- **Launch:** The NCAP was launched in January 2019, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with the objective of improving air quality in 130 cities across 24 states/union territories.

- **Initial Target of NCAP:** The initial target was to reduce the concentration of major air pollutants, PM2.5 and PM10, by 20 to 30 percent by 2024, using 2017 as the base year.

- However, in 2022, the central government revised the target of this program. According to the new target, the concentration of particulate matter (PM) is to be reduced by 40 percent by 2026.

- **PM2.5 -** 40 micrograms (µg)/per cubic meter.

- **PM10 -** 60 micrograms (µg)/per cubic meter.

- **'NCAP 2.0' Programme:** The first phase of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) will conclude in 2025-26. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will implement the second phase of this program.

Rajasthan's Status in the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana'

📢 **Why in News?**

■ In Rajasthan, **1,23,701 rooftop solar plants have been installed under the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana' by December 2025.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Rajasthan's National Ranking:** Fifth.

■ **Target:** Under this scheme, Rajasthan has set a target of connecting 500,000 households to solar energy by 2027.

Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Yojana:

■ **Full Name:** PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana).

- **Launched:** By Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2024.
- **Objective:** To provide free electricity to households by facilitating the installation of rooftop solar panels.
- **Target:** To supply solar energy to one crore (10 million) households by March 2027.
- The state government has released the 'Integrated Clean Energy Policy-2024' to promote renewable energy, which includes provisions for net metering, gross metering, as well as virtual net metering and group net metering to promote rooftop solar.

Facts for Prelims:

Rajasthan Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024:

- The state government issued the notification for this policy on December 4, 2024.
- **Policy Duration:** This policy is effective from the date of notification and will remain in force until March 29, 2029, or until replaced by another policy.

Target:

- The policy aims to achieve a target of 125,000 megawatts (125 gigawatts) of renewable energy projects in the state by 2029-30.

Breakdown of 125 GW:

Order	output type	Targeted capacity
1.	Solar	90,000 MW
2.	Wind & Hybrid	25,000 MW
3.	Hydro, Pumped Storage Plant (PSP), Battery Energy Storage System	10,000 MW

- **Note:** Rajasthan aims to achieve a target of more than 54,000 megawatts of power capacity from conventional and renewable energy sources by the year 2031-32.

Status of Mineral Production in Rajasthan

📢 **Why in News?**

- In Rajasthan, under the auction of pre-embedded blocks, the auction process for 8 major mineral blocks is underway after obtaining the necessary permits, while 62 blocks of minor minerals and 5 blocks of major minerals have been identified.

📌 **Key Points:**

- The state government provided this information during the National Mineral Conclave held in Ahmedabad.

- Rajasthan is the first state in the country to auction pre-embedded blocks.

- **Pre-embedded clearance:** The process of obtaining all necessary permits before the auction of mineral blocks is called pre-embedded clearance.

- The Central Ministry of Mines, by amending the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, issued instructions to all states to prepare at least five blocks with all the necessary permits for auction.

- The Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET) has been designated as the Project Monitoring Unit for these auctions.

Facts for Prelims (Economic Survey – 2024-25)

Mining Sector in Rajasthan:

- Rajasthan is one of the richest states in India in terms of mineral resources, with reserves of 81 types of minerals, of which 58 minerals are mined.

- Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead and zinc ore, selenite and wollastonite, and is a leading producer of silver, calcite and gypsum in the country.

- Rajasthan is at the forefront of national production of ball clay, phosphorite, ochre, steatite, feldspar and fire clay.

- Rajasthan is a major producer of dimensional stones such as marble, sandstone and granite, as well as cement-grade and steel-grade limestone.

- A revenue target of ₹9,500 crore has been set for the Department of Mines and Geology for the year 2024-25.

Rajasthan Mineral Policy - 2024

- **Issued** – December 4, 2024.

- The objective of the Rajasthan Mineral Policy-2024 is to promote sustainable, transparent, and responsible mineral development by leveraging the state's abundant mineral resources for economic growth while ensuring environmental protection and community welfare.

Key Features:

- **Economic Growth and Investment:** Promoting mineral-based industries, attracting investment, and increasing the sector's contribution to the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

- **Employment Generation:** Providing employment opportunities to over 10 million people directly and indirectly by 2047.

- **Sustainability and ESG Compliance:** Implementing zero-waste mining, environmentally friendly technologies, and waste management strategies.

