RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

MONTH

January 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

January 2026

Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **Padma Awards 2026 Announced:** The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the Padma Awards 2026 on Republic Day eve, conferring awards across art, public affairs, science, literature, and unsung grassroots heroes.
- **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026:** Announced on Parakram Diwas (Jan 23) by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to honor exemplary disaster management and risk reduction work.
- **National Startup Awards 2026:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) felicitated innovative Indian startups on National Startup Day (Jan 16) across green mobility and agri-tech.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2026:** Conferred upon distinguished members of the Indian diaspora for advancing international trade, public service, and bilateral relations.
- **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal & Gallantry Honours:** President Droupadi Murmu approved military gallantry awards on the 77th Republic Day to armed forces personnel for supreme valor in counter-terror operations.
- **National Clean Air City Awards 2026:** Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan declared top-ranking municipal corporations in the million-plus population category for exceptional particulate matter reduction.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **83rd Golden Globe Awards:** Celebrated world cinema excellence in Los Angeles, recognizing outstanding achievements in feature film acting, drama directing, and television mini-series.
- **FIFA The Best Football Awards 2025/26:** Global football icons were awarded the Men's and Women's Best Player honors in London for continental and international dominance.
- **CBE & International Honors:** Indian-origin scientists and technology entrepreneurs received prestigious civilian orders from the British monarchy for pioneering AI and clean-tech research.
- **Global Climate Resilience Recognition:** Indian coastal disaster mitigation systems received high commendation from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **Chairman & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board:** Appointed to steer high-speed rail corridor expansions, zero-fatality railway safety initiatives, and pan-India Kavach deployment.
- **Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy:** Senior Vice Admiral took over the principal staff appointment overseeing logistics modernization, indigenous warship design, and dockyard automation.

- **Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA):** Senior IPS officer took charge to lead specialized counter-terrorism enforcement and interstate terror-financing investigations.
- **President of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA):** Renowned scientist assumed leadership for the 110th Indian Science Congress deliberations on deep tech and bio-economy.
- **Managing Director of National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL):** Senior infrastructure engineer assumed charge to fast-track bullet train construction between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- **Member (Traffic & Operations), Railway Board:** Appointed to streamline freight loading corridors, dedicated freight corridor (DFC) operations, and Amrit Bharat rake scheduling.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **Prime Minister of Japan:** Diplomatic and trade summits convened following high-level cabinet reshuffles in Tokyo, reaffirming Indo-Pacific maritime security cooperation.
- **Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):** Senior international environmental administrator assumed global portfolio responsibilities in Nairobi.
- **President of the UN Security Council (Rotating):** Strategic rotating presidency assumed with focused debates on maritime transit security and multilateral peace operations.
- **India's Permanent Representative to WTO:** Senior career diplomat assumed charge in Geneva ahead of high-level multilateral ministerial rounds on global agricultural subsidies.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Renowned Classical Music Exponent:** Eminent classical vocalist and Padma awardee passed away at 88, widely mourned across India's traditional music gharanas.
- **Passing of Veteran Railway Architect:** Chief engineer instrumental in the planning of the Konkan Railway and pioneering high-altitude bridge designs passed away.
- **Rohan Bopanna in News:** Veteran tennis doubles champion announced final competitive tour appearances, celebrated for longevity and inspiring youth athletics.
- **Deepika Padukone in News:** Represented Indian arts and cinema on international jury panels at prestigious European film festivals.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana Next Phase:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy rolled out expanded financing subsidies for rural rooftop solarization, targeting 1 crore households.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission Expansion:** Union Government awarded additional manufacturing incentives for domestic alkaline and PEM electrolyzer assembly under SIGHT Programme.
- **Mission Karmayogi Digital Competency Framework:** Department of Personnel and Training integrated AI and data-driven governance modules for all central civil services.
- **PM-eBus Sewa Urban Rollout:** Deployment of over 3,000 electric buses commenced across tier-2 and tier-3 cities to accelerate green public transit corridors.

