



# Career Strategists IAS

Helpline -: 011-49324938, 9990606400

Add -: B-1/44 Sector 18 Rohini Delhi  
110089

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# CURRENT AFFAIRS



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## USEFUL FOR

- ★ UPSC
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## 1. National Turmeric Board.

On January 14, 2025, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in New Delhi. Its main objective is to promote the production, marketing and export of turmeric in India. The board will be headquartered in Nizamabad, Telangana, and Palle Ganga Reddy is its first chairman. The board will include representatives from Maharashtra, Telangana, and Meghalaya.



## 2. Makaravilakku Festival 2025

Makaravilaku Festival was organized at Sabarimala Temple in Kerala, which is a sacred and important festival for the devotees of Lord Ayyappa. This festival is celebrated every year on the occasion of Makar Sankranti and is attended by millions of devotees. Makaravilakku Festival is a symbol of dedication and devotion to Lord Ayyappa.



## 3. Vice President Dhankhar released the book on the rights and privileges of Parliament.

On 13 January 2025, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released Dr. K.S. Chauhan's book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective". On this occasion, Dhankhar appreciated the dedication and hard work of the author, which he put in understanding the complex role of Parliament in democracy.



## 4. India tests anti-drone micro missile system Bhargavastra

Indigenously developed micro missile system Bhargavastra was successfully tested on 12 and 13 January 2025 at Gopalpur Seward Firing Range, Odisha. The system has been developed to deal with swarm drone attacks. It has been developed by Nagpur-based Economic Explosives Limited (EEL). Bhargavastra has a range of about 5-6 km. and can be mounted on mobile platforms for deployment in various terrains including deserts and high altitude areas.



## 5. PM Modi inaugurates Z-Mode tunnel in Kashmir.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 6.5 km long Z-Mode tunnel in Sonamarg area of Ganderbal district of Kashmir on 13 January 2025. The tunnel is part of the Indo-China Border Roads Project of the Central Government, which aims to build road infrastructure on the northern and northeastern border.



## 6. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana implemented in Odisha.

Odisha has become the 34th state to implement Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The MoU was signed between the Union Ministry of Health and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha. The signing ceremony was presided over by Union Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda. The scheme will be implemented in Odisha in conjunction with the existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana.



## 7. Two MoUs signed between India and Spain during Foreign Minister Jaishankar's visit to Spain.

India and Spain have signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to further strengthen bilateral relations. Dr. S. Jaishankar was on a two-day official visit to Spain on 13 and 14 January 2025, where he met senior leaders of the Spanish government. Relations between India and Spain have gained further strength in recent times, especially after the visit of Spanish President Pedro Sanchez to India in October 2024.



## 8. Swami Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Mission

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh government has launched Swami Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Mission, which aims to inspire the youth and channelize their energy in a positive direction. The main objective of this mission is to make the youth self-reliant and empowered, so that they can play an important role in their personal and social lives.



**1. The first chairman of the National Turmeric Board is-**

**A - Palle Ganga Reddy**

**B - Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy**

**C - Dhiru Bhai Patel**

**D - Nilesh Mishra**

On January 14, 2025, Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the National Turmeric Board. Its headquarters will be in Nizamabad, Telangana and Palle Ganga Reddy has been made the first chairman. The board aims to promote turmeric production, marketing and export in India. It will include representatives from Maharashtra, Telangana and Meghalaya, as well as members from the Ministry of AYUSH and the Department of Agriculture.



**2. In which state is the Sabarimala temple located?**

**A - Karnataka**

**B - Kerala**

**C - Maharashtra**

**D - Tamil Nadu**

Makaravilaku festival was organized at Sabarimala temple in Kerala on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, which holds special significance for the devotees of Lord Ayyappa. Lakhs of devotees participate in this festival. Devotees follow a strict fast (Mandalam Vratam) for 41 days, which includes satvik life and celibacy.



