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Current Affairs Today – January 14, 2026

14 January 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

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WHY IN NEWS

January 14, 2026 (Makar Sankranti) was a major news day: ISRO's PSLV-C62 suffered India's second consecutive launch failure losing 16 satellites, the 28th CSPOC Commonwealth Speakers' Conference opened in New Delhi, India launched its BRICS 2026 Chairship logo, and the 38th India-France Strategic Dialogue was held. Virat Kohli became the second-highest run-scorer in international cricket history during an ODI in Vadodara.

MAKAR SANKRANTI 2026 — THE SOLAR FESTIVAL

Makar Sankranti (January 14, 2026) is one of the few Indian festivals governed by the **solar calendar** — marking the Sun's transit into **Capricorn (Makara Rashi)** at **3:13 PM IST**. Known as **Uttarayan** in Gujarat, **Pongal** in Tamil Nadu (Thai Pongal on Jan 15), **Magh Bihu** in Assam, and **Khichdi** in UP/Bihar. Lohri was celebrated in Punjab on January 13. The **Gangasagar Mela** at Sagar Island, West Bengal, drew over 20 lakh pilgrims.

UPSC Angle (GS-1): Indian culture — solar vs lunar calendar; harvest festivals; regional diversity.

PSLV-C62 MISSION FAILURE — INDIA'S SECOND CONSECUTIVE PSLV FAILURE

ISRO's **PSLV-C62** failed on **January 12, 2026** (widely analysed January 13–14). Launched from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota** at **10:17 AM IST**, the rocket suffered a **roll-rate disturbance in Stage 3** just before stage separation — causing loss of flight control. All **16 satellites** were lost.

The **suborbital trajectory** reached approximately $-3,800 \times 390$ km; debris impacted near 75°E , 18°S in the Southern Indian Ocean

Payloads lost: Earth observation satellite **EOSN1** + 15 co-passenger satellites from DRDO, Nepal, Spain, Mauritius, Brazil

Only survivor: Spanish **re-entry capsule "KID"** — separated and transmitted data for 3 minutes before impact

Second consecutive PSLV failure — PSLV-C61 (May 2025) also failed due to a Stage 3 anomaly

ISRO Chairman: **V. N. Narayanan**

UPSC Angle (GS-3): PSLV (4-stage, solid-liquid alternating propulsion); India's space economy; ISRO accountability; implications for commercial launch market.

28TH CSPOC INAUGURATED IN NEW DELHI

The **28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC)** commenced on **January 14, 2026** in New Delhi, running through January 16. **PM Modi** inaugurated it on January 15 in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

Presided over by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** (Chairperson, CPA India Region)

61 Speakers and Presiding Officers from **45+ Commonwealth Parliaments** attended

Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha: **Harivansh Narayan Singh** co-hosted

Topics: AI in Parliaments, role of Speakers in democracy, social media impact on MPs, safety of parliamentarians

UPSC Angle (GS-2): Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); Lok Sabha Speaker's role; Parliament governance.

BRICS INDIA 2026 LOGO AND WEBSITE LAUNCHED

External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** launched India's official **BRICS India 2026 logo, theme, and website** (brics2026.gov.in).

India assumed the **BRICS Chairship for 2026** from Brazil

Theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"

Logo: Petals in BRICS member colours with a **Namaste gesture** at the centre

India will host the **18th BRICS Summit** in 2026

BRICS now has **10 members** after the 2023 Johannesburg enlargement (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE added)

UPSC Angle (GS-2): India's multilateral diplomacy; BRICS expansion; Global South leadership; India as BRICS Chair.

38TH INDIA-FRANCE STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

The **38th India-France Strategic Dialogue** was held on **January 13, 2026** in New Delhi, co-chaired by **NSA Ajit Doval** and French President's Diplomatic Adviser **Emmanuel Bonne**.

Focus: defence industrial cooperation, civil nuclear energy, space, Indo-Pacific security

Joint declaration: strengthen **bilateral defence industrial cooperation** under Atmanirbhar Bharat

Context: dialogue held ahead of a forthcoming visit by **French President Emmanuel Macron** to India

India-France Strategic Partnership: established **1998**

UPSC Angle (GS-2): India-France relations; Rafale deal; defence indigenisation; Indo-Pacific cooperation.

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE RULES 2026 NOTIFIED

The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Bodies) Rules, 2026** under the **National Sports Governance Act, 2025**.

At least **4 Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs)** mandatory in every National Sports Body (NSB) General Body

50% of SOMs must be women in the General Body; at least **4 women** in the Executive Committee

SOM eligibility: minimum age 25; retired from active sport; must not have competed for at least 1 year

NSBs must amend bye-laws within **6 months**

Aligned with Olympic Charter standards

UPSC Angle (GS-2): Sports governance reforms; athlete representation; gender mandates in sports administration.

