

CLAT Tribe

Current Affairs & GK

January 2026

Comprehensive Summary for CLAT Preparation

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1. National Affairs

Infrastructure & Transport

- **Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train:** A major milestone was achieved with the completion of a 100-metre steel bridge in Ahmedabad on January 29, 2026. Built entirely under the Make in India initiative, the bridge was constructed above an underground metro tunnel between Kalupur and Shahpur stations with a special design ensuring no load is transferred to the metro structure.
- **First Sleeper Vande Bharat Train:** India launched its first sleeper version of the Vande Bharat train in January 2026, enhancing overnight travel options.
- **Haryana's Hydrogen-Powered Train:** Haryana announced plans to launch India's first hydrogen-powered train, marking a significant step toward green transportation.
- **Indian Railways Electrification:** By November 2025, India became the world's largest electrified rail network with approximately 99.2% of its broad-gauge network electrified.

Cultural Heritage & Artifacts

- **Return of Ancient Sculptures:** On January 30, 2026, the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art announced it would return three ancient bronze sculptures to India: a 10th-century Chola Shiva Nataraja, a 12th-century Chola Somaskanda, and a 16th-century Vijayanagar sculpture of Saint Sundarar with Paravai. These sacred temple icons were illegally removed from South India decades ago.

Agriculture & Fisheries

- **Open-Sea Marine Fish Farming:** India launched its first open-sea marine fish farming project in January 2026, expanding aquaculture capabilities.
- **Tropical Rainbow Trout Farm:** On January 5, 2026, India's first commercial-scale tropical Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS)-based Rainbow Trout Aquaculture Farm & Research Institute was inaugurated in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Mining & Resources

- **First Tailings Policy:** India introduced its first Tailings Policy to recover critical minerals from mining waste, promoting resource efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- **Bio-Bitumen Production:** India became the first country to commercially produce bio-bitumen in January 2026, derived from renewable sources as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based bitumen.

Technology & Digital Initiatives

- **BSNL VoWiFi Services:** Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) services across all telecom circles in India on New Year's Day 2026. This Internet Protocol Multimedia Subsystem (IMS)-based service enables voice calls over Wi-Fi networks.
- **Aadhaar Mascot 'Udai':** UIDAI launched the Aadhaar mascot 'Udai' on January 9, 2026, to make Aadhaar services more people-friendly and accessible.
- **India's Broadband Growth:** India's broadband subscribers crossed the 100 crore (1 billion) mark in January 2026, marking a significant digital milestone.
- **ECINET Platform:** The Election Commission of India launched ECINET, a one-stop digital platform for all election-related information and services, during the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management (IICDEM) 2026.

Judiciary & Legal Developments

- **First Paperless District Court:** Chief Justice of India Surya Kant inaugurated India's first fully paperless district court in Kalpetta, Kerala, on January 9, 2026, setting a new standard for digital judiciary.
- **Supreme Court on Unreserved Seats:** On January 17, 2026, the Supreme Court ruled that unreserved seats are open to all candidates on merit, clarifying reservation policies.
- **Blocking of Illegal Websites:** The government blocked 242 illegal betting and gambling website links on January 17, 2026, as part of its crackdown on online illegal activities.

Major Infrastructure Projects

- **PPP Project Pipeline:** On January 7, 2026, the Centre unveiled a ₹17 lakh crore Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project pipeline for the next three years, covering infrastructure development across various sectors.
- **Kamala Hydroelectric Project:** The PIB approved the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh on January 10, 2026, which will contribute to clean energy generation.
- **Vishnugad-Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project:** This run-of-river hydropower project on the Alaknanda River in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district is expected to generate about 1,665 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually.

Security & Intelligence

- **National IED Data System:** Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National IED (Improvised Explosive Device) Data System on January 10, 2026, to aid in terror attack investigations and enhance national security.
- **NATGRID Expansion:** The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) saw major expansion in January 2026, including integration with the National Population Register (NPR) and wider access for state police forces.

Environment & Conservation

- **Ramsar Sites Addition:** Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand were added to the Ramsar list of important wetlands on January 31, 2026, bringing recognition to these ecologically significant areas.
- **Second Dolphin Survey:** The second range-wide dolphin survey was launched on January 19, 2026, under Project Dolphin to assess and conserve Ganges and Indus river dolphin populations.

Defense Technology

- **Ramjet-Powered Artillery Shells:** The Indian Army became the first armed force globally to operationally deploy ramjet-powered artillery shells for 155mm guns. These advanced projectiles enhance range by 30-50% and are compatible with existing artillery inventory including the M777 ultra-light howitzer.

