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English Medium

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Current Affairs Related to 22 January 2026

- ◆ **Youth power is at the heart of India's development journey.** Keeping this in mind, the Government of India has launched several effective programs related to employment, skill development, entrepreneurship, volunteering, and health. In 2026, initiatives like Skill India/PMKVY, Startup India, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Agnipath Scheme, and Fit India Movement are providing real opportunities for young people to build careers, learn industry-relevant skills, start their own businesses, and contribute to nation-building. This article presents a clear and updated guide to the top government schemes for youth in 2026.
- ◆ **India and Fiji have agreed to extend their existing Memorandum of Understanding** on agricultural cooperation for another five years. The bilateral talks were held in New Delhi between India's Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Fiji's Minister for Agriculture and Waterways, Tomasi Tunabuna. Agriculture and food security were identified as priority areas of cooperation between the two sides. The two countries discussed student exchange programs and specialized training modules.
- ◆ **The RBI plans to inject approximately 3 trillion into the banking system through open market operations** and foreign exchange swaps. The RBI will purchase government securities worth 2 trillion through open market operations. This purchase will be made in four equal installments of 50,000 crore on December 29, January 5, January 12, and January 22. On January 13, the RBI will conduct a three-year USD/INR buy-sell swap of \$10 billion. The RBI had recently intervened in the foreign exchange market.
- ◆ **Commercial operations of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project unit have commenced.** This commissioning marks a significant achievement for India's largest hydroelectric project, with an installed capacity of 2000 MW. The project is considered a symbol of India's commitment to clean, renewable, and sustainable energy. The Subansiri Lower Project is designed as a run-of-river scheme with small ponds for flood control. Once fully operational, the project is expected to generate 7422 million units of renewable electricity annually.
- ◆ **The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs released its flagship report, World Economic Situation and Prospects 2026,** in January 2026. The report projects India's GDP growth rate at 6.6% for the calendar year 2026, making India the world's fastest-growing major economy amidst global uncertainty. While this estimate is slightly lower than the 7.4% growth rate projected for 2025, the report suggests a marginal improvement in the growth rate to 6.7% in 2027.
- ◆ **India's newest airline, Akasa Air, founded in 2020, has now become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).** IATA represents more than 360 airlines worldwide and accounts for over 80% of global air traffic. This is considered a significant achievement for the Indian airline. To join IATA, Akasa completed the IATA Operational Safety Audit in December, which is mandatory for IATA membership.
- ◆ **Unclaimed savings worth 2000 crore have been returned to their rightful owners.** This unclaimed money was stuck in banks, insurance companies, mutual funds, dividends, shares, and retirement benefit accounts. This unclaimed money was returned under the nationwide awareness and facilitation initiative, "Your Money, Your Right." This initiative was launched in October 2025 to assist citizens in identifying and reclaiming their unclaimed financial assets.
- ◆ **A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NIFTEM and the Ministry of Minority Affairs** for the PM VIKAS scheme. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in New Delhi between NIFTEM Kundli and the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The scheme aims to build the capacity of minority youth through skill training and livelihood support. NIFTEM is one of the select institutions of national importance chosen for this program. Under this project, a total of 2110 beneficiaries from minority communities will be trained.

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National & International Current Affairs

1. In which state will India's first hydrogen-powered train run recently?

- (A) Odisha (B) Haryana
(C) Punjab (D) New Delhi

(B) India's first hydrogen-powered train will run on the Jind-Sonapat route in Haryana. Its trial is expected to begin on January 26, 2026. This is a major step towards pollution-free green transportation. The train is completely designed and manufactured in India, producing zero emissions and releasing only water vapor.



2. Where will the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management 2026 be held recently?

- (A) Mumbai (B) Bengaluru
(C) New Delhi (D) Kolkata

(C) The Election Commission of India will host the first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management from January 21 to 23, 2026. The Election Commission of India will host the first India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from January 21 to 23.



