

Himachal Pradesh January 2026 Current Affairs

Himachal Pradesh Approves Controlled Cannabis Cultivation

What's the News?

The **Himachal Pradesh Cabinet** has approved a landmark decision to permit the controlled cultivation of cannabis for **industrial, scientific, and medicinal purposes**, marking a significant shift in the state's agricultural and economic policy framework. This move has set the stage for future legalisation under strict regulatory monitoring.

Key Highlights:

- The Cabinet approved the **report of an expert committee** recommending regulated cannabis cultivation under strict oversight.
- The initiative will be implemented jointly by **Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur** and **Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture, Nauni, Solan**.
- Only seeds with minimal intoxicating properties (low THC) will be cultivated to prevent misuse; cultivation will be closely monitored by the Excise and Taxation Department and law enforcement agencies.
- All activities will comply with the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985**, and relevant state NDPS rules.
- The committee's recommendations also include amending state NDPS rules to regulate the entire supply chain – from cultivation to transport and interstate movement.
- Experts note that Himachal's **topography and climate** are favourable for cannabis cultivation, which could benefit farmers and open new economic avenues.

Background:

Cannabis (hemp) grows naturally in many parts of Himachal Pradesh, but its cultivation has historically been banned under the NDPS Act due to narcotic concerns. Recent policy discussions have emphasised exploring its non-narcotic applications like fibre, seeds, medicinal extracts, and industrial

inputs, aligning with broader global trends in regulated cannabis markets.

Himachal Flags Off Chilgoza Saplings to Bhutan for Ecological Cooperation

What's the News?

Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** flagged off a vehicle carrying **Chilgoza (Pinus gerardiana) saplings** from the **Himachal Pradesh Secretariat** to **Bhutan** as part of ecological cooperation between the two Himalayan regions.

The initiative reflects strengthening environmental ties and knowledge-sharing in biodiversity conservation between Himachal Pradesh and Bhutan.

Key Highlights:

- The vehicle carrying **Chilgoza saplings** was flagged off from the **Himachal Secretariat, Shimla**.
- The initiative symbolises ecological partnership between **Himachal Pradesh and Bhutan**, both Himalayan regions.
- The Chief Minister highlighted:
 - Shared **Himalayan ecology**
 - Common environmental challenges
 - Importance of sustainable mountain development
- Chilgoza pine is ecologically and economically significant for:
 - Soil conservation
 - Preventing land degradation
 - Supporting local livelihoods
- The move promotes:
 - Cross-border cooperation in forestry
 - Biodiversity conservation
 - Climate-resilient afforestation

About Chilgoza (Pinus gerardiana)

- Commonly known as **Chilgoza Pine**.
- Native to:
 - Western Himalayas
 - Himachal Pradesh (especially Kinnaur region)
- Produces edible pine nuts (high economic value).
- Adapted to:
 - Dry temperate climate
 - Rocky mountainous terrain
- Plays a key role in:
 - Preventing soil erosion

- Maintaining fragile mountain ecosystems

Chilgoza forests are considered ecologically sensitive and economically valuable.

Background :

Himachal Pradesh has been actively promoting:

- Afforestation programmes
- Climate adaptation strategies
- Conservation of high-altitude species

Bhutan, known for its strong environmental policies and constitutional mandate of maintaining 60% forest cover, shares similar Himalayan ecological concerns.

This initiative aligns with:

- Regional ecological diplomacy
- Sustainable mountain development
- Climate change mitigation efforts

Himachal Pradesh-based CORD Selected for Mahaveer Award (Education Category)

What's the News?

In a significant recognition for grassroots development efforts, **CORD (Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development)**, a Himachal Pradesh-based organisation working in the field of inclusive and sustainable rural development, has been selected for the prestigious **Mahaveer Award (Education Category)**.

The award acknowledges CORD's long-standing contribution to empowering marginalised communities through **education-led and community-driven development initiatives**.

