

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



Index

Sr. No.	Topic
1.	RAJASTHAN 1. Jal Nirmalta Award: Dr. Anil Mehta 2. Mountaineer Manasvi Agarwal 3. Tableau focused on Maharana Pratap at Bairagi Island, Haridwar 4. Seminar on 'Earthquake Safety and Seismic Standards' 5. 'Passenger Tax' on Tourist Vehicles (Reintroduced after 22 years) 6. TomTom Traffic Index – 2025: Jaipur Ranks 30 th 7. Rajasthan's First Poison Detection Drug Level Toxicology Lab 8. Exhibition and Trade Fair under PM Vishwakarma Yojana 9. Saraswati Vandana, Youth Dialogue, and Mega PTM 10. Rajasthan Sampark Portal 11. BSF's 'Operation Sard Hawa' 12. Sunita Dhobi and Surendra Bishnoi 13. State Level Badli Bhairu Animal Fair 2026 14. AIIMS Jodhpur Research Week 15. State Level Kisan Mela 'Kinnow Mahakumbh' 16. Cognivera Polo Cup 2026
2.	LR-AshM
3.	Board of Peace
4.	United Nations Security Council - UNSC
5.	Sacred Groves
6.	Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework
7.	Export Promotion Mission (EPM)
8.	Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM): Report
9.	State of Finance for Nature Report - 2026
10.	Citizen-Centric Universal Health Coverage
11.	Subhas Chandra Bose: Parakram Diwas (Valour Day)

--:1:--



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News

1.

Jal Nirmalta Award: Dr. Anil Mehta



- Principal and renowned water expert Dr. Anil Mehta (a resident of Udaipur) was honored with the prestigious 'Jal Nirmalta Award' (Jal Nirmalta Award) at the 58th National Water Conference of the Indian Water Works Association (IWWA), India's largest water expert organization.
- This award was established by Dr. M. A. Chitale, former Water Resources Secretary of India and recipient of the Stockholm Water Prize.
- IWWA is a leading organization of engineers, scientists, and professionals working in the fields of quality water supply for domestic, industrial, and agricultural use, sewage construction and treatment, and storm water management.

--2:--

2.

Mountaineer Manasvi Agarwal



- Recently, Manasvi Agarwal, a resident of Udaipur, became the second woman from Rajasthan to climb Mount Aconcagua (6,961 meters), the highest peak in South America.
- Before Manasvi, Geeta Samota had successfully climbed Mount Aconcagua.
- It is noteworthy that Manasvi Agarwal is the first mountaineer from Rajasthan to conquer Mount Vinson Massif (4892 meters), the highest mountain peak in Antarctica.