- **Technology Integration:** Ensuring transparency by adopting advanced exploration techniques, AI-based monitoring, and digital governance.

- **Illegal Mining Mitigation:** Preventing illegal activities using GPS-based tracking, geo-fencing, and real-time monitoring.

Key Initiatives:

- Increasing mineral extraction from 58 to 70 by 2047.

- Auctioning 50 major mineral blocks with pre-determined approvals.

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- Expanding the mining concession area to 2 percent of the state's total land by 2047.

- Promoting strategic and critical minerals (such as lithium, rare earth elements) in support of clean energy.

- Establishing a state mining company for value addition and research in mineral resources.

Other Important Points:

Rajasthan State Mineral Exploration Trust (RSMET)

- **Formation:** In 2020.

- **Objective:** To scientifically explore available mineral reserves in Rajasthan, utilize modern technology in mining, and better manage and monitor related activities, including research, skill development, and revenue enhancement.

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✂️ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	**Draft released for amendment to Rajasthan Sports Act, 2005** ■ Recently, the Rajasthan government released a draft for amending the Rajasthan Sports Act, 2005. ■ The amendment will lead to the formation of a Rajasthan Sports Board, similar to the National Sports Board, which will increase the board's control over sports associations instead of the Registrar. ■ Currently, the power to register sports associations rests with the Registrar; after the amendment, this power will be transferred to the Rajasthan Sports Board.
2.	**In the news – T-2408** ■ Recently, tiger T-2408 from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (Sawai Madhopur) was shifted to Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (Kota). ■ So far, 24 tigers have been shifted from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve to other tiger reserves.

3. Armed Drone - 'Pralay'

ARMED DRONE: PRALA
सशस्त्र ड्रोन : प्रलय

■ As part of the series of events organized in Jaipur to commemorate the 78th Army Day, the 'Pralay drone' was also displayed at the 'Know Your Army' exhibition.

■ The Pralay drone displayed at the exhibition has a payload capacity of 2 kg and is capable of covering a maximum distance of 4 kilometers with a flight duration of 30 to 40 minutes.

■ This drone can fly at a maximum altitude of 300 meters and strike targets with precision.

■ Note: The 'Pralay missile' has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is a short-range quasi-ballistic missile.

4.	**New Name for Asteroid (2021 DB5) – Pramishka**
	■ **Naming:** The asteroid (2021 DB5) will be named 'Pramishka' in memory of the 7 children who lost their lives in the collapse of a school building in Piplodi, Jhalawar.
	■ The proposed name 'Pramishka' is formed by combining the initial letters of the names of the 7 deceased children – Payal, Priyanka, Meena, Harish, Kundan, Kanha, and Satish.
	■ **Discovery:** It is noteworthy that Sugandha Kumari, Komal Kanwar, Harshita Dangi, and Sanjay Kumar of Government Senior Secondary School, Unhel, Jhalawar, discovered 4 asteroids in 2020-21.
	■ **Recognized by NASA:** The 4 discovered asteroids have been allotted permanent numbers by NASA (the American space agency).
5.	**Shooter Sweety Chaudhary**
	■ Rajasthan's shooter Sweety Chaudhary won one gold medal and two bronze medals at the 68th National Shooting Championship (Rifle Events) held in Bhopal.
	■ In the Senior Women's 50m Rifle Three Positions event, the Rajasthan team (Manini Kaushik, Sweety Chaudhary, and Monika Jakhar) won the gold medal with 1751 points.
6.	**Sub Lieutenant Rakshita Rathore**
	■ Sub Lieutenant Rakshita Rathore is the first woman from Rajasthan to become a technical officer in the Indian Navy.
	■ Rakshita Rathore, who holds a B.Tech in Computer Science, is originally from Nagaur.
7.	**Ishwinder Singh: New President of FIGSI**
	■ Ishwinder Singh, a resident of Jaipur, was recently elected as the president of the Federation of Indian Granite and Stone Industry (FIGSI) for the third time.
	■ His term will be from 2026 to 2028.

