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Director

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## Current Affairs Related to 17 January 2026

- ◆ **The Central Government has prepared a three-year pipeline of public-private partnership projects worth 17 lakh crore.** This pipeline includes 852 projects spread across central infrastructure ministries, states, and union territories. The total cost of these projects is more than 17 lakh crore. This pipeline provides preliminary information about upcoming PPP projects.
- ◆ **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ONGC and NSTFDC for the CSR-funded development of Eklavya Model Residential Schools.** NSTFDC is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The agreement was signed at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The objective of this agreement is to empower tribal students through career guidance, digital education, and improvement of school infrastructure.
- ◆ **The second phase of the specialized cancer care training program for BIMSTEC countries was launched in Visakhapatnam.** Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, C.S.R. Ram, inaugurated the program. He said that the program includes participants from BIMSTEC countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Nepal. He emphasized that the increasing burden of cancer in the region makes capacity building and skill development essential.
- ◆ **Preparations are underway for the establishment of India's first Forest University, which will be set up in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.** This is a major step in giving a new direction to education and research in the field of forestry conservation and environmental science. This project aligns with the growing national focus on biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, and sustainable natural resource management.
- ◆ **The Assam cabinet has approved the release of 250 crore for the Bodoland Territorial Council.** This reaffirms the government's focus on the development of the Bodoland region. This fund will be used for rural infrastructure projects in all areas of the Bodoland Territorial Council. This fund will also be used for priority development projects in the areas under the Bodoland Territorial Council. Its objective is to improve connectivity, livelihoods, and basic civic amenities.
- ◆ **India has become the world's first country to commercially produce bio-bitumen.** This achievement was announced by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, at the CSIR Technology Transfer ceremony held in New Delhi. Bio-bitumen is used in road construction. It is an alternative to conventional bitumen derived from crude oil. Mr. Gadkari congratulated CSIR on this historic achievement and said that this initiative will help reduce pollution caused by crop residue burning.
- ◆ **Indian Railways has become the world's largest electrified rail system.** Almost the entire 70,000 km broad gauge network is now powered by electricity. By November 2025, more than 99% of the network had been electrified. The pace of electrification has increased significantly over time. Between 2004 and 2014, it was approximately 1.5 km per day. In the last six years, it has increased to more than 15 km per day.
- ◆ **Indian scientists have developed the first supercomputer-based simulation to understand the Mpemba effect.** They have developed the first supercomputer-based simulation that explains why hot water sometimes freezes faster than cold water. This unusual behavior is called the Mpemba effect and has long remained unexplained. The study was led by researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research.
- ◆ **German aerospace engineer Michi Benthaus is set to become the first wheelchair user to travel to space.** She will fly on Blue Origin's upcoming NS-37 suborbital mission aboard the New Shepard rocket. This achievement is considered a historic step towards making human spaceflight more inclusive and accessible. Michi Benthaus is a German aerospace and mechatronics engineer.
- ◆ **A new logo has been launched for Regional Rural Banks, reflecting a unified brand identity.** Based on the principle of 'One State, One RRB' (Regional Rural Bank), the Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance has merged 26 Regional Rural Banks located in 11 states/union territories, effective May 1, 2025. This reform is a decisive step towards creating stronger and more efficient Regional Rural Banks.

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## National & International Current Affairs

1. Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a notification for the first phase of the Indian Census for which year?  
(A) 2026 (B) 2027  
(C) 2028 (D) 2029  
(B) In the first phase, a house-to-house census will be conducted in all states and Union Territories between April 1 and September 30, 2025. Each state and Union Territory will carry out this exercise for a stipulated period of 30 days. The process includes a provision for self-enumeration. Self-enumeration will be available for 15 days.
2. Recently, the Central Government has prepared a three-year pipeline of Public-Private Partnership projects worth how many lakh crore rupees?  
(A) 17 lakh (B) 20 lakh  
(C) 22 lakh (D) 25 lakh  
(A) In line with the announcement made in the Union Budget 2025-2026, the Department of Economic Affairs has prepared a three-year Public-Private Partnership project pipeline. This pipeline includes 852 projects spread across central infrastructure ministries, states, and Union Territories.
3. Recently, the GI Council appointed whom as the CEO for the Health Insurance Ecosystem?  
(A) Ravi Ranjan (B) Suresh Goyal  
(C) S Prakash (D) None of these  
(C) Recently, the General Insurance Council, the body representing India's non-life insurance industry, appointed S Prakash as the Chief Executive Officer, Health Insurance Ecosystem & Strategic Partnerships. In this role, Prakash will lead industry-wide efforts to enhance transparency, operational efficiency, and trust across the entire health insurance value chain, working with insurance companies, hospitals, regulators, and other key stakeholders.
4. Which state recently abolished the two-child norm in local body elections?  
(A) Telangana (B) Jharkhand  
(C) Odisha (D) West Bengal  
(A) The Telangana Legislative Assembly recently unanimously passed several bills in January 2026, marking a significant reform in local governance laws. The most prominent among these is the Telangana Panchayat Raj Bill, 2026, which removes the disqualification of having more than two children for contesting local body elections. This decision reflects a deliberate shift from population control-oriented legislation to demographic stability-focused policymaking.
5. Where will the Virangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve become the new habitat for cheetahs before the next monsoon?  
(A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Uttar Pradesh  
(C) Bihar (D) Kerala  
(A) Madhya Pradesh's Virangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve will become the new home for cheetahs in the state before the next year. This announcement was made by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. This decision comes after the successful relocation of cheetahs from Africa to Kuno National Park. The state cabinet has given in-principle approval for the development of the sanctuary.



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6. Which country recently banned the broadcasting of the Indian Premier League?

- (A) Nepal (B) Bhutan  
(C) Sri Lanka (D) Bangladesh

(D) Recently, Bangladesh banned the broadcasting of the IPL. The BCCI sold the media rights for the IPL from 2023 to 2027 for approximately 48,390 crore. A large portion of this revenue comes from India, where the IPL has the highest viewership on both TV and digital platforms.



7. Which state's sex ratio at birth recently increased to 923 in 2025?

- (A) Haryana (B) Jharkhand  
(C) Karnataka (D) West Bengal

(A) Recently, the sex ratio at birth in Haryana increased to 923 in 2025, the highest in the last five years, showing an increase of 13 points from 910 in 2024. This improvement is a result of the strict actions taken by the state government against sex determination tests and illegal abortions, and the successful implementation of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, which has promoted gender equality.



8. Who recently released the book "Khatbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila ki Faseel Se"?

- (A) Amit Shah (B) Rajnath Singh  
(C) Dharmendra Pradhan (D) S. Jaishankar

(C) Recently, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the book "Khatbat-e-Modi: Lal Qila ki Faseel Se" in New Delhi. In a social media post, Mr. Pradhan stated that the book is a compilation of Prime Minister Modi's Independence Day speeches from 2014 to 2025.



9. Where was the Smart Green Aquaculture RAS recently inaugurated?

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

(A) A smart aquaculture farm and research institute was recently inaugurated in Hyderabad following a general assembly meeting. The project is located in Kandukur mandal of Ranga Reddy district. It has been developed by Smart Green Aquaculture Limited as a commercial-scale and research-oriented aquaculture facility.



10. Recently, what percentage increase was recorded in the production of India's eight core sectors in November 2025?

- (A) 1.5% (B) 1.8%  
(C) 2.9% (D) 3.2%

(B) Recently, India's eight core industries saw a 1.8% surge in November 2025, mainly driven by strong performance in the cement, steel, fertilizer, and coal sectors. According to official data, a decline in crude oil and natural gas production hampered the overall growth.



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