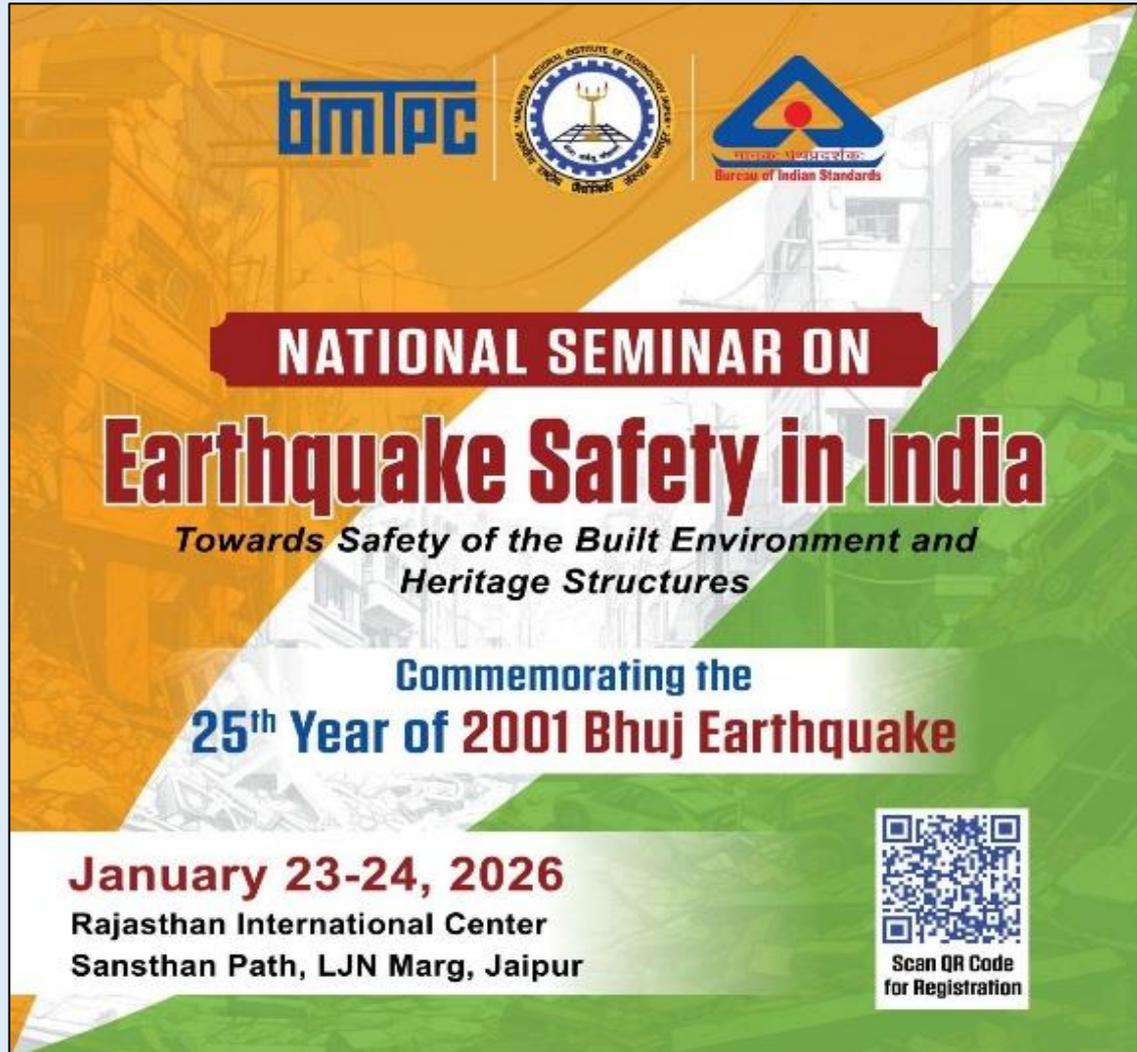
3.

Tableau focused on Maharana Pratap at Bairagi Island, Haridwar

- Recently, a tableau based on Maharana Pratap was displayed in the Jyoti Kalash Yatra (sacred flame procession) organized by the Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivar as part of the centenary celebrations held at Bairagi Island in Haridwar.

4.

Seminar on 'Earthquake Safety and Seismic Standards'



- A seminar on 'Earthquake Safety and Seismic Standards' was recently organized in Jaipur to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 2001 Bhuj earthquake.
- **Event:** January 23 and 24, 2026, at Rajasthan International Centre, Jaipur.
- **Organizers:** Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) Jaipur, Building Materials Technology Promotion Council, Bureau of Indian Standards.
- **Objective:** To enhance the expertise of structural engineers, architects, and disaster management professionals.

--:4:--

5.	<p>'Passenger Tax' on Tourist Vehicles (Reintroduced after 22 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Jaisalmer Municipal Council has decided to reintroduce a passenger tax on tourist vehicles entering the city after 22 years.■ Approval has been granted by the Rajasthan Department of Local Self Government in this regard.
6.	<p>TomTom Traffic Index – 2025: Jaipur Ranks 30th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, in the TomTom Traffic Index – 2025 released by the Netherlands-based TomTom company, Jaipur ranked 30th in terms of traffic congestion. Jaipur's traffic congestion is 58.7 percent.■ In this index, Bengaluru, known as the Silicon Valley of India, is the second most congested city in the world. Bengaluru's traffic congestion level is 74.4 percent.
7.	<p>Rajasthan's First Poison Detection Drug Level Toxicology Lab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Rajasthan's first and North India's state-of-the-art Poison Detection Drug Level Toxicology Lab has been inaugurated at Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur.■ This lab will help determine the type of poison ingested by a patient or the type of venomous animal that bit them, enabling accurate and timely treatment.
8.	<p>Exhibition and Trade Fair under PM Vishwakarma Yojana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Recently, an exhibition and trade fair was organized in Ajmer under the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Yojana.■ Event Dates: January 23 to 25, 2026.■ The PM Vishwakarma Yojana was launched on September 17, 2023, with the aim of empowering traditional artisans and craftspeople and providing them with financial assistance, including skill upgradation, toolkit incentives, and loan assistance.■ Under this scheme, traditional workers and artisans from 18 categories are provided with loans at low-interest rates, modern toolkits, training, and marketing facilities for their products.