🏛 NATIONAL 📰

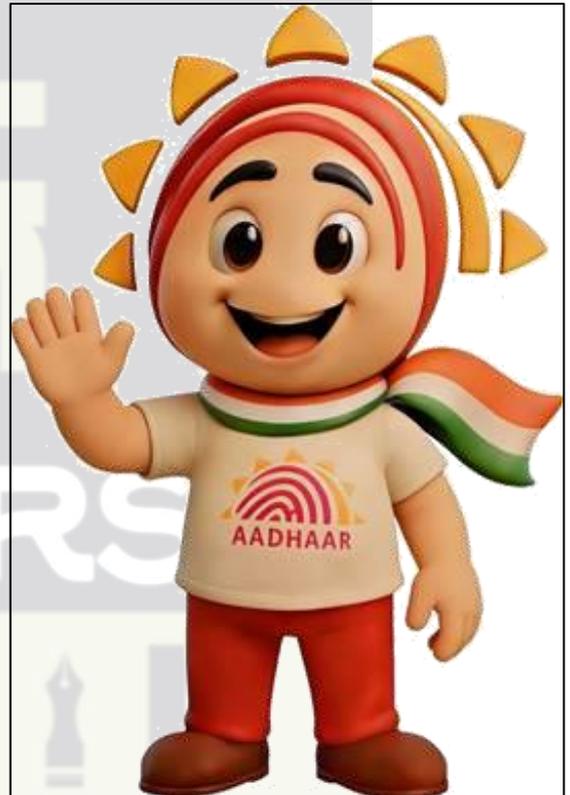### Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI): Uday Mascot

📣 **Why in News?**

■ **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched 'Uday', the Aadhaar mascot, to make Aadhaar-related information more accessible and user-friendly.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Introduction:** It is designed to simplify the communication of Aadhaar services (updates, authentication, offline verification, data sharing).

■ **Related Organization:** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)

■ **Objective:** To make Aadhaar communication simple, humane, and standardized, build citizen trust through engagement, and improve its accessibility for over a billion residents.
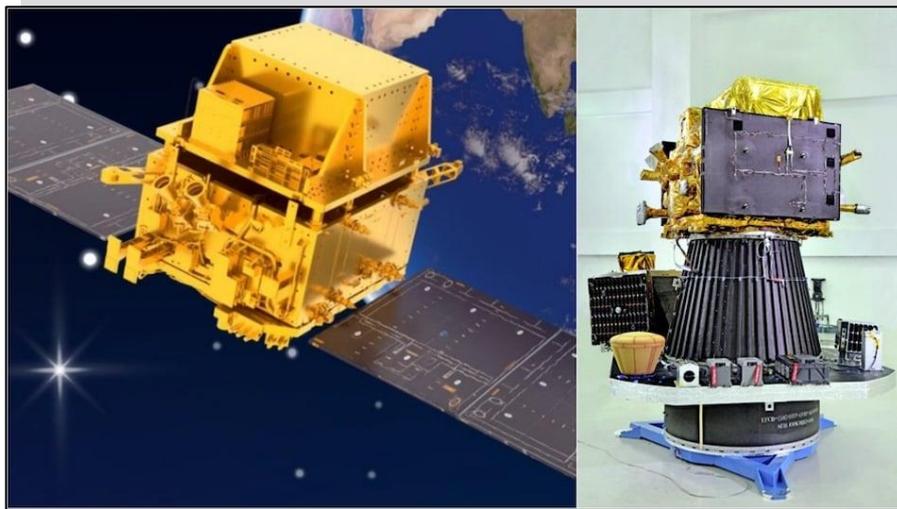
Significance:

1. Trust and Acceptance.

2. Improved Service Delivery.

3. Citizen Engagement in the Digital Public Sphere.

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CIVIL SERVICES

⏳ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🌡️

Earth Observation Satellite: EOS-N1 (Anvesha)

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the PSLV-C-62 mission on January 12, 2026.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Introduction:** EOS-N1 (Anvesha) is an advanced hyperspectral Earth observation satellite.

