

CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-01-2026

POCKET INFO

1. Narendra Modi inaugurated the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics in New Delhi. The exhibition displays rare Buddhist relics connected to Bhagwan Buddha, many of which were recently repatriated to India.
2. The Government of India has launched a new E-Bill System for fertiliser subsidies to digitally process nearly ₹2 lakh crore payments every year, ensuring transparency, faster clearances, reduced paperwork, and improved financial governance in the agriculture sector.
3. France has announced plans to ban social media access for children under 15, unless parental consent is provided. The proposal comes amid rising concerns about online harms and the failure of tech companies' self-regulation..
4. India, which hosts the largest tiger population in the world, witnessed a worrying rise in tiger deaths in 2025. Official data shows that 166 tigers died during the year, highlighting challenges linked to habitat pressure, territorial conflicts and conservation management despite overall growth in tiger numbers.
5. Turkmenistan has officially legalized cryptocurrency mining and exchanges. Known for its tightly controlled economy and isolation, the country is now cautiously opening its digital sector. The move is seen as part of broader efforts to modernize governance and reduce dependence on natural gas exports while still maintaining strict state oversight over financial activities.

6. Bulgaria has taken a historic economic step by adopting the euro as its official currency. This move places the country firmly within Europe's economic mainstream after years of preparation. While many urban and younger Bulgarians see the change as progress, others fear rising prices and loss of national identity. The transition reflects both opportunity and challenge for the country.
7. Hyderabad-based start-ups TakeMe2Space and EON Space Labs have tested and integrated a 14-kg mini Earth observation satellite in Ahmedabad and shipped it to Sriharikota for launch aboard ISRO's PSLV, boosting India's private space ecosystem.
8. India's sports administration has entered a new phase with the partial implementation of a landmark law from the beginning of 2026. The new legal framework aims to bring transparency, accountability, and athlete focused decision-making in sports bodies. By regulating how sports federations function, the government hopes to professionalise sports governance and create a fair system that supports athletes while maintaining ethical and financial discipline.
9. The Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) has made QR codes mandatory on all new road signages, allowing citizens to access manufacturer details, materials used, and warranty information.
10. Surat (Gujarat) is on the verge of becoming India's first slum-free city through large-scale in-situ slum redevelopment led by the Surat Municipal Corporation under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and state housing schemes.

Important Days

1. World Football Day is celebrated annually on **May 25**, a date proclaimed by the United Nations to recognize football's global impact, promote peace, and encourage social development through the sport. The date commemorates the first international football tournament with representation from all regions during the 1924 Paris Olympics and coincides with the establishment of the World Cup. .
2. January 4th is celebrated as **World Braille Day**, an international observance designated by the United Nations to raise awareness about the importance of Braille as a vital communication method for visually impaired people and to recognize the birthday of its inventor, Louis Braille, born on this day in 1809.

3. February 4th is celebrated as **World Cancer Day**, an international observance established in 2000 by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to raise awareness about cancer, encourage prevention and detection, and call for action against the global cancer epidemic. It's a day for uniting the world to fight cancer, focusing on reducing illness, stigma, and promoting research, better patient care, and equitable access to treatment. .

4. World Coffee Day (or International Coffee Day) is celebrated globally every year on **October 1st**, a day to enjoy the popular beverage, support coffee farmers, and raise awareness about the industry's sustainability and fair trade issues, officially launched by the International Coffee Organization (ICO) in 2015. .

5. International Tea Day is celebrated annually on May 21st, designated by the United Nations to recognize tea's cultural and economic importance, promoting sustainable production and fair conditions for workers. While some countries like India also observed it on December 15th, the UN-backed date of May 21st is the widely recognized global observance, linking to the start of the tea season in many regions. .

RIV EDUCATION QUIZ

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi **released a commemorative postal stamp** during the closing ceremony of the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine. The stamp was dedicated which medical plant?

- A. Ashwagandha
- B. Tulsi
- C. Neem
- D. Aloe Vera

Exp –

- The commemorative postal stamp released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the closing ceremony of the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was dedicated to the medicinal plant Ashwagandha.

- The summit was held in New Delhi from December 17-19, 2025, and the stamp release was a symbolic step to highlight the global relevance of India's traditional medicinal heritage. Ashwagandha (scientific name Withania somnifera) is a key herb in Ayurveda, known for its adaptogenic properties that help the body manage stress and boost immunity.

2. India has achieved a historic which percentage decline in TB incidence (from 237 to 187 per lakh) since 2015, nearly double the global rate, according to the WHO Global TB Report 2025 ?

A.21

B. 42

C.30

D.40

Exp –

- India's TB incidence (new cases emerging each year) reduced by 21% – from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh population in 2024 – over almost double the pace of the decline observed globally at 12 %, as per the World Health Organization's Global TB Report 2025.
- This is one of the highest declines in TB incidence globally, outpacing reductions noted among other high-burden countries.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also expanded nutritional support provided to TB patients. The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY) was increased from ₹500 to ₹1000 per month per patient for the entire treatment duration.

