

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 15 January, 2026



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	India Renewable Expo 2026
2.	NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 Report
3.	News in Shorts 1. State-Level Mega Arogya Fair 2026 2. Rajasthan Women's Volleyball Team 3. 10th Indo-Nepal International Championship
4.	PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act: Implemented in Jharkhand
5.	Pax Silica
6.	Harvest Festivals
7.	DRDO Successfully Flight-Tested Third-Generation MPATGM
8.	Tex-RAMPS Scheme (Textiles – Research, Assessment, Monitoring & Preliminary Scheme)
9.	India's fish production has doubled from FY 2013–14 to FY 2024–25.
10.	State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Anuradh and Others Case, 2026
11.	Responsible Nations Index (RNI)
12.	Henley Passport Index
13.	Trade Watch Quarterly Report: NITI Aayog

--:1:--



RAJASTHAN



India Renewable Expo 2026

Why in News?

- **Dates:** 16 to 18 January 2026 (Three-day event)
- **Venue:** VT Ground, Mansarovar, Jaipur
- **Organizer:** Rajasthan Solar Association (RSA)
- **Inauguration:** To be inaugurated on 16 January by Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma; the event will be presided over by Energy Minister Hiralal Nagar

Key Points:

- **Scale:** The largest renewable expo in the country; 300+ booths and pavilions
- **Exhibition:** National and international companies will showcase their products, services, innovations, and technologies
- The event focuses on renewable energy sources and solutions in India, with the theme “New India, New Energy.” The expo will display various renewable energy technologies and innovations, such as solar energy, wind energy, battery storage, and green hydrogen.

NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024 Report

Why in News?

- It assesses the export capacity, policy framework, infrastructure, and trade ecosystem of 36 States/Union Territories.

Key Points:

Report Overview

- Release:** 14 January 2026 (New Delhi/Jaipur).
- Objective:** To serve as a policy guide for achieving the \$1 trillion export target by 2030 and to identify gaps and weaknesses.
- Key Pillars:** 4 (Policy, Business Ecosystem, Export Ecosystem, Performance); 13 sub-pillars.

State-wise Performance

State	Score	Export Share
Maharashtra	68.01	32.7%
Tamil Nadu	64.41	15.4%
Gujarat	64.02	10.0%
Uttar Pradesh	59.30	6.1%

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 15 January, 2026



Rajasthan's Position

- **Rank:** 17th (earlier 13th); Score: 47.31 (Aspient category).
- **Export Share:** 2.3% (12th in the country); Madhya Pradesh: 1.8%.
- **Strengths:** Agriculture, minerals, handicrafts, GI products.

Challenges

- **High logistics costs (distance from sea ports; dependence on Mundra/Kandla).**
- **Interior districts (Bikaner, Barmer): 800+ km distance from ports.**
- **Limited diversification (minerals, textiles); low global reach of MSMEs.**
- **Inadequate cold-chain infrastructure; weak policy implementation.**

Suggestions for Improvement

- **Development of logistics parks and dedicated freight corridors.**
- **RoDTEP support and GI branding for MSMEs.**
- **Export Target: ₹1.5 lakh crore by 2029.**

--:4:--

NEWS IN SHORTS

S. No.	News
1.	<p>State-Level Mega Arogya Fair 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Department of Ayurveda is organizing the State-Level Mega Arogya Fair–2026 at Shilp Kala Kendra (JKK), Jaipur, from 15 to 18 January 2026. <p>Main Attractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Free services of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy.Exhibition of AYUSH medicines.Counseling on healthy lifestyle.
2.	<p>Rajasthan Women’s Volleyball Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Rajasthan Senior Women’s Volleyball Team created history by winning a medal at the national level for the first time in 72 years. The team won the Bronze Medal at the Senior National Volleyball Championship held in Varanasi. <p>Key Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Opponent: Defeated Haryana in a tough match lasting 1 hour 48 minutes.Star Player: Rajni – Best Blocker of the tournament.Coach: Prabhulal Jat
3.	<p>10th Indo-Nepal International Championship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">At the 10th Indo-Nepal International Championship held in Nepal, Rishabh Bhatt from Jaipur won the Gold Medal in the boxing event. Rishabh achieved this feat in the Under-14 category.

NATIONAL

PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act: Implemented in Jharkhand

Why in News?

- In January 2026, Jharkhand notified the PESA Rules, thereby extending tribal self-governance to its Fifth Schedule areas.

Key Points:

- Introduction to the PESA Act:** The Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) extends the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution (Panchayati Raj) to the tribal areas under the Fifth Schedule, recognizing the Gram Sabha as the primary authority over local governance, land, forests, and community resources.
- Applicability:** The Act has been in force since 24 December 1996, in the Scheduled Areas of nine states, including Jharkhand.