■ **Launch:** January 12, 2026, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

■ **Launch Vehicle:** PSLV-C-62

■ **Mission Payload:** It will carry the main Indian payload, the Earth observation satellite EOS-N1, along with 18 other satellites from other countries.
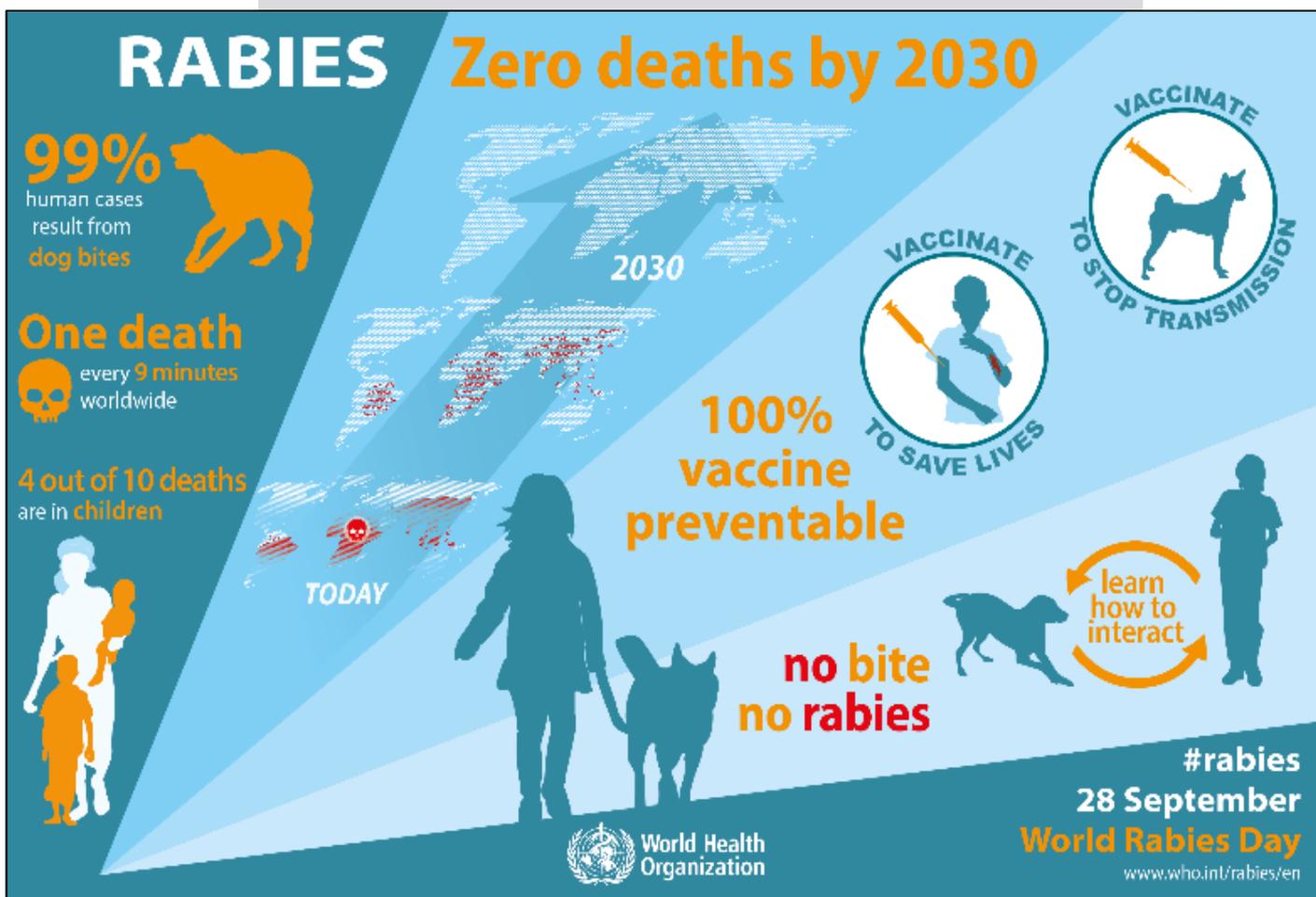
Functions:

1. **Hyperspectral Imaging:** Multiple spectral bands (high accuracy).

2. **Strategic Surveillance:** Border monitoring, terrain analysis, strengthening national security.

3. **Agricultural Support:** Crop health assessment, soil moisture and yield estimation.

4. **Urban and Infrastructure Mapping and Environmental Monitoring.**

Rabies: Declared a Notifiable Disease

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **The Delhi government has declared human rabies a notifiable disease under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, with the aim of achieving zero human deaths from rabies caused by dog bites.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Notifiable Disease:** Diseases that are legally required to be reported to public health authorities. The primary framework for disease surveillance is the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), which is operated by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

- **Impact of Notification:** Once a disease is declared notifiable, all healthcare providers, hospitals, and medical practitioners are legally obligated to report suspected, probable, and confirmed cases to designated authorities.