Key Highlights:

- **CORD** has been selected for the **Mahaveer Award for Education**.
- The **Mahaveer Awards** are presented annually in various categories for outstanding service in social sectors.
- **Each award includes:**
 - Cash prize of ₹10 lakh
 - Commendatory citation
 - Memento
- CORD was established by HH Swami Chinmayananda.
- **The organisation focuses on:**
 - Education empowerment
 - Skill development
 - Health awareness
 - Livelihood support
 - Special emphasis on **women and persons with disabilities**
- The award is conferred by the **Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation**.
- Founder of the Foundation, **N. Sugalchand Jain**, highlighted that CORD's work reflects education as a catalyst for social transformation and grassroots empowerment.

Background:

CORD (Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development) has been working for decades in rural

areas of Himachal Pradesh and other states, focusing on a **community-based participatory development model**.

Its approach integrates:

- Self-help groups (SHGs)
- Inclusive education
- Rural entrepreneurship
- Disability inclusion
- Sustainable livelihood initiatives

The **Mahaveer Awards**, instituted by the **Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation**, recognise individuals and organisations for excellence in fields such as education, healthcare, social service, and humanitarian work.

This recognition highlights Himachal Pradesh's contribution to **grassroots social innovation and inclusive development**.

'Operation Clawing Back' – Illegal Wildlife Articles Seized in Shimla

What's the News?

In a major crackdown on illegal wildlife trade, the **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department** launched '**Operation Clawing Back**' in Shimla district and seized over **100 wildlife articles**, including suspected **leopard claws, teeth, and bird feathers**, from jewellery shops in Rohru. Six persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Key Highlights:

- **Total items seized:**
 - 86 suspected leopard claws
 - 5 animal teeth
 - 1 claw of an unidentified animal
 - 10 feathers of unidentified birds
- The raid was conducted in **Rohru (Shimla district)** covering the Main Market and Lower Bazaar areas.
- A **45-member team** comprising Deputy Rangers, Forest Guards, and Van Mitras carried out simultaneous raids.
- **Six arrests made** – five shop owners and one manager.
- Seized articles were allegedly intended for use in **ornamental jewellery**.
- The items will undergo **forensic examination** in coordination with the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun**, to determine:
 - Species identification
 - Authenticity
 - Age of items
- **A case has been registered under:**
 - Section 42A
 - Section 44
 - Section 49Bof the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The Forest Department has announced intensified operations against **poaching, illegal hunting, and wildlife trade**.

Background:

Illegal Wildlife Trade in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh, with its rich biodiversity including species like the **leopard, snow leopard, Himalayan**

black bear, and monal, faces threats from illegal poaching and trade in animal parts.

Wildlife items such as claws, teeth, skins, and feathers are often illegally used for:

- Ornaments
- Traditional beliefs
- Black-market trade

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

The Act provides legal protection to wild animals and prohibits:

- Hunting of protected species
- Trade in animal parts
- Possession without authorisation

Sections invoked in this case relate to:

- Illegal trade and dealing in wildlife articles
- Licensing violations
- Possession and sale of animal parts

JICA Reviews Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Project at Palampur Seed Farm

What's the News?

Senior officials of the **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** conducted a **mid-term review** of developmental works under the **Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (HPCDPP)** at the **Vegetable Seed Multiplication Farm, Bhattu (near Palampur)**.

The review aimed to assess infrastructure development, modern farming practices, and marketing support mechanisms introduced under the project.

Key Highlights:

- The delegation was led by the **Chief Representative, JICA India Office**, along with **Dr. C. Palarasu, Secretary (Agriculture), Himachal Pradesh**.
- The visit focused on works executed by the **Block Project Management Unit (BPMU), Palampur**.

Infrastructure & Development Works Reviewed:

- Repair and construction of **water storage tanks**
- Installation of **solar-powered pumping systems** in tube wells
- Fencing of farm areas
- Establishment of **vermi-compost units**
- Repair of **poly houses**
- Functional **micro-irrigation system** covering **4.755 hectares**

Demonstration & Modern Farming:

- Development of a **2.5-bigha model demonstration plot**
- Cultivation of vegetables and fruit crops, especially **strawberry**
- **Installation of:**
 - **Micro-irrigation system**
 - **Mulching sheets** for soil and water conservation

- Approximately **₹50 lakh** spent on developmental works

Market Linkage Support:

- Visit to a **collection centre** and **retail outlet** at Bhattu
- Review of a **turmeric processing unit**
- **Emphasis on:**
 - Direct farmer-to-market linkage
 - Eliminating middlemen
 - Ensuring fair prices for farmers

The officials appreciated the progress and directed further enhancement to boost **farmers' income and sustainable agriculture**.

