

# Daily Current Affairs

## 13 January 2025

### India Unveils Logo and Website for BRICS

- India has officially begun preparations for its **BRICS Presidency in 2026** by unveiling the logo and dedicated website for the grouping. The launch signals India's vision for a people-centric and inclusive chairship at a time of growing global uncertainty.
- India launched the official logo and website for BRICS Presidency 2026. The announcement was made by S. Jaishankar, marking the formal start of India's preparations to assume the BRICS chairship.
- India's BRICS Presidency theme is "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.**"
- The newly launched BRICS India website will act as a central digital platform during India's chairship. It will provide information on meetings, initiatives and outcomes, ensuring transparency and wider engagement.
- BRICS is a grouping of major emerging economies formed in 2006. It serves as a platform for cooperation on economic, political and development issues, representing the interests of the Global South in global governance.



## Jio to Launch People-First AI Platform

- Mukesh Ambani announced Jio's people-first AI platform. The announcement was made at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Rajkot.
- Mukesh Ambani said the upcoming AI platform will be built in India, for India, and the world. It will allow citizens to use AI services daily in their own language and on their personal devices.
- To support this vision, Jio is building India's largest AI-ready data centre in **Jamnagar**. Ambani stated that Reliance aims to make Gujarat India's artificial intelligence pioneer.
- The AI platform is part of Reliance's broader commitment to Gujarat, which includes a **₹7 lakh crore** investment over five years, leadership in clean energy, and expansion in digital services.



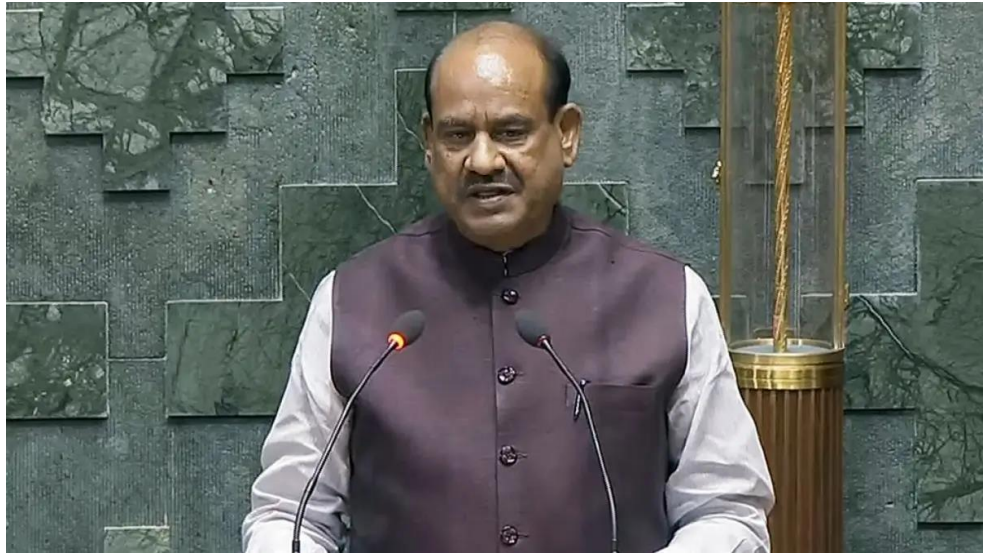
## **YUVA AI for All**

- Commemorating National Youth Day on January 12, 2026, the Government of India reaffirmed its commitment to youth empowerment by spotlighting the newly launched National AI Literacy Program and its flagship YUVA AI FOR ALL course, bridging Swami Vivekananda's vision of enlightened youth with the tools for an AI-driven future.
- The National AI Literacy Program aligns with the Government's vision of a Viksit Bharat, the expansion of Digital Public Infrastructure, and India's commitment to inclusive, responsible, and democratic adoption of AI.
- The curriculum covered includes 'What is Artificial Intelligence, The Technology behind Artificial Intelligence, Using Artificial Intelligence to Learn, Create, think and plan, Artificial Intelligence Ethics and The Future of Artificial Intelligence'.
- The YUVA AI for All National AI Literacy Program is a significant step towards democratising access to AI knowledge and preparing India's citizens especially the youth for opportunities and responsibilities of an AI-driven future.



