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## Down to Earth January 2026 — Eco-Anxiety, Nuclear Reforms, MGNREGA Repeal & Aravallis

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# Down to Earth January 2026 — Eco-Anxiety, Nuclear Reforms, MGNREGA Repeal & Aravallis


**Down to Earth**
 January 2026 (1-15 & 16-31)
 GS1
GS2
GS3



**Down to Earth**  
 CSE · Fortnightly

EDITION

January 2026 (1-15 & 16-31)

MAINS:

GS Paper 1

GS Paper 2

GS Paper 3

Down to Earth's January 2026 double edition covers eco-anxiety and climate grief among youth (1-15), ecological poverty in tribal states, the SHANTI Act nuclear reforms, MGNREGA's repeal by VB-G RAM G, the Supreme Court's Aravalli definition controversy, the groundwater-labour crisis, India's first National Household Income Survey, and grassroots innovations from banana-waste leather to tribal street schools.

## KEY TERMS

- **SHANTI Act** — Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act, 2025 (repeals AE Act 1962 + CLND Act 2010)
- **VB-G RAM G** — Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (replaces MGNREGA; 125 days; 60:40 funding)
- **CGWB** — Central Ground Water Board (annual assessment of 6,553 units)
- **SDR** — Special Drawing Right (IMF basket currency; liability unit in nuclear law)
- **CRV** — Crustal Reflectivity Variation (seismic wave propagation — relevant to Aravalli mining risks)
- **BSMR** — Bharat Small Modular Reactor (~200 MWe, PWR technology)
- **GIAHS** — Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (FAO designation; Kuttanad = below-sea-level farming)
- **AMRUT** — Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (₹1.93 lakh crore; 62% to water supply, 34% sewerage)
- **WGEEP** — Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (Gadgil Report, 2011)
- **AWC** — Asian Waterbird Census (coordinated by Wetlands International)
- **Omarana Water Lily** — *Nymphaea × omarana* Bisset; invasive pink aquatic plant in Kuttanad, Kerala

Sources: [NextIAS DTE 16-31 January 2026 Summary](#), [Down to Earth](#)

## 17 Chapters in this Edition

**1****The SHANTI Act 2025 — Nuclear Privatisation****2****VB-G RAM G Act 2025 — Dismantling of MGNREGA****3****The Aravalli Definition Dispute — Geographic Washing****4****Groundwater Depletion & the Hidden Labour Crisis****5****India's First National Household Income Sample Survey****6****AMRUT — From Clean Cities to Contaminated Water****7****Other Articles (January 16-31)****8****Grassroots Case Studies (January 16-31)****9****Eco-Anxiety and Climate Grief — An Emerging Crisis****Ecological Poverty vs Economic Poverty in Tribal States**

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