GATI SHAKTI CARGO TERMINALS — LOGISTICS COST AT 7.97% OF GDP

PIB released data on the **Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminals (GCTs)** programme:

306 GCTs approved; 118 commissioned (as of January 2026)

Total combined capacity: **192 million tonnes per annum**

Logistics cost: reduced to **7.97% of GDP** (down from ~14% pre-reform)

Freight revenue from GCTs: **Rs 12,608 crore in 2024-25** (4-fold increase from 2022-23)

Private investment: **~Rs 8,600 crore**

CO₂ saved: **143.3 million tonnes**

UPSC Angle (GS-3): PM GatiShakti NMP (launched October 2021); National Logistics Policy 2022; multimodal logistics.

KAIMUR TIGER RESERVE — BIHAR'S SECOND TIGER RESERVE APPROVED

Bihar government approved the revised proposal to notify **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary** as a **Tiger Reserve**, sending it to NTCA for final clearance.

Location: **Kaimur district, Bihar** — Bihar's largest forest area

Would become **Bihar's second tiger reserve** (after **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**, West Champaran)

Central in-principle approval received: **October 8, 2024**

UPSC Angle (GS-3): Project Tiger (1973); NTCA; India's 2022 tiger census (3,167 tigers); eastern India corridors.

INDIA'S FISH PRODUCTION DOUBLES IN A DECADE

Ministry of Fisheries data confirmed India's fish production doubled in 10 years:

FY 2013-14: **95.79 lakh tonnes** → FY 2024-25: **197.75 lakh tonnes** (+106%)

India: **2nd largest fish producer** globally; contributes **8% of global output**

2nd in aquaculture production; 1st in shrimp production and export

Seafood exports: all-time high of **Rs 62,408 crore (US\$ 7,453.73 million)** in 2024-25

Employment generated since 2014-15: **74.66 lakh** (direct + indirect)

38% growth since **PMMSY** launch (2020)

UPSC Angle (GS-3): Blue Economy; PMMSY (Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana; Rs 20,050 crore; 2020); fish production targets.

INDIAAI MISSION × UP MOU — 65 AI LABS

IndiaAI Mission (MeitY/Digital India Corporation) signed an MoU with **UPDESCO** (UP Development Systems Corporation) to set up **65 Data and AI Labs** across Uttar Pradesh.

Signed by: **Abhishek Singh** (CEO, IndiaAI Mission) and **Anurag Yadav** (Principal Secretary IT & Electronics, UP)

Goal: hands-on AI training; India's largest state-level AI skilling ecosystem

Two AI labs already operational: NIELIT centres in **Lucknow and Gorakhpur**

IndiaAI Mission approved: **April 2024**; outlay: **Rs 10,372 crore**

UPSC Angle (GS-3): Digital India; AI governance; skilling ecosystem; MeitY.

WPI INFLATION — DECEMBER 2025 AT 0.83%

Office of the Economic Adviser released **WPI data for December 2025**:

WPI inflation: **0.83%** year-on-year (turning positive after two months of deflation)

Month-on-month change: **+0.71%** over November 2025

Drivers: manufacturing, minerals, machinery, food products, textiles

WPI base year: **2011-12**; compiled at weighted response rate of 82.7%

UPSC Angle (GS-3): WPI vs CPI differences; inflation measurement; role of Office of Economic Adviser (Ministry of Commerce).

VIRAT KOHLI — 2ND HIGHEST RUN-SCORER IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

During **India vs. New Zealand 1st ODI in Vadodara**, **Virat Kohli** scored 93 and surpassed **Kumar Sangakkara** to become the **2nd highest run-scorer in international cricket history**.

Kohli's tally: **28,068 runs** (Tests + ODIs + T20Is; 624 innings)

Sangakkara's tally surpassed: **28,016 runs** (666 innings)

Only player ahead: **Sachin Tendulkar — 34,357 runs**

Also became the fastest to 28,000 international runs

PERSONS IN NEWS

S. Jaishankar — EAM; launched BRICS India 2026 logo and website. **Ajit Doval** — NSA; co-chaired 38th India-France Strategic Dialogue. **V. N. Narayanan** — ISRO Chairman; presided over PSLV-C62 failure review. **Om Birla** — Lok Sabha Speaker; presiding over 28th CSPOC, New Delhi.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Prelims: PSLV-C62 (64th PSLV flight; Stage 3 anomaly; 16 satellites; EOSN1; ISRO Chairman V.N. Narayanan); 28th CSPOC (New Delhi; 45+ Commonwealth Parliaments; Om Birla); BRICS India 2026 (theme; logo; 18th Summit; brics2026.gov.in; 10 members); 38th India-France Dialogue (Ajit Doval; 1998 strategic partnership); National Sports Governance Rules 2026; Kaimur (Bihar's 2nd tiger reserve); WPI 0.83% December 2025; Kohli 28,068 runs (2nd); Gati Shakti GCTs 7.97% GDP logistics cost; IndiaAI Mission Rs 10,372 crore.

