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**WEEKLY ROUNDUP**

# Weekly Roundup — Week 5 (Jan 26 – Feb 1, 2026)

1 February 2026

**SUBJECTS COVERED****POLITY****ECONOMY****IR****SCIENCE & TECH****SECURITY & DEFENCE****ENVIRONMENT****SOCIAL ISSUES****REPORTS & SCHEMES****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

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# Weekly Roundup — Week 5 (Jan 26 – Feb 1, 2026)

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Polity

Economy

International Relations

Science Tech

Security Defence

Environment

Social Issues

Reports Schemes

## WEEK OVERVIEW

The biggest week of January — India hosted the **77th Republic Day** with the **European Union’s top two leaders** as chief guests, simultaneously concluding a landmark **India-EU Free Trade Agreement** after 19 years. The **Economic Survey 2025-26** charted India’s 7.4% growth, record-low 1.7% inflation, and the historic moment when **horticulture output surpassed foodgrains for the first time**. India’s **hypersonic missile (LR-AShM)** made its first public appearance on Kartavya Path. **Kavach 4.0** set a single-day commissioning record of 472.3 km, and **NSHIP Thoothukudi** launched India’s first mega shipbuilding cluster.

## HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

### Republic Day 2026 — Constitutional History and Purna Swaraj

India’s **77th Republic Day** was observed on January 26, 2026. The Constitution came into force on **January 26, 1950** — the date chosen to honour the **Purna Swaraj resolution** passed at the Lahore INC session on December 31, 1929 / January 1, 1930, under **Jawaharlal Nehru** (then 40 years old).

**Constituent Assembly timeline:** First meeting December 9, 1946; 389 members originally (reduced to 299 after Partition); chaired by **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**; Drafting Committee chaired by **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**; adopted November 26, 1949.

#### Key amendments:

**42nd Amendment (1976):** Added “Socialist” and “Secular” to the Preamble; added Fundamental Duties (Article 51A)

**44th Amendment (1978):** Reversed Emergency-era changes; restored pre-emergency balance

**UPSC Angle — GS-2 / Polity:** Constituent Assembly debates; Preamble — justiciability (non-justiciable but interpretive key); 106 amendments (as of 2026); basic structure doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973).

## Vande Mataram — 150 Years (1876–2026)

**Vande Mataram** — India’s **National Song** — completed 150 years in 2026. Composed in **1876** by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (Chatterjee)**; published in 1882 in his novel *Anandmath* (set during the Sannyasi Rebellion of 1763–1800).

### Key milestones:

| Event                     | Date                                    |
|---------------------------|---|
| Composed                  | 1876 by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee       |
| First sung at INC session | 1896 by Rabindranath Tagore             |
| Partition of Bengal       | 1905 (Lord Curzon) → Swadeshi Movement  |
| National Song status      | January 24, 1950 (Constituent Assembly) |

**Lal-Bal-Pal** (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal) used Vande Mataram as the rallying cry of the Swadeshi Movement. Tilak started **Ganeshotsav in 1893** (Pune) as a public mobilisation platform.

**National Song vs National Anthem:** Vande Mataram (National Song) — only first two stanzas official; not compulsory (Article 25). Jana Gana Mana (National Anthem) — adopted January 24, 1950; composed 1911 by Tagore.

**UPSC Angle — GS-1 / History-Culture:** Swadeshi Movement causes and forms; Anandmath’s political context; distinction between National Anthem and National Song; freedom of conscience under Article 25.

## DEFENCE & SECURITY

### Republic Day 2026 Parade — Phased Battle Array, Swarm Drones, Hypersonic Missile

The **77th Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path** (renamed from Rajpath, September 2022) featured several historic firsts:

**First-ever Phased Battle Array:** A tactical combat display in 4 phases: Phase 1 (reconnaissance drones), Phase 2 (electronic warfare), Phase 3 (precision strike), Phase 4 (Bhairav Battalions close-combat). Represents effects-based integrated warfare doctrine — a shift from platform-centric displays.

