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Current Affairs Today – January 27, 2026

27 January 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**IR****POLITY****ECONOMY****SECURITY & DEFENCE****SCIENCE & TECH****PERSONS & AWARDS****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

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WHY IN NEWS

January 27, 2026 centred on the 16th India-EU Summit in New Delhi — PM Modi, António Costa, and Ursula von der Leyen announced 13 deliverables under the “Towards 2030” Strategic Agenda including the India-EU FTA, Security and Defence Partnership, and a historic Mobility and Migration Partnership. India Energy Week 2026 opened simultaneously in Goa. Republic Day 2026 tableau and contingent winners were also declared.

16TH INDIA-EU SUMMIT — “TOWARDS 2030” STRATEGIC AGENDA

The **16th India-EU Summit** was held on **January 27, 2026** in New Delhi, hosted by PM **Narendra Modi** with EU leaders **António Costa** (European Council President) and **Ursula von der Leyen** (European Commission President).

The Summit produced **13 deliverables** under the “*Towards 2030: India-EU Joint Strategic Agenda*”:

Trade and Economy:

India-EU FTA concluded — 19 years in the making; EU opens 97% tariff lines (99.5% of India’s exports); India opens 92.1% tariff lines; world’s largest FTA by population (~2 billion people); combined ~25% of global GDP

Investment Protection Agreement (IPA) — exploratory negotiations launched; will cover bilateral investment dispute resolution

Security and Defence:

India-EU Security and Defence Partnership — signed by EAM Jaishankar and EU HR/VP **Kaja Kallas**; 5 pillars: maritime security, defence industry, cyber/hybrid threats, space, counter-terrorism; Annual Security Dialogue institutionalised; Security of Information Agreement to be negotiated

People-to-People (Mobility and Migration Partnership):

EU member states to collectively issue **up to 1,00,000 multi-year work permits** to Indian nationals annually (across IT, healthcare, skilled trades, caregiving)

35,000 graduate-track residence permits annually for Indian graduates of EU universities (facilitating post-study work)

Mutual recognition frameworks for professional qualifications (doctors, engineers, architects)

Significant for India’s Mode 4 services trade interests – first binding commitment by EU on Indian professional mobility

Technology and Research:

Horizon Europe – India’s prospective integration into EU’s **€95 billion** research and innovation fund (2021–2027); enables Indian researchers and institutions to participate in EU-funded projects

Critical Technologies cooperation – supply chain resilience in semiconductors, AI, quantum computing; India joining EU’s list of “strategic partners” in critical technologies

Green Hydrogen Task Force – India-EU Clean Energy Partnership; India-EU electrolyser manufacturing cooperation

Climate and Energy:

Cooperation under Carbon Markets framework; India’s Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) recognised as equivalent framework for CBAM relief negotiations

EU-India Clean Technology Fund mobilisation target: USD 10 billion by 2030

Strategic Context: India is the EU’s **22nd FTA partner**. The Summit expanded the relationship beyond trade and development aid (the traditional frame of EU-India ties) into security, technology, and people-mobility – a comprehensive upgrade of the partnership.

REPUBLIC DAY 2026 — PARADE WINNERS AND INNOVATIONS

Best Tableaux:

| Category | Winner | Theme |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Best – States/UTs | Maharashtra | “Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta” |
| 2nd – States/UTs | Jammu & Kashmir | Rich handicrafts and folk dances |
| 3rd – States/UTs | Kerala | Water Metro + 100% digital literacy |
| Best – Central Ministries | Ministry of Culture | “Vande Mataram — The Soul Cry of a Nation” |
| Popular Choice (Ministries) | Dept. of School Education & Literacy | National Education Policy 2020 |

Best Marching Contingents:

Armed Forces: **Indian Navy**

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs): **Delhi Police**

Military Innovations – First-Ever “Phased Battle Array” Format: Republic Day 2026 debuted a new **tactical battle-array display** instead of the traditional linear march:

