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Current Affairs Today – January 30, 2026

30 January 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED

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HISTORY & CULTURE

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WHY IN NEWS

January 30, 2026 marked **Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas)** — the 78th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi — and the tabling of the **Economic Survey 2025-26** in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the day before the Union Budget 2026-27. The survey projected 7.4% real GDP growth for FY26 and called for gig worker protections, deregulation, and “Disciplined Swadeshi” in trade policy.

MARTYRS' DAY (SHAHEED DIWAS) — 78TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MAHATMA GANDHI

January 30, 1948: Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by **Nathuram Vinayak Godse** at **Birla Bhavan, New Delhi**, at 5:05 PM — shot three times at point-blank range during evening prayers.

2026 Observance:

President **Droupadi Murmu**, Vice President **C.P. Radhakrishnan**, and Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid floral tributes at Gandhi Samadhi, **Rajghat, New Delhi**

Sarva-Dharma Prarthana (multi-faith prayer service) held at Rajghat

Two-minute silence at **11:00 AM** across the country; Last Post bugle call by the armed forces

Chief of Defence Staff, all three Service Chiefs, and Cabinet Ministers attended

UPSC Angle (GS1/GS4): Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to freedom movement; Sarvodaya philosophy; non-violence (ahimsa) as political method; Constitution's Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) and Gandhi's values.

Key facts about Mahatma Gandhi:

Born: **October 2, 1869**, Porbandar, Gujarat; Died: **January 30, 1948**, New Delhi

October 2 = **International Day of Non-Violence** (UNGA Resolution A/RES/61/271, June 2007)

Rajghat: Gandhi's cremation site; memorial in New Delhi; maintained by the **National Gandhi Museum**

January 30 = Martyrs' Day (Shaheed Diwas); also marked as **Sarvodaya Day**

January 30 also marks three other Indian martyrs' days: October 19 (Vallabhbhai Patel's day is also called), and there are multiple “Martyrs' Days” in India — the primary national one is January 30

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025-26 — TABLED IN PARLIAMENT

The **Economic Survey 2025-26** was tabled by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** on January 30, 2026 — the traditional practice of releasing the Survey the day before the Union Budget (presented February 1, 2026). **Chief Economic Adviser (CEA):** V. Anantha Nageswaran.

GDP and Growth:

Real GDP growth FY26: **7.4%** (NSO First Advance Estimate) — India retains status as fastest-growing major economy for the **4th consecutive year**

FY27 growth projection: **6.8%–7.2%**

Medium-term potential growth: revised upward to **7% per annum**

Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE): 61.5% of GDP — highest since 2012 (12-year high); driven by falling inflation and rising real incomes

Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) grew **7.8%**, sustaining ~30% share of GDP

Manufacturing GVA growth: **8.4%** (H1 FY26); Services GVA: **9.3%** (H1 FY26)

Inflation:

Headline CPI inflation Apr–Dec 2025: **1.7%** — lowest since CPI series began (2012)

Food inflation (December 2025): **-2.71%** — driven by falling vegetable and pulse prices

Core inflation: subdued, indicating limited demand-side pressure

Employment:

Total employment: **56.2 crore** (Q2 FY26)

Gig workers: grew from 7.7 million (FY21) to **12 million** (FY25) — 55% growth; projected to reach **6.7% of the workforce by 2029-30**, contributing Rs 2.35 lakh crore to GDP; ~40% earn less than Rs 15,000/month

Survey recommends **minimum wage policy** for gig workers

Agriculture:

Foodgrain production: **3,577.3 lakh metric tonnes (LMT)** — AY 2024-25

Horticulture production: **362.08 million tonnes (MT)** — **surpassed foodgrain output for the first time in India's history**

Agricultural credit (ground-level): Rs 28.69 lakh crore (FY25); KCC coverage: **7.72 crore accounts**

Financial Inclusion:

PMJDY accounts: **55.02 crore**

PMMY (Mudra Yojana): Rs 36.18 lakh crore disbursed across **55.45 crore loan accounts**

Demat accounts: **21.6 crore+**; 12 crore unique investors (nearly 25% women)

Key Policy Themes (Survey Recommendations):

