

Daily Current Affairs

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Thiruvalluvar Day

- Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated on **16th January** as part of Pongal to commemorate the Tamil sage for his contributions to literature. Saint Thiruvalluvar, also known as Valluvar is believed to have lived in Mylapore (now part of Chennai, Tamil Nadu).
- Shri Modi noted that Thiruvalluvar envisioned a society rooted in harmony and compassion, values that remain deeply relevant in today's world. He emphasized that Thiruvalluvar personifies the finest aspects of Tamil culture, standing as a beacon of wisdom and unity.
- Thiruvalluvar, commonly known as Valluvar, was an Indian poet and philosopher. He is best known as the author of the **Tirukkural**, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love. The text is considered an exceptional and widely cherished work of Tamil literature.



National Startup Day 2026

- National Startup Day 2026 is observed on 16 January every year to recognise the contribution of startups to India's economic and innovation ecosystem.
- The day commemorates the launch of the Startup India Initiative in 2016, led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India. It serves as a national platform to acknowledge entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, incubators and policymakers.
- National Startup Day is celebrated to highlight the role of startups in driving innovation, job creation, digital transformation, and inclusive economic development. The day also reflects the government's commitment to creating a supportive environment for startups through policy reforms, funding access, incubation support and ease of doing business.
- **Key Achievements of Startup India in 10 Years**

• Detail	• Information
• DPIIT Recognised Startups	• 2,00,000+
• Users on Startup India Portal	• 6.6 lakh+
• Incubators Supported Under Seed Fund Scheme	• 240+
• Total Funding Mobilised	• ₹27,000+ crore
• Startups from Tier 2 & Tier 3 Cities	• 53%
• Government e-Marketplace Orders to Startups	• ₹51,000+ crore
• Startups with at Least One Woman Director	• 48%
• States/UTs with Startup Policies	• 32



Yemen PM Resigns

- Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Salem bin Breik and appointed Shaya Mohsen Zindani, the country's foreign minister, as the new Prime Minister.
- According to state media, the Saudi-backed leadership council formally approved the resignation of Salem bin Breik after it was submitted earlier this week.
- Following this, Shaya Mohsen Zindani, who was serving as Yemen's foreign minister, was tasked with forming a new cabinet.
- The move signals an attempt by the leadership council to ensure continuity in governance amid political and security challenges.
- Yemen is currently governed by a Presidential Leadership Council, which was formed with Saudi backing to unify anti-Houthi political forces.
- The council exercises executive authority, including the appointment of the prime minister and cabinet.
- The acceptance of the resignation and quick appointment of a successor reflects efforts to project political stability despite ongoing internal divisions and external pressures.
- Yemen has become a focal point of rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in recent months.
- In December, the Southern Transitional Council (STC), a UAE-backed separatist group, took control of several areas in southern and eastern Yemen.

- The group's advance close to the Saudi border raised serious security concerns in Riyadh.



MS Dhoni Appointed Goodwill Ambassador

- Former Indian cricket captain MS Dhoni has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the Pune Grand Tour 2026, India's first UCI-recognised multi-stage professional road cycling race.
- The Pune Grand Tour 2026 will be India's first-ever Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) 2.2 category Continental Road Cycling Race for men.
- The event places India on the official global cycling calendar of the Union Cycliste Internationale. Conducted over five stages, the race will cover a total distance of 437 kilometres, testing endurance, strategy, and technical skill at an international level.
- India's challenge will be led by experienced cyclist Naveen John, representing the Indian National Team.
- Host nation India will field 12 riders, including an Indian Development Team, providing valuable exposure to domestic talent.
- The race will pass through nine talukas and over 150 villages, blending elite sport with cultural heritage, rural outreach, and tourism promotion across the region.



GeM's Womaniya Initiative Completes 7 Years

- The Government e-Marketplace has completed seven years of the Womaniya Initiative, under which women led MSEs have secured public procurement orders worth over ₹80,000 crore, far exceeding the mandated procurement target.
- The Womaniya Initiative, launched on January 14, 2019, was conceived to address the limited access of women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to government markets.
- By offering a direct, transparent, and fully digital interface between sellers and government buyers, Womaniya removed intermediaries and reduced traditional entry barriers.
- According to GeM leadership, Womaniya has emerged as a structured and scalable ecosystem for women entrepreneurs.
- Digital procurement through GeM enables transparent price discovery, product comparison, and wider market access.
- Awareness of Government Financial Rules (GFR) and understanding procurement patterns were identified as crucial for women entrepreneurs to fully leverage public procurement opportunities.
- The initiative aligns technology with policy intent to create long-term entrepreneurial resilience.
- The Government e-Marketplace is India's national public procurement portal aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity. Initiatives like

Womaniya highlight how targeted interventions within digital public infrastructure can address structural inequalities and promote equitable growth.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

Q1. Thiruvalluvar Day is observed on which date every year?

- A. 14 January
- B. 15 January
- C. 16 January
- D. 17 January

Answer: C

Q2. Thiruvalluvar is best known for authoring which literary work?

- A. Silappadikaram
- B. Tirukkural
- C. Tholkappiyam
- D. Manimekalai

Answer: B

Q3. National Startup Day commemorates the launch of which government initiative?

- A. Make in India

- B. Digital India
- C. Startup India
- D. Skill India

Answer: C

Q4. Which government department leads the Startup India Initiative?

- A. Ministry of MSME
- B. NITI Aayog
- C. DPIIT
- D. Ministry of Finance

Answer: C

Q5. Approximately what percentage of recognised startups in India are from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities?

- A. 35%
- B. 45%
- C. 53%
- D. 65%

Answer: C

Q6. Who was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Yemen after the resignation of Salem bin Breik?

- A. Rashad al-Alimi
- B. Aidarus al-Zoubaidi
- C. Shaya Mohsen Zindani
- D. Mohammed Ali al-Houthi

Answer: C

Q7. Yemen is currently governed by which executive body?

- A. National Unity Government
- B. Transitional Military Council
- C. Supreme Political Council
- D. Presidential Leadership Council

Answer: D

Q8. MS Dhoni has been appointed Goodwill Ambassador for which sporting event?

- A. Tour of Rajasthan Cycling Race
- B. National Cycling League
- C. Pune Grand Tour 2026
- D. India Cycling Championship

Answer: C

Q9. The Pune Grand Tour 2026 is recognised under which international cycling body?

- A. International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- B. Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC)
- C. Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)
- D. Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)

Answer: C

Q10. The Womaniya Initiative is associated with which government platform?

- A. Udyam Portal
- B. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
- C. National Skill Portal
- D. MSME Sampark

Answer: B