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English Medium

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Current Affairs Related to 16 January 2026

- ◆ **The Indian film Homebound has been selected for the Best International Feature Film category** at the 98th Academy Awards. Directed by Neeraj Paywan, Homebound is among the 15 films that have qualified for the final nominations in the International Feature Film category at the Oscars 2026. This list of international feature films includes films from various countries around the world. This list determines eligibility for the final nominations for the Oscars. The official list of final nominations in the selected categories will be announced on January 22, 2026.
- ◆ **Indian scientists have developed indigenously manufactured automated weather stations** using 3D printing technology. This initiative is part of the government's ambitious Mission Monsoon, a 2000 crore program aimed at improving India's weather monitoring and forecasting capabilities. The first batch of these next-generation weather stations is scheduled to be installed in Delhi from February. This project is being managed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ◆ **India's first indigenously built pollution control vessel has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard.** This vessel has been built by Goa Shipyard Limited as part of India's efforts towards self-reliance in shipbuilding. Equipped with over 60% indigenous components, Samudra Pratap has been inducted as the largest vessel in the Indian Coast Guard fleet. This vessel is the first of two pollution control vessels being built by GSL. This vessel significantly enhances India's capabilities in marine pollution response, firefighting, maritime security, and environmental protection.
- ◆ **The PM KUSUM scheme is promoting the adoption of solar energy in agriculture** to increase farmers' income and support sustainable farming practices. According to information provided in the Rajya Sabha, more than 20 lakh farmers across India have benefited from this scheme. Under Component A, farmers can lease their land for solar power plants and earn up to 80,000 per hectare annually. The component supports replacing diesel irrigation pumps with solar-powered pumps.
- ◆ **The Delhi government and the Reserve Bank of India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).** With this, Delhi has come under the RBI's banking, cash management, and debt management framework for the first time. The RBI will now act as the banker to the Delhi government. It will also act as the debt manager and financial agent for the Delhi government. With the signing of this MoU, the Delhi government can raise funds through state development loans. The MoU also allows for automatic investment of surplus cash, professional cash management, and access to low-cost liquidity facilities.
- ◆ **The National CSR Conference of the NDDB Foundation for Nutrition was inaugurated** in New Delhi by the Union Home and Cooperation Minister. The main objective of the conference is to discuss collaborative and sustainable strategies for child nutrition. This conference is being organized by the National Dairy Development Board. During the conference, Amit Shah launched the third phase of the Giftmilk program. This program comes under the CSR initiative of SAIL Bhilai Steel Plant located in Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released 41 literary works in New Delhi.** These works were developed by the Centres of Excellence for Classical Languages. The literary works were created under the aegis of the Central Institute of Indian Languages. Thirteen additional books were also released during the event. A 45-episode sign language interpretation series of the Thirukkural was also launched. The Ministry of Education stated that this initiative demonstrates its continued support for classical language studies.
- ◆ **Loan agreements worth over \$22 million were signed between India and the Asian Development Bank.** These agreements were finalized under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Finance. These loans have been signed to support five major development projects spread across several states. Funds have been allocated for skill development, renewable energy, healthcare, urban transport, and sustainable livelihoods. Under the skill development program, 650 industrial training institutes spread across 12 states will be modernized, and five national skill training institutes will be upgraded into centers of excellence.

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National & International Current Affairs

- 1. When will the three-day International Conference on Democracy and Election Management be organized by the Election Commission of India?**
(A) 18 January (B) 20 January
(C) 21 January (D) 23 January
(C) This conference will be held in New Delhi from the 21st of this month. The India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management, under the aegis of the ECI, is organizing this international conference. The theme of the conference is Democracy for an Inclusive, Peaceful, Resilient and Sustainable World. This conference will provide a platform for international cooperation among election management bodies.
- 2. When is National Startup Day celebrated every year?**
(A) 15 January (B) 16 January
(C) 17 January (D) 18 January
(A) National Startup Day is celebrated every year on January 16, which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2022 to promote India's startup ecosystem and encourage the expansion of Innovation for India, highlighting the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country's economic development.
- 3. Which state government has recently guaranteed 50% of their last drawn basic salary to government employees?**
(A) Karnataka (B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Punjab
(C) Recently, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme, under which government employees will receive an assured pension equal to 50% of their last drawn salary. Pension requirements beyond the employees' 10% pension fund contribution will be fully borne by the state government.
- 4. Recently, Sadanand Date became the new DGP of which state?**
(A) Maharashtra (B) Gujarat
(C) Punjab (D) Odisha
(A) Maharashtra has recently got a new police chief, with a senior and experienced officer entrusted with leading the state police force. This appointment follows established judicial guidelines to ensure stability and independence in police leadership. He has extensive experience in counter-terrorism operations, urban policing, and central investigative agencies.
- 5. Which state government recently made reading newspapers mandatory in schools?**
(A) Jharkhand (B) West Bengal
(C) Kerala (D) Rajasthan
(D) Recently, the Rajasthan state government, taking a revolutionary step in the state's education sector, has made reading newspapers mandatory during the morning assembly in government and private schools. The main objective of this new order from the education department is to move students away from rote learning and connect them with current affairs from around the world.



IICDEM-2026



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6. Where has the PWD recently made it mandatory to affix QR codes on road signs?

- (A) Delhi (B) Mumbai
(C) Bengaluru (D) Chennai

(A) The PWD has recently made it mandatory to affix QR codes on all new and existing road signposts. The QR code will provide information such as the manufacturer's name, date of manufacture, materials used, and warranty details. In the future, these codes will be linked to the PWD's mobile app, allowing citizens to report damaged or faulty signboards directly by scanning the code.



7. According to a recently released NTCA report, how many tigers died in India in 2025?

- (A) 38 (B) 55
(C) 89 (D) 166

(D) According to recent data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority, a total of 166 tiger deaths were recorded in India in 2025. This number is 40 more than in 2024. Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of deaths with 55, followed by Maharashtra, Kerala, and Assam. The total deaths included 31 cubs.



8. Which state has recently secured the top position in India's investment chart for the financial year 2026?

- (A) Kerala (B) Karnataka
(C) Andhra Pradesh (D) Telangana

(C) Andhra Pradesh has recently emerged as India's leading investment destination in the current financial year. According to a recent report, the state has attracted the largest share of proposed capital investments, reflecting growing investor confidence. Strong government policies, a focus on infrastructure, and streamlined approvals have propelled Andhra Pradesh ahead of traditional industrial states, signaling a shift in India's development landscape.



9. Where was India's first government hospital-based AI clinic recently established?

- (A) Mumbai (B) Chennai
(C) Greater Noida (D) Bengaluru

(C) India's first government hospital-based AI clinic was recently inaugurated online at the Government Institute of Medical Sciences in Greater Noida. The Additional Director General of Health Services, Government of India, launched this clinic established under the Centre for Medical Innovation.



10. Which country has recently signed an agreement with India to promote the maritime heritage of Lothal?

- (A) Indonesia (B) Netherlands
(C) South Africa (D) None of the above

(B) India and the Netherlands recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen maritime heritage cooperation for the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal, Gujarat. This partnership aims to promote museum design, conservation, research, tourism, and global cultural exchange.



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