### New systems displayed:

**LR-AShM (Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile):** First public display. Mach 5+ cruise speed; Mach 10 peak; ~1,500 km range; two-stage solid rocket; DRDO. Sea-denial capability — targets adversary carrier groups. India joins Russia, China, USA in operational hypersonic systems.

**Swarm drones:** 100+ autonomous drones self-coordinating; AI-driven; builds on 75-drone Independence Day 2022 test

**Robotic dogs:** Multi-spectral sensors; AI navigation; EOD, CASEVAC, surveillance missions

**Shaktimaan Electronic Warfare System**

**Chief guests: António Costa** (President, European Council) + **Ursula von der Leyen** (President, European Commission) — first time the **EU's collective leadership** attended as chief guests.

**Gallantry: Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** (IAF) awarded **Ashoka Chakra** — India's highest peacetime gallantry medal — for being the **first Indian on the International Space Station** (Axiom-4 mission). Previous Indian spaceflight: Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma (1984, Soyuz T-11). Shukla is one of India's 4 Gaganyaan astronauts.

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Science + Security:** Hypersonic glide vehicles vs. hypersonic cruise missiles; iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence, 2018); Gaganyaan mission; Axiom Space commercial ISS missions.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### India-EU Free Trade Agreement — 19 Years in the Making

India and the EU concluded the **Comprehensive Trade and Investment Agreement (CTIA)** — popularly called the **India-EU FTA** — on January 28, 2026, after **19 years** of negotiations.

#### Timeline:

**2007:** Launched as BTIA (Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement)

**2013:** Suspended — sticking points: automobiles, dairy, wine, Mode 4 services

**2022:** Relaunched as CTIA after PM Modi-EU Leaders Summit

**2026:** Concluded at 16th India-EU Summit, New Delhi

#### Key terms:

**EU:** Opens **97% of tariff lines** to zero duty

**India:** Opens **92.1% of tariff lines**; ~\$33 billion of Indian exports will face zero duty

**Automobiles:** 10-year phase-down (India's most sensitive sector)

**Dairy:** Protected with safeguard clauses

**Mode 4 services:** EU to issue **1,00,000 work permits** + **35,000 graduate permits** annually for Indian professionals

**GI protections:** India's Basmati, Darjeeling tea, Mysore silk; EU's Champagne, Parmigiano-Reggiano, Scotch Whisky

**Key challenge — CBAM (Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism):** Effective 2026, CBAM imposes a carbon levy on imports of steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, electricity. Indian steel/aluminium MSMEs face **15–30% effective cost increase** to access EU markets — offset only if India prices its own carbon (linked to domestic carbon market development).

**UPSC Angle — GS-2 / IR + GS-3:** CBAM implications for India; TRIPS-compliant IP provisions; compulsory licensing preserved; EUDR (EU Deforestation Regulation) — traceability for coffee, rubber, timber exports.

## India-EU Security and Defence Partnership

Alongside the FTA, India and the EU signed a **Security and Defence Partnership** — the EU's **3rd such agreement with an Asian nation** (after Japan 2023, South Korea 2024).

**Five pillars:** Maritime security, defence industry cooperation, cyber & hybrid threats, space security, counter-terrorism.

### Key provisions:

Annual Security Dialogue (ministerial-level)

Security of Information Agreement (for classified intelligence sharing — to be negotiated)

Joint maritime patrols under EUNAVFOR framework (anti-piracy, Gulf of Aden)

### EU security architecture:

**CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy):** Established by Maastricht Treaty 1992; decisions require **unanimous** member state agreement

**CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy):** EU's military/civilian crisis management tool

**EUNAVFOR:** Anti-piracy mission since 2008; operates in Indian Ocean

**UPSC Angle — GS-2 / IR:** India's multi-alignment strategy (Quad + SCO + BRICS + EU + iCET); EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy (2021); UNCLOS and maritime security; India's non-aligned tradition vs. strategic partnerships.

