Daily Current Affairs
12 January 2025

National Youth Day 2026

- National Youth Day is celebrated every year on January 12 across India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of the country's most influential philosophers, spiritual leaders, and youth icons.

- The **164th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** is a moment to remember a great thinker who shaped modern India's spiritual and social outlook.

- The Government of India officially declared January 12 as National Youth Day in 1984, recognizing the need to link young people with the ideals and teachings of Swami Vivekananda while encouraging their active participation in shaping India's future.

- Born as Narendra Nath Dutta on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata, Swami Vivekananda grew up in a progressive family that valued education and social service. His life took a transformative turn when he encountered the great spiritual master **Ramakrishna Paramahamsa**, becoming his devoted disciple and closest follower.

- Vivekananda's most iconic moment came at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago on September 10, 1893, when he delivered a speech that began with the memorable greeting: "**Sisters and Brothers of America**."

Italy Honours Goa Industrialist Shrinivas Dempo

- Italy has conferred one of its highest civilian distinctions, the **Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia**, on eminent Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo.

- The award acknowledges his long-standing contribution to supporting Italian citizens in India and his role in promoting bilateral cooperation between India and Italy across business, cultural and community domains.

- Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo has been conferred one of Italy's highest civilian honours, the Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia, in recognition of his contributions to supporting Italian citizens in India and promoting India–Italy cooperation in business, culture, and community initiatives.

- The award was formally presented at a special ceremony held in Goa, underscoring the regional significance of Dempo's contributions. The decoration was conferred by Walter Ferrara, Consul General of Italy in Mumbai, on behalf of the Italian state.

Union Minister Annpurna Devi Inaugurates PANKHUDI Portal

- The Government of India focuses strongly on the welfare and empowerment of women and children. To strengthen these efforts, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched PANKHUDI, a digital portal that connects

government, citizens, NGOs, and corporate contributors to work together for social development.

- The portal was launched on 8 January 2026 by Union Minister Smt. Annpurna Devi.

- PANKHUDI is a single-window digital platform designed to bring together individuals, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), NGOs, corporates, and government agencies. It allows them to contribute to women and child development programs in a structured, transparent, and accountable way.

- Through the portal, contributors can:

- Register themselves and their organizations.

- Identify initiatives where support is needed.

- Submit proposals and monitor the progress of their contributions.

- Ensure that all contributions are made through non-cash modes for financial transparency.

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar Wins UN Secretary-General's Award

- Indian Army officer Major Swathi Shantha Kumar has brought international recognition to India by winning the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for gender-inclusive peacekeeping.

- Serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, her work highlights how inclusive leadership can improve community trust, women's participation, and long-term peace in conflict-affected regions.
- Major Swathi Shantha Kumar has been awarded the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 in the Gender Category for her project "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace", selected from nominations across all UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.
- The project directly supported over 5,000 women, creating a safer environment for their participation in community activities. It strengthened grassroots level trust, improved local confidence in UN missions, and demonstrated how gender-inclusive leadership can contribute to lasting peace and stability.

Virat Kohli Becomes Second-Highest Run-Scorer

- Virat Kohli has become the second-highest run-scorer in international cricket, surpassing Kumar Sangakkara. He achieved the milestone during the first ODI against New Zealand in Vadodara.
- Virat Kohli went past Sangakkara's tally of 28,016 international runs during his fluent 93-run knock.
- With this, Kohli now has 28,068 runs across Tests, ODIs, and T20 Internationals.
- He now stands second only to Sachin Tendulkar, who leads the list with 34,357 runs.
- Kohli's 91-ball 93 guided India to successfully chase a target of 301 runs, securing victory with four wickets and six balls to spare.
- His calm and composed innings earned him the Player of the Match award and helped India take a 1–0 lead in the three-match ODI series.

Player	Span	Matches	Innings	Runs
SR Tendulkar (INDIA)	1989–2013	664	782	34,357
V Kohli (INDIA)	2008–2026	557	624	28,068
KC Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)	2000–2015	594	666	28,016
RT Ponting (Australia)	1995–2012	560	668	27,483`
Mahela Jayawardene (SL)	1997–2015	652	725	25,957

U.P to Host Regional AI Impact Conference

- India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem, IndiaAI, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and the Government of Uttar Pradesh are set to host the Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 in Lucknow on 12-13 January 2026.
- Announced by PIB Delhi on 11 January 2026, the conference aims to promote responsible, inclusive and scalable AI adoption across Indian states while showcasing Uttar Pradesh's growing leadership in AI-driven governance and public service delivery.
- Its primary focus is on demonstrating how artificial intelligence can be deployed at population scale to improve governance outcomes and social welfare.

- Emphasis is placed on responsible AI, ensuring fairness, transparency and inclusivity, especially in public sector applications.
- Another crucial goal is to foster collaboration between governments, industry, academia, startups and global institutions, creating a shared platform for innovation and policy convergence.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. National Youth Day is observed in India on which date?

A. 10 January
B. 11 January
C. 12 January
D. 13 January

✅ **Correct Answer: C**

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2. National Youth Day commemorates the birth anniversary of which personality?

A. Mahatma Gandhi
B. Rabindranath Tagore
C. Aurobindo Ghosh
D. Swami Vivekananda

✅ **Correct Answer: D**

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3. In which year did the Government of India officially declare January 12 as National Youth Day?

A. 1975
B. 1980
C. 1984
D. 1990

✅ **Correct Answer: C**

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4. Swami Vivekananda gained worldwide recognition after his speech at which event in 1893?

A. United Nations Assembly
B. World Peace Conference
C. Asian Religious Meet
D. Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago

✅ **Correct Answer: D**

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5. Which Italian civilian honour was conferred on Goa-based industrialist Shrinivas Dempo?

A. Order of Merit of Italy
B. Order of the Italian Crown
C. Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia
D. Knight of Roman Honour

✅ **Correct Answer: C**

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6. The PANKHUDI portal was launched by which Union Ministry?

A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
B. Ministry of Education
C. Ministry of Home Affairs
D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

✅ **Correct Answer: D**

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7. Who inaugurated the PANKHUDI digital portal in January 2026?

A. Smriti Irani
B. Nirmala Sitharaman
C. Annpurna Devi
D. Renuka Chowdhury

✅ **Correct Answer: C**

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8. Major Swathi Shantha Kumar received the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her service in which country?

A. Congo
B. Lebanon
C. Mali
D. South Sudan

✅ **Correct Answer: D**

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9. Virat Kohli became the second-highest run-scorer in international cricket by surpassing which player?

A. Ricky Ponting
B. Mahela Jayawardene
C. Kumar Sangakkara
D. Jacques Kallis

✅ **Correct Answer: C**

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10. The Uttar Pradesh Regional AI Impact Conference 2026 will be held in which city?

A. Noida
B. Varanasi
C. Kanpur
D. Lucknow

✅ **Correct Answer: D**