Background:

Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project (HPCDPP)

- Supported by **JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)**
- **Aims to:**
 - Promote **high-value crops**
 - Improve **irrigation infrastructure**
 - Strengthen **market linkages**
 - Enhance **farmers' income**
 - Promote **climate-resilient agriculture**

JICA in India

JICA provides:

- Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans
- Technical cooperation
- Infrastructure and agriculture support

In Himachal Pradesh, JICA-supported projects focus on:

- Sustainable agriculture
- Rural infrastructure
- Crop diversification
- Climate adaptation measures

Rare Sighting of Song Thrush at Pong Dam Lake (Ramsar Site), Himachal Pradesh

What's the News?

A rare **Song Thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*), a bird species that mainly breeds in **Europe and West Asia**, has been sighted at the **Pong Lake Wetland** in Himachal Pradesh. The sighting occurred near **Sathana village**, close to the outflow area of the **Shah Nehar Barrage Lake**, during the annual bird census conducted by the Himachal Pradesh Wildlife Department.

This marks a significant ornithological event, as confirmed sightings of the species in India are extremely rare.

Key Highlights:

- The bird was spotted by **Mahesh and Akshay Bhardwaj** during the **annual bird census**.
- Habitat: Wet grassy patches with reeds, shrubs, and scattered trees — suitable micro-habitat.
- Identification confirmed by bird experts **Abhinav and Himanshu Chaudhary**.

Identification Features:

- Warm brown upperparts
- Prominent wing bars
- Creamy underparts with bold arrowhead-shaped spots
- Upright thrush posture
- The bird remained visible briefly and was photographed.
- A follow-up survey did not record another sighting.

Global & National Context:

- The **Song Thrush** breeds mainly in **Europe and West Asia**.
- Winters in southern Europe, North Africa, and West Asia.
- **Indian records are exceptionally scarce:**
 - Fewer than five confirmed sightings nationwide.
 - **Previous sightings in:**
 - Ladakh
 - Bharatpur

■ Harike

■ Delhi region

- Last recorded in Himachal: **August 2018 at Rangrik Na, Spiti Valley**

About Pong Dam Lake

- Also known as **Maharana Pratap Sagar**.
- Located in **Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh**.
- Declared a **Ramsar Site (2002)**.
- **Major wintering ground for:**
 - Migratory waterfowl
 - Passerine birds
- Hosts thousands of migratory birds annually.

The sighting highlights the ecological importance of wetlands, scrublands, and grasslands as biodiversity hotspots.

Background:

Migratory Birds & Wetlands

Wetlands like Pong Lake serve as:

- Wintering grounds
- Stopover sites during migration
- Feeding and breeding habitats

Himalayan wetlands play a crucial role in the **Central Asian Flyway**, one of the world's major migratory bird routes.

The rare sighting reinforces:

- Importance of regular wildlife censuses
- Need for habitat conservation
- Ecological sensitivity of Ramsar wetlands

ATMA Project Promotes Natural Farming in Sundernagar, Mandi

What's the News?

Under the **ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) Project**, a field inspection was conducted in **Gram Panchayats Salapad and Jadol** in the **Sundernagar Development Block of Mandi district** to promote **natural farming practices**.

The visit was led by **Dr. Harish Thakur (State Coordinator, SPIU Shimla)** along with Media Advisor **Rohit Parashar** and other agriculture officials.

