



MP Wildlife Exchange with Assam | Madhya Pradesh | 17 Jan 2026

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh and Assam have signed an **inter-state wildlife exchange agreement** to strengthen **conservation** by reintroducing **locally extinct species and enhancing biodiversity** in both states.

Key Points

- **Inter-state wildlife exchange agreement finalised:** MP CM **Mohan Yadav** met Assam CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** in **Guwahati** and finalised the pact for **exchange of wild animals** for conservation purposes.
- **Wildlife from Assam to MP:** Assam will translocate **50 wild water buffaloes** in phased groups **over three years**.
 - Along with one pair of **one-horned rhinos** and **three king cobras** to MP.
- **Reintroduction site in MP:** Rhinos and cobras will be housed at Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal.
 - **Wild water buffaloes (Bubalus arnee)**, extinct in MP for over a century, will be reintroduced into their historic habitat at **Kanha Tiger Reserve**.
- **From MP to Assam:** Madhya Pradesh will provide **Assam** with **a pair of tigers and six mugger crocodiles**, strengthening biodiversity in Assam.
- **Alignment with broader conservation efforts:** The initiative builds on MP's larger strategy of **species restoration**, following the introduction of **cheetahs** at **Kuno National Park**.

Status of Species

- **Wild Water Buffalo (Bubalus arnee):**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
 - **CITES:** Listed in **Appendix III** in some countries.
 - **WPA Status (India):** Protected under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (highest protection).
- **Mugger Crocodile (Crocodylus palustris):**
 - IUCN Red List: Vulnerable — protected and declining due to habitat loss.
 - WPA Status (India): Protected under Schedule I
- **Bengal Tiger (Panthera tigris tigris):**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **One-Horned Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis):**
 - IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
- **King Cobra (Ophiophagus hannah):**
 - IUCN Red List: Vulnerable

Read More: [Kanha Tiger Reserve](#), [Kuno National Park](#).

MoU between Govt. of MP and Digital India BHASHINI | Madhya Pradesh | 17 Jan 2026

Why in News

The **Government of Madhya Pradesh** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Digital India BHASHINI Division**, to promote **multilingual digital governance and citizen-centric service delivery** using artificial intelligence-based language technologies.

Key Points:

- **Language Inclusion:** The partnership aims to break language barriers by providing government services and information in various Indian languages through the **Bhashini AI platform**.
- **Voice-Based Access:** A primary focus is on developing **voice-first tools**, allowing citizens to interact with government portals using their mother tongue.
- **AI Integration:** Madhya Pradesh will leverage Bhashini's real-time translation and speech-to-text capabilities across departments like Health, Agriculture, and Revenue.
- **Data & AI Labs:** Alongside this MoU, the state announced the establishment of **30 Data and AI Labs** to train youth and government officials in cutting-edge technologies.
- **Significance:** This collaboration positions Madhya Pradesh as a front-runner among states adopting BHASHINI for governance, complementing national efforts to build **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**.

BHASHINI

- BHASHINI (Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions in Indian Languages) is a national language technology platform launched under the **Digital India Programme**.
- It aims to **enable translation**, speech-to-text, text-to-speech and multilingual AI services across Indian languages, ensuring that digital services are accessible to citizens in their native languages.

Read More: [Digital India Programme](#), [Digital Public Infrastructure](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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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