## India Energy Week 2026 — \$500 Billion Opportunity

The **4th India Energy Week (IEW 2026)** was held in **Goa (Jan 27–30)** with ~125 countries. PM Modi announced a **\$500 billion energy investment opportunity** in India over the next decade.

### India's energy snapshot:

| Indicator               | Data   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Refining capacity       | ~250 million barrels/day — <b>2nd globally</b> |
| Largest single refinery | Reliance Jamnagar — 1.4 million barrels/day    |
| Crude import dependence | 85–88%   |
| LNG in energy mix       | 6–7% (target: <b>15% by 2030</b> )             |
| SPR capacity            | 5.33 MMT (~9.5 days consumption)               |
| SPR locations           | Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur                |

**LNG basics (Prelims):** Liquefied Natural Gas; cooled to **-162°C**; volume reduced **600 times**. India’s terminals: Dahej (largest), Hazira, Kochi, Ennore, Dabhol, Mundra. Suppliers: Qatar (largest), USA, Australia, Russia (Sakhalin-2).

**New deal this week:** HPCL–ADNOC Gas **\$3 billion LNG deal** (10-year, 0.5 MMTPA from 2028).

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy + Environment:** India’s energy security strategy; ONGC + HPCL + IOC roles; PM UJJWALA (102 million LPG connections); Green Hydrogen Mission (₹19,744 crore, 5 MMTPA by 2030); LNG as bridge fuel in energy transition.

## ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

### Economic Survey 2025-26 — Disciplined Swadeshi and Record Milestones

The **Economic Survey 2025-26**, tabled by FM Nirmala Sitharaman on January 29 (pre-Budget), was prepared by **Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran** (appointed February 2022; 6th CEA).

**Headline numbers:**

| Indicator               | Value  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Real GDP FY26           | <b>7.4%</b> (NSO First Advance Estimate)             |
| GVA FY26                | 7.3%   |
| FY27 projection         | 6.8%–7.2%  |
| CPI Apr–Dec 2025        | <b>1.7%</b> (lowest sustained since 2012 series)     |
| Food inflation Dec 2025 | <b>-2.71%</b> (deflation)                            |
| PFCE as % of GDP        | <b>61.5%</b> (12-year high)                          |
| Gross NPAs              | <b>2.2%</b> (multi-decadal low)                      |
| Forex reserves          | USD 701.4 billion (11 months import cover)           |
| Remittances FY25        | <b>USD 135.4 billion</b> (world's largest recipient) |

**Historic milestone — Horticulture overtakes Foodgrains: 362.08 MT** horticulture output exceeded **3,577.3 LMT** (357.73 MT) foodgrain production — **first time in independent India's history**.

Horticulture generates ~2.5x revenue per hectare vs cereals. Challenge: ~30% post-harvest losses; cold chain deficit.

### Gig economy:

**12 million gig workers (FY25)** — up 55% from 7.7 million (FY21)

Will be **6.7% of workforce by 2029–30**; GDP contribution: ₹2.35 lakh crore

~40% earn less than ₹15,000/month; lack EPF, ESI, minimum wage protections

**Code on Social Security 2020** recognises gig workers and enables welfare schemes — but **not yet notified in most states**

### Policy framework — “Disciplined Swadeshi”:

Selectively reduce **input duties** (raw materials, intermediates) to lower manufacturing costs

Maintain protection on **finished goods** to support domestic industry

Strategically integrate into **Global Value Chains (GVCs)** rather than full import substitution

Deregulation: trust-based compliance; MSME exemptions from compliance burden

**Four Labour Codes (notified November 2025):** Consolidate 29 pre-existing labour laws into: (1) Code on Wages, (2) Industrial Relations Code, (3) Code on Social Security (includes gig workers), (4) Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code. Hire-and-fire threshold raised to 300+ workers (from 100).