Key Highlights:

- Inspection of **Farm Field Schools (FFS)** and **demonstration sites** under ATMA's natural farming component.
- Direct interaction with **beneficiary farmers** to assess implementation progress.
- **Emphasis on:**
 - Natural farming adoption
 - Crop diversification
 - Alignment with **ATMA operational guidelines**
- Officials observed field-level techniques and guided farmers on sustainable practices.
- **Natural farming benefits highlighted:**
 - Reduced input costs
 - Improved soil health
 - Enhanced long-term productivity
 - Increased climate resilience
- **Key officials present:**
 - Dr. Sanjay Thakur (Sub Project Director)
 - Dr. Hitender Thakur
 - Block Technology Manager Narender Kumar
 - Assistant Manager Yograj

The visit reinforced ATMA's focus on **grassroots agricultural extension and farmer empowerment**.

Background:

What is ATMA?

The **Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA)** is a centrally sponsored scheme under the **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension (SMAE)**.

Objectives of ATMA:

- Strengthen **agricultural extension services**
- Promote **farmer-centric, participatory approach**
- Encourage **crop diversification**
- Facilitate adoption of innovative technologies
- Improve farmers' income

Natural Farming in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh is actively promoting natural farming under initiatives like:

- **Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana (PK3Y)**
- Reduced chemical usage
- Promotion of indigenous inputs
- Soil and water conservation practices

Natural farming is particularly suitable for hill states due to:

- Small landholdings
- Fragile ecosystems
- Need for low-cost agriculture

Historic Pathankot–Joginder Nagar Narrow Gauge Line Awaits Modernisation

What's the News?

The **historic Pathankot–Joginder Nagar narrow gauge railway line** – one of India's oldest and longest narrow-gauge hill railways – continues to await **modernisation and broad-gauge conversion**, even as local demands and strategic surveys push for upgrading the line to meet contemporary transport needs.

Key Highlights:

- The **Pathankot–Joginder Nagar railway line**, also known as the **Kangra Valley Railway**, was commissioned in **1926** during British rule to facilitate transportation of machinery for the **Shanan Hydel Power Project** and support regional connectivity.
- Stretching across the **scenic Kangra Valley** through mountainous terrain, the line includes multiple tunnels, bridges and sharp curves – reflecting early hill-railway engineering.
- Over **almost a century of operation**, the narrow gauge line has seen declining efficiency due to:
 - Ageing infrastructure
 - Low speeds and limited carrying capacity
 - Frequent maintenance issues
 - Reduced passenger usage as road connectivity improved.
- Local residents, traders, students and tourism stakeholders have repeatedly called for **broad gauge conversion** to improve:
 - Passenger movement
 - Freight transport
 - Tourism potential
 - Safety and sustainability of hilly transport.
- The **survey for gauge conversion has reportedly been completed**, and a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** is being prepared for broad gauge conversion, but no substantive implementation plan has yet been announced.
- The line has faced long interruptions in direct train services – especially after the collapse of the **Chakki bridge** – with partial services

restored only on some sections, fueling public demand for modernisation.

Background:

The Kangra Valley Railway (KV Railway)

- The **Pathankot–Joginder Nagar railway** forms part of the **Kangra Valley Railway system**, a **2 feet 6 inch (762 mm) narrow gauge** line spanning about **164 km** through the sub-Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.
- It was built between **1926–1929**, linking remote hilly towns such as **Palampur, Baijnath and Joginder Nagar** with the plains at **Pathankot**.
- Historically, the line served as an **affordable and vital transport link** for passengers, farmers and traders in the region.

RDG Exit Triggers Fiscal Austerity Push in Himachal Pradesh

What's the News?

Himachal Pradesh is facing a **financial squeeze** after the **16th Finance Commission** recommended the **discontinuation of the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG)**, a major source of fiscal support for the state. In response, the government has directed departments to **curb wasteful expenditure and raise additional resources**, while signalling a **measured austerity strategy** to deal with budgetary pressures.

Key Highlights:

- The **Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG)**, which provided fiscal support to bridge the revenue expenditure gap of Himachal Pradesh, is being **discontinued** following recommendations by the **16th Finance Commission**.
- Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has instructed all government departments to **mobilise additional resources** and **reduce avoidable spending** in light of the expected shortfall.
- The Cabinet reviewed the impact of the RDG exit and opted for a **calibrated austerity response** rather than broad, indiscriminate cuts.
- The state has reaffirmed commitment to **key operational schemes (OPS)** and social welfare programs despite the fiscal constraint.
- The government is also exploring revenue generation measures like **new lottery rules** and broader financing reforms.