Protection of tribal areas : Constituent under the Fifth Schedule as Assembly per Article 244:

Bhuria Committee (1994-95)

Implemented on December 24, 1996

(in 10 states)

Forest and land laws during the colonial period

73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992): Scheduled areas were excluded from the Panchayati Raj system.

The PESA Act, 1996 was enacted.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 15 January, 2026



1. **Gram Sabha as the Supreme Authority:** In Scheduled Areas, Gram Sabhas are recognized as the primary decision-making institutions.
2. **Protection of Social and Cultural Traditions:** Respect for local traditions, religious practices, and tribal social systems.
3. **Control over Natural Resources:** Gram Sabhas are granted rights over minor forest produce, village water bodies, and community land.
4. **Land Acquisition:** Mandatory approval of the Gram Sabha.
5. **Democratic Decentralization; Powers of the Gram Sabha:**
 - A. Water, forest, and land resources (traditional rights)
 - B. Minor forest produce
 - C. Human resources
 - D. Management of local markets
 - E. Prevention of land alienation
 - F. Control over intoxicants
6. **Resolution of Conflicts**
7. **Gram Sabha as a Public Watchdog**

--7:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 15 January, 2026



Other Important Points:

- **Article 342:** Most tribes in India are collectively recognized as “Scheduled Tribes.”
- **Article 244:** Under Part X, Article 244 (Administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas) guarantees the right to self-determination.
- **Fifth Schedule:** Provisions for the administration and control of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.
- **Sixth Schedule:** Provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura.
- **Ten States under the Fifth Schedule:** Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana.

--8--



Pax Silica

Why in News?

- India is set to be invited to join Pax Silica.
- It is a US-led initiative aimed at building a secure, resilient, and innovation-driven technology ecosystem.
- The initiative covers the entire technology supply chain, including:
 - Semiconductors and AI infrastructure
 - Critical minerals and energy inputs
 - Advanced manufacturing and high-end hardware
 - Compute and data logistics

Key Points:

- To reduce coercive dependencies.
- To protect sensitive technologies and build trusted digital infrastructure.
- **Members:** Japan, South Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Israel, etc.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Harvest Festivals

Why in News?

- These festivals, celebrated across the country under different names and traditions, symbolize seasonal change, the sun's northward movement (Uttarayan), and the harvesting of crops.

Key Points:

Traditional Harvest Festivals

- **Makar Sankranti (Maharashtra):** It marks the entry of the Sun into the zodiac sign of Capricorn (Makara).
- **Uttarayan (Gujarat and Rajasthan):** Known for kite flying, it signifies the remembrance of sunrise and is celebrated as a day of joy and festivity.
- **Pongal (Tamil Nadu):** A four-day harvest festival that includes Thai Pongal, Mattu Pongal, Kaanum Pongal, and Bhogi; people prepare a dish called Pongal made of rice and lentils.
- **Lohri (Punjab):** Celebrated a day before Makar Sankranti, it symbolizes the harvesting of Rabi crops and is marked by folk songs, Bhangra, and Gidda around a bonfire.
- **Magh Bihu (Assam):** It celebrates the end of the harvest season with community feasts, traditional games, and bonfires known as Meji.
- **Kanuma (Telangana):** A festival expressing gratitude and appreciation towards the agricultural sector.

🕒 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 🕒

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tested Third-Generation MPATGM

🔊 Why in News?

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted a flight test of the third-generation fire-and-forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) against a moving target with top-attack capability.

📌 Key Points:

- This fire-and-forget missile has been indigenously developed by DRDO.
- A fire-and-forget type missile refers to a weapon system that locks onto the target before launch and does not require any further guidance from the operator after firing.
- It is equipped with advanced indigenous technologies, including an Imaging Infrared (IIR) homing seeker, tandem warhead, all-electric control actuation system, fire control system, propulsion system, and a high-performance sighting system.
- The missile is capable of day and night combat operations and can effectively defeat modern main battle tanks.
- It can be launched from a tripod as well as from a military vehicle launcher.

SCHEMES

Tex-RAMPS Scheme

(Textiles – Research, Assessment, Monitoring & Preliminary Scheme)

Why in News?

- At the National Conference of Textile Ministers held in Guwahati with the theme “India’s Textile Industry: Weaving Growth, Heritage and Innovation,” the Ministry of Textiles signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with 15 States for the implementation of the Tex-RAMPS Scheme.