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy:** CEA’s role; Economic Survey vs. Budget; PFCE as consumption indicator; NPAs and banking sector health; gig economy regulatory gap; agricultural diversification toward horticulture.

## Kavach 4.0 — Record 472 km Single-Day Deployment

On January 30, 2026, **472.3 Route Kilometres (RKm)** of Kavach ATP (Automatic Train Protection) were commissioned in a **single day** — a world record for railway safety system deployment.

### Three sections commissioned:

Vadodara–Virar: 344 km (Western Railway)

Tughlakabad–Palwal: 35 km (Northern Railway)

Manpur–Sarmatanr: 93.3 km (East Central Railway)

### Kavach at a glance:

| Parameter               | Detail   |
|-------------------------|--|
| Total coverage (Jan 31) | >1,300 RKm   |
| Target by 2028-29       | 50,000 km  |
| Investment              | ₹1,38,000 crore  |
| Safety certification    | <b>SIL-4</b> (failure probability $<10^{-8}$ /hour)                        |
| Cost                    | ₹40–50 lakh/km vs ETCS ₹2–3 crore/km                                       |
| Manufacturers           | Medha Servo Drives, HBL Power Systems, Kernex Microsystems (all Hyderabad) |
| Developer               | RDSO, Lucknow + Indian Railways  |

**How it works:** Loco unit (GPS + radio), RFID tags every 200–500m, trackside electronic units, central control — all networked. Prevents: SPAD (Signal Passed at Danger), head-on collisions, rear-end collisions, speeding.

**Catalyst: Balasore train tragedy (June 2, 2023)** — 294 killed, 900+ injured; caused by wrong point-setting; Kavach would have prevented it.

**Global ATP comparison:** ETCS/ERTMS (EU), PTC (USA), CTCS (China), LZB (Germany). Kavach is **5–6x cheaper** than ETCS — critical for India’s 68,000+ km network.

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy:** Railway modernisation; Make in India in rail safety; Indian Railways network (4th globally; 25 million daily passengers); RDSO’s role; public safety vs. infrastructure investment.

## NSHIP Thoothukudi — India's First Mega Shipbuilding Cluster

The **National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park (NSHIP)** was formally established at **Thoothukudi (Tuticorin), Tamil Nadu** — India's first integrated mega shipbuilding cluster.

### Structure:

**SPV:** 50:50 JV between **V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port Authority** (Union) and **SIPCOT** (Tamil Nadu)

**Investment:** ₹19,989 crore (Shipbuilding Development Scheme)

**Scale:** 2 km waterfront; 2,000 acres (1,000 shipyards + 1,000 ancillary industries)

**Expected employment:** 55,000+ direct and indirect jobs

**India's shipbuilding paradox:** India has 7,516 km of coastline (6th globally) and 1,382 islands, yet builds **less than 1% of global ship tonnage**. Global market: China **54%**, South Korea **24%**, Japan **12%** — top-3 control ~90%.

**V.O. Chidambaranar Port** — named after **Vanchikondan Chidambaram Pillai** — a freedom fighter who founded the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (1906)** to compete with British shipping; jailed for sedition; immortalised as *Kappalottiya Tamizhan* (Tamil who steered the ship).

**Maritime India Vision 2030:** Target India in **top-5 global shipbuilders** by 2030; 300% cargo increase; 20 lakh maritime jobs.

**Blue Economy linkages:** Shipping (95% of India's trade volume), fisheries, offshore energy, marine biotech, coastal tourism, Deep Ocean Mission (₹4,077 crore, Matsya-6000 submersible).

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy:** Sagarmala Programme; cabotage laws; Indian Vessels Act; Blue Economy; INS Vikrant built at Cochin Shipyard (45,000 tonnes; commissioned September 2022).

## ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

### Vishwamitri River — 442 Mugger Crocodiles in Vadodara

The **2025 crocodile census** on the **Vishwamitri River** passing through **Vadodara, Gujarat** found **442 mugger crocodiles** in just 21 km — one of the world's densest urban crocodile populations.

