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English Medium

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Current Affairs Related to 18 January 2026

- ◆ **Russia has deployed the nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system in Belarus.** The Ministry of Defense stated that a brief ceremony was held to mark the deployment. The ministry made this statement without providing further details. The Oreshnik is a medium-range ballistic missile. It can travel a distance of 500 to 5500 kilometers. Its maximum speed can reach Mach 10. In December, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the Oreshnik would soon be put into combat service.
- ◆ **Indian scientists have developed indigenously manufactured automatic 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, the 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.
- ◆ **Loan agreements worth over \$2.2 million were signed between India and the Asian Development Bank.** These agreements were finalized under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs, 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.
- ◆ **A new logo has been launched for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), reflecting a unified brand identity.** Based on the principle of one state, one RRB, the Department of Financial Services, 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.
- ◆ **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 \$2.2 million were signed between India and the Asian Development Bank.** These agreements were finalized under the guidance of the Department of Economic Affairs, 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. In which state will the India Energy Week 2026 be held from January 27 to 30?

- (A) Goa (B) New Delhi
(C) Rajasthan (D) Uttar Pradesh

(A) India Energy Week 2026 will bring together global ministers, CEOs, policymakers, financial institutions, academics, and technology leaders. They will discuss issues such as energy security, investment, and reducing carbon emissions. India Energy Week is organized under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. India Energy Week is being jointly hosted by the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry and DMG Events.



2. Which state government has recently made reading newspapers mandatory in schools?

- (A) Jharkhand (B) West Bengal
(C) Kerala (D) Rajasthan

(D) Recently, the Rajasthan state government has taken a revolutionary step in the state's education sector by making it mandatory to read newspapers 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.



3. Which company has recently become the official color partner of the Indian cricket team?

- (A) Berger (B) Asian Paints
(C) Birla Opus (D) None of the above

(B) Recently, Asian Paints, India's leading paint and decor brand, has signed a major deal with the BCCI. Asian Paints will now serve as the official color partner for the board for the next three years. This deal will include more than 110 matches across all men's, women's, and domestic cricket.



4. Which state has recently received approval for a \$400 million loan from the ADB for rural and climate-resilient roads?

- (A) Bihar (B) Haryana
(C) Kerala (D) Maharashtra

(D) Recently, the Asian Development Bank has approved a \$400 million loan program to upgrade the road network in Maharashtra state, specifically rural and climate-resilient roads. The main objective of this program is to improve all-weather, safe, and inclusive road connectivity in all 34 districts of Maharashtra, especially in the climate-vulnerable and economically backward Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.



5. Recently, what percentage of GDP growth rate has the IMF projected for the financial year 2025-2026?

- (A) 5.5% (B) 6.6%
(C) 6.9% (D) 7.4%

(B) Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India's GDP growth rate to be 6.6% for the financial year 2025-2026. This projection comes after a 6.5% growth in FY 2024-2025 and a strong GDP growth of 7.8% recorded in the first quarter of FY 2025-2026.



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6. Which state 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) Recently, Andhra Pradesh has 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 investment, reflecting growing investor confidence. Strong government policies, a focus on infrastructure, and expedited approvals have propelled Andhra Pradesh ahead of traditional industrial states, signaling a shift in India's development landscape.



7. The Ministry of Home Affairs recently issued a notification for the first phase of the Indian Census for which year?

- (A) 2026 (B) 2027
(C) 2028 (D) 2029

(B) The first phase will involve house-to-house enumeration in all states and Union Territories between April 1 and September 30, 2025. Each state and Union Territory will conduct this exercise for a designated period of 30 days. The process includes a provision for self-enumeration. Self-enumeration will be available for 15 days.



8. Which state's sex ratio recently increased significantly to 923 in 2025?

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

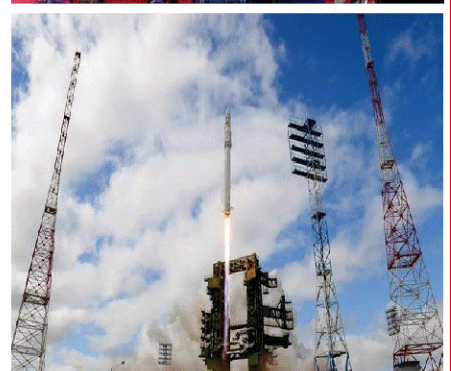
(A) Recently, Haryana's sex ratio at birth increased to 923 in 2025, the highest in the last five years, showing an increase of 13 points from 910 in 2024. This improvement is a result of the state government's strict actions against sex-selective abortions and illegal abortions, and the successful implementation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



9. Which country recently successfully launched secret military satellites using the Angara 1.2 light launch vehicle?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) China
(C) Russia (D) USA

(C) Recently, Russia launched secret military equipment using the Angara 1.2 light launch vehicle. The Angara 1.2 launch vehicle did indeed successfully launch a military satellite from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome on October 21, 2022, but it is not known as the Angara 1.2 Light.



10. Which state's Chief Minister recently announced the establishment of a world-class university named after the ninth Guru, Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji?

- (A) Haryana (B) Punjab
(C) Rajasthan (D) Rajasthan

(B) Recently, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann announced the establishment of a world-class university named after the ninth Guru, Shri Tegh Bahadur Singh, in Anandpur Sahib. He made this announcement at an event held in Sri Anandpur Sahib to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.



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