- **One Nation One Student ID (APAAR):** Ministry of Education crossed a historic registration milestone, linking academic credits digitally with the DigiLocker ecosystem.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Yuva Sambal Yojana (Rajasthan):** State government initiated revamped skill training stipends and employment exchange integration for unemployed graduates.
- **Gruha Jyothi Scheme Milestone (Karnataka):** Successfully achieved 100% digital verification for free domestic electricity consumption up to 200 units across rural districts.
- **Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam Phase 2 (Tamil Nadu):** Distribution of monthly ₹1,000 financial security assistance expanded to over 1.15 crore eligible women heads of households.
- **Mukhyamantri Bal Ashirwad Yojana (Madhya Pradesh):** Financial assistance granted to orphaned youth transitioning into vocational training and technical diploma programs.
- **Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha Infrastructure Drives:** Dedicated development grants disbursed for preserving heritage village shrines, rural sports grounds, and digital village panchats.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Kavach 5.0 Pan-India Tender Rollout:** Indian Railways finalized tenders to install Kavach automatic train protection along 10,000 route kilometers of Golden Quadrilateral and diagonal corridors.
- **Vande Bharat Sleeper Commercial Run:** First commercial service of the 16-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper train commenced, featuring state-of-the-art crashworthiness, semi-permanent couplers, and ergonomic berths.
- **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL):** Final commercial train operational clearance completed on the Katra-Reasi-Banihal stretch, connecting Kashmir Valley seamlessly with the national railway network.
- **Hydrogen Train Trials in Northern Railway:** Trial runs of India's first indigenously designed hydrogen-powered fuel-cell passenger train conducted on the Jind-Sonipat section.
- **Mission 100% Electrification Milestone:** Indian Railways announced over 97% of broad gauge network electrified, moving closer to becoming the world's largest net-zero carbon railway by 2030.
- **Amrit Bharat Station Modernization Phase 1:** Over 150 modernized railway stations opened to passengers with airport-style concourses, roof plazas, and Divyangjan-friendly amenities.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026:** Commenced with thrilling opening matches across Zimbabwe and Namibia, featuring emerging talents from 16 global teams.
- **Border-Gavaskar Trophy Conclusion:** The historic 5-match Test series in Australia concluded with nail-biting finishes across Melbourne and Sydney fixtures.
- **Ranji Trophy 2025–26 Elite Stage:** Elite groups entered crucial knockout rounds with domestic stalwarts scoring record double tons and left-arm spinners dominating rank turners.
- **ICC Player of the Month (December/January):** International Cricket Council recognized top all-round match-winning performances across international bilateral series.

Hockey, Football & Tennis

- **FIH Hockey Pro League 2025–26 (India Leg):** Indian Men's and Women's hockey teams commenced their high-intensity home fixtures at Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela and Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- **Australian Open 2026:** Grand Slam tennis action kicked off in Melbourne with top seeds contending in Men's and Women's Singles and wheelchair tennis divisions.
- **Super Cup 2026 Football:** India's premier knockout football tournament staged intense clashes among Indian Super League (ISL) and I-League clubs in Goa and Kerala.
- **AFC Women's Club Championship:** Indian women's football league champions showcased resilient tactical defenses against continental powerhouses in regional rounds.

Chess, Badminton & Multi-Sport

- **Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2026 (Wijk aan Zee):** India's young Grandmasters challenged world elite champions in classical and rapid formats in the Netherlands.
- **India Open Super 750 (Badminton):** Organized at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, featuring top international shuttlers battling for valuable Olympic and World Tour points.
- **Khelo India Youth Games 2026:** Staged with grand opening ceremonies showcasing indigenous sports such as Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, and Gatka alongside Olympic athletic disciplines.
- **National Shooting Trials 2026:** Conducted at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges, finalizing national squads for upcoming ISSF World Cups and Asian championships.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **Gaganyaan Integrated Air-Drop Test (IADT):** ISRO conducted successful parachute and deceleration testing for the Gaganyaan crew module, validating emergency escape and oceanic splashdown sequences.
- **Aditya-L1 Halo Orbit Solar Insights:** India's premier solar observatory Aditya-L1 completed continuous observation cycles from the L1 Lagrangian point, capturing intense solar flares and coronal mass ejections.
- **SSLV-D4 Commercial Readiness:** ISRO finalized protocols for transferring the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology to private domestic aerospace consortia.
- **Chandrayaan-4 Architecture Finalization:** Department of Space reviewed the multi-launch and in-space docking architecture for India's upcoming lunar sample return mission.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **Agni-Prime New Generation Ballistic Missile:** Strategic Forces Command conducted successful night user trials of the canisterised road-mobile Agni-Prime missile off the Odisha coast.
- **Induction of Zorawar Light Tanks:** Prototype field evaluations of DRDO's high-altitude 'Zorawar' light tank concluded in Ladakh, demonstrating high mobility in snow and steep terrain.