## India to Host 28<sup>th</sup> Conference of Speakers

- India is set to play a pivotal role in strengthening parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth by hosting the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in New Delhi.
- The prestigious three-day conference will begin on 15 January 2026 and continue till 16 January 2026, bringing together Speakers and Presiding Officers from over 60 Commonwealth countries and semi-autonomous legislatures.
- The prestigious three-day conference will begin on 15 January 2026 and continue till 16 January 2026, bringing together Speakers and Presiding Officers from over 60 Commonwealth countries and semi-autonomous legislatures.
- The Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) is an important international parliamentary forum aimed at promoting knowledge-sharing, mutual learning and cooperation among legislatures of the Commonwealth.
- The primary objective of CSPOC is to strengthen parliamentary institutions and enhance understanding of parliamentary democracy in its diverse forms.
- A key theme will be the **use of Artificial Intelligence in Parliament, examining how AI can improve legislative efficiency, transparency and research support.**



## Lohri 2026

- Lohri is celebrated every year on 13 January, a day before Makar Sankranti. In 2026, Lohri will be observed on Tuesday, 13 January 2026, symbolizing the Sun's northward movement and the gradual transition from winter to spring.
- Lohri is a harvest festival linked to the agrarian traditions of North India. It celebrates the harvesting of rabi crops such as wheat, sugarcane, and mustard. People thank nature, the Sun, and the earth for agricultural prosperity and pray for abundance in the coming year. The festival also represents hope, warmth, and positive beginnings.



## India Joins G7 Critical Minerals

- India has entered high-level discussions on critical minerals in Washington, signaling a deeper alignment with the US and G7 economies as they seek to reduce dependence on China-dominated supply chains.



- Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw arrived in Washington DC on Sunday to participate in a critical minerals ministerial meeting hosted by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.
- The meeting is being held on the sidelines of a gathering of finance ministers from the Group of Seven, which includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, along with the European Union. India and Australia have also been invited.
- “Arrived in Washington, DC. Will participate in the Critical Minerals Ministerial Meeting tomorrow. Secure critical mineral supply chains are vital for our goal of Viksit Bharat,” Vaishnaw said in a social media post.
- According to the International Energy Agency, China is the world’s leading refiner for most major critical minerals, including copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt, graphite and rare earth elements, with an average market share of around 70 percent
- The agency has also flagged China’s control over downstream components such as manganese sulphate and phosphoric acid, key inputs for batteries and advanced manufacturing.
- This concentration has become a strategic vulnerability for Western economies, particularly as demand for minerals accelerates with the energy transition and AI-led data centre expansion.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**Q1. India's theme for its BRICS Presidency 2026 is:**

- A. Growth through Global Cooperation
- B. Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
- C. Partnership for Inclusive Development
- D. Strengthening Global South Leadership

**Answer: B**

---

**Q2. Who announced the launch of the official logo and website for India's BRICS Presidency 2026?**

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Nirmala Sitharaman
- C. S. Jaishankar
- D. Rajnath Singh

**Answer: C**

---

**Q3. What is the primary purpose of the BRICS India website launched for 2026?**

- A. Promoting tourism
- B. Hosting financial transactions
- C. Serving as a central digital platform for meetings and initiatives
- D. Publishing academic research only

**Answer: C**

---

**Q4. Where did Mukesh Ambani announce Jio's people-first AI platform?**

- A. Davos World Economic Forum
- B. India Mobile Congress
- C. Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, Rajkot
- D. Startup India Summit

**Answer: C**

**Q5. Which location is set to host India's largest AI-ready data centre being built by Jio?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jamnagar
- D. Pune

**Answer: C**

---

**Q6. The YUVA AI for All initiative was highlighted on which occasion?**

- A. Republic Day
- B. National Youth Day
- C. Digital India Day
- D. Teachers' Day

**Answer: B**

---

**Q7. Which of the following topics is included in the YUVA AI for All curriculum?**

- A. AI-based stock trading
- B. Military applications of AI
- C. Artificial Intelligence ethics
- D. Quantum cryptography

**Answer: C**

---

**Q8. India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in:**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bengaluru
- C. New Delhi
- D. Kolkata

**Answer: C**

---

**Q9. A key theme of the CSPOC conference in 2026 will focus on the use of:**

- A. Blockchain in governance
- B. Artificial Intelligence in Parliament



- C. Social media regulation
- D. Cyber warfare strategies

**Answer: B**

---

**Q10. According to the International Energy Agency, China's average global market share in refining major critical minerals is around:**

- A. 30%
- B. 45%
- C. 55%
- D. 70%

**Answer: D**