

January 2024 Current Affairs and General Knowledge Summary

This document provides a concise and well-structured summary of important national, international, and sports current affairs, awards, and general knowledge topics relevant for competitive exams and general awareness, covering major highlights from India and the world in January 2024.

Important International Days and Events

- **World Braille Day:** Observed on **January 4** to raise awareness for visually impaired individuals.
 - **National Youth Day (India):** Celebrated on **January 12** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
 - **World Hindi Day:** Observed on **January 10**, with the 2024 theme: "**Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence**".
 - **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (NRI Day):** Observed on **January 9**, marking Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India in 1915.
 - **Army Day (India):** Observed on **January 15**. The 2024 theme was "**Year of Technology Absorption**". The main parade was held in Lucknow.
 - **Parakram Diwas:** First celebrated in 2021 on **January 23** to mark the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
 - **Republic Day of India:** Celebrated on **January 26, 2024** with twin themes: "**Developed India**" and "**India: The Mother of Democracy**".
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National and State News

National Awards and Recognitions

- **MS Swaminathan Award 2024:** Prof. **B.R. Camboj**, Vice-Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, for contributions to agricultural research.

- **Assam's Highest Civilian Honour (Assam Baibhav):** To be awarded to former Chief Justice of India **Ranjan Gogoi** in 2024.
- **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (Badminton, 2023):** **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty**.
- **Arjuna Awards 2023:** 12 awards conferred; notable is **Divyakriti Singh** (first Indian woman to win for Equestrian).
- **Bharat Ratna 2024:** Announced for **Karpoori Thakur**, former Bihar Chief Minister.
- **Padma Awards 2024:** Notables include **Chiranjeevi** and **M. Venkaiah Naidu** (Padma Vibhushan); several sportspersons such as **Rohan Bopanna** awarded Padma Shri.

Notable Appointments

- **Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission:** Dr. **Arvind Panagariya**.
- **First Woman Director General of Police, Maharashtra:** **Rashmi Shukla**.
- **Secretary General of BIMSTEC:** **Indramani Pandey** (replacing Tenzin Lekphel of Bhutan).
- **Vice Admiral V. Srinivas:** Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Naval Command, Kochi.
- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh:** Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, Mumbai.
- **Director-General, Sashastra Seema Bal:** **Daljit Singh Choudhary**.

Important Infrastructural Developments

- **Mumbai Trans Harbour Link ("Atal Setu"):** India's longest sea bridge, connects Sewri (Mumbai) with Nhava Sheva (Raigad).
- **First National Steel Slag Road Section:** On National Highway 66 (Mumbai-Goa Highway), Indapur–Panvel section.
- **Puri Heritage Corridor Project:** Allocated a budget of ₹3,700 crores to develop Puri as an international heritage town in Odisha.
- **India Innovation Centre for Graphene:** Inaugurated in Kochi, Kerala.

State Initiatives

- **PM Vishwakarma Scheme:** **Jammu & Kashmir** became the first union territory to

implement the plan for artisans and craftspeople.

- **Yuva Nidhi Scheme:** Launched by **Karnataka** to provide financial assistance and training to unemployed graduates and diploma holders.
 - **First All-Girls Sainik School:** Samvid Gurukulam Girls Sainik School inaugurated in Vrindavan, Mathura, **Uttar Pradesh**.
 - **"My School My Pride" Campaign:** Launched in **Himachal Pradesh** to adopt and improve local schools.
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Sports Highlights

- **Australian Open 2024:**
 - **Oldest Grand Slam Doubles Winner (Open Era): Rohan Bopanna** (India), with partner Matthew Ebden (Australia), Men's Doubles Champions.
 - **Men's Singles Champion: Jannik Sinner** (Italy), defeating Daniil Medvedev (Russia).
 - **Women's Singles Champion: Aryna Sabalenka** (Belarus), defended her title.
 - **India's First Multi-Sport Beach Games:** Held at Ghoghla Beach in Diu; **Madhya Pradesh** emerged as the overall winner.
 - **FIFA Awards 2023:**
 - **Best Women's Player: Aitana Bonmatí** (Spain).
 - **Best Men's Player: Lionel Messi** (Argentina).
 - **ICC Awards 2023:**
 - **Test Cricketer of the Year: Usman Khawaja** (Australia).
 - **T20I Cricketer of the Year: Suryakumar Yadav** (India).
 - **Overall Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy): Pat Cummins** (Australia).
 - **ODI Player of the Year: Virat Kohli** (India).
 - **India-UAE Joint Military Exercise: "Desert Cyclone 2024"** conducted in Rajasthan.
 - **New Indian No.1 Chess Player: R. Praggnanandhaa** surpassed Viswanathan Anand in live ratings.
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Science, Technology, and Space