Literature & Culture

- **NAMO Book Fest:** Dr. Jitendra Singh released 'Gen V Bano' and 'Mahatma' at India's First NAMO Book Fest on January 17, 2026.
- **New Delhi World Book Fair 2026:** The fair opened with free entry and paid tribute to India's Armed Forces in January 2026.
- **Conference on Indian Languages:** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated an International Conference on Indian Languages on January 10, 2026, promoting linguistic diversity and heritage.

Social & Economic Developments

- **Trademark Registrations:** India recorded over 5.5 lakh trademark registrations in 2024-25, reflecting robust business and innovation activity.
- **FDI in Insurance:** The Finance Ministry notified 100% FDI rules for the insurance sector on December 31, 2025, liberalizing the sector further.
- **8th Pay Commission:** The 8th Pay Commission became effective from January 1, 2026, potentially impacting central government employees' salaries.

2. International Affairs

United States

- **Donald Trump's Return:** Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, 2026, after defeating Kamala Harris in the 2024 elections. At 79, he returned to the White House following a significant political comeback.
- **Cuba National Emergency:** President Trump declared a national emergency regarding Cuba to impose tariffs on countries providing oil to Cuba, which Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla described as 'a total fuel blockade.'
- **US Trade Policy:** The Trump administration continued its tariff-focused trade policy, imposing 10% duties on almost all countries worldwide as part of 'Liberation Day' policies, creating uncertainty in global markets.
- **International Solar Alliance Exit:** The US exited the International Solar Alliance in January 2026, signaling a shift toward more transactional diplomacy.

Venezuela

- **Political Developments:** Following significant political developments, Venezuelans regained access to social network X after more than a year of blockage. Nicaragua released dozens of political prisoners after US demands in January 2026.

European Union & Europe

- **Bulgaria Adopts Euro:** Bulgaria adopted the euro on January 1, 2026, replacing the lev and becoming the 21st member of the eurozone.
- **Cyprus EU Presidency:** Cyprus took over the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union on January 1, 2026.
- **Russia Blacklisted:** The European Union blacklisted Russia in January 2026 due to money laundering risks, as part of sanctions during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- **IRGC Designated as Terrorist Organization:** The EU designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organization in response to crackdowns on protests.
- **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism:** The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) took effect on January 1, 2026, imposing carbon tariffs on imports.

United Nations & Global Governance

- **UNSC Membership Changes:** On January 1, 2026, Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Latvia, and Liberia joined the UN Security Council as non-permanent members, replacing Algeria, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and South Korea.

- **ECOSOC 80th Anniversary:** The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) commemorated its 80th anniversary on January 23, 2026.
- **High Seas Treaty:** The High Seas Treaty (BBNJ Treaty) entered into force in 60 UN member states in January 2026, establishing a framework for conserving marine biodiversity in international waters.
- **International Year of Cooperatives:** The UN declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives, with India emerging as a global leader with over 8.5 lakh registered cooperatives and 32 crore members.
- **International Year for Rangelands:** The UN declared 2026 as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists, focusing attention on grassland ecosystems.

Asia-Pacific

- **China's Type 096 Submarine:** China unveiled the Type 096 Tang-Class ballistic missile submarine, representing the most significant upgrade to its undersea nuclear capability.
- **South Korea Export Record:** South Korea recorded its highest annual export value of over US\$700 billion in 2025, driven by semiconductor shipments reaching \$173.4 billion.
- **Egypt Parliamentary Elections:** Egypt's National Elections Authority finalized parliamentary seats in January 2026, with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's allies retaining a two-thirds supermajority.

International Conferences & Summits

- **India-AI Impact Summit 2026:** Scheduled for February 19-20, 2026, in New Delhi, this is the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South, focusing on responsible AI cooperation.
- **IICDEM 2026:** The Election Commission of India hosted the India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management from January 21-23, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with nearly 100 international delegates from over 70 countries.

Trade & International Relations

- **India-EU FTA:** India is actively negotiating a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union, potentially to be signed during the bilateral summit in January 2026, despite sticking points on agriculture and pharmaceutical patents.
- **Global Economic Outlook:** The IMF projected global growth at 3.3% for 2026 and 3.2% for 2027 in its January 2026 World Economic Outlook update, with technology investment and fiscal support offsetting trade policy shifts.

Security & Conflicts

- **Israel-South Africa Tensions:** Israel expelled South Africa's chargé d'affaires in January 2026 to reciprocate South Africa's persona non grata declaration on the Israeli ambassador.

