



Odisha Imposes Complete Ban on Gutka and Tobacco | Odisha | 27 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **Odisha government** has imposed a **complete statewide ban** on gutkha and all food products containing **tobacco or nicotine**, covering their **manufacture, storage, sale, transport and distribution**.

Key Points

- **Issuing Authority:** Odisha Government through **Food Safety and Health Department**.
- **Legal Basis:** The ban is enforced under **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.
 - Implemented by **Food Safety Officials, Police and Tobacco Control Authorities**.
- **Exempted Products:** **Cigarettes and bidis** excluded, as they are **not classified as food products under the FSS Act**.
- **Earlier Ban Reference:** Odisha first banned gutka in **2013**.
- **Public Health Objective:** To reduce **oral cancer, tobacco addiction and smokeless tobacco consumption**, especially among **youth and vulnerable groups**.
- **Penalty Provisions:** Violations include **seizure of products, fines and cancellation of licences** under applicable laws.
- **Significance:** The move marks a **comprehensive state-level action against smokeless tobacco**, reinforcing preventive healthcare policy beyond central tobacco regulation frameworks.

Read More: [Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006](#)

India's First Private Satellite Manufacturing Facility in Gujarat | National Current Affairs | 27 Jan 2026

Why in News?

India has marked a **historic milestone in space manufacturing** with the foundation of the country's **first private satellite and electro-optical payload manufacturing plant** at **Sanand, Gujarat**.

Key Points

- **Facility Name:** **Palmnaro Electro-Optical Payload Facility**, India's first integrated private satellite and payload manufacturing plant by **Azista Space Systems**.
 - **Location:** The manufacturing facility is located at **Khoraj Industrial Estate, Sanand, Gujarat**.
- **MoUs:** The project involves **MoUs worth over ₹500 crore** with the **Government of Gujarat**.

reflecting strong **public-private partnership**.

- **Strategic Sector Entry:** Marks the **private sector's entry** into **advanced satellite manufacturing**, a domain earlier led by **ISRO and PSUs**.
- **Global Competitiveness:** The facility will enable India to **compete in the global commercial satellite market**, including **Earth observation and defence applications**.
 - The facility will produce advanced payloads also useful for civil sectors (like agriculture, environment, disaster management).
- **Objective:** The plant aims to **indigenise electro-optical payloads**, reduce **import dependence**, and strengthen **domestic space supply chains**.
 - Boosts **private sector participation in space manufacturing** and supports **Atmanirbhar Bharat vision**.

Read More: [ISRO](#), [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#)

ICAR and BISA Launch ACASA-India and Review 15 Years of NICRA | National Current Affairs | 27 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** and the **Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA)** jointly organized a high-level review workshop for the **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)** and the formal launch of the **Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture (ACASA-India)**.

Key Points:

- **Launch of ACASA-India (Digital Climate Atlas):** A web-enabled digital platform designed to provide location-specific, data-driven adaptation planning.
 - **Developer:** Developed by the ICAR-led **National Agricultural Research and Extension System (NARES)** in collaboration with **BISA-CIMMYT**.
 - **Functionality:** It maps climate risks and identifies adaptation options for **15 crops and six livestock species** at high resolution.
- **15-Year Review of NICRA:** Launched in **2011**, NICRA is India's flagship program to enhance agricultural resilience to climate change through technology demonstration and research.
 - **Implementation:** Currently active in over **200 locations across 151 climate-vulnerable districts**.
- **Achievements:** So far, **11 climate-resilient crop varieties** have been developed, and carbon footprints of various crops have been assessed to support future carbon credit systems.
- **Strategic Shift:** Officials noted that NICRA has reached a "critical juncture" and requires a roadmap aligned with **Viksit Bharat 2047**, shifting from individual farms to broader landscape-level interventions.
- **Significance:** The workshop underscores the importance of science-led responses to **climate challenges in agriculture**, promotes **resilience building**, and aligns with **India's food security and sustainability goals**.
 - It also highlights the role of digital tools in strengthening **farmer adaptation strategies** in a changing climate.

Read More: [Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#), [National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture](#)

India Energy Week 2026 to Bring Global Energy Leadership Together in Goa | National Current Affairs | 27 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The **4th edition of India Energy Week (IEW) 2026**, scheduled from **27-30 January 2026**, will bring together **global energy leaders, policymakers, industry stakeholders and investors** in **Goa** to deliberate on energy security, sustainability and investment opportunities.