9. **Saraswati Vandana, Youth Dialogue, and Mega PTM**

- On January 23, 2026, on the occasion of Basant Panchami and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Saraswati Vandana, a Youth Dialogue, and a Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) were organized at Commerce College (University of Rajasthan, Jaipur).

10. **Rajasthan Sampark Portal**

- The state government has launched a new feature on the Rajasthan Sampark grievance redressal portal to enhance convenience and transparency for citizens. Under the new system, the Action Taken Report (ATR) of resolved complaints will also be made available to the complainant via WhatsApp after resolution.
- The Rajasthan Sampark portal is an integrated grievance redressal platform of the state government. Its main objective is to resolve citizens' problems related to government services.

11. **BSF's 'Operation Sard Hawa'**

- From January 22 to 27, 2026, the Border Security Force (BSF) is conducting 'Operation Sard Hawa' along the Rajasthan border.
- 'Operation Sard Hawa' is a regular annual security operation conducted by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the western international border of Rajasthan.
- **Objective:** To prevent infiltration and smuggling incidents that take advantage of the fog and mist during the winter months.
- **Note:** The Border Security Force (BSF) was established on December 1, 1965, after the Indo-Pakistan war to strengthen border security. Its motto is "Duty Unto Death".

12.

Sunita Dhobi and Surendra Bishnoi

- Sunita Dhobi from Jaipur won a silver medal in the 79 kg weight category at the 23rd Senior and 2nd Junior/Sub-Junior National Para Powerlifting Championship held in Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- Similarly, Surendra Bishnoi, a resident of Kolayat (Bikaner), also won a bronze medal in the same competition.

13.

State Level Badli Bhairu Animal Fair 2026

- **Event:** January 28 to February 1, 2026, in Jodhpur.
- **Organizer:** Department of Animal Husbandry, Rajasthan.

14.

AIIMS Jodhpur Research Week

- The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jodhpur organized a Research Week from January 12 to 17, 2026.
- This is a dynamic series of focused workshops designed to strengthen research capabilities, foster innovation, and promote scientific excellence across all disciplines.

15.

State Level Kisan Mela 'Kinnow Mahakumbh'

- The Government of Rajasthan organized the state-level Kisan Mela 'Kinnow Mahakumbh' in Sri Ganganagar from January 23 to 25, 2026.

16.

Cognivera Polo Cup 2026

- The Cognivera Polo Cup 2026 is being held at the Rajasthan Polo Ground, Jaipur, from January 26 to February 1, 2026.
- The world's tallest polo trophy is being displayed at this polo cup.
- **Height** – 7.1 feet, **Weight** – 65 kg.



LR-AshM



Why in News?

- DRDO will showcase the Long-Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM) and its launcher on Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day parade.



Key Points:

Additional Information:

- **Development:** DRDO – Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- It is a hypersonic glide missile designed to meet the coastal defense and attack requirements of the Indian Navy.
- This missile is capable of engaging both stationary and moving maritime targets and can carry multiple types of payload configurations.



INTERNATIONAL



Board of Peace



Why in News?

- The US President announced the formation of the Board of Peace, to which India was also invited, although India was absent.



Key Points:

- Representatives from 19 countries participated at the time of the announcement of its formation.
- These included Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

Board of Peace – Additional Information -

- This is a proposed international organization. It will function as a temporary governing body.
- **Objective:** It is primarily created for the management and reconstruction of Gaza after the war. However, its scope can be extended to other global conflicts as well.

Membership:

- It will be chaired by the US President.
- It will have an executive board of select global leaders.
- Membership will be control-based.
- It will have members for a fixed term. There will also be some permanent and contributing members.

United Nations Security Council - UNSC

Why in News?

- The G4 countries have proposed reforms to the UNSC and presented a rapid action model for its restructuring.

Key Points:

- The G4 countries (India, Brazil, Germany, Japan) support each other's claims for permanent membership in the Security Council.