**3. Recently, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released the book on "Rights and Privileges of Parliament". This book is written by whom?**

**A - Dr. Ramachandra Guha**

**B - Dr. K. S. Chauhan**

**C - Advocate Tushar Mehta**

**D - Dr. Upendra Singh**

On 13 January 2025, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released Dr. K.S. Chauhan's book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective". The book highlights the functions, privileges and accountability of the government of Parliament. In particular, the importance of dialogue, debate and deliberation to ensure accountability has been discussed.



**4. What is the name of the indigenous micro missile system designed to counter the threat of swarm drone attacks?**

**A - Bhargavastra**

**B - Dronacharya**

**C - Arjun**

**D - Chetak**

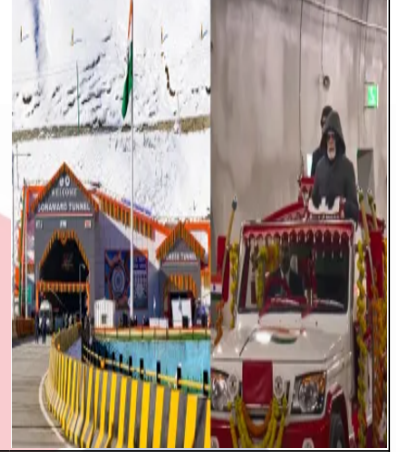
The indigenous micro missile system Bhargavastra was successfully tested on 12-13 January 2025 at Gopalpur Seaward Firing Range in Odisha. The system has been developed by Economic Explosives Limited to deal with swarm drone attacks. It has a range of 5-6 km and can be deployed on mobile platforms.



**5. Who recently inaugurated the Z Mode Tunnel or Sonamarg Tunnel?**

- A - Prime Minister Narendra Modi**    B - Home Minister Amit Shah  
C - External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar    D - Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 6.5 km long Z-Mode Tunnel in Sonamarg area of Kashmir on 13 January 2025. The tunnel is part of the India-China Border Road Project and is located on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, connecting Gagangir to Sonamarg. The travel time will be reduced from 2 hours to 15 minutes through this tunnel.



**6. When was the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana launched?**

- A - Year 2018**    B - Year 2015  
C - Year 2016    D - Year 2009

Odisha has become the 34th state to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. The scheme will be implemented in Odisha in conjunction with the Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana, providing a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year, with an additional cover of Rs 5 lakh for female members.



**7. In January 2025, External Affairs Minister S. How many MoUs were signed between India and Spain during Jaishankar's Spain visit?**

- A - Two**    B - Four  
C - Five    D - Ten

India and Spain signed two MoUs to strengthen bilateral relations. Dr. S. Jaishankar was on a visit to Spain on 13-14 January 2025, where he met senior leaders of the Spanish government. The relations further strengthened after Pedro Sanchez's visit to India in October 2024, and both countries decided to celebrate 2026 as the year of "Cultural Tourism" and "AI".



**8. In which state has Swami Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Mission been launched recently?**

- A - Madhya Pradesh**    B - Gujarat  
C - Haryana    D - Chhattisgarh

The Madhya Pradesh government has launched the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Mission, which aims to inspire youth and make them self-reliant and empowered. This mission will propagate the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, as well as promote the spirit of discipline and patriotism.





## One Liner

1. Where is the headquarters of the National Turmeric Board? - **In Telangana (Nizamabad)**
2. Sabarimala temple is dedicated to whom? - **Lord Ayyappa**
3. Recently, Vice President Dhankhar released which book of Dr. K.S. Chauhan? - **Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective**
4. What is the range of Bhargavastra weapon system? - **5 to 6 km.**
5. Recently, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Z mode tunnel. In which state is it located? - **In Jammu and Kashmir (Kashmir)**
6. What is the funding ratio of the Center and the State in Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana? - **60:40**
7. Who won the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for December 2024 - **Jaspreet Bumrah**
8. Larsen & Toubro launched which multi-purpose vessel (MPV) for the Indian Navy? - **INS Utkarsh**
9. Foreign Minister S. Which two agreements were signed with Spain during Jaishankar's visit to Spain? - **Cooperation in sports, sustainable urban development**
10. When did Swami Vivekananda represent Sanatan Dharma on behalf of India at the Chicago World Religion Conference in America? - **In the year 1893**