Background:

What is Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG)?

- The **RDG** is a fiscal transfer mechanism under the **Finance Commission framework** to support states whose revenue expenditure exceeds revenue receipts — effectively helping meet recurring expenditure without cutting development or welfare schemes.
- Himachal Pradesh has historically depended heavily on RDG due to its **hilly terrain, limited**

revenue base, and high per-capita expenditure.

- With the RDG phased out, the state faces potential **budgetary pressures**, including the possibility of cutting subsidies, reviewing social schemes, freezing allowances, and scaling down expenditure if alternative resources are not mobilised.

Fiscal Challenge

- In FY 2021–26, the RDG accounted for a substantial portion of Himachal's resources, helping bridge a large structural fiscal gap.
- The discontinuation could expose the state to increased **revenue constraints**, higher debt servicing burdens, and potential cuts to subsidies and social spending unless mitigated by reforms.

Forest Department Nets ₹7.45 Lakh in Two-Month Crackdown on Illegal Mining in Paonta Sahib

What's the News?

The **Himachal Pradesh Forest Department** has recovered **₹7.45 lakh** in fines and penalties during a **two-month crackdown on illegal mining activities** in the **Paonta Sahib** area of Sirmaur district. The action reflects strengthened enforcement of forest and environmental laws to curb unauthorised quarrying and protect fragile ecosystems.

Key Highlights:

- The Forest Department intensified operations against **illegal mining and stone extraction** in the **Paonta Sahib** region.
- The crackdown recovered **₹7.45 lakh** in fines and penalties from violators.
- Several **unauthorised mining sites** were identified and regulatory action taken under relevant laws.
- Enforcement officials issued **notices and challans** to individuals and entities engaged in illegal quarrying.
- The operation involved coordination with local authorities and enforcement wings to ensure compliance with:
 - Indian Forest Act, 1927
 - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
 - Himachal Pradesh Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2010
- The Forest Department emphasised its commitment to protecting **forest cover, watershed areas, and biodiversity** impacted by unregulated mining.

Background:

Illegal Mining in Himachal

- Himachal Pradesh, with its **hilly terrain**, is rich in **minor minerals** such as sandstone, quartzite, and bajri (riverbed gravel).
- Mining activities, if **unregulated**, can cause:
 - Deforestation
 - Soil erosion
 - Landslides
 - Sedimentation in rivers
 - Habitat loss for wildlife

Himachal Pradesh Receives ₹46.12 Crore Centre Incentive for PMGSY Implementation

What's the News?

The **Government of India** has released an incentive of **₹46.12 crore** to **Himachal Pradesh** for the state's effective execution of the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** — a flagship rural road development programme. The announcement was made by **Vikramaditya Singh**, highlighting the achievement in enhancing rural connectivity and infrastructure delivery.

Key Highlights:

- The **Centre** has sanctioned an incentive of **₹46.12 crore** to the **Himachal Pradesh government** for efficient implementation of **PMGSY**.
- The incentive reflects the state's **timely completion**, quality of work, and adherence to physical and financial targets under the scheme.
- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** aims to provide all-weather rural road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations.
- The incentive rewards **performance-linked outcomes** — encouraging states to deliver rural infrastructure effectively.
- The announcement was made in the presence of **state leaders and officials**, reinforcing the state's priority on rural development.

Background:

What is PMGSY?

The **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** was launched in **December 2000** with the primary objective of providing all-weather road connectivity to rural habitations across India.

Key Features of PMGSY:

- Focuses on **connectivity of eligible unconnected habitations** with population criteria based on terrain.
- Rural roads are designed to withstand **monsoon and adverse weather conditions**.

- Emphasis on **quality construction standards** and timely completion.
- Implementation through **State PWD/Rural Development Departments** and funded centrally with state share.

Performance-Linked Incentives:

Incentive funding under PMGSY is provided to states that:

- Complete projects within stipulated timelines and targets,
- Maintain **quality standards**,
- Demonstrate efficient fund utilisation.