3.The Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) concluded in Awaza, in which country?

A. Ukraine

B. Turkmenistan

C. Spain

D.Russia

Exp –

- The Third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC3) was held in Awaza, Turkmenistan from 5–8 August under the theme “Driving Progress through Partnerships.”
- It addressed challenges faced by 32 landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) with over 600 million people. LLDCs represented 7% of the world’s population but only about 1% of the global economy and trade.
- The conference aimed to unlock development potential through cooperation, trade facilitation, and infrastructure investment. The Awaza Programme of Action (APoA) 2024–2034 was adopted to tackle trade, infrastructure, climate resilience, and financing barriers.

4.In a transformative move, how many major cooperatives have launched ‘Bharat’ Taxi, a cooperative-driven ride-hailing service with ₹300 crore capital, aimed at challenging Ola and Uber?

A.Five

B.Six

C. Eight

D.Seven

Exp –

- Eight major cooperatives, including NCDC, IFFCO, and Amul, have launched the cooperative-driven ride-hailing service 'Bharat' Taxi with ₹300 crore capital to challenge Ola and Uber.
- The Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd, registered on June 6, 2025, is backed by these institutions and aims to provide a driver-centric and consumer-friendly alternative.

5.Which Country has secured a landmark \$1 billion syndicated finance facility, backed by a policy-based guarantee from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), signaling a return to global markets and improved economic outlook ?

A.Pakistan

B.Turkiye

C.Armenia

D.Cambodia

Exp –

- Pakistan has secured a landmark \$1 billion syndicated finance facility, partially backed by a policy-based guarantee from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to support fiscal reforms and signal a return to global financial markets.
- The five-year facility, signed in June 2025, involves financing from Middle Eastern banks and marks a significant vote of confidence in Pakistan's economic trajectory.

6. Which rocket was used by ISRO to successfully launch India's heaviest communication satellite CMS-03 ?

A. LVM3-M5

B. LVM3-M6

C. LVM3-M7

D. LVM3-M8

Exp –

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the LVM3-M5 rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota at 5:35 pm. The rocket carried CMS-03, India's heaviest communication satellite weighing 4,400 kilograms.
- It was the fifth operational flight of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) launcher. CMS-03 was launched into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- The satellite provides multi-band communication services across India and nearby ocean regions. It will enhance secure data, voice, and video connectivity for civilian and strategic applications. The mission highlights India's capability in heavy satellite launches and strengthens its communication network

7. Which city is the venue of 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship ?

A. Bengaluru

B. Chennai

C. Mumbai

D. Hyderabad

Exp –

- The 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship began at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium, Gunjur, Bengaluru.
- Around 1,000 young athletes from states and union territories are competing in boys' and girls' categories. Nearly 40 matches were played on the opening day.
- The tournament follows a league-cum-knockout format, with semifinals on 3 January and finals on 4 January 2026. 58th Senior National Kho Kho will be in Kazipet, Telangana (11–15 January), and 35th Sub-Junior Nationals in Kurukshetra, Haryana (31 Jan–4 Feb).

8. India and which country signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to expand rail-based trade via the Joghani–Biratnagar corridor, enhancing cargo transit, third-country trade, and regional connectivity?

A. Nepal

B. Bhutan

C. Myanmar

D. None of these

Exp –

- In a significant step toward enhancing bilateral trade and regional connectivity, India and Nepal have signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) amending the Protocol to the India–Nepal Treaty of Transit. Signed on November 13, 2025, the agreement aims to liberalize and expand rail-based freight movement, especially through the Joghani–Biratnagar corridor, enhancing Nepal's trade with India and third countries.
- This development is key for India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and Nepal's efforts to gain better market access via Indian ports.

9. India's World Cup star Shafali Verma has been appointed Brand Ambassador of the which State's Women's Commission, after her match-winning performance in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final?

A. Haryana

B. Andhra Pradesh

C. Telengana

D. Uttar Pradesh

Exp –

- Shafali Verma was presented with a cheque of ₹1.50 crore and a 'Grade A' sports gradation certificate by the Chief Minister of Haryana.
- Shafali Verma was appointed brand ambassador of the Haryana State Women's Commission in recognition of her contribution to women's sport in the state.

10. Which Indian state's Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) has partnered with Mastercard to enhance the state's global tourism profile?

A. Andhra Pradesh

B. Karnataka

C. Kerala

D. Telengana

Exp –

- Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) has partnered with Mastercard to enhance the global tourism profile of the state.
- This collaboration aims to leverage Mastercard's digital expertise to promote Andhra Pradesh's rich cultural heritage, natural landscapes, and modern tourism offerings, establishing the state as a premium international travel destination.