**Three Indian crocodilians (Prelims):**

| Species                                 | IUCN          | WPA        | Habitat  |
|---|---------------|------------|--|
| Mugger ( <i>Crocodylus palustris</i> )  | Vulnerable    | Schedule I | Freshwater — rivers, lakes, ponds                |
| Saltwater ( <i>Crocodylus porosus</i> ) | Least Concern | Schedule I | Coastal, mangroves, estuaries                    |
| Gharial ( <i>Gavialis gangeticus</i> )  | Critical      | Schedule I | Chambal, Girwa, Gandak (narrow snout, fish-only) |

**Vishwamitri geography:** Originates at Pavagadh hills (Panchmahal; 762m); 164 km length; drains into Gulf of Khambhat (Arabian Sea).

**India Ramsar Sites:** India now has **98 Ramsar sites** — highest in Asia. Ramsar Convention signed 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; India acceded 1982. World Wetlands Day: February 2.

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Environment:** Project Crocodile (1975); Crocodile Rehabilitation Programme; National Chambal Sanctuary (gharial + river dolphin); Bhitarkanika NP (saltwater croc nesting); Schedule I vs. Schedule II.

## Circular Economy — India's E-Waste Crisis

India generated **6.19 MMT of e-waste in 2025** — projected to reach **14 MMT by 2030** (2.3x increase). Economic value: ₹51,000 crore annually; only **18% formally recovered**.

**Urban mining economics:** Mobile phone PCBs contain 2 kg gold/tonne vs 5g/tonne in gold ore — **5–50x more efficient** to recycle than mine.

**E-Waste Management Rules 2022** (under Environment Protection Act 1986): Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) — manufacturers meet annual collection targets; penalties up to ₹1 lakh/tonne shortfall. **80% of India's e-waste is handled informally** (acid baths, open burning).

**Vehicle Scrappage Policy 2021:** Private vehicles >20 years; commercial >15 years; 61 RVSF (Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities) operational. BS-I vehicles emit **8x more** than BS-VI.

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Environment:** EPR framework; National Critical Minerals Mission (lithium from e-waste); CBAM's link to sustainable production; informal economy in waste.

## POLITY & GOVERNANCE

### Sunetra Pawar — Maharashtra's First Woman Deputy CM

**Sunetra Pawar** (age 62; Rajya Sabha MP, NCP Ajit faction) was sworn in as **Maharashtra's first woman Deputy CM** on January 31, 2026 — following the death of her husband **Ajit Pawar** (Learjet 45 crash, Baramati Airport, January 28). She was unanimously elected NCP legislature party leader and given portfolios of Excise, Sports & Youth Welfare, Welfare & Minorities.

**Constitutional basis:** Articles 163 and 164 — CM advises Governor on minister appointments; Deputy CM is a **convention**, not a constitutionally separate post. Oath administered under the **Third Schedule**.

### CPI New Series — 2024 Base Year

The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** was rebased from **2012=100** to **2024=100**. Items revised: **299** → **358** (goods: 259→308; services: 40→50). Food weight reduced: **42.61%** → **36.75%** (reflecting India's changing consumption basket). New items include OTT subscriptions, CNG/PNG, e-commerce, rural housing. First data release: February 12, 2026. January 2026 provisional CPI: **2.75%**.

**UPSC Angle — GS-3 / Economy:** CPI vs. WPI; base year revision methodology; CPI-Rural, CPI-Urban, CPI-Combined; role of MoSPI.