- **Notifiable Diseases:** The lists vary from state to state. Some major notifiable diseases include tuberculosis, dengue, malaria, cholera, hepatitis, measles, and polio.

- **NOTE:** COVID-19 was universally declared a notifiable disease during the pandemic.

- In 2024, snake bites were also included in the list of notifiable diseases.

- This is legally binding under the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization.
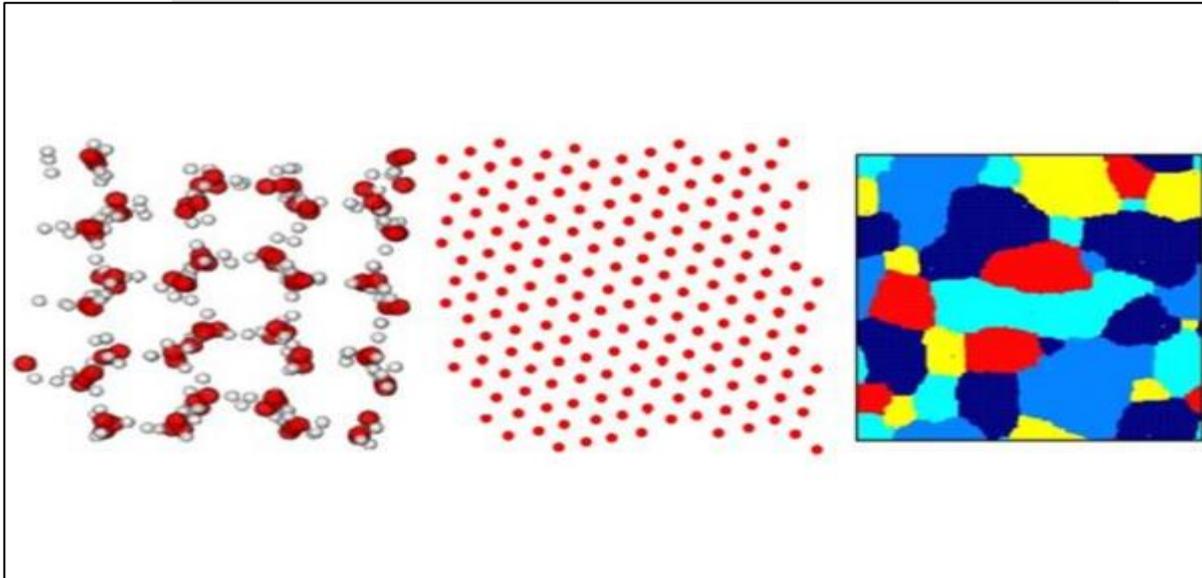
Other Important Points:

Rabies:

- Rabies is a fatal viral infection primarily caused by an RNA virus.

- **Source of Infection:** Through bites, scratches, or contact of saliva from infected dogs, cats, monkeys, or mongooses with an open wound.

- **Effect:** The virus directly attacks the central nervous system (brain) of humans.

First Supercomputer-Powered Simulation

📢 **Why in News?**

■ **Scientists at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), under the Department of Science and Technology, have developed the first supercomputer-based simulation to explain the Mpemba effect.**

📌 **Key Points:**

Mpemba Effect:

■ **First discovered by: Aristotle**

■ **Rediscovered by: Erasto Mpemba**

■ **Definition: This is the phenomenon where hotter water freezes faster than colder water.**

Findings of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) study:

■ **Study: The study reveals that water does not freeze directly, but rather goes through several intermediate molecular states.**

■ **Hotter water can sometimes bypass this delay and reach the freezing process faster, explaining why hot water sometimes freezes first.**

■ **Conclusion: The Mpemba effect is real and is not limited to water, as it can also be observed in other liquid-to-solid phase transitions.**

📈 ECONOMIC SCENARIO 🏢

National Statistical Office: Gross Domestic Product Estimates

📢 **Why in News?**

■ According to the first advance estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the financial year 2025-26, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation through the National Statistical Office, India's real GDP is projected to grow by 7.4%.

📌 **Key Points:**

■ Real GDP is projected to grow by 7.4% in FY 2025-26, compared to 6.5% in FY 2024-25.

■ Nominal GDP is projected to grow by 8% in FY 2025-26.

■ Strong growth in the services sector is considered a major factor in the projected 7.3% real GVA growth in FY 2025-26.