“Disciplined Swadeshi”: Calibrated integration into global supply chains while supporting domestic industry; selective reduction of input import duties

Deregulation: State-level “Ease of Doing Business 2.0” — replace inspection-based control with trust-based compliance

Four Labour Codes (notified November 2025): Consolidate 29 labour laws; recognise gig workers; enable portable social security

Digital addiction: Flagged as a public health threat; rising screen-related mental health issues

Climate: Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment); shift from mitigation-first to Adaptation-led Development

UPSC Angle (GS3): Economic Survey as a UPSC Mains resource; GDP growth, inflation, fiscal consolidation; gig economy and labour codes; agricultural output; financial inclusion data; Policy themes (deregulation, disciplined swadeshi).

CPI NEW SERIES — BASE YEAR REVISED TO 2024=100

The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** announced India’s new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series with **Base Year: 2024=100**, replacing the previous base year of 2012=100.

Key Changes:

Item basket expanded: 299 → **358 items** (goods: 259→308; services: 40→50)

New items added: OTT subscriptions, CNG/PNG fuel, e-commerce prices, rural housing

Items removed: VCR/DVD players, radio, tape recorders, second-hand clothing

Food weight reduced: 42.61% → **36.75%** — expected to reduce headline inflation volatility

Categories gaining weight: Housing, transport, health, communication

First data under new series: February 12, 2026

CPI under new series (January 2026 provisional): **2.75%**

UPSC Angle (GS3): CPI methodology; base year revisions; inflation measurement; MoSPI functions; difference between CPI and WPI; core inflation.

INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2026 — INDIA-CANADA ENERGY COOPERATION

India Energy Week (IEW) 2026 was held at **Goa, January 27–30, 2026** — Asia’s premier energy event.

India-Canada Energy Cooperation:

Canada's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources **Timothy Hodgson** attended — first high-level Canadian Cabinet Minister at IEW

India and Canada signed a **Joint Statement on Energy Cooperation**, relaunching the **India-Canada Ministerial Energy Dialogue (CIMED)**

Context: India-Canada relations had been strained since September 2023 (Nijjar case); this engagement marks a diplomatic reset

Areas of cooperation: LNG, LPG, crude oil (Canada to supply); refined petroleum (India to export); critical minerals; renewable energy (hydrogen, biofuels, SAF, battery storage); AI in energy

India's energy opportunity highlighted: USD 500 billion across energy value chain

Canada's energy and resource projects on offer: **USD 116 billion+**

India-UAE Strategic Defence Partnership (context):

UAE President **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** visited India on January 19, 2026

India and UAE signed **Letter of Intent for bilateral Strategic Defence Partnership** — unprecedented in India's Gulf relations

Bilateral trade target: USD 200 billion by 2032 (since CEPA 2022; current: approaching USD 100 billion)

HPCL-ADNOC Gas: 10-year LNG Supply Agreement — 0.5 million tonnes/year from 2028

IN-SPACE + UAE Space Agency: Letter of Intent for joint missions and satellite manufacturing

UPSC Angle (GS2/GS3): India-Canada relations; India-UAE Strategic Partnership; energy security; CEPA; LNG supply chains; India-Gulf diplomacy.

VISHWAMITRI RIVER — MUGGER CROCODILE CENSUS, VADODARA

A **2025 census** recorded **442 mugger crocodiles** within a **21-kilometre stretch** of the **Vishwamitri River** flowing through **Vadodara city, Gujarat** — making it one of the rare cases globally of a healthy crocodilian population in an urban river.

Key Facts:

Mugger Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*): IUCN Red List status — **Vulnerable**; listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (highest protection tier)

Three crocodilian species in India: Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*), Saltwater (*Crocodylus porosus*), and **Gharial** (*Gavialis gangeticus*; Critically Endangered)

Vishwamitri River: Origin — Pavagadh hills, Panchmahal district, Gujarat; length ~164 km; rain-fed; joins **Gulf of Khambhat** (part of Gulf of Cambay, Arabian Sea)

Population trend: The Vadodara city stretch hosts a remarkably dense and stable population; conservation through co-existence is being studied as a model

UPSC Angle (GS3): Wildlife conservation; Schedule I species; IUCN categories; wetland ecology; human-wildlife interface in urban settings; Gujarat's wildlife diversity.

