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English Medium

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Current Affairs Related to 23 January 2026

- ◆ **Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, has launched** a new integrated digital portal called Pankhudi. Its aim is to improve the living standards of women and children in India in a timely manner. The Pankhudi portal aims to strengthen coordination among stakeholders associated with the women and child development sector.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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 has significantly enhanced India's marine pollution response, firefighting, maritime security, and environmental protection capabilities.
- ◆ **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. Component B supports replacing diesel irrigation pumps with solar-powered pumps.
- ◆ **Loan agreements worth over US\$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.
- ◆ **The plant at the Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru has developed a revolutionary technique involving cold atoms without destroying the atoms.** Raman-driven spin noise spectroscopy has established this new method capable of real-time monitoring of the density of atomic radiation. This significant achievement is expected to accelerate research and development in the fields of quantum laboratories, quantum sensing, and high-precision technology. Cold atoms are repeatedly destroyed or their quantum state is altered by current atomic technology.
- ◆ **Based on the advance estimates released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, India's real GDP growth rate for the financial year 2025-2026 is projected to be 7.4%.** This is higher than the 6.5% growth rate in the financial year 2024-2025. According to the estimates, the main driver of growth will be the services sector. According to the estimates, in the financial year 2025-2026, financial services, real estate, professional services, and public administration will grow at a rate of 9.9% at constant prices. Trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting services will grow at a rate of 7.5%. The secondary sector will grow at a rate of 7%.
- ◆ **India Post has launched Speed Post 24 and Speed 48 services.** These services were announced by the Union Minister of Communications, Jyotiraditya Scindia. The new services ensure delivery within 24 hours and 48 hours. This announcement was made during an event held in Pichhore, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative is being seen as a significant step towards modernizing postal services. The new services aim to establish high standards of timeliness, reliability, and delivery speed.

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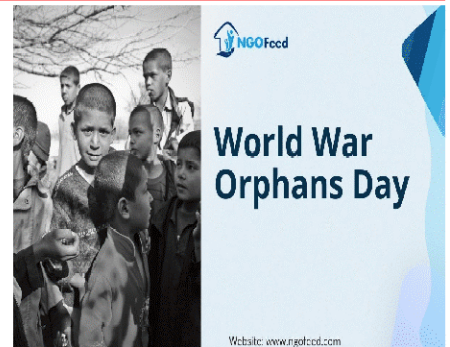
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National & International Current Affairs

1. Recently, to what percentage has the World Bank increased India's growth forecast for the fiscal year 2026?

- (A) 3.5% (B) 4.9%
(C) 5.2% (D) 7.2%

(D) India's economy has received a major boost from a leading multi-lateral institution. The World Bank has raised its economic growth forecast for India for the current fiscal year, citing strong domestic demand and a reform-oriented economic framework. Despite global trade uncertainties and tariff pressures, India is emerging as one of the world's fastest-growing economies.



2. Recently, from when to when is Road Safety Month being observed in the state of Uttar Pradesh?

- (A) January 1 to 15 (B) January 5 to 24
(C) January 8 to 28 (D) January 1 to 31

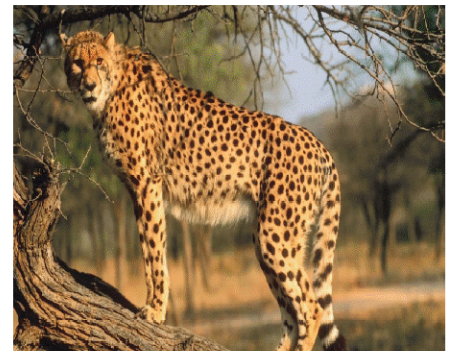
(D) Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath issued directives for the campaign. The campaign will focus on the four E model of education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency care. The Chief Minister chaired a high-level review meeting. The Chief Minister said that this campaign should not be treated as a mere formality.



3. Recently, where will India's first state-level tiger corridor be built?

- (A) Gujarat (B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Maharashtra (D) Uttar Pradesh

(B) Recently, in a historic initiative towards promoting wildlife tourism, Madhya Pradesh is developing the country's first state-level tiger corridor. This ambitious project, a joint effort of the National Highways Authority and the State Public Works Department, will connect Pench, Kanha, Bandhavgarh, and Panna Tiger Reserves through an approximately 250 km long tiger corridor.



