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## Gujarat launched 'Poshan Udaan 2026' | National Current Affairs | 17 Jan 2026

### Why in News?

Gujarat has launched 'Poshan Udaan 2026' during the **Makar Sankranti festival** to spread **nutrition and health awareness** across the state by leveraging **traditional festivities and community engagement**.

### Key Points

- **Initiative: Poshan Udaan 2026** uses the popularity of the kite festival with **kites carrying nutrition and health messages** to symbolically raise public awareness across the state.
  - To highlight the importance of balanced diets and health for children, adolescent girls and mothers.
- **Integration:** Conducted under **ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services)** at **Anganwadi centres**.
- **Implemented by:** A statewide **nutrition awareness campaign** organised by the **Department of Women and Child Development, Gujarat**.
- **Focus:** The initiative emphasises **dietary diversity, reduced junk food consumption, safe drinking water, and sanitation** practices to improve nutrition outcomes.
- **Target groups involved:** Outreach includes **schoolchildren, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and local community leaders**.
- **Health interventions:** Activities such as **haemoglobin testing, IFA( Iron and Folic Acid) tablet distribution, BMI (Body Mass Index) check-ups and personalised nutrition counselling** were conducted for mothers and children.

Read More: [Makar Sankranti festival](#), [Poshan Abhiyan](#), [ICDS](#), [BMI](#)

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## Tamil Nadu to Establish India's First 'Sovereign AI Park' | National Current Affairs | 17 Jan 2026

### Why in News?

On 13th January, 2026, the Government of **Tamil Nadu** signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Sarvam AI** to establish **India's first Sovereign AI Park in Chennai**.

### Key Points

- **Full-Stack Infrastructure:** The park will host the entire AI lifecycle, including specialized **Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)-based data centers**, indigenous **Large Language Models (LLMs)**, and application-layer tools.

- **Indic-Centric AI:** A primary focus of the facility is the development of **Indic LLMs** (specifically **Tamil-language models**) to bridge the digital divide for non-English speaking populations.
- **Data Sovereignty:** By hosting data and compute power within the state, the project ensures that sensitive citizen and government information remains under local jurisdiction, protected from foreign surveillance or cross-border legal complexities.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** The park will be managed in coordination with the **Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)** to integrate AI into public service delivery.
- 'Sovereign AI': **Sovereign AI** refers to a nation's or state's capability to build AI using its own **infrastructure, data, and human capital**.
  - **Strategic Autonomy:** It is considered essential for national security and economic resilience, preventing "Digital Colonialism."
- **Significance:** This initiative marks a strategic step toward achieving **Digital Autonomy** and making Tamil Nadu a global hub for high-end Artificial Intelligence.
  - The project aligns with the Central Government's **IndiaAI Mission** to democratize AI compute access.

**Read More:** [IndiaAI Mission](#), [Strategic Autonomy](#), [Large Language Models](#)

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## India Post Delivers First-Ever ONDC Order as Logistics Provider | National Current Affairs | 17 Jan 2026

### Why in News?

The **Department of Posts (India Post)** achieved a major milestone by successfully delivering its first-ever online order as a **logistics service provider** for the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**.

### Key Points:

- **Transaction:** The inaugural order featured a shipment of **Walnuts** sourced from a local seller in **Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir**, delivered to a consumer in **New Delhi**.
- **Role of India Post:** Moving beyond traditional mail, India Post acted as the core **Logistics Service Provider**, managing the entire value chain—from first-mile pickup in a remote location to last-mile delivery in a metro city.
- **Integration:** The delivery was made possible through the seamless integration of India Post's **internal logistics software** with the ONDC open protocol, allowing real-time tracking and automated dispatch.
- **Logistics Empowerment:** By onboarding India Post, ONDC gains access to over **1.6 lakh Post Offices**, ensuring that even the most remote rural sellers can reach a national market.
- **Level Playing Field:** Small-scale artisans and **MSMEs** can now access high-quality logistics at competitive rates, previously a major barrier to entering the digital economy.
- **Vocal for Local:** This integration provides a massive boost to the **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative by providing a reliable supply chain for regional specialties.
- **Financial Inclusion:** It encourages rural entrepreneurs to adopt digital payments and formalize their businesses, contributing to the goal of a **Viksit Bharat @2047**.

**Read More:** [MSME](#), [One District One Product](#), [Open Network for Digital Commerce](#)

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## IOA launches National Olympic Education and Development Programme | National Current Affairs | 17 Jan 2026

### Why in News?

The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** formally launched the **National Olympic Education and Development Programme (NOEDP)** to strengthen India's entire Olympic ecosystem from the grassroots to the elite levels

### Key Points:

- **Integrated Framework:** The NOEDP is designed as a comprehensive national framework to deliver structured education initiatives across the entire sports ecosystem, in collaboration with **National Sports Federations (NSFs)** and **State Olympic Associations (SOAs)**.
- **Reactivation of the National Olympic Academy (NOA):** A cornerstone of this program is the formal reactivation of the **National Olympic Academy (NOA)** in Ahmedabad. The NOA will serve as the central hub for Olympic education, learning, research, and dialogue in India.
- **Leadership:** IOA President and sprint legend **P.T. Usha** was ratified as the President of the NOA, while Olympic medallist and IOA Vice President **Gagan Narang** was appointed as its Director.
- **International Alignment:** The NOA will collaborate with the **International Olympic Academy** in Olympia to ensure India's programs meet global standards and adhere to the Olympic Charter.
- **Significance:** The initiatives reflect a renewed focus on placing athletes at the heart of the Olympic movement, providing them with leadership skills and educational support throughout their careers.

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