



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 20, 2026

### NATIONAL

- **India's First NAMO Book Fest**
  - ✓ India witnessed a new literary initiative with the launch of the first-ever NAMO Book Fest in New Delhi.
  - ✓ The NAMO Book Fest is being organised as a two-day event.
  - ✓ The initiative aims to promote reading culture, intellectual engagement, and discussion on governance, nation-building, and innovation.
  - ✓ At the inaugural NAMO Book Fest, the books 'Gen V Bano' and 'Mahatma' were released.
  - ✓ The books focus on inspiration, leadership, vision, values, and ethical living in contemporary India.
- **India's First Sleeper Vande Bharat Train**
  - ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first Sleeper Vande Bharat train, flagging it off from Malda, West Bengal.
  - ✓ The train connects Howrah (Kolkata) with Kamakhya (Guwahati), strengthening rail connectivity between eastern and northeastern India.
  - ✓ This is the first-ever Vande Bharat sleeper version, designed specifically for overnight long-distance travel.
  - ✓ The Sleeper Vande Bharat is an upgraded version of the Vande Bharat Express, offering sleeping berths, modern interiors and Rajdhani-class comfort with faster travel.
- **'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' Initiative**

- ✓ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has extended its citizen-centric 'Clean Toilet Picture Challenge' initiative till 30 June, to improve cleanliness and user experience at toilet facilities along National Highways.
- ✓ Under the extended campaign, clean toilet photos submitted by highway users will be evaluated daily, and eligible FASTag recharge rewards will be processed in a time-bound manner, with credits made within five days of validation to the linked Vehicle Registration Number (VRN).
- ✓ The initiative is open to all National Highway commuters, who can participate by uploading clear, geo-tagged and time-stamped photographs via the Rajmargyatra mobile application.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ➤ 'DOSTI 17' Exercise

- ✓ 17th edition of the biennial trilateral Coast Guard exercise 'DOSTI 17' involving the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG), and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Coast Guard, commenced in Male, Maldives.
- ✓ Exercise DOSTI was initiated in 1991 as a bilateral exercise between the ICG and the MNDF Coast Guard, and expanded into a trilateral exercise including Sri Lanka in 2012.
- ✓ The harbour phase was held from 17-19 January 2026 and was followed by an operational sea phase.
- ✓ The exercise emphasizes collaborative MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships)-based marine pollution response drills while promoting reciprocal learning and strengthening operational capabilities among participants.
- ✓ The exercise supports India's SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region) vision and Neighbourhood First policy by fostering regional maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

## RANKINGS

### ➤ India Ranks 16th in Responsible Nations Index 2026

- ✓ India has ranked 16th among 154 countries in the Responsible Nations Index (RNI), highlighting its strong performance in governance, environmental stewardship, and global responsibility.
- ✓ Launched by the World Intellectual Foundation, the index assesses how responsibly nations exercise power toward citizens, the environment, and the international community, rather than focusing only on economic strength
- ✓ India's position ahead of several wealthier countries reflects its balanced approach to citizen welfare, climate action, and international cooperation, reinforcing its image as a responsible global actor.

#### ➤ **Asia Manufacturing Index 2026**

- ✓ India ranked sixth among 11 Asian countries in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026 released by Dezan Shira & Associates, reflecting steady progress but persistent competitiveness gaps.
- ✓ While India benefits from a large domestic market, improving infrastructure, and a growing workforce, it lags leading Asian peers in execution speed, policy stability, and innovation depth.
- ✓ The index underscores the need for faster manufacturing reforms, better logistics, skill development, and technology adoption to strengthen India's position in Asia's increasingly competitive manufacturing landscape.

## **AWARDS & HONOURS**

#### ➤ **Padmapani Award**

- ✓ Legendary composer Ilaiyaraaja will be honoured with the Padmapani Award at the 11th Ajanta-Ellora International Film Festival in early 2026 for his timeless contribution to Indian film music.
- ✓ The prestigious award, which includes a memento, citation and ₹2 lakh cash prize, recognises his four-decade-long career and innovative blending of Indian and Western musical traditions that transformed cinema music.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

#### ➤ **President Droupadi Murmu Appoints Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner**

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu appointed Praveen Vashista as Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission, as informed by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- ✓ Praveen Vashista took oath before the Central Vigilance Commissioner, formally assuming charge as Vigilance Commissioner.
- ✓ He has over 30 years of experience in law enforcement and internal security and is a 1991-batch IPS officer (Bihar cadre), who served on central deputation in the Ministry of Home Affairs as Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary, and Special Secretary (Internal Security).

