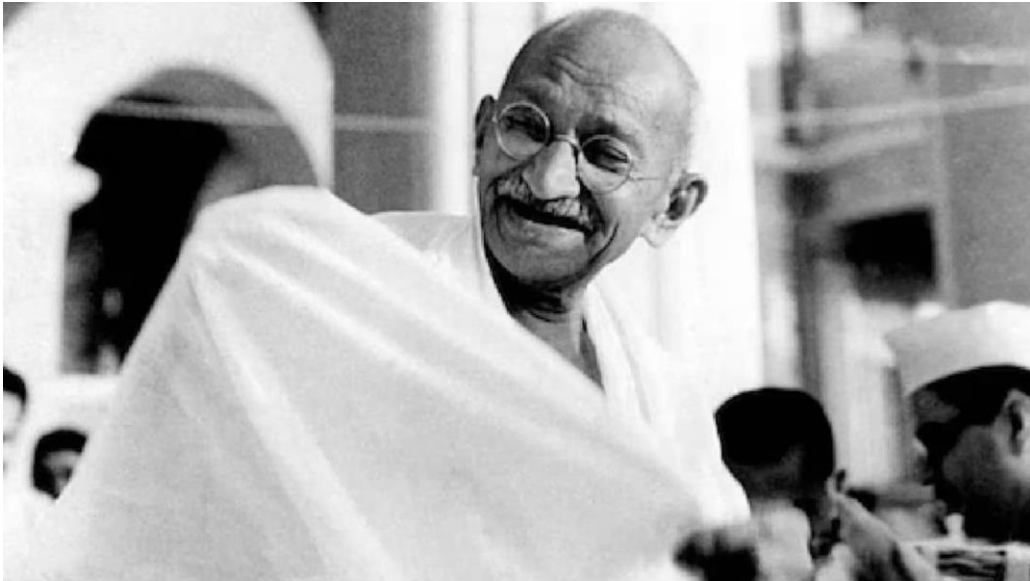


# Daily Current Affairs

## 30 January 2025

### Mahatma Gandhi Death Anniversary

- President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Modi paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Rajghat memorial on his **78th death anniversary** on Friday (January 30, 2026).
- This day is especially significant because it marks the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's non-violent struggle for independence. By paying tribute to him and all other martyrs, the nation reflects on the values they stood for and the cost of freedom.
- Every year on January 30, India observes **Martyrs' Day** to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the country. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in 1948 by **Nathuram Godse** while on his way to a prayer meeting at Birla Bhawan in Delhi.
- **Inspirational Quotes By Mahatma Gandhi**
- Be the change that you wish to see in the world.
- Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.
- The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.
- The future depends on what you do today.
- In a gentle way, you can shake the world.



## Economic Survey Flags Youth Digital Addiction

- The Economic Survey 2025–26, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, has flagged the rapid rise of digital addiction and screen-related mental health challenges in India, particularly among children and adolescents.
- Describing the trend as alarming, the report warns that excessive engagement with smartphones, social media, gaming, and online platforms is beginning to take a measurable toll on wellbeing, learning outcomes, and long-term economic productivity.
- "Policies on age-based access limits may be considered, as younger users are more vulnerable to compulsive use and harmful content," said the report written by the government's **chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran**.
- Beyond personal and social consequences, the report points to wider economic costs. These include direct financial losses from impulsive online spending, gaming, and cyber fraud, as well as indirect losses through reduced employability, lower productivity, and diminished lifetime earnings.
- Despite these risks, digital engagement continues to deepen. In 2024, nearly half of India's internet users watched online videos, while **43 percent** accessed social media, 40 percent used email or streamed music, and **26 percent** made digital payments.
- In absolute numbers, this translates to around 40 crore users on OTT video and food delivery platforms and close to 35 crore on social media.



## Australian Open 2026

- Wildcards John Peers and Olivia Gadecki became the first team to retain the Australian Open mixed-doubles title since 1988-89 when they outlasted French pair **Kristina Mladenovic and Manuel Guinard** on January 30, 2026.
- Olivia Gadecki and John Peers became the **first team** to win consecutive **Australian Open mixed doubles titles** since 1989 after beating the French pair of Kristina Mladenovic and Manuel Guinard 4-6, 6-3, 10-8.
- Mladenovic was trying to win her **fourth Grand Slam mixed doubles title** -- she won Wimbledon in 2013 and the **Australian Open in 2014** with Nestor and the 2022 Australian Open mixed doubles title with **Ivan Dodig**. She also has six Grand Slam women's doubles titles.



