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2025, December 1

World AIDS Day:

- ➔ World AIDS Day, observed every year on December 1, is a global reminder to reflect on the progress made in tackling HIV/AIDS and to renew commitment toward eliminating the epidemic.
- ➔ In 2025, the theme “Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response” calls attention to the ongoing need for resilient, inclusive, and community-led health systems that can withstand pandemics, conflicts, and inequalities.
- ➔ India joins the global community in marking this day through national awareness drives, policy outreach, and a renewed focus on ending AIDS by 2030, as outlined in its National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) — a globally recognized model of success.



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Nagaland:

- ➔ Nagaland, located in India's culturally diverse Northeast, attained statehood on 1 December 1963 following the passage of the State of Nagaland Act, 1962. Since then, the state has played a significant role in promoting indigenous culture, biodiversity conservation, and peace-building within the region.
- ➔ Celebrations on Statehood Day highlight both the state's historical journey and its contemporary contributions, reflecting the resilience and unity of the Naga people.
- ➔ After India's independence in 1947, the Naga-inhabited region remained part of Assam. Nagaland formally became India's 16th state, and the first elected government assumed office in 1964.



Javokhir Sindarov:

- ➔ Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest Ever FIDE World Cup Champion, Wins \$120,000 19-year-old Uzbek GM Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest ever FIDE World Cup winner by defeating GM Wei Yi 1.5-0.5 in tiebreaks, earning the \$120,000 top prize.
- ➔ The 2025 FIDE World Cup in Goa, India featured 206 players in a single-elimination knockout format from November 1–26, determining three spots for the 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament.

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Red Planet Day:

- ➔ Red Planet Day is observed on 28th November every year to celebrate and raise awareness about Mars, also known as the Red Planet, highlighting its significance in space exploration. The day aims to educate people about Mars' unique features, including its red color caused by iron oxide, its atmosphere, and the potential for future human exploration.
- ➔ Space agencies and astronomy enthusiasts use this day to promote research, discoveries, and missions related to Mars, inspiring interest in science, astronomy, and interplanetary studies.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu government will give land to start a training school for traditional folk-art forms at Valayangulam village in Thiruparankundram taluk, Madurai. CM accepted the request of Parai artiste and Padma Shri awardee R. Velmurugan for setting up the school. A new postgraduate (PG) course will begin in 2026–27, and financial assistance to the university will increase from ₹3 crore to ₹5 crore. The 'Naan Mudhalvan' skill development scheme will be expanded for music and fine arts students. The Chief Minister gave honorary doctorates to actor Sivakumar and artist Chandru.

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Jakarta:

- ➔ Jakarta became the world's most populous urban area in 2025 with an estimated population of 42 million people. Nine of the ten most populated cities in the world in 2025 are located in Asia.
- ➔ Dhaka has a population of about 37 million people, while Tokyo has about 33 million people. Indonesia has started shifting its administrative capital from Jakarta to Nusantara in Borneo.

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France:

- ➔ France will start a 10-month voluntary military service from next summer. France had suspended mandatory conscription in 1997. Denmark and Norway enforce compulsory military service for both men and women.
- ➔ Sweden reinstated conscription in 2017 for 9 to 15 months for both genders. Belgium ended conscription in 1994 and will launch a 12-month voluntary programme in 2026. Germany plans a voluntary military service for 20,000 recruits by 2026.

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Amaravati:

- ➔ Amaravati has been designated as India's first Integrated Financial City. The project will house major public sector banks and financial institutions in one planned financial hub. More than 15 nationalised banks and financial bodies have begun infrastructure construction.
- ➔ The initiative also includes district-level training hubs for Quantum Valley and Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects to support future-ready banking.



Aadhaar:

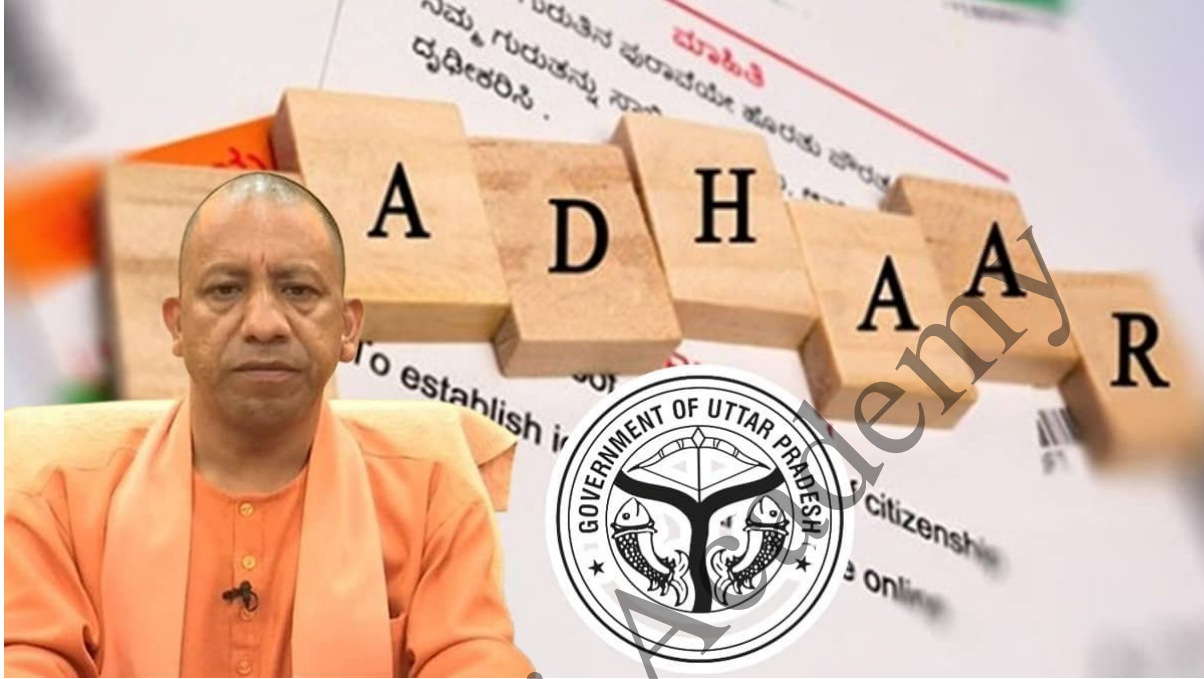
- ➔ The governments of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have instructed all departments to stop using Aadhaar as proof of birth. Aadhaar (Unique Identification Authority of India – UIDAI ID card) is not accepted because it does not contain any official birth record.

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- The Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Act, 2023, requires birth details to be verified only through authorised government registrars. The Supreme Court has allowed Aadhaar only as identity proof for voter lists, not as proof of date of birth.



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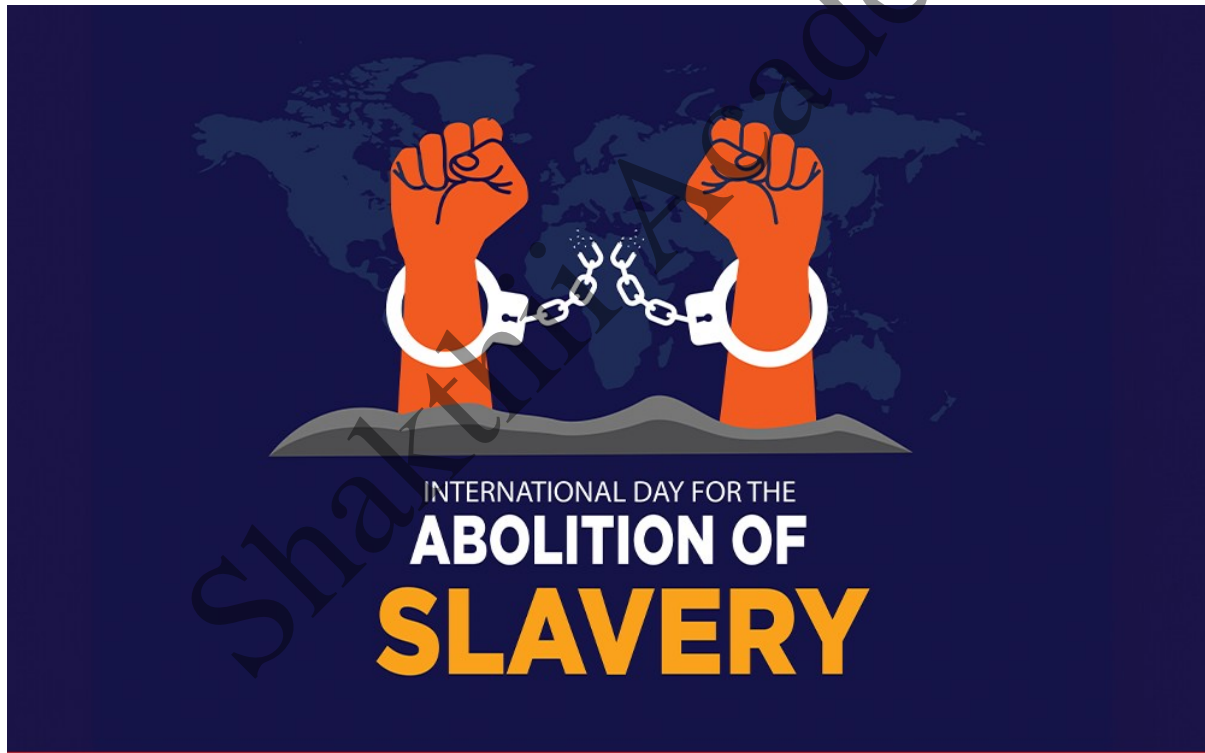
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2025, December 2