- **Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket System Exports:** Defense manufacturing hubs expanded assembly lines to fulfill export orders of the Pinaka advanced guided rocket system to friendly foreign nations.
- **Naval BrahMos Extended-Range Test:** Indian Navy carried out successful long-range precision strikes with the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from an indigenous guided-missile destroyer.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **Param Ananta & National Supercomputing Grid:** Supercomputer computational hours allocated to vaccine discovery, genomic sequencing, and climate forecasting across premier IITs.
- **National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission:** Health Ministry reached a key milestone of screening over 2 crore indigenous tribal individuals in central and western states.
- **Sovereign LLM Development:** MeitY and Bhashini launched multilingual foundation AI models supporting 22 scheduled Indian languages to enhance grassroots governance.
- **Indigenous Vaccine for Dengue:** Phase-III human clinical trials for India's first quadrivalent dengue vaccine candidate completed advanced patient enrollment.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026:** Convened in Davos, Switzerland, bringing together global policymakers under the theme of navigating geopolitical fragmentation and AI ethics.
- **110th Indian Science Congress:** Hosted with participation from Nobel laureates, scientific academies, and youth innovators, deliberating on sustainable clean tech.
- **Voice of Global South Summit (4th Edition):** Hosted virtually by India, focusing on unified Global South perspectives, resilient supply chains, and green development financing.
- **Raisina Dialogue 2026 Preparations:** Observer Research Foundation and MEA finalized thematic tracks on geopolitics, maritime security, and digital public goods.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **Budget Session of Parliament Commences:** President Droupadi Murmu addressed the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament, outlining economic priorities and social welfare roadmaps.
- **Economic Survey 2025–26 Tabled:** Ministry of Finance presented the annual economic report highlighting GDP growth trajectories, fiscal discipline, and industrial output.
- **National Research Foundation (ANRF) Grant Rollout:** Anusandhan National Research Foundation opened funding portals to finance university-level fundamental science and industry joint-ventures.
- **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules:** Central Government notified comprehensive operational guidelines and Data Protection Board adjudication frameworks.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC):** Bilateral ministerial talks advanced discussions on resilient semiconductor supply lines, green transition, and clean energy standards.

- **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership:** Negotiating delegations formalized mutual tariff concessions and relaxed visa processes for specialized professionals.
- **Colombo Security Conclave Ministerial:** Member nations agreed on enhanced radar intelligence sharing, anti-smuggling sweeps, and maritime rescue operations in the Indian Ocean.
- **India-Central Asia Strategic Consultations:** Foreign ministers reviewed Chabahar Port transit corridors and humanitarian assistance protocols for landlocked regional states.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'Bapu's Compass: Navigating 21st Century Crises':** Authored by veteran historian analyzing the contemporary relevance of Gandhian non-violence and socio-economic ethics.
- **'The Steel Spine: Building Modern Indian Railways':** Authored by senior transport economist chronicling the transition from steam locomotives to high-speed Vande Bharat and Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- **'Silicon & Soil: The Story of Indian Agri-Tech':** Authored by technology analyst exploring grassroots digital interventions and drone revolution in Indian agriculture.
- **'Courage Beyond Frontiers':** Memoir authored by a decorated retired Lieutenant General recounting high-altitude tactical battles and border management along the Line of Actual Control.
- **'Echoes of the Loom: India's Handloom Heritage':** Written by prominent textile designer documenting endangered tribal weaving techniques and natural dyeing traditions.

Important Days & Themes

- **January 1 – Global Family Day:** Celebrated globally to promote universal peace, intercultural brotherhood, and harmonious coexistence.
- **January 4 – World Braille Day:** Commemorating the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, highlighting accessibility and human rights for visually impaired individuals.
- **January 9 – Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day):** Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to Mumbai in 1915, honoring the diaspora's contributions.
- **January 10 – World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas):** Celebrating the global propagation of Hindi, commemorating the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975.
- **January 12 – National Youth Day:** Commemorating the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, inspiring youth with ideals of national service and self-discipline.
- **January 15 – Indian Army Day:** Marking General (later Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa taking over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949.
- **January 16 – National Startup Day:** Promoting innovation, entrepreneurial ecosystems, and unicorn incubation across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in India.
- **January 23 – Parakram Diwas:** Commemorating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, honoring his indomitable courage and leadership of the Azad Hind Fauj.
- **January 24 – National Girl Child Day & International Day of Education:** Advocating for equal education, nutrition, and child rights; UN Day of Education theme focused on inclusive learning.