- **Niger Airport Attack:** Islamic State attacked the military section of Diori Hamani International Airport in Niamey, Niger, on January 29, 2026, killing 20 gunmen.
- **Pakistan Operations:** Pakistani security forces killed 41 insurgents in separate operations in Harnai and Panjgur districts on January 30, 2026.

3. Economy & Business

- **FDI in Insurance Sector:** The Finance Ministry notified 100% FDI rules for the insurance sector, opening up the sector for increased foreign investment.
- **PPP Project Pipeline:** The government unveiled a ₹17 lakh crore Public-Private Partnership project pipeline for infrastructure development over the next three years.
- **Pharmaceutical Exports:** Brazil and Nigeria emerged as key markets for Indian pharmaceutical exports in January 2026, expanding India's global pharma footprint.
- **Cooperative Movement:** India's cooperative sector, with over 8.5 lakh registered cooperatives serving 32 crore members, was highlighted as a model for inclusive development during the International Year of Cooperatives 2025.
- **Agricultural Subsidy Reforms:** Discussions in the 2026 Union Budget cycle focused on rationalizing food and fertilizer subsidies by potentially merging them into an augmented PM-Kisan scheme.
- **Broadband Subscribers Milestone:** India's broadband subscribers crossed the 100 crore mark in January 2026, reflecting rapid digital expansion.
- **Global Economic Growth:** The IMF projected global growth at 3.3% for 2026, revised slightly upward from October 2025 projections, with technology investment and accommodative financial conditions supporting growth.
- **Panama Canal Concession:** Panama's supreme court nullified CK Hutchison's concession to operate Balboa and Cristóbal ports at the Panama Canal as unconstitutional in January 2026.

4. Science & Technology

Space Technology

- **PSLV-C62 Mission:** ISRO began 2026 with the PSLV-C62 mission in January, launching the advanced surveillance satellite EOS-N1 (codenamed 'Anvesha') along with 18 co-passenger payloads. This hyperspectral Earth observation satellite enhances space-based surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities while supporting civil applications.

Artificial Intelligence

- **India-AI Impact Summit 2026:** India announced the first-ever global AI summit in the Global South, scheduled for February 19-20, 2026, in New Delhi, focusing on responsible, inclusive, and development-oriented AI cooperation.

Defense Technology

- **Ramjet-Powered Artillery:** India became the first country to operationally deploy ramjet-powered artillery shells for 155mm guns, enhancing range by 30-50% without increasing gun barrel length.

Telecommunications

- **VoWiFi Launch:** BSNL launched Voice over WiFi (VoWiFi) services across all telecom circles, enabling voice calls and messages over Wi-Fi networks using IMS-based technology.

Biotechnology & Materials

- **Biomanufacturing & PLA Facilities:** India's focus on biomanufacturing reached a climax with the operationalization of massive Polylactic Acid (PLA) facilities in early 2026, producing biodegradable materials from renewable feedstocks.
- **Bio-Bitumen Production:** India became the first country to commercially produce bio-bitumen, an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based bitumen.

Natural Phenomena

- **G4 Geomagnetic Storm:** A powerful G4 (Severe) Geomagnetic Storm in January 2026 created spectacular auroras visible across multiple continents, caused by sustained high-speed solar wind interacting with Earth's magnetosphere.
- **Mpemba Effect Explained:** Advanced supercomputing helped resolve the classical Mpemba paradox, demonstrating how hot water can freeze faster than cold water under specific conditions through multiple mechanisms.

5. Environment & Ecology

Conservation Initiatives

- **Ramsar Sites:** Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand were added to the Ramsar list of important wetlands on January 31, 2026, recognizing their ecological significance.
- **Project Dolphin:** The second range-wide dolphin survey was launched on January 19, 2026, to assess and conserve Ganges and Indus river dolphin populations.
- **Olive Ridley Turtle Conservation:** India hosts some of the world's largest arribada (mass nesting) sites for Olive Ridley turtles, making conservation actions internationally significant.

Global Initiatives

- **High Seas Treaty (BBNJ):** The treaty entered into force in 60 UN member states in January 2026, establishing frameworks for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs) benefit-sharing, and capacity building for developing countries.
- **International Year for Rangelands:** The UN declared 2026 as the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists, highlighting that grasslands cover ~40% of Earth's land surface and store nearly 90% of their carbon below ground.
- **COP30 Outcomes:** The closure of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, revealed challenges in multilateral climate governance, with only 122 countries submitting fresh climate plans and ongoing debates about fossil fuel phase-out.

