



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 23, 2026

TAMILNADU

- **Tamil Nadu Announces Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu Literary Award**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu launched Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu, a new annual state-backed literary award.
- ✓ It will recognise books in 7 Indian languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Bengali, Marathi.
- ✓ Each selected language winner will receive ₹5 lakh, making it one of India's top state literary prizes.
- ✓ Separate expert committees will select winners to ensure transparency and independence.
- ✓ The initiative gained attention amid concerns over autonomy of national literary awards.

INTERNATIONAL

- **India Sends 7.5 Tonnes of Cancer Medicines to Kabul as Humanitarian Aid**
- ✓ India delivered 7.5 tonnes of life-saving cancer medicines to Kabul, Afghanistan.
- ✓ The aid was sent under India's humanitarian outreach, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- ✓ Afghanistan faces major shortages in oncology medicines due to limited healthcare infrastructure.

- ✓ The initiative strengthens people-first diplomacy and India's support for Afghan civilians.
- ✓ India has earlier supported Afghanistan with food grains, vaccines, medicines, and medical equipment.

OBITUARY

➤ Singapore's "Tree Lady" Kirtida Mekani Passes Away

- ✓ India-born Singapore environmentalist Kirtida Mekani died on 19 January at age 66.
- ✓ She became the first executive director of the Singapore Environment Council in 1993.
- ✓ She led the Plant-A-Tree Programme (2007) which helped plant 76,000+ trees with citizen participation.
- ✓ She supported the Community in Bloom movement, growing thousands of community gardens.
- ✓ She won the President's Award for the Environment (2015) and entered the Singapore Women's Hall of Fame (2024).

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ Parakram Diwas - 23 January

- ✓ Parakram Diwas 2026 is observed on 23 January 2026 to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ✓ The day is celebrated as the "Day of Courage", highlighting Netaji's leadership and patriotism.
- ✓ Netaji was born on 23 January 1897 in Cuttack, Odisha, and led the Indian National Army (INA).
- ✓ The Government of India officially declared Parakram Diwas on 19 January 2021 during Netaji's 125th birth anniversary.