3. Which state government recently unveiled India's first Deep Tech Startup Policy?

- (A) Tamilnadu (B) Kerala
(C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Telangana

(A) The Tamil Nadu government has unveiled India's first dedicated Deep Tech Startup Policy to strengthen its innovation-based development agenda. The policy was launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at UImagineTN 2026. The policy is named the Tamil



4. Who recently inaugurated the National IED Data Management System of the National Security Guard through video conferencing?

- (A) Piyush Goyal (B) Amit Shah
(C) Narendra Modi (D) Rajnath Singh

(B) The launch of NIDMS is a significant step towards strengthening India's counter-terrorism framework. NIDMS will assist in investigating terrorist incidents and analyzing patterns of explosions. It will also be helpful in formulating effective strategies to combat terrorism.



5. The term of which bank's Managing Director, Ashwini Kumar Tiwari, was recently extended by two years?

- (A) PNB (B) BOB
(C) SBI (D) RBI

(C) In a significant development in the banking sector, the Government of India has extended the tenure of Ashwini Kumar Tiwari, Managing Director of the State Bank of India, by two years. This decision comes at a time when the country's largest public sector bank is undergoing a period of economic growth, digital expansion, and financial reforms.



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6. Which bank recently released its report on Banking Trends and Progress in India 2024-2025?

- (A) SBI (B) RBI
(C) HDFC Bank (D) ICICI Bank

(B) This report highlights the continued strength of the banking sector. The report also states that the banking sector's continued strength is supported by improved asset quality and profitability, supported by balance sheet growth. According to the RBI, the banking sector is projected to achieve double-digit balance sheet growth in FY 2025.



7. How many crore rupees worth of defense proposals has the Defence Acquisition Council recently approved?

- (A) 39,000 crore (B) 45,000 crore
(C) 52,000 crore (D) 79,000 crore

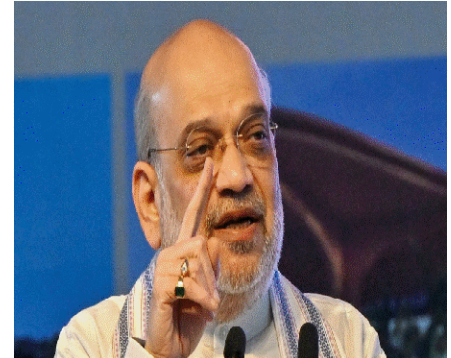
(D) The Defence Acquisition Council recently approved defense proposals worth 79,000 crore to enhance the capabilities of the armed forces. Necessity approval for these proposals was granted at a meeting chaired by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. The purchase of Loiter Muniton Systems for artillery regiments of the Indian Army has been approved.



8. Who recently launched an AI-powered database to curb organized crime and terrorism?

- (A) Amit Shah (B) Narendra Modi
(C) Rajnath Singh (D) Nirmala Sitharaman

(A) India has launched its first national-level organized crime network database. This initiative aims to curb criminal gangs that repeatedly threaten internal security. Shah inaugurated the database at the Anti-Terrorism Conference 2025, a two-day annual event organized by the National Investigation Agency.



9. Which state government recently approved the 7 Nischay 3 program for 2025-2030?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Rajasthan
(C) Bihar (D) Himachal Pradesh

(C) The Bihar state government recently approved the 7 Nischay 3 program for 2025-2030, which aims to bring Bihar into the league of developed states in the country, with an emphasis on advanced education, accessible healthcare, employment, strong infrastructure, urban expansion, and ease of living for citizens.



10. Which of the IIT following has recently developed an AI agent named Ila?

- (A) IIT Mumbai (B) IIT Delhi
(C) IIT Madras (D) IIT Kanpur

(B) Recently, researchers at IIT Delhi have developed an autonomous AILA agent named Ila. The main objective of this technology is to enable AILA to independently perform real scientific experiments in the laboratory, operate complex equipment, and analyze the results like a scientist.



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