Himachal's incentive indicates good governance in **infrastructure delivery**, which is critical for socio-economic development in remote and hilly regions.

Himachal Pradesh Ranked Among World's Most Welcoming Regions

What's the News?

Himachal Pradesh has been recognised as one of the **“most welcoming regions in the world”** in a recent global travel and hospitality assessment. The accolade highlights the state's exceptional hospitality, cultural warmth, safety, and overall visitor experience, reinforcing its reputation as a top tourist destination in India.

Key Highlights:

- Himachal Pradesh features on the **global list of the most welcoming regions**, based on travel industry evaluations and visitor feedback.
- **The ranking reflects the state's:**
 - Warm hospitality
 - Safety and security
 - Cultural diversity
 - Friendly local communities
- The recognition is significant for promoting **tourism growth**, especially in the post-pandemic travel era.
- The accolade also highlights Himachal's distinctive attractions:
 - Himalayan landscapes and valleys
 - Serene lakes and rivers
 - Adventure tourism (trekking, paragliding)
 - Heritage and cultural festivals
 - Eco-tourism and spiritual sites
- Tourism stakeholders and local authorities have welcomed the recognition, saying it will encourage **foreign and domestic tourists**.

Background:

Tourism in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh has long been a part of popular tourism circuits in India, known for:

- **Shimla and Manali** (hill stations)
- **Dharamshala–McLeod Ganj** (cultural and spiritual tourism)
- **Kasol and Parvati Valley** (nature and adventure tourism)

Great Himalayan National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

US Support for Tibetan Identity – Losar Greetings & Special Coordinator Appointment

What's the News?

On the occasion of **Losar** – the Tibetan New Year marking the beginning of the Year of the Fire Horse – **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio** extended warm greetings to Tibetans worldwide and reaffirmed America's commitment to supporting the rights and cultural identity of the Tibetan people. Rubio also **announced the appointment of Riley M. Barnes**, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, as the **United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues** – an official role aimed at coordinating U.S. policy on Tibet, including human rights, religious freedom and cultural preservation. The move has been **warmly welcomed by the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in Dharamsala**. Tibet remains a sensitive subject in U.S.–China relations, with Washington repeatedly voicing support for safeguarding Tibetan religious and cultural identity while Beijing maintains that Tibet is an internal matter.

Key Highlights:

-  **Losar Greetings:** Marco Rubio extended "Losar Tashi Delek" greetings and expressed the U.S. commitment to Tibetan cultural and religious heritage on the first day of the Tibetan New Year.
- **Special Coordinator Appointment:** Riley M. Barnes was designated as the **United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues** to oversee U.S. policy regarding Tibet.
- **Support for Rights & Identity:** The role is expected to strengthen efforts in protecting Tibetan religious, cultural and linguistic identity, and promote dialogue on issues concerning Tibet.
-  **US–China Dynamics:** The announcement comes amid continued diplomatic sensitivities with China, which views Tibet as an internal matter and opposes foreign interference.
- **CTA's Response:** The Central Tibetan Administration welcomed the appointment, hoping it would lead to enhanced dialogue

between Tibetan leaders and the Chinese government.

Background:

- **Losar** is the traditional Tibetan New Year festival celebrated by Tibetans across Tibet, India, Nepal and the global diaspora.
- It is a major cultural occasion involving prayer, family gatherings and community rituals to usher in prosperity, health and renewal at the start of the lunar year.
- The **United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues** is a role mandated by the Tibet Policy Act of 2002 to ensure high-level coordination of U.S. policy related to Tibetan rights, cultural preservation and human rights — including facilitating dialogue between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Government of China, and supporting the Tibetan community in exile.
- The CTA, headquartered in Dharamsala, India, administers the Tibetan exile community's civil affairs and has welcomed international gestures supporting its cultural and religious identity.

MCQs: HP January 2026 Current Affairs

1. Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved controlled cannabis cultivation mainly for which purposes?