Mains GS-2: Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and role of Speakers; India-France strategic partnership evolution; BRICS expansion and India's Chairship; sports governance reforms.

Mains GS-3: PSLV consecutive failures — implications for India's commercial space sector; Blue Economy and fisheries data; PM GatiShakti NMP outcomes; IndiaAI Mission implementation.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA
PSLV-C62 FAILURE:

Launch: January 12, 2026; 10:17 AM IST; Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
 Failure: Roll-rate disturbance in Stage 3 (before stage separation); loss of flight control
 Payload: EOSN1 (earth observation) + 15 co-passenger satellites (DRDO, Nepal, Spain, Mauritius, Brazil)
 2nd consecutive PSLV failure (PSLV-C61 in May 2025 was the first; both Stage 3 anomalies)
 PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle): 4-stage; alternating solid-liquid propulsion; workhorse of ISRO
 ISRO Chairman: V. N. Narayanan

28TH CSPOC:

Full form: Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth
 Venue: New Delhi; dates January 14-16, 2026; inaugurated by PM Modi on Jan 15
 Hosted by: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla (Chairperson, CPA India Region)
 Participants: 61 Speakers/Presiding Officers; 45+ Commonwealth Parliaments
 CPA: Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; founded 1911; promotes parliamentary governance

BRICS INDIA 2026:

BRICS members (10): Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE (added 2024)
 India's Chairship: assumed from Brazil; 18th Summit to be hosted by India in 2026
 Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
 Website: brics2026.gov.in; Logo: Namaste gesture with BRICS member colour petals
 BRICS Three Pillars: Political & Security / Economic & Financial / People-to-People

INDIA-FRANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

Established: 1998
 38th Strategic Dialogue: Jan 13, 2026; Ajit Doval + Emmanuel Bonne
 Focus: defence industry, nuclear, space, Indo-Pacific
 Rafale deal: 36 aircraft delivered; additional naval Rafale-M procurement underway

NATIONAL SPORTS GOVERNANCE RULES 2026:

Notified under: National Sports Governance Act, 2025
 Mandatory SOMs: 4 per National Sports Body (NSB)
 Women quota: 50% of SOMs + 4 women in Executive Committee
 SOM age: minimum 25, retired, not competed for at least 1 year
 Compliance deadline: 6 months to amend bye-laws

GATI SHAKTI GCTS:

GCT: Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal
 Approved: 306; Commissioned: 118 (as of Jan 2026)
 Capacity: 192 million tonnes/year
 Logistics cost: 7.97% of GDP (from ~14% pre-reform)
 PM GatiShakti NMP launched: October 2021

National Logistics Policy: 2022

INDIA FISH PRODUCTION:

FY 2013-14: 95.79 lakh tonnes → FY 2024-25: 197.75 lakh tonnes (106% growth)

India ranking: 2nd largest producer (8% global share); 1st in shrimp exports

Seafood exports: Rs 62,408 crore / US\$ 7,453.73 million (FY 2024-25)

PMMSY: Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana; Rs 20,050 crore outlay; launched 2020

INDIAAI MISSION:

Approved: April 2024; Outlay: Rs 10,372 crore

UP MoU: 65 AI Labs via UPDESCO; nodal: Lucknow

Parent body: Digital India Corporation under MeitY

VIRAT KOHLI – CRICKET RECORD:

Record: 2nd highest run-scorer in international cricket (all formats)

Tally: 28,068 runs in 624 innings

Surpassed: Kumar Sangakkara (Sri Lanka) – 28,016 runs in 666 innings

Only ahead: Sachin Tendulkar – 34,357 runs

Venue: India vs New Zealand 1st ODI; Vadodara

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Kaimur Tiger Reserve: Bihar's 2nd (after Valmiki TR); Kaimur district; central nod: Oct 8, 2024

WPI base year: 2011-12; Office of Economic Adviser under Ministry of Commerce & Industry

TGB on Wheels: India's first solar-powered ATM van by Tripura Gramin Bank (RRB)

Makar Sankranti 2026: Sun entered Makara at 3:13 PM IST; Gangasagar Mela: 20 lakh+ pilgrims

Sources: AffairsCloud, PIB, GKToday, Spaceflight Now

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