**★ FACTS CORNER — WEEK 5 KNOWLEDGE PEDIA (JAN 26–FEB 1, 2026)**
**REPUBLIC DAY & CONSTITUTION:**

77th Republic Day Jan 26, 2026; Constitution in force Jan 26, 1950; adopted Nov 26, 1949

Constituent Assembly: first meeting Dec 9, 1946; 299 members (post-Partition from 389); President Dr. Rajendra Prasad; Drafting Chair Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Purna Swaraj: Dec 31, 1929/Jan 1, 1930; Lahore INC; Nehru (40 yrs); Jan 26 = Independence Pledge Day  
Kartavya Path: renamed from Rajpath Sep 2022; “Duty Path”

Chief guests: António Costa (European Council) + Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission) — first EU collective chief guest

Ashoka Chakra: Gp Capt Shubhanshu Shukla (IAF); first Indian on ISS via Axiom-4; 4 Gaganyaan astronauts

Previous Indian spaceflight: Wg Cdr Rakesh Sharma (1984, Soyuz T-11)

LR-AShM: Mach 5+ cruise, Mach 10 peak; ~1,500 km range; two-stage solid rocket; DRDO; first public display

Hypersonic nations: Russia (Kinzhal, Zircon), China (DF-ZF, YJ-21), USA (Dark Eagle), India (LR-AShM, HSTDV)

**VANDE MATARAM:**

Composed: 1876 by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Novel: Anandmath (1882); Sannyasi Rebellion (1763–1800) setting

First INC: 1896 by Rabindranath Tagore; Partition 1905 → Swadeshi Movement

Status: National Song (NOT anthem); first 2 stanzas official; not compulsory (Article 25)

National Anthem: Jana Gana Mana; adopted Jan 24, 1950; composed 1911 by Tagore

Tilak’s Ganeshotsav: 1893, Pune; 10-day public mobilization

**INDIA-EU SUMMIT:**

16th India-EU Summit: Jan 27, 2026; New Delhi; 13 deliverables

FTA (CTIA): Jan 28, 2026; EU 97% zero duty; India 92.1%; ~\$33B Indian exports zero duty

History: BTIA 2007 → suspended 2013 → relaunched 2022 → concluded 2026

Mobility: EU = 1,00,000 work permits + 35,000 graduate permits/year for Indians

GI protections: Basmati, Darjeeling tea, Mysore silk (India); Champagne, Parmigiano, Scotch (EU)

CBAM: effective 2026; 15–30% effective cost on Indian steel/aluminium to EU; requires domestic carbon pricing

Security Partnership: EU’s 3rd Asia pact (after Japan 2023, S Korea 2024); 5 pillars; Annual Dialogue

EUNAVFOR: anti-piracy since 2008; Indian Ocean; CFSP unanimous decisions; CSDP missions

**ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025-26:**

CEA: V. Anantha Nageswaran (appointed Feb 2022; 6th CEA)

GDP FY26: 7.4% (NSO First Advance Estimate); GVA: 7.3%; FY27: 6.8–7.2%

CPI Apr-Dec 2025: 1.7% (lowest since 2012 series); Food inflation Dec 2025: -2.71%

PFCE: 61.5% of GDP (12-year high); Gross NPAs: 2.2% (multi-decadal low)

Forex: \$701.4B (11 months cover); Remittances: \$135.4B (world’s largest recipient)

HORTICULTURE FIRST: 362.08 MT surpassed foodgrains 357.73 MT (3,577.3 LMT) — FIRST TIME

Gig workers: 12 million FY25 (+55% from 7.7M FY21); 6.7% workforce 2029-30; 40% earn <Rs 15,000/month

Code on Social Security 2020: recognises gig workers; NOT yet notified in most states

“Disciplined Swadeshi”: reduce input duties + protect finished goods + strategic GVC integration

Four Labour Codes (notified Nov 2025): Wages + Industrial Relations + Social Security + Occupational Safety

Horticulture post-harvest losses: ~30%; cold chain deficit

#### INDIA ENERGY WEEK:

4th edition; Goa; Jan 27-30; ~125 countries; \$500B investment opportunity announced

India refining: 2nd globally (~250 MBPD); Reliance Jamnagar = world’s largest single-site refinery (1.4M bpd)

Crude dependence: 85-88%; LNG target: 15% energy by 2030; current: 6-7%

LNG: liquefied at -162°C; volume 600x reduced; terminals: Dahej, Hazira, Kochi, Ennore, Dabhol, Mundra