Key Points:

- **Full Form:** Textiles – Central Research, Assessment, Monitoring and Preliminary Scheme
- **Objective:** To improve the coverage, quality, timeliness, and reliability of textile-related statistical products and research.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Textiles
- **Nature:** Central Sector Scheme (fully funded by the Central Government)
- **Duration:** From FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 (period of the 16th Finance Commission)
- **Coverage:** Implemented as an integrated scheme across major textile sub-sectors, including handlooms, handicrafts, apparel, and technical textiles.

-:12:-

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 15 January, 2026



Financial Assistance:

- **States and Union Territories:** Annual grant of ₹12 lakh per year.
- **Districts:** Financial assistance of ₹1 lakh per district, linked to the development of District Action Plans.

Major Components:

1. Integrated Textile Statistics System (ITSS)
2. Research and Innovation
3. Data Analytics and Diagnostics
4. Capacity Building
5. Start-up Support and Assistance

Expected Outcomes:

1. Strengthening of cooperative federalism.
2. Support to the roadmap of India's \$350 billion textile industry.

-:13:-



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



India's fish production has doubled from FY 2013–14 to FY 2024–25.

Why in News?

- India is the second-largest fish-producing country in the world, contributing 8% to global production, and provides employment to around 30 million fishermen and fish farmers.
- Fish production has increased from 95.79 lakh tonnes (FY 2013–14) to 197.75 lakh tonnes (FY 2024–25), contributing 7.43% to the agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA), the highest among agriculture and allied sectors.
- Average aquaculture productivity has increased to 4.77 tonnes per hectare.
- During 2023–24, India exported 16.98 lakh tonnes of seafood.

Key Points:

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):** A flagship scheme driving the “Blue Revolution,” focused on addressing infrastructure gaps, with approvals for cages, biofloc units, Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS), and brood banks.

Daily Current Affairs

 Date : 15 January, 2026



- **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF):**
Established in 2018–19, to create fisheries infrastructure facilities in both marine and inland fisheries sectors and to boost fish production to achieve the target of 15 million tonnes by 2020.
- **Integration of Satellite Technology:** Vessel Communication and Support System (VCSS), application of Oceansat, etc.
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY):** A Central Sector sub-scheme under PMMSY for a four-year period, launched in 2024, aimed at addressing inherent weaknesses of the sector through identified financial and technical interventions.

-:15:-

🎓 POLITY 🎓

State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Anuradh and Others Case, 2026

📢 Why in News?

- In the State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Anuradh and Others case, the Supreme Court of India expressed concern over the increasing use of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 in cases involving consensual adolescent relationships.

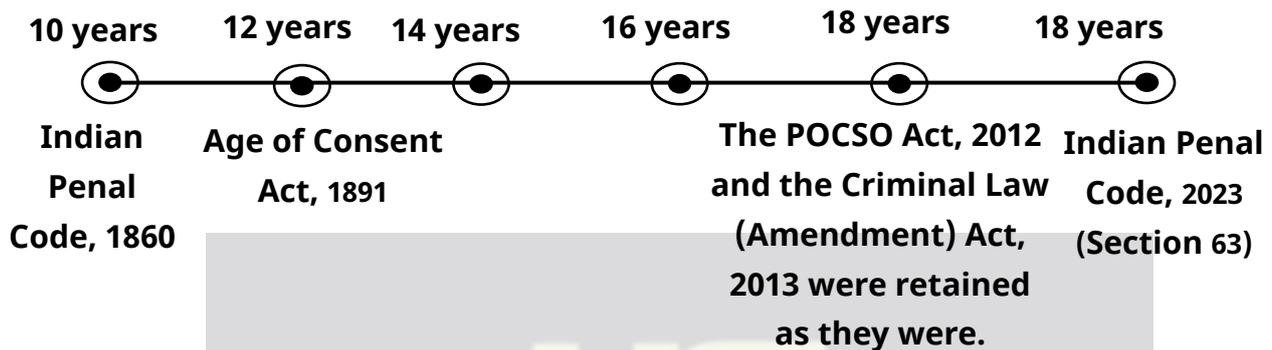
📌 Key Points:

- **Ruling:** The Court observed that laws meant to protect children from sexual abuse are often used by families against young couples when one partner is below 18 years of age. The Court urged the Central Government to consider corrective measures.

Age of Consent in Indian Law:

- **Meaning:** It is the legally prescribed age at which a person is considered capable of giving consent for sexual activity.
- In India, under the gender-neutral POCSO Act, 2012, the age of consent is 18 years.
- Any person below 18 years of age is legally considered a “child”, and their consent has no legal validity.
- Sexual activity with a minor is automatically classified as statutory rape, irrespective of consent.
- Under the POCSO Act, 2012, Section 19 makes it mandatory to report an offence by any person who has knowledge or suspicion of such an offence.