- **ISRO Launches:**
 - **XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite):** Launched **January 1, 2024** by PSLV-C58; India's first satellite dedicated to X-ray polarimetry.
 - **Aditya L1 Mission:** Launched in September 2023; project director is **Nigar Shaji**. India's first solar space observatory at Lagrange Point 1.
- **First AI Startup in India to Achieve Unicorn Status: Krutrim**, by Bhavish Aggarwal

(also founder of Ola and Ola Electric).

Arts, Literature, and Culture

- **Notable Books and Authors:**
 - **'Four Stars of Destiny':** Biography of General **M.M. Naravane**.
 - **'Ram Mandir: Rashtr Mandir, Ek Sanjhi Virasat Kuch Ansuni Baatein':** By **Geeta Singh** and **Arif Khan Bharti**.
 - **'Gandhi Alive in Three Campuses':** By **M.J. Akbar** and **K. Natwar Singh**.
 - **'Fertilizing the Future - Bharat March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency':** By **Mansukh Mandaviya**.
 - **Justice Shivraj V. Patil's Autobiography:** **'Time Spent, Distance Travelled'**.
 - **UNESCO World Heritage Site Nomination (2024-25):** India nominated **"Maratha Military Landscapes"** (12 forts across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu).
 - **Cultural Festivals:**
 - **Chandubi Festival:** Celebrated in **Assam** around Chandubi Lake.
 - **Ganga Sagar Mela:** Held annually during Makar Sankranti in **West Bengal**, at Sagar Island.
 - **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024:** Theme was **"Gateway to the Future"**.
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Economic and Political Developments

- **Nitish Kumar:** Chief Minister of Bihar representing Janata Dal (United).
 - **India's Passport Ranking (Henley Index 2024):** India ranked **80th**, allowing visa-free travel to 62 countries.
 - **World's Most Valuable IT Services Brand (Brand Finance 2024):** **Accenture** (global), followed by **TCS** (top among Indian companies).
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International News

- **Russia G20 Chairmanship 2024:** Russia's presidency began on **January 1, 2024**, with the motto **"Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security"**.
- **BRICS Expansion:** Several countries recently joined; **Argentina** declined.
- **46th UNESCO World Heritage Committee Session:** To be hosted and chaired by **India**.

for the first time in July 2024.

- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024:** Co-hosted by **West Indies** and **United States**; matches from June 1, final on June 29.
 - **First National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation:** Held in **Kutch, Gujarat**.
 - **First National Inland Waterways Development Council Meeting:** Held in **Kolkata**.
 - **India-Maldives Diplomatic Highlights:** High Commissioner to Maldives is **Munu Mahawar**; President of Maldives is **Mohamed Muizzu**.
 - **Tropical Cyclone 'Alvaro':** First cyclone of 2024; made landfall in **Madagascar**.
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Technology and Digital Initiatives

- **Anuvadini AI-Based Translation Tool:** Developed by **AICTE**, supports translation across India's 22 official languages for educational purposes.
 - **'My School My Pride' Campaign: Himachal Pradesh** initiated a program encouraging community adoption and development of local schools.
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Miscellaneous

- **World's Shortest Humped Cattle Breed: Punganur breed** from Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district.
- **Cleanliness Survey 2024 (Swachh Survekshan):** Theme: "**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3R)**".
 - **Cleanest Cities (2023):** **Indore** and **Surat**.
 - **Top Clean States:** **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh**.
 - **Best Cantonment:** **Mau** (Uttar Pradesh).
- **Dark Sky Parks in India:** First Dark Sky Park at **Pench Tiger Reserve** (Maharashtra). First Dark Sky Reserve is **Hanle, Ladakh**.
- **India's First Mixed-Skeet Team Asian Championships Medal (Kuwait 2024):** **Raiza Dhillon** and **Gurjoat Singh Khangura** won bronze.
- **India's Nomination for UNESCO 2024-25: Maratha Military Landscapes.**