



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 31, 2026

TAMILNADU

- **Mega Shipbuilding Cluster in TN**
- ✓ Government of India (GoI), in collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu (TN), established National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), in Thoothukudi, TN.
- ✓ The SPV will develop India's first mega shipbuilding cluster at Thoothukudi.
- ✓ The SPV is a Joint Venture (JV) between V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOC Port) and the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT), with each holding 50% stake.
- ✓ It is the first SPV formed under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS) launched under the Rs.69,725 crore maritime package (Oct 2025), allocates Rs. 19,989 crores to boost domestic shipbuilding capacity to 4.5 million Gross Tonnage (GT) annually by 2047 through infrastructure and technology upgrades.

NATIONAL

- **Supreme Court Declared Menstrual Health a Fundamental Right**
- ✓ The Supreme Court of India has ruled that menstrual health is an integral part of the right to life and dignity under Article 21.
- ✓ Directing all States and Union Territories to ensure free sanitary pads, separate gender-segregated toilets with water, privacy, and safe disposal facilities in every government and private school within three months.

- ✓ Holding that lack of menstrual hygiene infrastructure causes humiliation, exclusion, and school dropouts among girls, the Court mandated oxo-biodegradable pads, MHM corners for emergencies, strict accountability for non-compliance, and integration of menstrual and reproductive health education into school curricula.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Newly added Ramsar Sites

- ✓ India has added two new wetlands to the global list of protected ecosystems with the designation of Patna Bird Sanctuary in Etah, Uttar Pradesh, and Chhari-Dhand in Kutch, Gujarat, as Ramsar sites, taking the country's total to 98.
- ✓ Recognised under the Ramsar Convention (1971), these wetlands are ecologically significant biodiversity hotspots Patna Bird Sanctuary is a key freshwater habitat for migratory birds in the Gangetic plains, while Chhari-Dhand is a rare seasonal saline wetland supporting rich wildlife in the arid Kutch region.

➤ Gaganyaan Mission

- ✓ India's Gaganyaan mission, led by ISRO, is entering its most critical phase, with the country's first human spaceflight scheduled for 2027, as confirmed by ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan.
- ✓ Before astronauts fly, ISRO will conduct three uncrewed test missions, starting with G1 in March 2026, which is nearly 90% complete and has already undergone over 8,000 ground and structural tests.
- ✓ The G1 mission will carry Vyommitra, a humanoid robot designed to test life-support systems, crew module conditions, re-entry behaviour, and recovery operations.

SUMMITS

➤ 6th National Crop Nutrition Summit

- ✓ India's growing focus on soil health, micronutrients, and sustainable agriculture will take centre stage at the National Crop Nutrition Summit to be held in Mumbai in early February 2026.

- ✓ Organised by the Indian Micro-Fertilizers Manufacturers Association at the NSE complex, Bandra Kurla Complex.
- ✓ The sixth edition of the summit will be held under the theme “Converge, Collaborate & Co-create.”

APPOINTMENTS

➤ **CMD of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**

- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), appointed Kota Ravi as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- ✓ He has over three decades of experience in aviation, manufacturing, and aerospace programme management.
- ✓ He helped establish infrastructure and processes to produce up to 16 Tejas aircraft per year and supported delivery of the first twin-seater variant.
- ✓ He served as Executive Director (ED) (Corporate Planning) of HAL and ED & General Manager (GM), Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Division, leading the division responsible for India’s indigenous fighter aircraft programme.
- ✓ He currently serves as Director (Operations) of HAL.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ **International Zebra Day – January 31**

- ✓ International Zebra Day is observed every year on 31 January to raise awareness about the unique black-and-white striped zebra and the threats it faces in the wild, including habitat loss, poaching, and population decline.
- ✓ The day highlights the conservation needs of all three zebra species plains zebra, mountain zebra, and the endangered Grevy’s zebra and promotes actions to protect grassland ecosystems.
- ✓ Celebrated through awareness campaigns, educational programs, and social media outreach, the day emphasizes that saving zebras contributes to preserving biodiversity and sustaining ecological balance.