- **January 25 – National Voters' Day:** Commemorating the foundation of the Election Commission of India (1950); Theme centered on empowering active civic participation.
- **January 25 – National Tourism Day:** Promoting sustainable domestic travel and rural community-based eco-tourism under 'Dekho Apna Desh'.
- **January 26 – Republic Day (India) & International Customs Day:** Celebrating the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950 with the grand 77th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path.
- **January 28 – Data Privacy Day:** Raising global awareness on personal data protection, digital consent, and safeguarding consumer privacy rights.
- **January 30 – Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas):** Commemorating the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi; observed with two minutes of solemn silence nationwide.
- **January 30 – World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day:** Mobilizing global health resources to control and eradicate preventable tropical diseases affecting vulnerable populations.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **GI Applications for Tribal Crafts of Jharkhand:** Jharkhand state handloom corporations submitted GI protection filings for traditional Sohrai and Khovar mural artforms.
- **Bastar Iron Craft GI Protection Enforcement:** Chhattisgarh artisan federations launched authentication barcode tagging to combat industrial imitation of handcrafted Bastar tribal ironwork.
- **Pashmina & Kani Shawl Export Hub:** Jammu & Kashmir administration established testing and certification facilities to ensure GI-tagged authenticity for global buyers.
- **Kandhamal Haldi Brand Expansion:** Odisha agricultural marketing federations initiated direct export consignments of organic GI-tagged Kandhamal turmeric to international markets.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's Highest Railway Pier Bridge (Noney Bridge, Manipur):** Northeast Frontier Railway completed construction of the world's tallest railway pier bridge towering at 141 meters.
- **World's Largest River Island Electric Connectivity:** Majuli in Assam achieved 100% underground high-tension cable electrification across the Brahmaputra river channel.
- **First Fully Solar-Powered Railway Station in North East:** Guwahati and neighboring regional transit hubs expanded solar arrays to supply entire auxiliary power needs.
- **Longest High-Speed Rail Sea Tunnel:** Excavation commenced on India's first 21-km undersea tunnel between BKC and Shilphata on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **Santiniketan Heritage Management Plan:** UNESCO and Ministry of Culture finalized the comprehensive buffer-zone conservation framework for Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan.
- **Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas Tourism Circuit:** Karnataka tourism launched dedicated heritage rail circuits connecting Belur, Halebidu, and Somanathapura World Heritage sites.
- **India's Nominations for UNESCO 2026 Cycle:** Dossiers finalized showcasing the Maratha Military Landscapes and historic stepwells of Gujarat for World Heritage inscription.

- **Living Root Bridges (Jingkieng Jri):** Meghalaya forest department and UNESCO advisory teams conducted conservation audits for prospective World Heritage natural-cultural listing.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **Nishagandhi Dance Festival 2026:** Kerala Tourism inaugurated the prestigious classical festival in Thiruvananthapuram, featuring eminent Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Mohiniyattam exponents.
- **Centenary Tributes to Classical Maestros:** Cultural bodies across India celebrated the 100th birth anniversaries of veteran Kathak and Manipuri gurus who shaped institutional training.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Utsav:** National academy organized regional festivals honoring master instrument makers and accompanists of traditional temple dance ballets.
- **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar:** Conferred upon rising young exponents of classical vocal, instrumental, and classical dance forms to encourage youth preservation of Indian heritage.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Initiatives & Conservation Reports

- **State of India's Environment Report 2026 Released:** Highlighted progress in renewable capacity while calling for aggressive municipal solid waste management and river rejuvenation.
- **Project Snow Leopard Conservation Assessment:** Wildlife Institute of India completed camera-trap census in Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh, confirming stable high-altitude snow leopard populations.
- **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) Annual Review:** Declared expanding prey-base densities and zero poaching incidents across selected central Indian tiger reserves.
- **E-Waste Management Rules Compliance Drive:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) penalized non-compliant electronic equipment manufacturers for failing extended producer responsibility targets.
- **Floating Solar Installation on Reservoir:** Madhya Pradesh added new floating solar photovoltaic arrays across the Bansagar reservoir, cutting evaporative water loss and producing clean energy.
- **International Wetland City Accreditation:** Indian municipal cities submitted candidatures for Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation, recognizing urban lake conservation.
- **Arunachal Pradesh Rainforest Survey:** Botanists identified a new endemic orchid species belonging to the genus Dendrobium in the pristine Namdapha National Park.
- **Mission LiFE Community Drives:** Over 50,000 schools and panchayats organized cyclothons and plastic collection campaigns under Lifestyle for Environment.
- **National Coastal Mission Mangrove Restoration:** Target achieved for planting over 5,000 hectares of diverse mangrove saplings along cyclone-prone Odisha and West Bengal coastlines.
- **Deepor Beel Eco-Sensitive Zone Notification:** Ministry of Environment finalized the eco-sensitive buffer perimeter around Assam's sole Ramsar wetland site to halt urban encroachment.
- **Renewable Energy Grid Integration Milestone:** Central Electricity Authority reported that non-fossil fuel capacity accounted for over 46% of total installed power generation in India.
- **CPCB Air Quality Early Warning System:** Enhanced computational models integrated into Delhi-NCR pollution monitoring to forecast dust storm trajectories and stubble burning impact.

- **Odisha Olive Ridley Turtle Mass Nesting Preparations:** Forest department placed trawler bans and artificial barrier nets along Gahirmatha and Rushikulya rookeries ahead of mass nesting.
- **Himalayan Glaciological Monitoring Cell:** Ministry of Earth Sciences deployed automated weather and ice-melt monitoring stations across Gangotri and Siachen glaciers.

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