Key Points:

- **Largest Energy Platform:** Organised under the patronage of the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**, the event is expected to emerge as one of the **world's largest energy platforms**.
 - **Theme:** "Energizing Growth, Securing Economies, and Enriching Lives."
 - **Primary Objectives:** The platform focuses on three critical pillars: **Energy Security, Catalysing Investment, and Practical Decarbonisation Pathways**.
 - **Unique Position:** Unlike many global forums, IEW 2026 deliberates on the entire energy spectrum, including fossil fuels, biofuels, hydrogen, and nuclear energy.
 - **Exhibition:** The exhibition features 11 zones, with new additions focusing on **Nuclear Energy** and **Sustainable Aviation Fuel**.
 - **Innovation Zones:** Initiatives like **Avinya 2026** and the **Hackathon Challenge 2026** encourage startup participation and innovation, while a **Make in India** pavilion promotes indigenization.
 - **Significance:** Encourages **foreign direct investment** and **technology deployment** in energy sectors.
 - Supports India's broader goals of **energy security, clean energy transition and economic growth**.
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Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN' Deployed at Visakhapatnam Railway Station | National Current Affairs | 27 Jan 2026

Why in News?

Indian Railways has deployed a **humanoid robot named 'ASC ARJUN'** at **Visakhapatnam Railway Station, Andhra Pradesh**.

Key Points

- **First-of-Its-Kind Initiative:** This marks the **first deployment of a humanoid robot** on the **Indian Railways network** as part of **innovation-led passenger service enhancement**.
- **Indigenous Technology:** ASC ARJUN has been developed by **Railway Protection Force (RPF), Visakhapatnam**, using indigenous technology.
- **Role and Function:** Assists **RPF personnel** in station operations, especially during **peak passenger hours**.
 - **Security and Surveillance Features:** It is equipped with a **Face Recognition System (FRS)** for intrusion detection, **AI-based crowd monitoring**, and connects in **real time** to

RPF control rooms.

- **Passenger Assistance:** The robot can make **automated public announcements** in **English, Hindi and Telugu**.
- **Autonomous Patrols:** ASC ARJUN has **semi-autonomous navigation** with obstacle avoidance capabilities.
 - Enabling **24×7 platform patrolling** and optimized manpower use.
 - **Emergency Response Systems:** It includes **fire and smoke detection systems** to aid timely response in case of emergencies.
- **Interactive Design:** The robot interacts with passengers using **friendly gestures**, such as “Namaste,” and provides real-time information and assistance.
- **Significance:** It signifies Indian Railways’ focus on **technology adoption for safer, secure, and more passenger-friendly stations**.

Read More: [Face Recognition System \(FRS\)](#), [AI](#),

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026 | National Current Affairs | 27 Jan 2026

Why in News?

The Government of India has selected the **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)** in the Institutional Category and **Lt Col. Seeta Ashok Shelke** in the Individual Category for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2026**.

Key Points:

- **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar:** To honor Indian nationals and institutions that have demonstrated exceptional courage and dedication in disaster management (Prevention, Mitigation, Preparation, Rescue, and Rehabilitation).
- **Announcement:** Every year on **January 23** (Parakram Diwas).
- **Prize Money:**
 - **Institutional:** A certificate and **₹51 Lakh** (the money must be used by the institution for disaster management activities).
 - **Individual:** A certificate and **₹5 Lakh**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- **Institutional Category:** **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA)** has been recognized for its pioneering work in the **Himalayan ecosystem**, focusing on community-centered disaster resilience.
- **Key Achievement (Aapda Mitra):** The authority has successfully trained and deployed **1,185 Aapda Mitras** (community volunteers) across all Gram Panchayats.
 - These volunteers act as first responders during landslides and floods, common in the high-altitude terrain.
- **Operational Success:** The SSDMA was instrumental in managing the **2023 Teesta Flash Floods** and the **2016 Mantam Landslide**, using real-time coordination to rescue over **2,500 people** and minimize loss of life in difficult geographical conditions.
- **Individual Category:** **Lieutenant Colonel Seeta Ashok Shelke** gained national acclaim for her leadership during the **2024 Wayanad (Kerala) Landslides**.
 - Under her command, the Army's engineering wing constructed a **190-foot-long Bailey Bridge** at Chooralimala in record time under heavy rain and unstable terrain.
- **Significance:** The dual recognition at the national level highlights the importance of **institutional preparedness** and **individual heroism** in effective disaster management.

