



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

### BRICS INDIA SUMMIT NEEDS A GREEN AND RESILIENT AGENDA

- The forthcoming **BRICS** Summit to be hosted by **India** offers a critical opportunity to align national priorities with the urgent needs of the **Global South**.
- With the successful organisation of the G-20 Summit in 2023, India already has the infrastructure and diplomatic capacity required.

### **The Global Context: A Leadership Vacuum in Climate Governance**

- Global **multilateralism** is under severe strain amid heightened geopolitical polarisation.
- The **United States**, under the influence of **Trump**-era policies, has deprioritised climate action, promoted increased **fossil** fuel usage, and withdrawn from multiple international initiatives.
- This retreat has weakened global momentum on **sustainability**, especially as the U.S. has distanced itself from climate forums and institutions central to collective action.
- At the same time, European countries that previously positioned themselves as climate leaders are experiencing domestic fatigue and shifting their attention toward security and economic concerns.
- This convergence of disengagement among major developed economies has created a leadership vacuum in global climate governance.
- Within this context, BRICS has the potential to emerge as a stabilising platform capable of sustaining cooperation on climate action and development-oriented responses.

### **BRICS as a Platform for Collective Climate Action**

- While BRICS is often viewed with suspicion in Washington, India's diplomatic strength lies in its ability to balance competing interests.
- Its performance during the G-20 Summit demonstrated a capacity to navigate complex global **geopolitics** while preserving strategic autonomy through multi-alignment.
- A similar approach at the BRICS Summit can advance climate cooperation without undermining crucial bilateral relationships.



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

- Climate impacts affect all BRICS countries, though in diverse ways. These include risks to infrastructure, public health, ecosystems, and livelihoods across varied geographies.
- Such shared vulnerabilities strengthen the case for collective action focused on **adaptation, equity**, and sustainable **development**, ensuring that climate responses do not constrain growth prospects for developing economies.

### India's Strategic and Geopolitical Opportunity

- The expanded BRICS grouping now represents a significant share of the global population, economic output, and trade flows.
- As chair, India is uniquely positioned to shape a collective agenda that prioritises climate **resilience** and inclusive growth.
- Such leadership would reinforce India's global standing while addressing the pressing vulnerabilities of developing nations.
- Geopolitically, a strong BRICS-led climate initiative also serves to balance competing ambitions, particularly those of **China**, in shaping the global climate **leadership** narrative
- By advancing a development-centric **green** agenda that emphasises resilience and cooperation, India can ensure that climate action remains inclusive, equitable, and aligned with the long-term interests of the Global South.

### Conclusion

- The upcoming BRICS Summit represents a strategic moment for India to influence the trajectory of global climate governance.
  - By foregrounding resilience and inclusive development, India can position BRICS as a stabilising force amid global uncertainty, strengthen cooperation among developing nations.
  - India's leadership can also contribute to a more balanced and sustainable international order, one that integrates climate action with growth, **equity**, and **trade**.
-

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

### CAQM REPORT ON DELHI WINTER AIR POLLUTION

- Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) experience severe air pollution every winter due to a combination of meteorological, geographical, and emission-related factors.
- Low wind speeds, temperature inversion, and high moisture levels trap pollutants close to the ground, leading to persistent smog episodes.
- Over the years, multiple studies have attempted to identify dominant pollution sources, but variations in methodology often led to conflicting conclusions, complicating policy responses.
- To address this gap, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) undertook a meta-analysis of existing scientific studies to present a consolidated and evidence-based assessment of pollution sources affecting Delhi during the winter months.

### **Key Findings of the CAQM Meta-Analysis**

- The CAQM synthesis report presents a clear source-wise contribution to winter air pollution in Delhi:
  - **Secondary particulate matter:** 27%
  - **Transport emissions:** 23%
  - **Biomass burning** (including crop residue and municipal waste): 20%
  - **Dust** (road and construction): 15%
  - **Industrial emissions:** 9%
- The report clarifies that no new pollution sources have been identified.
- Instead, it harmonises findings from earlier studies that used differing analytical techniques, thereby offering a unified scientific basis for policymaking.

### **Secondary Particulate Matter as the Dominant Pollutant**

- Secondary particulate matter is not emitted directly from sources such as vehicles or factories.