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery:

- ➔ Every year on 2 December, the world observes the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. This United Nations observance highlights the urgent need to eliminate modern forms of slavery, including forced labour, child exploitation, trafficking, sexual abuse, and the recruitment of children into armed conflict.
- ➔ The day reminds us that slavery did not disappear with history—it still exists in evolving forms.
- ➔ The observance commemorates the 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. Its focus today is on tackling contemporary slavery rather than historical systems, emphasizing human dignity, legal protection, and global awareness.



World Computer Literacy Day:

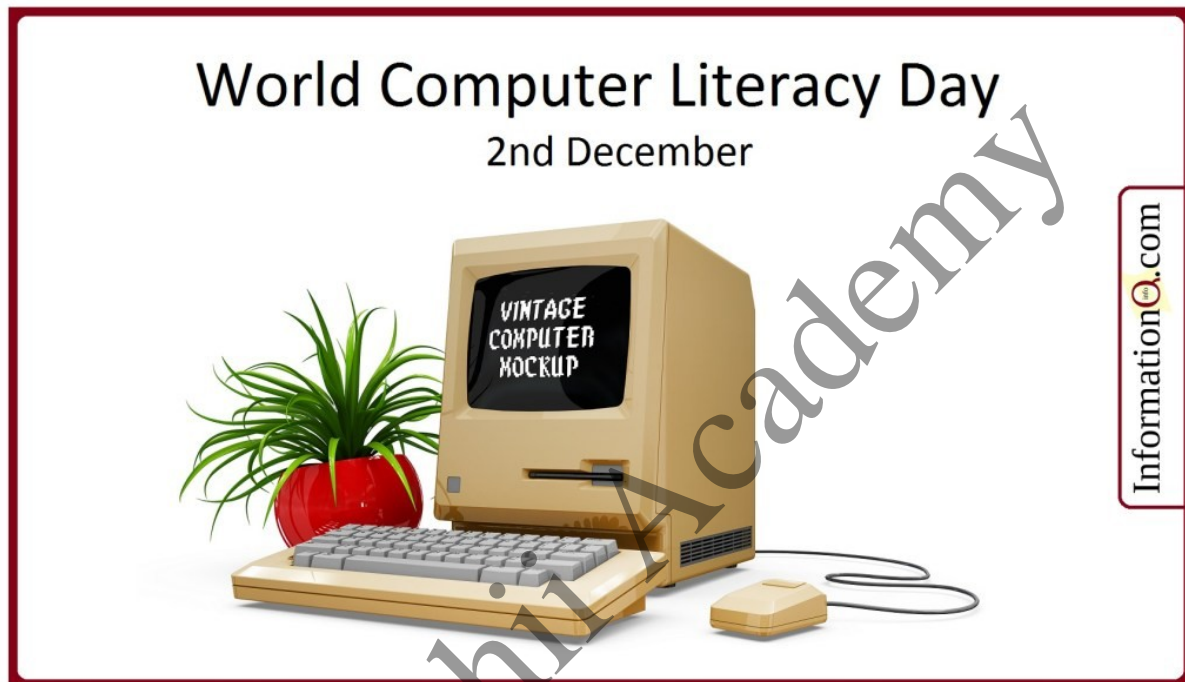
- ➔ World Computer Literacy Day is observed every year on December 2 to promote digital education, technological awareness and equal access to computer skills. It serves as a reminder that in a rapidly digitising world, bridging the digital divide is essential for inclusive growth.

