CURRENT AFFAIRS ON 05.01.2026

POCKET INFO

1. **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** unveiled its **new logo and official mascot 'Sankhyiki (सांख्यिकी)'** in **New Delhi, Delhi**. This initiative marks an important step towards **modernising the ministry's institutional identity**, strengthening **public outreach**, and reinforcing the importance of **official statistics in national development**.The launch aligns with the central theme **"Data for Development"**, highlighting the growing role of **reliable, timely, and transparent data** in evidence-based policymaking and governance.

2. In a major step towards modernising its operational capabilities, the **Indian Army (IA)** has officially declared **2026 as the 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'**. This announcement was made in **January 2026** under the leadership of the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi**, as part of the Army's long-term vision for building a **future-ready, technology-driven force**.The initiative highlights the Army's growing focus on **digital integration, real-time data sharing, and data-driven decision-making**, which are essential for modern warfare.

3. China has recently strengthened its naval power by commissioning a new advanced warship named **Loudi**. This development highlights how quickly the **Chinese Navy** is expanding its fleet in order to match or challenge the **naval strength of the United States**. The **Loudi** is a **Type 052D guided missile destroyer** inducted into the **People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy**.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Rani Velu Nachiyar on her birth anniversary, recalling her as one of India's bravest and most visionary rulers. In a message shared on social media platform X, he described her as a valiant warrior who embodied courage, tactical mastery, and the spirit of self-rule. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also honoured her legacy, calling her a pioneer of women's leadership who challenged British colonial authority with innovation and resolve.

5. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has established a Live Events Development Cell (LEDC) to facilitate the expansion of India's fast-growing "concert economy". The initiative aims to strengthen the live events ecosystem, boost employment generation, and enhance tourism, positioning India as a major global destination for live entertainment.

6. The Telangana Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed four Bills, including a key amendment to the Panchayat Raj law that removes the long-standing two-child norm for contesting local body elections. The move marks a significant policy shift reflecting changing demographic realities in the State.

7. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has announced the winners of four creative challenges organised under the Badalta Bharat Mera Anubhav campaign. The initiative invited citizens to share personal stories and creative expressions reflecting India's transformation over the last 11 year. The campaign was organised by the "Ministry of Information and Broadcasting" in collaboration with the "MyGov" platform. Aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047

8. The Union Government has taken a major step towards strengthening India's agricultural resilience with the release of 184 new crop varieties developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The move is aimed at improving productivity, climate resilience, and farmers' incomes while reinforcing the country's food security.

9. The Union Government has removed the mandatory three-year existence requirement for deep-tech startups to gain recognition under the Industrial Research and Development Promotion (IRDP) programme of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The move is aimed at accelerating innovation and enabling early-stage deep-tech firms to scale faster.

10. The President of India graced a special programme under Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) Programme. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The programme aims to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning into school education and training systems. It prepares students and teachers for a fast-changing digital world and AI-based careers. The government has allocated ₹500 crore to set up a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for Education.

Traditional World cuisine

- **Angolan cuisine consists of several dishes popular among nationals and foreigners, a fusion of indigenous African and Portuguese influences. These may include *funge*, *mufete* (grilled fish, plantain, sweet potato, cassava, and *gari*), *calulu*, *moamba de galinha*, *moamba de ginguba*, *kissaca*, and *mukua* sorbet.Pasta: A staple that comes in many shapes and is used in a variety of dishes like lasagna and spaghetti bolognese.**

- **Cameroonian cuisine is one of the most varied in Africa due to Cameroon's location on the crossroads between the north, west, and center of the continent; the diversity in ethnicity with mixture ranging from Bantus, Bamileke people, Bamoun, Bamenda people and Shuwa Arabs, as well as the influence of German, French and British colonization.**

- **Chadian cuisine is the cooking traditions, practices, foods and dishes associated with the Republic of Chad. Chadians use a medium variety of grains, vegetables, fruits and meats. Commonly consumed grains include millet, sorghum, and rice as staple foods. Commonly eaten vegetables include okra and cassava. A variety of fruits are also eaten. Meats include mutton, chicken, pork, goat, fish, lamb and beef.**

- **The cuisine of Equatorial Guinea is a blend of the cuisines of the native peoples of this African country, including the Annobonese, the Bubi, the Fang, and the Kombe. It is also influenced by the cuisines of Spain (which colonized the country until 1968); other African nations such as Nigeria and Cameroon; Islamic states such as Morocco; and Creole cuisine overall. Its cuisine incorporates**

various meats, including game and bushmeat as well as imports, and is known for its strong flavors and high spice levels. Fish and chicken are common dishes.