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

- Instead, it forms in the atmosphere through chemical reactions involving primary pollutants like sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>).
- These reactions lead to the formation of sulphates and nitrates, which together constitute nearly **25-60% of PM2.5 concentrations** during winter.
- Fine particles of this nature are especially harmful as they penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, aggravating respiratory, cardiovascular, and ophthalmic diseases.
- The CAQM report emphasises that focusing solely on visible emission sources may be insufficient without addressing these secondary chemical processes.

### Role of Ammonia in Pollution Formation

- Ammonia plays a critical enabling role in the formation of secondary particulate matter.
- Studies cited in the report indicate that nearly **80% of ammonia emissions in India originate from agricultural activities**, particularly fertiliser use and livestock excreta.
- In the atmosphere, ammonia reacts with sulphuric and nitric acids, formed from SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, to produce ammonium sulphate and ammonium nitrate aerosols.
- These compounds significantly increase PM2.5 levels during winter, underscoring the rural-urban linkage in Delhi's air pollution problem.

### Transport, Biomass Burning, and Dust Contributions

- Transport emissions remain the second-largest contributor, reflecting the high vehicle density, fossil fuel use, and congestion in Delhi-NCR.
  - Biomass burning, including crop residue burning in neighbouring States and municipal waste burning, contributes one-fifth of winter pollution, particularly during peak burning periods.
  - Dust pollution arises from unpaved roads, construction activities, and resuspension of settled particles.
  - Although often overlooked, dust contributes substantially to particulate load, especially under stagnant winter conditions.
  - A more science-driven approach is expected to improve both preventive and responsive policy measures.
-

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

### DRAFT NATIONAL ELECTRICITY POLICY 2026

- The first National Electricity Policy (NEP), notified in 2005, focused on core issues such as power shortages, limited electricity access, and weak infrastructure.
- Since then, India's power sector has transformed significantly.
- Installed generation capacity has grown fourfold with strong private sector participation, universal electrification was achieved by March 2021, and a unified national grid became operational in 2013.
- Per capita electricity consumption rose to 1,460 kWh in 2024–25, while power markets and exchanges improved flexibility and efficiency in procurement.

#### **Persistent Stress Points in Distribution and Tariffs**

- Despite these gains, structural problems persist, especially in the distribution segment.
- High accumulated losses, mounting debt of discoms, and non-cost-reflective tariffs continue to strain the system.
- Heavy cross-subsidisation has pushed up industrial power tariffs, hurting the global competitiveness of Indian industry.

#### **Draft NEP 2026: Ambitious Consumption and Climate Goals**

- Against this backdrop, the Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 sets forward-looking targets.
- It aims to raise per capita electricity consumption to 2,000 kWh by 2030 and over 4,000 kWh by 2047.
- The policy also aligns the power sector with India's climate commitments, including a **45% reduction in emissions intensity** from 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070, signalling a decisive shift towards low-carbon energy pathways.

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

### TRUMP UNVEILS HIS BOARD OF PEACE

- The Board of Peace is a US-led intergovernmental body established by Donald Trump to manage global conflict resolution and post-war reconstruction.
- **Origin and Purpose** - Proposed in September 2025, the board was created to oversee “Phase Two” of the US-brokered ceasefire in Gaza following the 2023–2025 conflict.
- **Immediate Mandate** - Its primary role is to supervise the **National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG)** — a Palestinian technocratic authority — while managing Gaza’s reconstruction and the disarmament of Hamas.
- **Leadership and Composition** - Chaired by Donald Trump, the board includes prominent figures such as Jared Kushner, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.
- **Countries that have accepted** the invitation include: Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Israel, UAE, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar, Pakistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, among others.
- **Notable absentees:** Major European powers such as France, Germany, the UK and Italy. Permanent members of the UN Security Council — Russia, China, France and the UK.

### **India’s Immediate Response on Joining the Board of Peace**

- India neither accepted nor declined the invitation at Davos.
- New Delhi is assessing strategic, political and diplomatic implications before taking a decision.

### **Why Trump’s Board of Peace Puts India in a Tight Spot?**

- **An Exclusive, Pay-to-Enter Peace Club** - Permanent membership reportedly requires a \$1-billion contribution to a reconstruction fund, effectively turning peace-making into a pay-to-enter arrangement.
- **Unclear Scope, Expanding Concerns:**
  - Though Gaza is the immediate focus, reports suggest the charter avoids explicit territorial limits, using broad phrases like “world peace,” raising fears of mission creep and expansion into other conflicts.

