



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 27, 2026

NATIONAL

➤ Kavach 4.0

- ✓ Kavach 4.0 has been commissioned on Gujarat's Bajwa (Vadodara)-Ahmedabad, covering 17 stations with infrastructure including 23 towers, 20 Kavach buildings/huts, 192 km optical fibre cable, and 2,872 RFID tags.
- ✓ Kavach 4.0 is designed to automatically mitigate safety risks, prevent Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD) incidents, enforce automatic speed control, and provide protection against head-on and rear-end collisions.
- ✓ Additional safety features include an SOS facility and automatic whistling at level crossing gates.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ France Moves Bill to Ban social media for Under-15s to Protect Mental Health

- ✓ France's National Assembly has approved a bill to ban children under 15 from accessing social media platforms due to concerns over mental health, bullying, and excessive screen time.
- ✓ The law mandates age-verification systems and applies to major platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Snapchat.
- ✓ It also extends existing school smartphone bans to high schools and aims for implementation before the next academic year.
- ✓ The move is inspired by Australia's similar restrictions and reflects a broader global push to protect minors online.

➤ **UNEP Report**

- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the report “State of Finance for Nature 2026”, highlighting that global spending on nature destruction far exceeds investment in protection.
- ✓ The report revealed that for every USD 1 spent on protecting ecosystems, USD 30 is spent on environmentally harmful activities.
- ✓ In 2023, global spending on nature protection was USD 220 billion, whereas USD 7.3 trillion went into nature-negative activities such as pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate-damaging practices.
- ✓ Global investment in nature-based solutions (NbS) must increase 5 times to USD 571 billion per year by 2030 to meet the Rio Conventions commitments on climate change, biodiversity, and desertification.

RANKING

➤ **India Ranks 8th Among 11 Countries in AI Investment**

- ✓ India ranks 8th among 11 countries in terms of historical accumulated investments in the artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem between 2010 and 2024, measured as a percentage of 2024 GDP.
- ✓ According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper “Rethinking AI Sovereignty”, India’s AI investments since 2010 accounted for 1.2–1.8% of its 2024 GDP, lower than the US (3.4–5.1%), Singapore (3.1–4.6%), South Korea (2.2–3.3%), and China (1.7–2.6%).

AWARDS

➤ **Government Announces 131 Padma Awards for 2026**

- ✓ Padma Awards, among India’s highest civilian honours, are conferred in three categories: Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.
- ✓ For 2026, the government announced 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards.
- ✓ The list includes 19 women awardees, 6 individuals from Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI category, and 16 posthumous honours.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ National Geographic Day - 27 January

- ✓ National Geographic Day 2026, observed on 27 January, celebrates humanity's curiosity about the Earth and the legacy of the National Geographic Society, founded in 1888.
- ✓ The day highlights geography, science, exploration, culture, wildlife, and environmental conservation.
- ✓ It encourages global awareness, respect for cultural diversity, and the protection of nature through learning about landscapes, oceans, climate, and biodiversity.
- ✓ National Geographic Day honors over a century of research, storytelling, and exploration that inspires people to understand, explore, and safeguard our planet.

