



2nd Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi | National Current Affairs | 22 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **2nd Global Buddhist Summit** is being organised in **New Delhi** in **January 2026** to promote **Buddhist philosophy**.

Key Points

- **Summit Venue:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Organiser:** Summit organised by the **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture, Government of India**.
- **Theme:** “**Collective Wisdom, United Voice, Mutual Coexistence**”.
- **Objective:** To highlight **timeless Buddhist values** such as **compassion, wisdom, harmony** and explore their relevance to **social peace, ethical leadership, environment** and **well-being**.
 - **Focus:** Deliberations to cover **social harmony, entrepreneurship & right livelihood, healthcare & sustainable living, Buddhist education, and Sangha practices**.
- **Exhibitions:** **Sacred Relics & Cultural Engagement** and **Virasat se Vishwa** detailing **India's Buddha Dhamma outreach**.
- **AI Initiative:** Introduction of **NORBU**, an **AI-based Buddhist language model** adopted as “**Kalyan Mitra**” to assist in promotion and learning of Buddhist knowledge.
- **Significance:** Reinforces India's role in **international Buddhist dialogue**, cultural diplomacy, and promotion of **peaceful coexistence** rooted in ancient **Indian philosophy**.

Read More: [Global Buddhist Summit](#), [International Buddhist Confederation \(IBC\)](#), [Buddhism in India](#)

Striped Tiger Declared State Butterfly of Chandigarh | National Current Affairs | 22 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **State Board of Wildlife (SBWL)** of **Chandigarh** has officially declared the **Striped Tiger Butterfly** as the **State Butterfly** of the Union Territory, marking a significant step in biodiversity recognition and wildlife conservation awareness.

Key Points:

- **Selection Process and Criteria:** The selection was a year-long initiative by the Department of

Forest and Wildlife to choose an emblem for the city's natural heritage.

- **Public Participation:** The Striped Tiger was chosen through an online public voting process, where it secured about **54% of the total votes**.
 - **Final Contenders:** It outcompeted three other shortlisted species: the **Blue Tiger**, the **Plain Tiger**, and the **Jezebel**.
- **Reason for Selection:** Chosen for its striking appearance and resilience, it is found abundantly across the Union Territory, including the **Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary** and **Sector 26 Butterfly Park**.
- **Key Facts Striped Tiger Butterfly:** The butterfly features brilliant **tawny-orange wings** with bold black stripes, resembling a tiger.
 - **Defense Mechanism:** It is known to be **unpalatable (distasteful)** to predators, a characteristic similar to the American Monarch butterfly.
 - **Status:** It is listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- **Conservation Awareness:** The declaration aims to promote **biodiversity conservation** and environmental awareness among residents and students.
- **New Wildlife Learning Centre:** Along with the declaration, the Administrator directed the establishment of a new **Wildlife Learning Centre** (such as a Biological Park or enclosure) to boost local wildlife protection efforts.

Union Environment Minister Chairs 88th Meeting of NBWL Standing Committee | National Current Affairs | 22 Jan 2026

Why in News?

On **January 19, 2026**, Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** chaired the **88th Meeting** of the Standing Committee of the **National Board for Wild Life (SC-NBWL)** in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- **Proposals Cleared:** The committee addressed **70 proposals** concerning areas in and around Protected Areas, Tiger Reserves, and Eco-Sensitive Zones.
- **Strategic Infrastructure:** **17 defence-related proposals** were approved, primarily in **Ladakh** and **Sikkim**, for strategic roads and infrastructure vital for national security.
- **Public Utilities:** Projects discussed included those for drinking water under the **Jal Jeevan Mission**, health centres, and improved connectivity via **4G towers**, road upgrades, and transmission lines.
- **Water Security:** A medium irrigation project in **Madhya Pradesh** was considered, intended to benefit the Bundelkhand region by providing water for drinking and irrigation while also improving water conditions for wildlife, including **gharials**.
- **Administrative & Process Reforms:** The committee reviewed actions taken on past decisions, aiming to enhance transparency through the **PARIVESH portal**.
- **Mitigation Measures:** Clearances included requirements for strict adherence to wildlife mitigation strategies and environmental safeguards.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** Future meetings will include discussions on compliance and monitoring to ensure effective wildlife conservation.

What is the SC-NBWL?

- **Legal Basis:** It is established under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- **Leadership:** While the full **National Board for Wild Life (NBWL)** is chaired by the **Prime**

Minister, its **Standing Committee** is led by the **Union Environment Minister**.

- **Function:** It serves as an advisory body to the central government on conservation matters and reviews development projects in or near protected areas.
- **Read More:** [Wild Life \(Protection\) Act, 1972](#), [Jal Jeevan Mission](#)

Tamil Nadu Establishes 'Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu' Award | National Current Affairs | 22 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **Tamil Nadu government** has announced the establishment of the '**Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu**', amid an ongoing dispute with the **Sahitya Akademi** over issues related to **representation, recognition of Tamil literature, and institutional autonomy**.

Key Points:

- **Award:** The award aims to honour **outstanding literary contributions**, particularly those aligned with the idea of '**Semmozhi**' (classical language).
 - It seeks to promote **Tamil language, literature, and classical heritage** at the national level.
 - The initiative reinforces Tamil Nadu's long-standing emphasis on **linguistic pride and cultural preservation**.
 - **Frequency:** It is intended to be an annual recognition conferred by the Tamil Nadu government.
- **Classical Language Status:** Tamil was the first language in India to be accorded '**Classical Language**' status (Semmozhi) in 2004.
 - This award reinforces the state's efforts to promote the language globally.
- **Context of the Dispute:** The announcement comes against the backdrop of disagreements between the state government and the **Sahitya Akademi**, India's apex literary institution, regarding:
 - **Perceived neglect of Tamil literary voice**
 - Concerns over **centralisation and fairness in awards and recognition**
- **Federalism and Cultural Identity:** The incident highlights the growing trend of states asserting their **cultural and linguistic identity** as a subset of **cooperative (or competitive) federalism**.

Read More: [Classical Language](#), [Sahitya Akademi](#), [Cooperative federalism](#).