Reconnaissance drones led the formation (surveillance/ISR assets)

Followed by **main attack assets** (Shaktibaan Artillery Regiments with drone + loitering munition warfare)

Divyastra Batteries (conventional artillery + precision drones)

Bhairav Light Commando Battalions (fast-attack infantry)

Robotic Dogs – first-ever appearance of military surveillance robots in the Republic Day parade

Indigenous swarm drone warfare display – India’s first public demonstration of coordinated swarm drone tactics

~10,000 special guests from various walks of life; ~2,500 artists performed cultural acts

INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2026, GOA

India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 (4th edition) was inaugurated by **PM Modi via video conferencing** on January 27, 2026 in **Goa**, with representatives from **~125 countries** participating.

PM Modi’s Key Announcements:

India offers a **\$500 billion investment opportunity** across the energy value chain

Target: Raise oil & gas sector investments to **\$100 billion** by end of the decade; expand exploration to 1 million sq km

India currently ranks **2nd globally in refining capacity** (target: No. 1)

India among **top 5 exporters of petroleum products** globally (exports to 150+ countries)

Target: **15% of total energy demand** to be met through **LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)** by 2030

India-EU FTA cited as a boost to energy trade (EU is India’s top energy equipment supplier)

India’s Energy Landscape: India’s primary energy consumption is the **3rd largest globally** (after China and USA). The IEW is India’s annual energy diplomacy platform showcasing transition from net energy importer to energy manufacturing hub.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 — CARLOS ALCARAZ COMPLETES CAREER GRAND SLAM

At the **Australian Open 2026** (Melbourne Park, January 12–February 1):

Men’s Singles: Carlos Alcaraz (Spain) won the title – completing the **Career Grand Slam** (winning all 4 Grand Slams: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open). At **22 years, 8 months, 27 days**, he became the **youngest player in tennis history** to complete the Career Grand Slam, breaking Rafael

Nadal's record (24 years, 101 days) and Don Budge's 1938 record. This was Alcaraz's **7th Grand Slam** title. He defeated Novak Djokovic in the final (February 1).

Women's Singles: Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) won the title, defeating Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) in the final.

Mixed Doubles: Ellen Perez and Nick Kyrgios (both Australia) won.

US WITHDRAWS FROM WHO

The United States officially withdrew from the **World Health Organization (WHO)** on **January 22, 2026**, effective from that date.

Reason cited: Alleged failures during the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of reforms

Historical note: This is the **second US withdrawal** from WHO — the first was under Trump's first term; the US rejoined under President Biden in 2021

Impact: US contributes ~15–18% of WHO's budget; withdrawal reduces WHO's operational capacity and signals broader retreat from multilateralism

WHO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**, established **1948** under the UN system (replacing the League of Nations Health Organization). Its primary law is the **International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005**.

NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY AND NATIONAL TOURISM DAY — JANUARY 25

National Voters' Day (NVD): Observed on **January 25** (16th NVD 2026); Theme: "My India, My Vote"; marks ECI's founding on January 25, 1950 (Article 324). Chief Guest: President Droupadi Murmu; CEC: Gyanesh Kumar; ECINET (40+ apps) launched.

National Tourism Day: Also January 25; Theme: "Rural and Community-Centric Tourism" — aligned with the government's push to develop rural tourism as a livelihood and heritage preservation tool.

PERSONS IN NEWS

I.S. Bindra (1941 — January 25, 2026):

Former BCCI President (1993–96); Punjab Cricket Association President (1978–2014; 36 years)

Brought ICC Cricket World Cup 1987 (India-Pakistan; first outside England) and 1996 (India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka) to the subcontinent

In 1994, challenged Doordarshan's cricket broadcast monopoly in the Supreme Court — verdict opened Indian cricket to ESPN and global broadcasters; transformative for Indian cricket's commercial model

IS Bindra Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali named in his honour (2015)

Vijay Amritraj — Padma Bhushan 2026:

India's greatest tennis player of the 20th century; inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame** (Newport, Rhode Island, USA)

Represented India at Davis Cup for over two decades; played on ATP Tour in the 1970s–80s; also had a Hollywood film career

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16TH INDIA-EU SUMMIT (JANUARY 27, 2026):

Venue: **New Delhi** | Participants: PM Modi, António Costa, Ursula von der Leyen

Framework: “**Towards 2030: India-EU Joint Strategic Agenda**” — **13 deliverables**

India-EU FTA: Concluded; EU 22nd FTA partner for India; combined **~25% global GDP**; **~2 billion** people

Security Partnership: 5 pillars — maritime, defence industry, cyber, space, counter-terrorism

Mobility & Migration: **1,00,000 work permits + 35,000 graduate-track permits** annually for Indians in EU

Horizon Europe: EU’s research fund — **€95 billion** (2021–2027)

IPA: Investment Protection Agreement — exploratory negotiations launched

Green Hydrogen Task Force: India-EU cooperation on clean energy

REPUBLIC DAY 2026 — WINNERS:

Best Tableau (States): **Maharashtra** (“Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta”)

2nd (States): **Jammu & Kashmir** | 3rd: **Kerala** (Water Metro)

Best Tableau (Ministries): **Ministry of Culture** (“Vande Mataram — Soul Cry of a Nation”)

Best March (Armed Forces): **Indian Navy**

Best March (CAPFs): **Delhi Police**

REPUBLIC DAY 2026 — MILITARY INNOVATIONS:

“**Phased Battle Array**” format: First ever at Republic Day; tactical combat order (recon drones → attack → artillery)

Robotic Dogs: First appearance in Republic Day parade

Swarm Drones: First public display of India’s swarm drone warfare capability

Units: Shaktibaan Artillery Regiments, Divyastra Batteries, Bhairav Light Commando Battalions

INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2026:

Edition: **4th** | Venue: **Goa** | Countries: **~125**

Investment opportunity: **\$500 billion** across energy value chain

India’s refining rank: **2nd globally** (target: 1st)

India petroleum exports: **Top 5 globally** (150+ countries)

LNG target: **15%** of total energy demand

Oil & gas investment target: **\$100 billion** by end of decade

AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026:

Men’s: **Carlos Alcaraz** (Spain) d. Djokovic — **Career Grand Slam** completed

Youngest Career Grand Slam: **22 years, 8 months, 27 days** (broke Nadal’s 24y 101d record)

Alcaraz’s Slams: **7 total**

Women’s: **Elena Rybakina** (Kazakhstan) d. Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)

Mixed Doubles: **Ellen Perez + Nick Kyrgios** (Australia)

US WHO WITHDRAWAL:

Effective date: **January 22, 2026** (2nd US withdrawal)

1st withdrawal: Trump’s first term; rejoined under Biden 2021

WHO HQ: **Geneva, Switzerland** | Founded: **1948**

US share of WHO budget: **~15–18%**

Governing law: **International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005**

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

National Tourism Day: **January 25** (same as NVD) — Theme 2026: “Rural and Community-Centric Tourism”

Ganeshotsav (Ganesh Chaturthi): Maharashtra’s most prominent festival — 10 days; first celebrated publicly by Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1893) to forge community solidarity against British rule

Kerala Water Metro: Kochi Water Metro — 15 routes, 78 km network; world’s largest inland water transport network of its type

BCCI: Board of Control for Cricket in India; founded **1928**; ICC founded **1909**

Career Grand Slam: Winning Australian Open, French Open (Roland Garros), Wimbledon, US Open

WHO: Full form — World Health Organization; Part of UN system; IHR 2005 = legally binding international health security instrument

Vijay Amritraj: International Tennis Hall of Fame (Newport, RI); Davis Cup career spans 1970s–90s

Mode 4 services: Under GATS — movement of natural persons to supply services; India’s primary services trade export interest to EU

Sources: PIB, MEA India, European Commission, Drishti IAS, The Hindu

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