Biomaterials & Sustainability

- **Biomaterials Development:** India's focus on biomaterials derived from renewable sources like sugarcane, maize, agricultural residues, and even waste materials advanced significantly, supporting the transition to sustainable materials.

Marine Conservation

- **Open-Sea Aquaculture:** India launched its first open-sea marine fish farming project, balancing food security with environmental sustainability.

6. Sports

Cricket

- **T20 World Cup 2024 Victory:** India won the T20 World Cup 2024 under captain Rohit Sharma's leadership.
- **Champions Trophy 2025:** India won the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 under Rohit Sharma's captaincy.
- **Women's ODI World Cup:** The Indian women's cricket team won their maiden ODI World Cup in 2025 under captain Harmanpreet Kaur.
- **IND vs NZ Series:** New Zealand won their first-ever ODI series on Indian soil in January 2026, defeating India 2-1.

Hockey

- **Women's Hockey India League:** SG Pipers Hockey defeated Shrachi Bengal Tigers in a penalty shootout to win the inaugural Women's Hockey India League title in January 2026.
- **Michael Nobbs Passes Away:** Respected Australian hockey figure Michael Nobbs, who coached the Indian men's team to the 2012 London Olympics, passed away in January 2026. He earned 76 international caps for Australia (1979-1985).

Kho Kho

- **National Championships:** The 11th National Kho Kho Championship 2026 was held in Panchkula, Haryana (January 1-4), followed by the 58th Senior National in Kazipet, Telangana (January 11-15), and the 35th Sub-Junior Nationals in Kurukshetra, Haryana (January 31-February 4).

Tennis

- **Australian Open 2026:** Carlos Alcaraz defeated Alexander Zverev in the men's singles semifinal at the Australian Open in a historic 5 hour and 27 minute match, the longest semifinal in tournament history.

Domestic Cricket

- **Vijay Hazare Trophy:** Vidarbha defeated Saurashtra by 38 runs in January 2026 to win their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title.

Major Upcoming Events

- **2026 Men's T20 World Cup:** To be hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

- **2026 Commonwealth Games:** Scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland.
- **2026 Asian Games:** To be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

7. Awards & Honors

Padma Awards 2026

Announced on the eve of the 77th Republic Day, the Padma Awards 2026 recognized 131 individuals across various fields, including 19 women, 6 foreign nationals, and 16 posthumous honors.

Padma Vibhushan (Posthumous):

- Former Kerala Chief Minister V.S. Achuthanandhan
- Veteran Bollywood actor Dharmendra Singh Deol

Padma Bhushan - Sports:

- **Vijay Amritraj (Tennis):** The only sportsperson to receive Padma Bhushan in 2026. A trailblazer in Indian tennis, he reached world No. 18 in singles (1980), represented India at Seoul 1988 Olympics, and reached four Grand Slam singles quarterfinals. Previously awarded Padma Shri in 1983.

Padma Shri - Sports:

- **Rohit Sharma (Cricket):** World Cup-winning captain who led India to T20 World Cup 2024 and Champions Trophy 2025 victories.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur (Cricket):** Captain of the Indian women's cricket team that won their maiden ODI World Cup in 2025.
- **Savita Punia (Hockey):** Vice-captain of India's women's hockey team during their historic fourth-place finish at Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- **Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Wrestling - Posthumous):** Legendary Georgian wrestling coach who trained Olympic medalists Yogeshwar Dutt, Sushil Kumar, Ravi Dahiya, and Bajrang Punia.
- **Baldev Singh (Hockey Coaching):** Veteran hockey coach recognized for his contributions to Indian hockey.
- **Praveen Kumar (Para-Athletics)**
- **Bhagwandas Raikwar (Sports)**
- **K. Pajanivel (Sports)**

National Sports Awards 2025

Nominations announced in December 2025:

- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna:** Hardik Singh (Hockey) - India's vice-captain with back-to-back Hockey India Player of the Year awards (2022, 2023) and FIH Player of the Year

2023.

- **Arjuna Award Nominees (24 athletes):** Including Tejaswin Shankar (athletics), Priyanka Goswami (athletics), Narender Berwal (boxing), Vudit Gujrathi (chess), Divya Deshmukh (chess), Pranati Nayak (gymnastics), Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand (badminton), Mehuli Ghosh (shooting), and notably, Aarti Pal became the first yogasana athlete nominated for the Arjuna Award.