## India Ranks Second in Global Consumer Confidence

- India emerged as the world's second most optimistic consumer market in January 2026, reflecting strong confidence in economic prospects and employment conditions.
- The latest LSEG–Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index (PCSI) placed India just behind Indonesia, underscoring resilient domestic demand and a positive growth outlook at the start of the year.
- According to the PCSI, India recorded a national index score of 60.7 in January 2026, rising by 1.4 percentage points from the previous month. Among the 30 countries surveyed, only Indonesia, with a score of 62.6, ranked higher. These were the only two markets to cross the 60-point threshold, indicating comparatively strong consumer optimism.
- The improvement in India's score was driven primarily by upbeat expectations around the economy and jobs. The Economic Expectations Sub-Index rose sharply by 6.6 points, while the Employment Sub-Index increased by 6.3 points.
- These gains suggest growing confidence in future economic activity and improved job opportunities, supported by steady domestic demand and favourable growth indicators.
- Globally, the Global Consumer Confidence Index showed a modest improvement, reflecting gradual recovery in consumer mood. The survey, published monthly by Ipsos and covering respondents under 75 years of age, highlighted varied regional trends, with Asia-Pacific markets showing mixed results.



## Beating Retreat Ceremony

- President Droupadi Murmu and PM Modi attended the Beating Retreat ceremony, formally bringing India's Republic Day celebrations to an end. Held annually on January 29 in the national capital, the ceremony is a solemn tribute to the discipline, heritage and service of the armed forces.
- The Beating Retreat has its origins in centuries-old military customs. In India, it is organised three days after Republic Day and is usually held at **Vijay Chowk** in New Delhi. The ceremony traditionally includes the lowering of flags and the ceremonial withdrawal of troops, signifying the official close of national celebrations.
- Renowned for its musical grandeur and immaculate formations, the Beating Retreat showcases the discipline, coordination and commitment of India's armed forces.
- The presence of the President and the Prime Minister underlines the ceremony's constitutional and national importance, reinforcing respect for the military and its role in the country's democratic framework.





## Dhamtari First District to Collect Property Tax via SAMARTH Portal

- Dhamtari district on Thursday became the first in the country to collect property tax through the **SAMARTH Panchayat portal**, marking a major step in digital rural governance.
- The initiative was formally launched at Sankara gram panchayat in Nagri block, where a resident successfully paid property tax using a UPI-enabled online payment gateway, setting a national precedent for technology-led decentralised administration.
- Digital Platform to empower Panchayats in augmenting and monitoring their Tax/Non-Tax Revenue Sources by streamlining & digitalization of underlying processes and online collection of revenue.
- Aims to Digitally Empower the Panchayats to efficiently collect and monitor revenue under the OSR Framework. Shall facilitate in strengthening of the financial capabilities and local governance of panchayats, ensuring improved quality of life for residents at the grassroots level.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. On which date is Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary observed as Martyrs' Day in India?**

- A. January 26
- B. January 29
- C. January 30
- D. February 2

**Answer: C**

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**2. Where did President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary in 2026?**

- A. Birla Bhawan
- B. Parliament House
- C. Rajghat
- D. India Gate

**Answer: C**

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**3. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in which year?**

- A. 1942

- B. 1945
- C. 1947
- D. 1948

**Answer: D**

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**4. Which report highlighted the growing issue of digital addiction among children and adolescents in India?**

- A. Union Budget 2025–26
- B. National Education Policy
- C. Economic Survey 2025–26
- D. Digital India Report

**Answer: C**

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**5. According to the Economic Survey, which group is most vulnerable to harmful digital usage?**

- A. Senior citizens
- B. Working professionals
- C. Rural population
- D. Children and adolescents

**Answer: D**

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**6. Which pair won the Australian Open 2026 mixed doubles title for the second consecutive time?**

- A. Ivan Dodig & Kristina Mladenovic
- B. John Peers & Olivia Gadecki
- C. Manuel Guinard & Kristina Mladenovic
- D. Rafael Nadal & Aryna Sabalenka

**Answer: B**

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**7. India ranked second globally in consumer confidence according to which index?**

- A. World Economic Outlook Index
- B. Consumer Price Index
- C. LSEG–Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index
- D. Global Happiness Index



**Answer: C**

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**8. Which country ranked first in global consumer confidence in January 2026?**

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Indonesia
- D. Japan

**Answer: C**

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**9. The Beating Retreat ceremony marks the formal conclusion of which national celebration?**

- A. Independence Day
- B. Republic Day
- C. Gandhi Jayanti
- D. Armed Forces Flag Day

**Answer: B**

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**10. Which district became the first in India to collect property tax through the SAMARTH Panchayat portal?**

- A. Raipur
- B. Durg
- C. Bilaspur
- D. Dhamtari

**Answer: D**