- A. Tourism, trade and export
- B. Industrial, scientific and medicinal purposes
- C. Religious, ornamental and commercial purposes
- D. Food processing, tourism and transport

2. Consider the following statements about controlled cannabis cultivation in Himachal Pradesh:

1. Only seeds with minimal intoxicating properties will be cultivated.
2. Cultivation will be monitored by the Excise and Taxation Department and law enforcement agencies.
3. The activities will comply with the NDPS Act, 1985.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

3. The controlled cannabis cultivation initiative will be implemented jointly by:

- A. HP Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India
- B. Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur and Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture, Nauni
- C. ATMA and JICA
- D. Central Tibetan Administration and Bhagwan Mahaveer Foundation

4. Chilgoza saplings were flagged off from Himachal Pradesh to which country?

- A. Nepal
- B. Bhutan
- C. Tibet
- D. Japan

5. Consider the following statements about Chilgoza Pine:

1. It is scientifically known as Pinus gerardiana.

2. It is especially found in the Kinnaur region of Himachal Pradesh.
3. It produces edible pine nuts of high economic value.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

6. CORD was selected for the Mahaveer Award in which category?

- A. Healthcare
- B. Social Service
- C. Education
- D. Humanitarian Work

7. The Mahaveer Award selected for CORD includes:

- A. Cash prize of ₹7.45 lakh, citation and memento
- B. Cash prize of ₹10 lakh, commendatory citation and memento
- C. Cash prize of ₹46.12 crore and citation
- D. Cash prize of ₹50 lakh and memento

8. CORD was established by:

- A. N. Sugalchand Jain
- B. HH Swami Chinmayananda
- C. Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- D. Riley M. Barnes

9. 'Operation Clawing Back' was launched in connection with:

- A. Illegal mining in Paonta Sahib
- B. Illegal wildlife trade in Shimla district
- C. PMGSY implementation
- D. Crop diversification at Palampur

10. In 'Operation Clawing Back', raids were conducted in which area of Shimla district?

- A. Kinnaur
- B. Rohru
- C. Bhattu
- D. Sathana

11. Which of the following wildlife articles were seized during 'Operation Clawing Back'?

1. Suspected leopard claws
2. Animal teeth

3. Feathers of unidentified birds

Select the correct answer:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

12. The seized wildlife articles under 'Operation Clawing Back' will undergo forensic examination in coordination with:

- A. Dr. Y.S. Parmar University, Nauni
- B. Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun
- C. JICA India Office
- D. Central Tibetan Administration

13. JICA conducted a mid-term review of the Himachal Pradesh Crop Diversification Promotion Project at:

- A. Pong Dam Lake
- B. Vegetable Seed Multiplication Farm, Bhattu
- C. Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Shimla
- D. Rohru Main Market

14. Consider the following developmental works reviewed under the JICA-supported project:

- 1. Water storage tanks
- 2. Solar-powered pumping systems
- 3. Vermi-compost units
- 4. Micro-irrigation system

Which of the above were mentioned in the document?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

15. The rare Song Thrush sighting in Himachal Pradesh occurred at:

- A. Great Himalayan National Park
- B. Pong Lake Wetland
- C. Parvati Valley
- D. Shanan Hydel Power Project area

16. Pong Dam Lake is also known as:

- A. Maharana Pratap Sagar
- B. Shah Nehar Barrage
- C. Kangra Valley Lake
- D. Rangrik Na Wetland

17. Consider the following statements about the Song Thrush sighting:

- 1. The bird was spotted near Sathana village.
- 2. It was sighted during the annual bird census.
- 3. Previous confirmed sightings in India are very common.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

18. ATMA Project field inspection for natural farming was conducted in which development block?

- A. Palampur
- B. Sundernagar
- C. Rohru
- D. Paonta Sahib

19. The Pathankot-Joginder Nagar railway line is also known as:

- A. Shanan Railway
- B. Kangra Valley Railway
- C. Maharana Pratap Railway
- D. Central Himalayan Railway

20. Himachal Pradesh received ₹46.12 crore incentive from the Centre for effective implementation of:

- A. ATMA
- B. PMGSY
- C. HPCDPP
- D. PK3Y

Answer Key

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. D
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B
11. D
12. B
13. B
14. D
15. B
16. A
17. A
18. B
19. B
20. B



RAMAN ACADEMY
"inspiring excellence"