■ The tertiary sector, comprising financial, real estate and professional services, and public administration, defense and other services, is projected to grow at a substantial rate of 9.9% at constant prices in FY 2025-26.

■ The secondary sector, including manufacturing and construction, is projected to grow at a rate of 7.5% at constant prices in FY 2025-26.

■ Agriculture and allied sectors (3.1%), electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services (2.1%), real private final consumption expenditure (7%).

■ **NOTE:** Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) at constant prices is projected to grow at 7.8% during FY 2025-26, compared to 7.1% in the previous financial year.

Other Important Points:

India's GDP Growth Forecast: United Nations Report:

■ India's GDP is projected to grow by 6.6 percent in 2026 and 6.7 percent the following year.

■ Reasons: Tax reforms and changes in monetary policy.

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📱 IMPORTANT PORTALS AND APPS 📱

Pankhudi Portal

📢 **Why in News?**

■ The Ministry of Women and Child Development launched an integrated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and partnership facilitation digital portal called Pankhudi.

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Introduction:** Pankhudi has been developed as a single-window digital platform that brings together individuals, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributors, corporate entities, and government agencies working in the field of women and child development on a single platform.
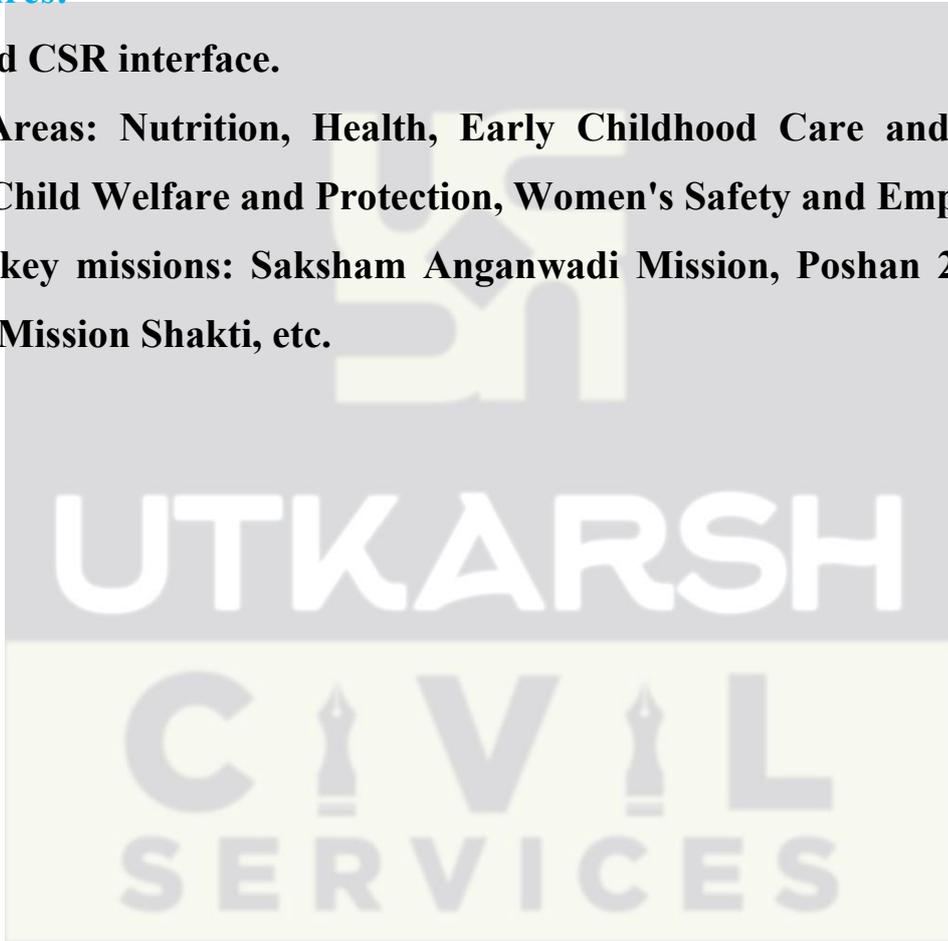
- **Launch Date:** January 8, 2026
- **Objective:** To strengthen coordination, transparency, and stakeholder engagement in women and child development initiatives.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Key Features:

1. Integrated CSR interface.
2. Priority Areas: Nutrition, Health, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Child Welfare and Protection, Women's Safety and Empowerment.
3. Supports key missions: Saksham Anganwadi Mission, Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, Mission Shakti, etc.