WORLD NTD DAY — JANUARY 30

World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day – observed annually on **January 30** since 2020; the 2026 observance marks the **7th edition**.

Established by: World Health Organization (WHO)

2026 Theme: “Unite. Act. Eliminate.”

NTDs: A group of **20 parasitic and bacterial diseases** primarily affecting impoverished populations in tropical/subtropical regions

Key NTDs affecting India: Lymphatic filariasis, kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis), leprosy, soil-transmitted helminths (STHs), trachoma

India's NTD Roadmap: Targets elimination of lymphatic filariasis and kala-azar by **2026**

January 30 significance: Date is timed to coincide with Martyrs' Day and the anniversary of the 2012 London Declaration on NTDs (January 30, 2012) – when 13 pharmaceutical companies committed to donating medicines

UPSC Angle (GS2): Health governance; SDG 3 (Good Health); WHO NTD programmes; India's disease elimination targets; one-health approach; GPEI and WHO R&D Blueprint.

KHELO INDIA GAMES 2026 UPDATES

Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2026 – 6th Edition:

Phase 1 (ice sports): January 20–26, 2026, **Leh, Ladakh**

Phase 2 (snow sports): **Kangdoori** and **Gulmarg Golf Course Club, Jammu & Kashmir**

Disciplines: Ice Hockey, Ice Skating, Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing, Ski Mountaineering, Snowboarding

Phase 1 medal tally: **Haryana (1st: 5G-1S-2B)**, Ladakh (2nd), Maharashtra (3rd)

Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2026 – 2nd Edition:

Venue: **Ghoghla Beach, Diu**

Mascot: Dolphin named “**Pearl**”

Overall champion: **Karnataka**

UPSC Angle (GS2/Prelims): Khelo India initiative under Khelo India Act; Sports Authority of India (SAI); Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; venues and champions for MCQ.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Michael Nobbs (Obituary): Former head coach of the **Indian Men's Hockey Team** (2009–2013), Australian national, passed away on January 30, 2026. Known for developing young talent and raising India's world ranking during his tenure.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Martyrs' Day (January 30; 1948; Nathuram Godse; Birla Bhavan; Rajghat); Economic Survey (tabled January 30, 2026; CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran; GDP 7.4% FY26; FY27 6.8-7.2%; PFCE 61.5% of GDP; foodgrain 3,577.3 LMT; horticulture 362.08 MT surpassed foodgrain for first time; gig workers 12 million, 6.7% workforce by 2030; PMJDY 55.02 crore; PMMY 55.45 crore loans; demat 21.6 crore); CPI new series (Base Year 2024=100; 358 items; food weight 36.75%; MoSPI); India Energy Week (Goa; January 27-30; India-Canada CIMED; Timothy Hodgson; HPCL-ADNOC 0.5 MT/year LNG from 2028; India-UAE LoI Strategic Defence); Vishwamitri River (Vadodara; 442 mugger crocodiles; 21 km; Pavagadh hills; Gulf of Khambhat); Muggler crocodile (IUCN Vulnerable; Schedule I WPA); NTD Day (January 30; 7th edition 2026; WHO; "Unite. Act. Eliminate."); kala-azar, lymphatic filariasis); KIWG 2026 (6th edition; Leh; Haryana 1st Phase 1); KIBG 2026 (2nd edition; Ghoghla Beach, Diu; Pearl mascot; Karnataka won); Michael Nobbs (Indian hockey coach; died Jan 30).

Economic Survey 2025-26 — major themes (deregulation, gig economy, disciplined swadeshi, climate adaptation); horticulture surpassing foodgrains significance; CPI revision and inflation measurement accuracy.

GS-2:

India-Canada relations reset at IEW 2026; India-UAE Strategic Defence Partnership; India-Gulf diplomacy.