Other Notable Awards

- **Grassroots Honors:** Anke Gowda (75), whose Pustak Mane library houses over two million books, was recognized in the Padma Awards.

8. Important Dates & Events

International Observances

- **International Year of Cooperatives 2025:** Declared by the United Nations to highlight the role of cooperatives in inclusive development.
- **International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026:** UN declaration focusing on grasslands and pastoral communities.

Key Dates in January 2026

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| January 1 | Bulgaria adopts Euro; Cyprus begins EU Council Presidency; UNSC membership changes; 8th P |
| January 1 | BSNL launches VoWiFi services nationwide |
| January 5 | First tropical RAS-based Rainbow Trout Farm inaugurated in Hyderabad |
| January 7 | ■17 lakh crore PPP project pipeline announced |
| January 8 | PSLV-C62 mission launched with EOS-N1 satellite |
| January 9 | UIDAI launches Aadhaar mascot 'Udai' |
| January 9 | First fully paperless district court inaugurated in Kalpetta, Kerala |
| January 10 | National IED Data System inaugurated |
| January 10 | Kamala Hydroelectric Project approved |
| January 10 | International Conference on Indian Languages inaugurated |
| January 17 | Supreme Court ruling on unreserved seats |
| January 17 | 242 illegal betting websites blocked |
| January 19 | Second dolphin survey launched under Project Dolphin |
| January 20 | Donald Trump inaugurated as 47th US President |
| January 21-23 | IICDEM 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi |
| January 23 | ECOSOC 80th anniversary |
| January 25 | Padma Awards 2026 announced (eve of Republic Day) |
| January 26 | 77th Republic Day of India |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| January 29 | Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train bridge completed |
| January 30 | Smithsonian announces return of three ancient sculptures to India |
| January 31 | Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand added to Ramsar list |

Upcoming Important Dates

- **February 6, 2026:** Milan Olympics Opening Ceremony
- **February 19-20, 2026:** India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi
- **April 28, 2026:** Padma Awards presentation ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan
- **December 2026:** India-Bangladesh Ganga Water Sharing Treaty (1996) expires; renewal talks expected

Quick Reference - Key Terms & Abbreviations

| | |
|----------------|---|
| BBNJ | Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (High Seas Treaty) |
| BSNL | Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited |
| CBAM | Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism |
| DGMS | Directorate General of Mines Safety |
| ECI | Election Commission of India |
| ECINET | ECI's one-stop digital platform for election information |
| ECOSOC | United Nations Economic and Social Council |
| EOS-N1 | Earth Observation Satellite (Anvesha) |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment |
| FTA | Free Trade Agreement |
| IED | Improvised Explosive Device |
| IICDEM | India International Conference on Democracy and Election Management |
| IIIDEM | India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IMS | Internet Protocol Multimedia Subsystem |
| IRGC | Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (Iran) |
| ISRO | Indian Space Research Organisation |
| MPA | Marine Protected Area |
| NATGRID | National Intelligence Grid |
| NPR | National Population Register |
| PIB | Press Information Bureau / Public Investment Board |
| PLA | Polylactic Acid (biodegradable plastic) |
| PPP | Public-Private Partnership |
| PSLV | Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle |
| RAS | Recirculating Aquaculture System |
| UIDAI | Unique Identification Authority of India |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| UNSC | United Nations Security Council |
| VoWiFi | Voice over WiFi |

CLAT Preparation Tips

For effective CLAT preparation using current affairs:

- 1. Read Regularly:** Make it a habit to read current affairs daily rather than cramming at the last moment. This document provides a comprehensive monthly overview, but daily updates are equally important.
- 2. Connect with Static GK:** Link current events with your static GK knowledge. For example, when reading about the Ramsar sites, revise the concept of wetland conservation and other Ramsar sites in India.
- 3. Focus on Legal Implications:** Always think about the legal and constitutional aspects of current events. Supreme Court judgments, new laws, and policy changes are particularly important.
- 4. Make Notes:** Create concise notes with key facts, dates, and figures. Use abbreviations and maintain a personal quick-reference guide.
- 5. Practice Questions:** After reading this summary, attempt practice questions based on these topics to reinforce your learning.
- 6. Revise Regularly:** Current affairs require regular revision. Review this document multiple times before your exam.

Note to Students

This comprehensive summary has been prepared specifically for CLAT aspirants, covering all major events, developments, and news from January 2026. The information is organized thematically to facilitate better understanding and retention. For the most current updates beyond this document, continue to follow reliable news sources and the CLAT Tribe platform.

Best wishes for your CLAT preparation!

Team CLAT Tribe