📅 IMPORTANT DAYS 📅

World Hindi Day, 2026: January 10

📌 **Key Points:**

Date	January 10, 2026
Theme for the year 2026	"Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence"
Reason	In commemoration of the First World Hindi Day held in Nagpur on January 10, 1975.
Official announcement	Year 2006 (during the tenure of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh)
Importance of Hindi	**Global Recognition:** It is the third most widely spoken language.
Constitutional status	1. **Article 343:** The official language of the Union of India is Hindi. 2. **Eighth Schedule:** Lists 22 languages.

🏅 SPORTS 🏆

Jinson Johnson: Indian Runner

📢 **Why in News?**

■ Recently, **Asian Games gold medalist and Indian runner Jinson Johnson announced his retirement.**

📌 **Key Points:**

■ **Affiliation:** Kerala

Achievements:

1. Won a gold medal in the 1500 meters and a silver medal in the 800 meters at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.

2. Broke Sriram Singh's men's 800-meter national record 42-year-old at the National Inter-State Championships in Guwahati in 2018.

3. At the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia, Johnson broke the 23-year-old 1500-meter national record, although he finished 5th in the final.

4. Johnson improved the national record twice.

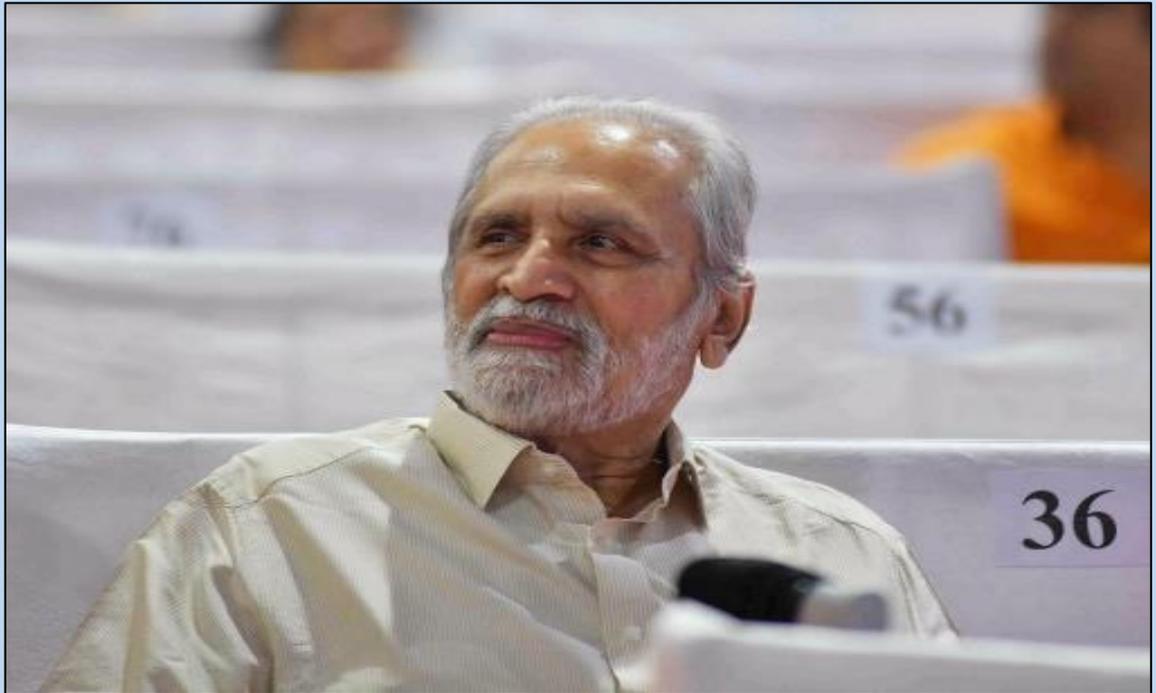5. **Best performance:** 3 minutes 35.24 seconds at the Berlin Meet in 2019.

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✂️ NEWS IN SHORTS ⚡

S. No.	News
1.	**Suresh Kalmadi: Death**

- Former Union Minister Suresh Kalmadi has passed away.
- Kalmadi also served as the president of the Indian Olympic Association.
- Kalmadi was the Minister of State for Railways during the tenure of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.
- He represented Pune in Parliament.