GS-1:

Mahatma Gandhi and Sarvodaya philosophy; martyrs' legacy in Indian polity.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA
MARTYRS' DAY — JANUARY 30:

Date: January 30, 1948; **Birla Bhavan, New Delhi**; 5:05 PM

Assassin: **Nathuram Vinayak Godse** (shot three times)

Memorial: **Rajghat**, New Delhi (cremation site)

Gandhi's birth: October 2, 1869, Porbandar, Gujarat

October 2 = **International Day of Non-Violence** (UNGA 2007)

Sarvodaya Day: Also observed on January 30

2026 observance: 78th death anniversary

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025-26 (KEY NUMBERS):

Tabled: January 30, 2026; by: FM Nirmala Sitharaman; author: CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran

Real GDP growth FY26: **7.4%** (fastest-growing major economy, 4th consecutive year)

FY27 projection: **6.8%–7.2%**

Headline CPI inflation Apr–Dec 2025: **1.7%** (lowest since CPI series began)

Food inflation December 2025: **-2.71%**

PFCE: **61.5% of GDP** (12-year high since 2012)

GFCF: **7.8%** growth (capital formation)

Total employment: **56.2 crore** (Q2 FY26)

Gig workers FY25: **12 million** (up from 7.7 mn in FY21)

Gig workforce share by 2029-30: **6.7%**; GDP contribution: Rs 2.35 lakh crore

Foodgrain production AY 2024-25: **3,577.3 LMT**

Horticulture production: **362.08 MT** — **first time horticulture surpassed foodgrain output**

Agricultural credit FY25: Rs 28.69 lakh crore; KCC accounts: **7.72 crore**

PMJDY accounts: **55.02 crore**

PMMY loans: **55.45 crore accounts** (Rs 36.18 lakh crore disbursed)

Demat accounts: **21.6 crore+**; unique investors: 12 crore (25% women)

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Base Year: **2024=100** (was 2012=100)

Items: **358** (from 299); goods: 308; services: 50

Food weight: **36.75%** (down from 42.61%)

New items: OTT, CNG/PNG, e-commerce, rural housing

First data release: February 12, 2026

INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2026:

Venue: **Goa**; Dates: January 27–30, 2026

India-Canada: CIMED relaunched; LNG, LPG, critical minerals

Canadian Minister: **Timothy Hodgson** (first Canadian Cabinet Minister at IEW)

India-UAE: **LoI for Strategic Defence Partnership** (Sheikh MBZ; January 19, 2026)

HPCL–ADNOC Gas: 10-year LNG deal, **0.5 MT/year** from 2028

UAE trade target: **USD 200 billion by 2032**

VISHWAMITRI RIVER – MUGGER CROCODILE:

Location: **Vadodara city, Gujarat**; urban river

Population: **442 mugger crocodiles** in **21 km** stretch (2025 census)

Species: *Crocodylus palustris*; IUCN: **Vulnerable**; WPA Schedule I

Origin: Pavagadh hills, Panchmahal; length: ~164 km; empties into **Gulf of Khambhat**

India's three crocodylians: Mugger (VU), Saltwater (LC), Gharial (CR)

NTD DAY:

Date: **January 30** annually (since 2020; 7th edition in 2026)

Theme 2026: **“Unite. Act. Eliminate.”**

NTDs: 20 diseases; WHO global list

India targets: Eliminate lymphatic filariasis + kala-azar by **2026**

KHELO INDIA 2026:

KIWG 2026: **6th edition**; Phase 1 at **Leh**; Haryana topped Phase 1

KIBG 2026: **2nd edition**; **Ghoghla Beach, Diu**; Mascot: Pearl (dolphin); Karnataka won

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Western Disturbances: Extratropical storms originating over **Mediterranean and Caspian Seas**; bring non-monsoonal rain/snow to North India (Himalayas, plains)

JALAJ Livelihood Centres: Joint initiative of **Namami Gange Mission + NABARD**; skilling for Ganga basin communities

Tehri Dam: India's tallest dam — **260.5 metres**; on **Bhagirathi River** (Ganga tributary); Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand; operated by **THDC India Limited**

Tehri Reservoir (Tehri Lake): depth ~**262 metres** (one of deepest in Asia); length ~42 km

Sources: PMF IAS, AffairsCloud, Insights on India, Vajiram & Ravi, PIB

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