QUIZ

1. Galaxy frog, that was recently seen in news, is endemic to which region of India?
[A] Chotanagpur plateau
[B] **Western Ghats**
[C] Eastern Ghats
[D] Ladakh

Exp –
Seven rare galaxy frogs (Melanobatrachus indicus) in Kerala's Western Ghats have disappeared and are presumed dead after disturbance by wildlife photographers. Photographers overturned logs, trampled vegetation, handled frogs barehanded, and used strong camera flashes. They are endemic to the southern Western Ghats mountain range in India, specifically found in small patches of wet evergreen forests in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The species is listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

2. Vishnugad–Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project is located on which river?
[A] Mandakini
[B] **Alaknanda**
[C] Kosi
[D] Tons

Exp –

Recently, around 60 people were injured when a loco train carrying workers hit a goods train inside the Pipalkoti tunnel of the Vishnugad–Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project. The Vishnugad–

Pipalkoti Hydroelectric Project (VPHEP) is a run-of-river hydropower project on the Alaknanda River, a major tributary of the Ganga River, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The project will generate about 1,665 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually. It is developed by THDC India Limited, a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh, with World Bank funding.

3. Taimoor is an air-launched cruise missile developed by which country?
[A] Iran
[B] Israel
[C] Iraq
[D] **Pakistan**

Exp –

Pakistan Air Force recently conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed Taimoor Weapon System. Taimoor is an air-launched cruise missile developed by Pakistan. It is designed to hit enemy land and sea targets with high precision. It uses subsonic turbojet propulsion, enabling efficient long-range flight. The missile has a strike range of up to 600 kilometres with a conventional warhead. Its stealth features include a box-shaped fuselage, X-type tail, and foldable wings. It flies at very low altitude to evade enemy air and missile defence systems.

4. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme is implemented by which ministry?
[A] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
[B] Ministry of Heavy Industries
[C] Ministry of Science and Technology
[D] **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**

Exp –
The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme strengthens India's position in the high-value chip design segment of the global semiconductor value chain. It supports India's goal of building a

strong fabless semiconductor ecosystem. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the Semicon India Programme. It aims to reduce import dependence, improve supply chain resilience, and increase domestic value addition. Start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) get financial incentives and design infrastructure support.

5. The Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine is designed by which organization?
[A] Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
[B] Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
[C] **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**
[D] Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

Exp –
The Ministry of Defence signed defence contracts worth ₹4,666 crore to strengthen the Indian Army and Indian Navy. The deal includes Close Quarter Battle Carbines for both forces and Heavyweight Torpedoes for the Indian Navy. The Close Quarter Battle Carbine is a 56×45 millimetre compact firearm made under Indigenous Design, Development and Manufacturing. It is designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO's) Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune. It is manufactured by Bharat Forge Limited, a Pune-based Indian multinational company.

6. The Sirkeer Malkoha, a rare bird species recently reported in the news, is usually found in the plains of which state?
[A] **Uttarakhand**
[B] Arunachal Pradesh
[C] Himachal Pradesh
[D] Sikkim

Exp –

The rare Sirkeer Malkoha has been recorded for the first time in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. It is usually found in the plains of Uttarakhand, making this sighting significant. Sirkeer Malkoha, also called sirkeer cuckoo, is a unique type of cuckoo bird. It is found across the sub-Himalayan Indian subcontinent, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and parts of Pakistan and Rajasthan. It lives in scrublands, thin forests, and hilly areas. The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List classifies it as Least Concern.

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7. Which state has become the first in India to constitute its 8th State Pay Commission?
[A] Bihar
[B] **Assam**
[C] Odisha
[D] Jharkhand

Exp –

Assam became the first Indian state to constitute its 8th State Pay Commission before the 7th Pay Commission ends . The decision was announced by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Former Chief Secretary Subhas Das has been appointed as the head of the new Pay Commission. The move comes even before the Union Government's 8th Central Pay Commission has started work. The 8th Pay Commission will revise salaries, allowances, and pensions of state government employees. Early constitution shows Assam's intent to speed up the pay revision process. State employees and pensioners may get quicker clarity on future pay and pension benefits.

8. The Land Stack & Glossary of Revenue Terms was launched under which programme?
[A] Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
[B] **Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme**
[C] National Land Records Modernisation Project
[D] Bharat Land Information System

Exp –
Minister of State for Rural Development and Communications, launched Land Stack in Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu and released the Glossary of Revenue Terms in New Delhi. These initiatives are part of the Digital India Land Record Modernisation Programme, aiming for modern, transparent, and citizen-centric land governance. Land Stack is an integrated GIS-based digital platform inspired by Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Finland. It provides single-window access to land and property information for citizens and government agencies.

9. Amazonian stingless bees recently became the first insects in the world to be granted legal rights by which country?
[A] **Peru**
[B] Colombia
[C] Ecuador
[D] Brazil

Exp –
Amazonian stingless bees have become the first insects in the world to be granted legal rights. The decision was taken through a landmark ordinance passed by local municipalities in Peru. The law recognises their right to exist, survive, and flourish. This step highlights their critical role as pollinators in

the Amazon rainforest ecosystem. It also acknowledges their importance to biodiversity, agriculture, and Indigenous communities. The move sets a global precedent for legal protection of insects and nature.

10. Winter Storm Ezra recently hit which country?
[A] France
[B] **United States**
[C] Russia
[D] United Kingdom

Exp –

A powerful winter storm rapidly intensified into a bomb cyclone named Winter Storm Ezra across the United States of America (USA). More than 58 million people were under winter storm warnings, with blizzards, strong winds, and power outages. A bomb cyclone forms when atmospheric pressure drops sharply within 24 hours, causing extreme weather. Authorities warned against travel as hazardous conditions continue moving eastward.