



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 18, 2026

NATIONAL

➤ Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima

- ✓ The Government of India has launched Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima as an optional retail health insurance product for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)
- ✓ The scheme is designed to complement existing CGHS benefits and provide additional financial protection with wider access to quality healthcare across India.
- ✓ The policy offers indemnity-based in-patient hospitalisation coverage within India with sum insured options of ₹10 lakh and ₹20 lakh.
- ✓ The product includes a co-payment feature, allowing beneficiaries to choose between 70:30 or 50:50 cost-sharing between the insurer and subscriber.
- ✓ The scheme is offered at a discount of 28% for 70:30 and 42% for 50:50 co-payment options, compared to regular retail policies.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ 6th ASEAN-India Digital Ministers' Meeting

- ✓ The 6th ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) -India Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) was hosted virtually by Vietnam under the theme "Adaptive ASEAN: From Connectivity to Connected Intelligence."

- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications, and Nguyen Manh Hung, Minister of Science and Technology of Vietnam.
 - ✓ The meeting approved a comprehensive plan centered on ICT (Information and Communication Technology) training and capacity building programs; the India-ASEAN Regulators' Conference; and deployment of telecom ICT solutions.
 - ✓ The meeting adopted the Hanoi Declaration, stressing cooperation on Artificial intelligence (AI), broadband, resilient infrastructure, and digital inclusion, and reaffirmed commitment to the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2026–2030.
- **World Bank Estimates India's Economic Growth at 7.2% for FY26 and 6.5% for FY27**
- ✓ The World Bank Group (WBG) released its flagship report titled "Global Economic Prospects (GEP): January 2026", which projected India's GDP growth at 7.2% in FY26, revised upward from the 3% forecast in June 2025.
 - ✓ India's FY26 growth is mainly driven by robust domestic demand, including strong private consumption, supported by tax reforms and rising rural household incomes.
 - ✓ The report projected that India's GDP growth will moderate to 6.5% in FY27, lower than the earlier estimate of 7.2%, assuming 50% import tariffs imposed by the USA remain throughout the forecast period.
 - ✓ India's GDP growth is expected to edge up to 6.6% in FY28, aided by robust services sector activity, recovery in exports, and a pickup in investment.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- **Pawan Kalyan Becomes First Indian Inducted into Samurai Kenjutsu Tradition**
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has become the first Indian to be formally inducted into Kenjutsu, an ancient Japanese samurai swordsmanship tradition.
 - ✓ This honour is extremely rare for non-Japanese practitioners and is usually conferred only in exceptional cases outside Japan, highlighting its global significance.

- ✓ The induction places Pawan Kalyan among a select group of international practitioners, reflecting India's growing presence in global cultural and martial traditions.
- ✓ It emphasises discipline, precision, mental balance, ethical conduct and respect for tradition.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ National Road Safety Week

- ✓ National Road Safety Week 2026 is being observed from January 11 to 17 across India to raise awareness about road safety and reduce accidents.
- ✓ The campaign focuses on promoting safe driving practices, adherence to traffic rules, and use of helmets and seatbelts among motorists and pedestrians.
- ✓ The year 2026 marks the 37th observance of National Road Safety Week in India.