■ Legal evolution of the age of consent: –



■ Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 – Under this Act, the age of consent/marriage is fixed at 18 years for women and 21 years for men.

Other Cases Related to Age of Consent (Judicial Perspective):

1. State vs. Hitesh, Delhi High Court Case, 2025:

- Consensual relationships between adolescents should be recognized.

2. Ashiq Ramjay Ansari vs. State of Maharashtra Case, 2023:

- Sexual autonomy includes the right to engage in consensual sexual activity as well as the right to protection from sexual aggression.

3. Mohammad Ifayat Ali vs. State of Delhi, Delhi High Court, 2025:

- Under the POCSO Act, if the victim is below 18 years of age, consent is legally irrelevant.



Responsible Nations Index (RNI)

Why in News?

- Recently, the Responsible Nations Index (RNI) was launched by the World Intellectual Foundation.
- It is India's first globally oriented index that evaluates countries on the basis of responsible governance, stability, and global responsibility.

Key Points:

- Formal Launch:** 19 January 2026 at Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- Developed by:** World Intellectual Foundation.
- Support:** Developed with the support of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), IIM Mumbai, and Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.
- Overview:** It evaluates countries based on responsible governance rather than traditional power or GDP-centric metrics.
- Countries Covered:** 154 countries; the index uses transparent and globally sourced data to ensure credibility and comparability.

Dimensions of RNI – 3

1. **Environmental Responsibility:** Assessment of natural resource management and climate action.
2. **Internal Responsibility:** Evaluation of dignity, justice, and citizen welfare.
3. **External Responsibility:** Contribution to peace, multilateral cooperation, and global stability.

Significance:

- India's first globally oriented index assessing countries on the basis of responsible governance, social welfare, environmental protection, and global responsibility.
- The index seeks to promote global dialogue on ethics, accountability, global food security, and sustainable leadership in international affairs.
- It promotes a value-based and human-centric framework aligned with the vision of reforming global governance.

Henley Passport Index

Why in News?

- In the Henley Passport Index 2026, India's ranking has improved to 80th, up from 85th in 2025.

Key Points:

- It is the original and official ranking of all the world's passports, based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- The index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- In the 2026 edition, Singapore has retained its position as the world's most powerful passport.

Trade Watch Quarterly Report: NITI Aayog

Why in News?

- On 6 January 2026, NITI Aayog released the 5th edition of the Trade Watch Quarterly Report, presenting a comprehensive and data-driven assessment of India's trade performance amid changing global conditions.

Key Points:

- Release:** Issued by NITI Aayog for the first quarter of FY 2025–26 (April–June 2025).
- The thematic section of this quarterly issue focuses on India's automotive exports.

Major Highlights of the Report:

- Increase in Trade Deficit:** In the first quarter of FY 2026 (April–June), India's trade deficit with Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners increased by 59.2%.

Imports and Exports:

- Exports:** Declined by 9% to USD 38.7 billion.
- Imports:** Increased by 10% to USD 65.3 billion.

Structural Shift in Exports:

- The electronics sector emerged as the top performer with 47% year-on-year growth, accounting for 11% of total exports.
- Petroleum exports registered a sharp decline.

Changes in Imports:

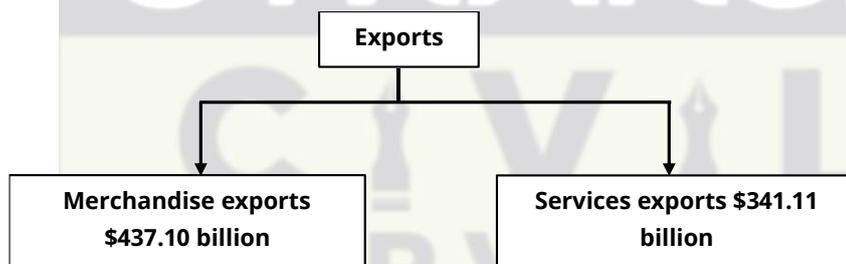
- Imports from the United Arab Emirates increased by 28.7% due to rising demand for gold compounds and petroleum.
- Imports from China rose by 16.3%, driven mainly by electronic components.

ASEAN as the Main Cause of Deficit:

- The overall trade deficit was primarily due to a 16.9% decline in exports to ASEAN, which is India's largest FTA export market.
- Sharp declines were recorded in exports to Malaysia (-39.7%) and Singapore (-13.2%).

Other Important Points:

- **India's Export Growth:** India's total exports stood at USD 778.21 billion in 2023–24.



- **Export Destination Regions:** North America > European Union > West Asia > ASEAN

S. No.	Export Destination Country	Import Source Country
1st	United States of America	China
2nd	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Russia
3rd	China	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
4th	Netherlands	United States of America