Proposed Major Reforms:

- **Expansion of the Council:** Increasing the number of seats to 25 or 26, including:
 - 6 new permanent members (total 11 permanent seats)
 - 14 or 15 non-permanent members

Regional Distribution of New Permanent Seats:

- 2 seats from Africa
- 2 seats from Asia-Pacific
- 1 seat from Latin America and the Caribbean
- 1 seat from Western Europe and other countries

Why are reforms needed in the UNSC?

- **Outdated power structure:** Neglects the modern balance of power and the interests of the Global South.
- **Veto deadlock:** The Council becomes inactive in major conflicts such as Ukraine, Gaza, etc.
- **Lack of democratic representation:** Countries with large populations like India are not represented.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



- **Financial dependence:** High dependence on large donors like the US risks undue influence on the Council's functioning.

UNSC Additional Information:

- **Establishment:** Established in 1945, as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.
- **Function:** Primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security.

Structure:

- **5 permanent members - P5** and 10 non-permanent members.
- **P5** – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States.
- **10 non-permanent members:** Elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. They are not eligible for immediate re-election.



-:11:-

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Sacred Groves

Why in News?

- According to a new study, sacred groves located in the Northern Western Ghats have the highest level of human intervention.

Key Points:

- Sacred groves, long protected by socio-cultural norms, are now increasingly threatened due to urbanization and the weakening of traditional practices.
- Historically, sacred groves were protected through local taboos and nature worship.

Sacred Groves:

- Sacred groves are patches of trees or forest areas that are traditionally protected by local communities due to their religious, cultural, and ecological significance.

Local Names:

- **Karnataka** - Devarakadu, **Kerala** - Kavu
- **Madhya Pradesh** - Sarna, **Rajasthan** - Oran
- **Maharashtra** - Devrai, **Manipur** - Umanglai
- **Uttarakhand** - Devbhoomi, etc.

Importance of Sacred Groves:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Climate change mitigation
- Water conservation
- Livelihood support
- Protection of cultural heritage
- Promotion of environmental awareness.

-:12:-

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

Why in News?

- On January 22, 2026, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan released the policy framework related to the integration of quantum technology in the armed forces.

Key Points:

- Introduction:** This is a comprehensive policy document that outlines the policy and roadmap for the implementation of quantum technologies in the armed forces.
- Objective:** To enable the three services to meet the challenges of the future battlefield and achieve technological dominance in the rapidly changing global landscape.
- Pillars:** To integrate the four main pillars of quantum technology (listed below) into the three services.
 - Quantum Communication
 - Quantum Computing
 - Quantum Sensing and Metrology
 - Quantum Materials and Devices

Features:

- Focuses on the 4 pillars of quantum integration.
- Tri-service Jointness:** It emphasizes the integration of all three services.
- Civil-Military Fusion Model:** It leverages academia, startups, industry, and various government sectors through dedicated governing bodies.
- Guidelines for the Future Battlefield:** Addressing secure communication, faster decision-making, improved sensing, and resilience against cyber-electronic threats.
- Implementation Framework:** It provides a phased implementation plan and outlines institutional mechanisms and governance structures.



ECONOMIC SCENARIO



Export Promotion Mission (EPM)



Why in News?

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued operational guidelines for providing interest subsidies on export credit under the Export Promotion Scheme, bringing exporters under the ambit of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- India achieved a record \$47 billion in electronics exports in 2025.



Key Points:

Electronics Exports:

- Approximately \$30 billion was contributed by smartphone exports driven by production-linked incentives.
- Electronics is the country's third-largest export.
- Electronic exports have increased 11 times since 2015.
- 2.5 million new jobs have been created with strong participation from women, opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and long-term skill development for youth.

Export Promotion Mission:

- **Introduction:** A mission-based integrated national framework aimed at promoting healthy and competitive exports in an integrated India through financial assistance, market access, compliance readiness, and digital governance for exporters.
- **Launch:** Union Budget 2025-26
- **Mission Duration:** Financial Year 2025-26 to 2030-31 (6 years)

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



- **Nodal Implementing Agency:** Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- **Total Financial Outlay:** Rs. 25,060 crore.
- **Targeted Sectors:** Priority will be given to sectors affected by protectionism (tariff increases), including textiles, leather, gems and jewelry, engineering goods, and marine products.
- **Two Integrated Sub-Schemes:**
 1. **Export Promotion/Financial Assistance:** Interest subsidy on pre- and post-shipment credit, financing collateral support, and e-commerce exporter credit cards.
 2. **Export Facilitation/Non-Financial Assistance:** Quality certification, branding, trade fairs, logistics and warehousing support, transportation, and capacity building assistance.