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- ➔ Celebrated globally, this day also acknowledges the transformative role of computers in economic development, communication, learning, employment and innovation.
- ➔ World Computer Literacy Day was first introduced in 2001 by NIIT Limited, an Indian multinational organisation specialising in learning and skill development. The initiative originally focused on educating women and children, offering them computer training and expanding access to technology.



Kochi:

- ➔ Kochi is set to welcome one of the world's largest gatherings of the seaweed industry as it hosts the 7th India International Seaweed Expo and Summit on January 29 and 30, 2026. The event reflects India's rising focus on the blue economy and emerging opportunities in the marine algae sector.
- ➔ Delegates from Brazil, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands and Sweden will participate in the summit. Researchers, industry associations and government bodies will engage through discussions, exhibitions and collaborations, making Kochi a global hub for seaweed networking and innovation.

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Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG:

- ➔ The Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (PAHAL) scheme continues to strengthen India's LPG subsidy framework with transparent and consumer-focused reforms.
- ➔ Launched in January 2015, PAHAL ensures that all domestic LPG cylinders are sold at a uniform retail price nationwide, while subsidies are credited directly into consumers' bank accounts. This model promotes clarity, reduces leakages and makes subsidy delivery more accountable.



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Atal Pension Yojana:

- ➔ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), India's flagship pension scheme for workers in the unorganised and low-income sectors, has recorded 8.34 crore enrolments as of 31 October 2025.
- ➔ This milestone reflects growing awareness about pension security and improved financial inclusion efforts nationwide. Significantly, women constitute 48% of total subscribers, highlighting rising female participation in long-term social security schemes.
- ➔ APY was launched on 9 May 2015 with the mission of ensuring universal social security for all citizens, especially those with limited income stability.
- ➔ Any Indian citizen aged between 18 and 40 years with a bank or post office savings account can join the scheme. Subscribers receive a monthly pension after turning 60, meaning pension payouts will begin from 2035 onwards for early enrollees.



Ananth:

- ➔ India has taken a big step towards self-reliance in high-tech navigation systems. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan inaugurated Ananth Centre of Excellence for Navigation (ACEN) in Thiruvananthapuram. This is India's first private-sector navigation innovation hub, started by Ananth Technologies.
- ➔ Ananth Technologies was founded in 1992. The company has supported many important ISRO and DRDO missions. It is known for making precision sensors, working on airworthiness certifications, and helping in satellite and launch vehicle integration.

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IMO:

- ➔ India has been re-elected to the IMO Council (Category B) for 2026–27, securing 154 out of 169 valid votes, the highest in its category at the 34th IMO Assembly in London. The strong vote tally highlights the global community's confidence in India's leadership in international maritime affairs and reflects the success of India's maritime growth agenda.
- ➔ The IMO Council acts as the executive body with 40 elected members, and India's delegation also held meetings with various countries and organisations on maritime cooperation during the Assembly.



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National Pollution Control Day:

- ➔ National Pollution Control Day is observed every year on 2nd December to raise awareness about the harmful effects of pollution.
- ➔ The day commemorates the victims of the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy, one of the world's worst industrial disasters. It highlights the need for strict pollution control measures, industrial safety, and environmental protection.



Goat & Sheep Breeding Policy:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Goat & Sheep Breeding Policy was recently unveiled by the State Government. It has advocated for an open nucleus breeding system for goats and for selective breeding within the breed with superior rams for sheep.
- ➔ The policy aims to improve sheep and goat for better production, to conserve local breeds and to explore registration of native/local breeds in ICAR-NBAGR. As per the 20th Livestock Census, the sheep population was 45 lakhs, and the goat population was 98 lakhs in Tamil Nadu.

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Nilgiris Tahr:

- ➔ A Nilgiris Tahr Interpretation Centre will be established in Gandhi Puram near Semmozhi Poonga, Coimbatore. Last year, Tamil Nadu recorded 1,031 Nilgiri Tahr during a count conducted across 13 routes and 140 locations.
- ➔ Anamalai Grass Hills recorded the highest number in Tamil Nadu with 334 Nilgiri Tahr. Kerala recorded 1,352 Nilgiris Tahr, bringing the combined total for Tamil Nadu and Kerala to 2,655.