SPR: 5.33 MMT (~9.5 days); Visakhapatnam + Mangaluru + Padur

HPCL-ADNOC Gas: \$3B LNG deal; 10 years; 0.5 MMTPA from 2028

Green Hydrogen Mission: Rs 19,744 crore; 5 MMTPA by 2030

#### KAVACH 4.0:

Record: 472.3 Rkm single day (Jan 30) — Vadodara-Virar (344) + Tughlakabad-Palwal (35) + Manpur-Sarmatanr (93.3)

Total coverage: >1,300 Rkm (Jan 31); target 50,000 km by 2028-29; investment Rs 1,38,000 crore

SIL-4: failure probability <10<sup>-8</sup>/hr; cost Rs 40-50 lakh/km (vs ETCS Rs 2-3 crore/km)

Manufacturers: Medha Servo Drives + HBL Power Systems + Kernex Microsystems (all Hyderabad); RDSO Lucknow

Balasore catalyst: June 2, 2023; 294 killed; Coromandel Express; wrong point-setting

IR network: 68,000+ Rkm; 4th globally; 25 million daily passengers; 18 zones

#### NSHIP THOOTHUKUDI:

SPV: VOC Port Authority + SIPCOT (50:50); Rs 19,989 crore; 2 km waterfront; 2,000 acres; 55,000+ jobs

VOC = Vanchikondan Chidambaram Pillai; Swadeshi Steam Navigation Co. 1906; Kappalottiya Tamizhan

India shipbuilding: <1% global; China 54%, S Korea 24%, Japan 12%; Maritime Vision 2030: top-5

INS Vikrant: 45,000 tonnes; Cochin Shipyard; commissioned Sep 2022

#### ENVIRONMENT:

Vishwamitri River: 442 mugger crocodiles in 21 km Vadodara; 2025 census

3 Indian crocodilians: Mugger (VU), Saltwater (LC), Gharial (CR) — all Schedule I WPA

India Ramsar: 98 sites (highest in Asia); Convention 1971; India acceded 1982; World Wetlands Day: Feb 2

E-waste: 6.19 MMT (2025) → 14 MMT (2030); ₹51,000 crore value; only 18% recovered; 80% informal

Urban mining: 2 kg gold/tonne in PCBs vs 5g/tonne in ore = 5-50x more efficient

EPR Rules 2022: E-Waste Management Rules; penalty Rs 1 lakh/tonne shortfall; under EP Act 1986

#### CPI & POLITY:

CPI new series: base 2024=100 (was 2012); items 299→358; food weight 42.61%→36.75%

First data release: Feb 12, 2026; Jan 2026 provisional: 2.75%

Sunetra Pawar: Maharashtra’s first woman DyCM; Jan 31, 2026; NCP Ajit faction; Articles 163-164; oath under 3rd Schedule

Surajkund Mela 2026: 39th edition (started 1987); Jan 31–Feb 15; theme states UP + Meghalaya; partner Egypt

#### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Carlos Alcaraz: Career Grand Slam at 22 yr 8 mo 27 days (youngest ever); Jan 2026 Australian Open  
Elena Rybakina: Women's AO 2026; 2nd Grand Slam (1st Wimbledon 2022); def. Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4  
World Bank India CPF FY2026-31: \$8-10B/year; ~\$50B total; Viksit Bharat focus  
PAIMANA Portal: MoSPI; replaces OCMS (2006); 1,702 projects (>Rs 150 crore); one data one entry  
NTD Day: Jan 30; WHO; India targets eliminate lymphatic filariasis + kala-azar by 2026  
Patna Bird Sanctuary (Ramsar): Etah, UP; Central Asian Flyway; 60,000+ birds peak winter  
Chhari-Dhand (Ramsar): Kutch, Gujarat; saline seasonal desert; flamingos, cranes

Sources: PIB, The Hindu, Indian Express, Economic Survey 2025-26, DD News

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