Other Important Points:

India's Exports:

- **Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** 21 percent share of total GDP in FY 2024-25.
- **Employment:** More than 45 million people are directly and indirectly employed in export-oriented industries.
- **Role of MSMEs:** MSMEs contribute approximately 45% to India's total exports.
- **Global Share:** India's share in global exports of goods and services is approximately 2.5%.

--:15:--



INDEXES AND REPORTS



Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM): Report



Why in News?

- The Commission for Air Quality Management has released a report on the causes of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.



Key Points:

- This expert report was prepared following the relevant order of the Supreme Court in the MC Mehta vs. Union of India case.

Main points of the report:

- **Secondary Particulate Matter (PM):** This is the biggest contributor to pollution in Delhi during the winter season. It contributes 27 percent to the pollution.
- Secondary particulate matter consists of fine particles. These are not emitted directly but are formed through chemical reactions between gases present in the atmosphere.
- **Examples:** Ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate aerosols.
- **Other major factors contributing to pollution in winter:** Transport is the largest primary source with a 23 percent contribution. This is followed by biomass burning (20%). Dust accounts for 15 percent, while industries, including thermal power plants, contribute 9 percent.
- **Transboundary pollution:** Approximately two-thirds of PM 2.5 in Delhi originates from outside Delhi's borders.

State of Finance for Nature Report - 2026

Why in News?

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the State of Finance for Nature Report - 2026.

Key Points:

- This report highlights the financial imbalance in global spending, which is heavily skewed towards nature-negative finance compared to nature-positive finance.
- **Nature-positive finance:** Investments in activities that promote environmental protection, such as nature-based solutions.
- **Nature-negative finance:** Investments that can harm natural infrastructure, such as environmentally damaging subsidies.

Citizen-Centric Universal Health Coverage

Why in News?

- The report, 'A Citizen-Centric Health System for India', presents a roadmap for achieving citizen-centric universal health coverage in India.

Key Points:

- **Publisher:** The Lancet

Main points of the report:

1. **Public expenditure on health:** Public health expenditure in India is less than the 2.5% target of the National Health Policy 2017, i.e., less than 2% of GDP.
2. **Input-based governance:** Health administration relies on rigid 'line-item budgeting', which hinders local innovation and accountability to the local burden of disease.
3. **Gaps in primary healthcare:** According to the report, insurance schemes are hospital-centric, leaving outpatient care vulnerable.
4. **Out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE):** Approximately 50 percent of total health expenditure in India is out-of-pocket, which is among the highest globally.
5. **Barriers to Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** Unequal health quality, health fragmentation, and poor governance.
6. **Coverage:** The poor have access to government services, and the rich have private insurance, while the middle class often faces significant out-of-pocket health expenses.

Recommendations of the report:

1. **Global budgeting and decentralization of healthcare:** Move away from rigid line-item budgeting towards global budgeting for districts.

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



- Empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to manage local health centers.
- **Note:** The report suggests adopting the Kerala model, where local governments have control over health services.
- 2. **Primary instrument for universal health coverage:** The health system should be publicly financed and publicly provided.
- 3. **Use of technology in health:** Instead of centralized databases that risk privacy, the report recommends a federated data structure (in line with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023).
 - Effectively implement the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
 - Utilize AI and genomics.
- 4. **Increased citizen participation:** Formal mechanisms for public participation should be established, such as public hearings and patient welfare committees, with the power to audit health centers.

-:19:-



HISTORY



Subhas Chandra Bose: Parakram Diwas (Valour Day)



Why in News?

- On January 23, 2026, the Central Government organized Parakram Diwas 2026, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to commemorate the 129th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The Subhas Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award, 2026 was conferred upon the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority in the institutional category and Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke in the individual category.
- On January 23, 2026, a special exhibition titled 'The Patriot's Path: Life and Legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose' was organized at the Prime Minister's Museum to commemorate Netaji's birth anniversary.



