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# Current Affairs Today – January 23, 2026

23 January 2026

**SUBJECTS COVERED****HISTORY & CULTURE****SECURITY & DEFENCE****POLITY****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

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## WHY IN NEWS

India observed the 129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on January 23, 2026, marked nationally as Parakram Diwas. Simultaneously, a major anti-Maoist operation — Operation Megaburu — was launched in the Saranda forest of Jharkhand, neutralising top Naxal leader Patiram Manjhi and over a dozen cadres.

## PARAKRAM DIWAS 2026 — NETAJI'S 129TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

India observed **Parakram Diwas** (Day of Courage) on January 23, 2026 — marking the **129th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** (born January 23, 1897, Cuttack, Odisha).

**2026 Celebrations (Ministry of Culture):** The Ministry of Culture organised Parakram Diwas 2026 as a three-day event from **January 23–25, 2026**, with events at the **central venue in Sri Vijaya Puram (formerly Port Blair), Andaman & Nicobar Islands** — historically significant as Netaji hoisted the Indian Tricolour at Port Blair on December 30, 1943, during the INA's brief liberation of the islands.

Simultaneously, programmes were held at **13 other iconic locations** across India.

### January 23 Highlights:

**Chief Guest:** Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, **Admiral D.K. Joshi**

**Archival exhibition:** “Subhash Abhinandan” by the National Archives of India — showcasing documents related to Netaji's life and the INA

**“Netaji” theatrical production:** National School of Drama (NSD) performance (January 24)

Wreath-laying at Netaji memorials across India; special commemorative events at the Cellular Jail (Kaala Paani) in Port Blair

**Why Parakram Diwas?** The Central Government declared January 23 as **Parakram Diwas** in January 2021, beginning with the 125th birth anniversary. The word “Parakram” (courage, prowess) was chosen to reflect Netaji's indomitable spirit and his call to action against colonial rule.

### ★ FACTS CORNER — PARAKRAM DIWAS

**Netaji's birth:** January 23, 1897, Cuttack, Odisha

**Parakram Diwas declared:** 2021 (first observance: January 23, 2021 — 125th anniversary)

**2026:** 129th birth anniversary

**Central venue 2026:** Sri Vijaya Puram (formerly Port Blair), A&N Islands

**Significance of Port Blair:** Netaji hoisted the Indian Tricolour here on December 30, 1943

**INA established:** 1942 (Mohan Singh); reorganised under Netaji: 1943

**Azad Hind Government formed:** October 21, 1943 (Singapore)

**Father:** Janakinath Bose (distinguished advocate); **Mother:** Prabhavati Devi

**ICS rank:** 4th in 1920 exam; resigned from ICS: 1921

**Congress President:** 1938 (Haripura session) and 1939 (Tripuri session)

**Forward Bloc founded:** 1939

**Last confirmed location:** Taiwan plane crash, August 18, 1945 (disputed)

### OPERATION MEGABURU — MAJOR ANTI-NAXAL STRIKE IN JHARKHAND

Security forces launched **Operation Megaburu** in the **Saranda forest, West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand** — one of the most significant anti-Maoist operations in the state's history.

#### Operation Details:

**Location:** Saranda forest — the largest sal forest in Asia, a traditional Maoist stronghold

**Forces deployed:** CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) units of the **CRPF**, along with the Jharkhand Police

**Outcome:** **16–17 CPI(Maoist) cadres neutralised**, including top regional leader **Patiram Manjhi alias Anal Da**, who carried a bounty of **₹2.35 crore**

#### Significance:

Patiram Manjhi was one of the most wanted Naxal commanders operating in the tri-junction of Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh

The operation marks a significant step towards the Central Government's **target of eliminating Left Wing Extremism from India by March 2026**

Saranda forest had historically been a stronghold difficult to penetrate due to dense terrain

**About CoBRA:** CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) is the **elite anti-Naxal wing of the CRPF**, raised specifically for jungle warfare and counter-insurgency in LWE-affected areas. It consists of **10 battalions** specially trained in guerrilla tactics, intelligence gathering, and forest operations.

**LWE Status in India:** Left Wing Extremism (Naxalism) has been declining sharply. The number of LWE-affected districts has reduced from **106 in 2018** to significantly fewer by 2026, a result of sustained security operations, development outreach, and surrender/rehabilitation policies.

### ★ FACTS CORNER — LWE & OPERATION MEGABURU

**Operation Megaburu location:** Saranda forest, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand

**Saranda:** Largest sal forest in Asia; known Maoist stronghold

**Patiram Manjhi alias Anal Da:** Bounty ₹2.35 crore; top regional commander

**Cadres neutralised:** 16–17 CPI(Maoist) personnel

**CoBRA full form:** Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CRPF)

**CoBRA:** 10 battalions; raised for jungle/anti-Naxal operations

**CPI(Maoist):** Formed in 2004 by merger of CPI(ML) People's War and Maoist Communist Centre

**UAPA:** Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act — CPI(Maoist) declared terrorist organisation under UAPA

**LWE districts 2018:** 106 affected; reduced significantly by 2026

**Government target:** Eliminate LWE by March 2026

#### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Jharkhand: LWE operations also conducted in Palamu, Latehar, Giridih, Hazaribagh districts

Saranda Action Plan (2011): ₹73 crore special development programme for Saranda region

Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy: Maoists who surrender receive support for livelihood, education, and housing

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 — THIRD ROUND UNDERWAY

The Australian Open 2026 continued at Melbourne Park with **third-round (Round of 32) matches** on January 23. Top seeds advanced in both men's and women's draws. **Jannik Sinner** (World No. 1, Italy) and **Carlos Alcaraz** (World No. 2, Spain) progressed through the draw.

**Note:** The Australian Open 2026 ran from January 12 to February 1 in Melbourne.

## PERSONS IN NEWS

### Sombir Dangwal — Birth Anniversary

January 23 is observed as the birth anniversary of various local leaders and freedom fighters across states.

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express

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