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

- **Fragmented Peace-Making, Outside the UN** - The board's design risks selective and fragmented conflict resolution.
    - Unlike the UN General Assembly or Security Council, it excludes many stakeholders, raising concerns about arbitrariness in conferring "peace" through a restricted forum.
  - **India's Multilateral Principles at Stake** - India has long defended multilateralism and the primacy of the United Nations, even while pushing for UN reform to reflect Global South realities.
    - Joining a US-led body seen as bypassing the UN could undercut India's credibility on this front.
  - **The Cost of Staying Out** - Avoiding the Board of Peace is not risk-free. India seeks a seat where global security, conflict resolution, and reconstruction are discussed.
    - Opting out could mean ceding strategic space and appearing passive as new power structures take shape.
  - **The Palestine–Israel Balancing Act** - India has consistently supported a two-state solution and Palestinian rights while strengthening strategic ties with Israel.
    - Joining a West-centric, Trump-driven Gaza platform risks upsetting this delicate balance and complicating India's Global South positioning.
  - **Sharing the Platform With Pakistan** - Pakistan's reported invitation creates a fresh dilemma.
    - Sharing a high-profile forum with Islamabad could trigger domestic backlash, particularly as India maintains a firm stance against engaging with sponsors of terror.
    - At the same time, India fears that staying out could exclude it from future deliberations affecting India–Pakistan crises.
  - **Security and Military Red Lines** - Reports that Pakistan may offer troops for a Gaza stabilisation force further complicate matters. India has ruled out participation in non-UN military missions, reinforcing its preference for UN legitimacy.
-



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

### INDO-PACIFIC OCEANS INITIATIVE



Recently, India has welcomed Spain joining the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI).

- It was **launched by India** at the ASEAN-led East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok.

**Objective:** To promote cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific and the rules-based regional order.

- It is a **non-treaty-based voluntary arrangement**.
- It aims to achieve **greater cohesion** and integration through common understanding and actions related to shared interests.
- It leans heavily on **the EAS mechanism**, which includes ASEAN member states and its eight dialogue partners.
- It has **outlined seven pillars**, and it was indicated that one or two countries could take the lead for a pillar with others joining in voluntarily.

The **seven IPOI pillars** are:

- **Maritime Security:** The United Kingdom (UK) and India
- **Maritime Ecology:** Australia and Thailand
- **Maritime Resources:** France and Indonesia
- **Capacity Building and Resource Sharing:** Germany
- **Disaster Risk Reduction and Management:** India and Bangladesh
- **Science, Technology, and Academic Cooperation:** Italy and Singapore
- **Trade, Connectivity, and Maritime Transport:** Japan and the United States (US).



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

# CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK

School of Research Based Learning & Competition



CROSS & CLIMB  
MAKING THE ELIGIBLE ENTITLED

## Current Affairs - 23 January 2026

---

### WHAT IS PHULKARI?



- Phulkari, meaning "flower work," is a traditional embroidery of Punjab and Haryana.
- The term first appeared in 18th-century Punjabi literature and may be linked to the Iranian art of gulkari.
- Historically, phulkari chaddars were an essential part of a girl's marriage trousseau, crafted by mothers and grandmothers from the girl's birth.
- Girls learned to embroider early, with the number of phulkaris reflecting the family's status and marking cultural milestones.

#### Features:

- It is a form of **counted-thread embroidery** recognised by its **neat, regular patterns of geometric and natural motifs**.
  - Phulkari embroidery **uses khaddar**, a handspun and handwoven **cotton fabric**, traditionally dyed in madder brown, rust red, indigo, or green.
  - **Colourful silk threads** are used to create **flower patterns** on the fabric.
  - The mix of colourful silk threads creates a beautiful and exciting design.
  - The **floral imagery** used in phulkari **includes marigolds, jasmines, lotuses**, and Tree of Life motifs.
  - Modern motifs such as trains, trucks, and cars have also found their way into phulkari patterns.
  - Phulkari's product range includes embroidered chaddars, dupattas, and stoles, traditionally worn by brides or for ceremonies.
-