Key Points:

Parakram Diwas Celebrations

- **Beginning:** Year 2021 (First); Victoria Memorial, Kolkata
- **Year 2022:** Unveiling of Netaji's hologram statue at India Gate, New Delhi.
- **Year 2023:** 21 islands of Andaman and Nicobar were named after Param Vir Chakra awardees Somnath Sharma and Jadunath Singh.
- **National Parakram Diwas Celebration of 2025:** Barabati Fort, Cuttack, Odisha.

Subhas Chandra Bose Disaster Management Award, 2026:

- **Established:** Year 2019
- **Administered by:** Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

--:20:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



- **Eligibility:** Only Indian citizens and institutions.

Award Amount:

- **Institution:** Rs. 51 lakh + Certificate
- **Individual:** Rs. 5 lakh + Certificate
- **Winners of 2026:**

Category	Name / Institution	Contribution
Institutional Category	Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (Establishment; Year 2005)	Contribution: It deployed 1,185 trained Aapda Mitras at three levels — Village (Disaster Management Assistant), Block (Disaster Management Supervisor), and District (Disaster Management Coordinator).
Individual Category	Lieutenant Colonel Sita Ashok Shelke	Contribution: In the year 2024, Shelke led large-scale humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations during floods and landslides in Wayanad, Kerala.

- **Note:** During severe disasters such as the 2016 Mantak landslide and the 2023 Teesta floods, the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)'s real-time coordination and trained first responders helped rescue 2,563 people and minimize loss of life and property.

Exhibitions at the Prime Minister's Museum:

- **Title of the exhibition:** "The Patriot's Path: Life and Legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose"
- **This photo exhibition has various sections titled:** The Great Escape, Azad Hind Government, Chalo Dilli - The March of the Indian National Army, Beyond Mystery: The Immortal Legacy, The Queens of Azad Hind.

--:21:--

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:

Initial Introduction:

- **Born:** 1897, Cuttack, Odisha.
- Passed the Indian Civil Service (ICS) examination in England in 1920 and resigned.
- **Ideological Foundation:** Bose was inspired by Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (Anandamath).
- He developed a synthesis of Western and Indian cultures, centered on India's independence and resurgence.

Role in the Freedom Movement:

- **Differences with the Congress:** Elected President of the Haripura Session in 1938, he advocated Swaraj and opposed the formation of the Indian Union under the Government of India Act, 1935.
- At the Tripuri Session in 1939, Netaji was removed and Gandhi-supported Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya was elected President.
- Bose resigned from the Congress Party on April 29, 1939.
- **Socialist Economic Outlook:** Established the National Planning Committee (1938) (chaired by Jawaharlal Nehru), advocating state-led industrialization, scientific planning, and economic self-reliance.
- **Forward Bloc and Radical Mobilization:** Established the Forward Bloc in 1939 as a national platform to unite leftists, youth, and workers.
- **Indian National Army (INA)/Azad Hind Fauj:** Netaji's most revolutionary contribution to India's freedom struggle was leading the Indian National Army during World War II.

- The Indian National Army was first formed under the leadership of Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Fujihara and included prisoners of war of the British Indian Army captured by Japan in Singapore during the Malaya (Malaysia) campaign.

-:22:-

Daily Current Affairs

Date : 24 January, 2026



- **INA's Objective:** To achieve India's complete liberation (Purna Swaraj) through armed struggle.
- **Senior INA officers:** Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sahgal, and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon.
- It also included citizens from the Indian diaspora in Southeast Asia.
- **Famous INA slogans:** "Delhi Chalo," "Jai Hind."
- It was India's first practical attempt to establish sovereign rule outside British control.

Provisional Government of Azad Hind (1943):

- In October 1943, Netaji established the Provisional Government of Azad Hind in Singapore.
- It was recognized by countries like Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Rani Jhansi Regiment:

- **Introduction:** An all-female combat unit.
- **Leadership:** Captain Lakshmi Sahgal.
- It symbolized gender equality, progressive outlook, and the active role of women in armed struggle.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's last moments:** Died in a plane crash in Taihoku (Taiwan) on August 18, 1945.

- **Note:** Commissions of Inquiry into Netaji's death:

1. Shah Nawaz Committee (1956)
2. Khosla Commission (1970)
3. Mukherjee Commission (2006)

--:23:--