4. Recently, where has India's first state-of-the-art e-waste park based on a zero-waste model been established?

- (A) Indore (B) Mumbai
(C) Delhi (D) None of these

(C) India's first state-of-the-art e-waste eco-park is being established in Holambi Kalan, Delhi. It is based on a zero-waste model and will operate on a public-private partnership model, aiming to process 51,000 tons of electronic waste annually and promote a circular economy.



5. Which state's Governor recently launched Sanskar Shala for value-based education?

- (A) Assam (B) Odisha
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Madhya Pradesh

(A) Recently, the Governor of Assam, Lakshman Prasad Acharya, inaugurated Sanskar Shala, a value-based education program for children, in Guwahati. This initiative aims to promote moral education, Indian cultural values, and social responsibility among children alongside formal education in a modern, technology-driven society.



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6. Recently, what percentage GDP growth rate has the IMF projected for the fiscal year 2025-2026?

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

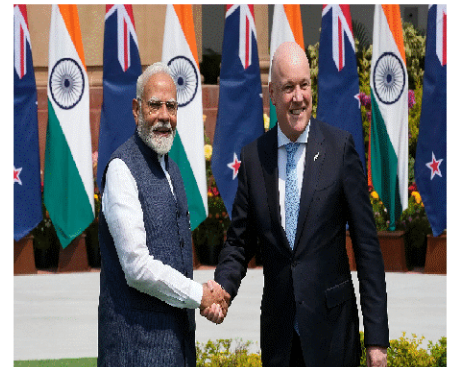
(B) Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected India's GDP growth rate to be 6.6% for the fiscal year 2025-2026. This projection comes after a 6.5% growth in fiscal year 2024-2025 and a strong GDP growth of 7.8% recorded in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025-2026.



7. 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

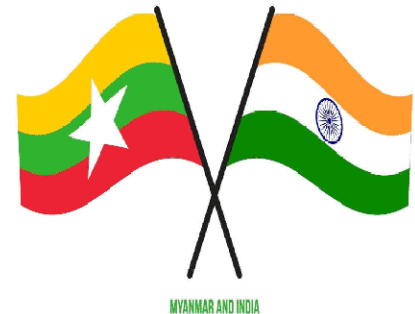
(A) India Energy Week 2026 will bring together global ministers, CEOs, policymakers, financial institutions, academics, and technology leaders. They will discuss issues such as energy security, investment, and reducing carbon emissions. India Energy Week is organized under the Ministry of Petroleum and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



8. Recently, with which country has India provided three Quick Impact Projects to strengthen relations?

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

(A) Recently, India has handed over three Quick Impact Projects in the Mandalay region to strengthen its relations with Myanmar. These include a rapier loom for weaving training, a new building for a girls' training school, and a clean energy and rural electrification project from agricultural waste, focusing on skill development, women's empowerment, and renewable energy.



9. Recently, in which state did the central government launch port infrastructure and digital governance projects worth 235 crore?

- (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Kerala
(C) Maharashtra (D) Telangana

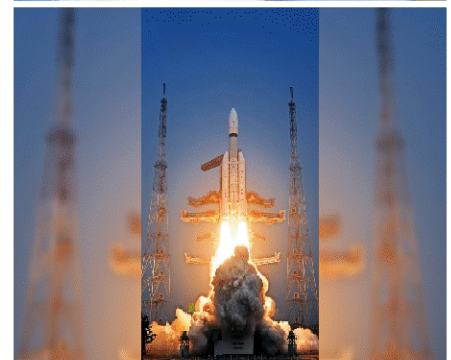
(A) The objective of these projects is to strengthen the state's maritime capabilities. These projects also aim to further India's maritime-based development strategy. The projects were launched by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal. He launched these projects while addressing the Viksit Bharat, Viksit Port program held in Chennai.



10. Recently, by which year does the government aim to eliminate child marriage in India under the Child Marriage Free India campaign?

- (A) 2027 (B) 2028
(C) 2030 (D) 2032

(C) This campaign aims to reduce the child marriage rate to 10% by 2026. It also aims to make India child marriage-free by 2030. This initiative was launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in November 2024. Its main objective is to eliminate child marriage across the country. Balod district of Chhattisgarh has become the first child marriage-free district in India.



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