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India:

- ➔ India holds the world's third-largest clean industry pipeline, after China and the United States. The country has 65 commercial-scale clean industrial projects worth over USD 150 billion. Only six projects have reached the Final Investment Decision (FID) stage.
- ➔ Projects are concentrated in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

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NCRRI:

- ➔ India will establish the National Coral Reef Research Institute (NCRRI) in Chidiyatapu, South Andaman. The project cost is estimated at ₹120 crore under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ➔ NCRRI will act as the national hub for coral reef research, monitoring, and conservation. The centre will focus on marine biodiversity assessments, reef restoration, and climate impact studies.

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1 Bio:

- ➔ Telangana launched 1 Bio, India's first single-use bioprocess design and scaleup facility, in Genome Valley, Hyderabad. 1 Bio provides end-to-end process development and pilot-scale validation for start-ups and established biotech companies.
- ➔ The facility features bioreactors up to 500 litres, advanced upstream and downstream systems, analytical labs, and training centres. A bioprocess design centre was developed in partnership with Thermo Fisher Scientific, with ₹90 crore investment from the firm.



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2025, December 3-4

International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

- ➔ The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is observed every year on 3 December to promote awareness, dignity, and equal opportunities for people with disabilities. The 2025 theme — “Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress” — highlights a crucial truth: without disability inclusion, no society can achieve real development.
- ➔ This theme builds on renewed commitments made by global leaders to ensure a just, equitable, and sustainable world where every individual, including persons with disabilities, can participate fully in social, economic, political, and cultural life.



Indian Navy Day:

- ➔ Indian Navy Day is observed every year on December 4 to commemorate the Indian Navy's courage and strategic excellence. The celebration not only honours the sacrifices of naval personnel but also showcases the force's operational capabilities, indigenous technologies, and commitment to maritime security.
- ➔ For 2025, the day revolved around “Combat Ready, Cohesive, Self-Reliant”, aligning with India's vision of Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence.

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International Day of Banks:

- ➔ The International Day of Banks, celebrated annually on December 4, emphasizes the crucial role of banks and financial institutions in enabling sustainable development globally.
- ➔ First declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019 through Resolution 74/245, this observance highlights the importance of both multilateral development banks and national financial systems in mobilizing resources to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ➔ In 2025, the day comes at a time when the world faces growing environmental, social, and economic challenges—making the role of finance in development more important than ever.

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December 4:

- ➔ On December 4, 2025, the world marks the first-ever International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures, following a declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2025. This global observance brings attention to the harmful effects of sanctions and economic restrictions imposed unilaterally—i.e., by one State against another—outside the bounds of international law and the UN Charter.
- ➔ These measures, often framed as tools for policy change or punishment, undermine the sovereignty of states and have significant repercussions on human rights, development, and humanitarian access, especially in developing nations.

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International Cheetah Day:

- ➔ Every year, December 4 is observed as International Cheetah Day, a date chosen to raise awareness about the fastest land animal and to highlight ongoing efforts to prevent its extinction.
- ➔ Initiated in 2010 by American zoologist Dr Laurie Marker, who founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), this day honors not only the species but also the people and projects dedicated to saving it.

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EKOVERIN:

- ➔ The 14th edition of Joint Military Exercise EKOVERIN between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) commenced on 2 December 2025 at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ➔ The exercise will continue until 15 December 2025, advancing a long-standing partnership focused on enhancing operational preparedness and defence cooperation between the two nations.

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GI:

- ➔ Five distinctive products from Tamil Nadu have been awarded the Geographical Indications (GI) tag, showcasing the State's rich heritage in traditional crafts, agricultural varieties, and artisanal skills.
- ➔ The newly recognised products include: Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi nattu sakkarai (traditional jaggery powder), Namakkal soapstone cookware (makkal pathirangal), Thooyamalli rice (a traditional rice variety), Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys).
- ➔ With this recognition, Tamil Nadu now possesses 74 GI-tagged products, strengthening its position as a leading contributor to India's cultural and craft diversity.

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e-Swathu:

- ➔ Karnataka has launched e-Swathu 2.0, a revamped digital platform to simplify rural property management, provide quick online e-khata services to villagers, regularise 95 lakh properties, and boost state revenue by up to Rs 2,000 crore across gram panchayats.
- ➔ CM Siddaramaiah said the revamped platform could raise revenue by Rs 1,778 crore, and with proper implementation, it may reach Rs 2,000 crore. The system allows rural households, including those built outside traditional village limits, to be included in property tax collections.

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Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana:

- ➔ In a move aimed at strengthening women's economic empowerment, the Government of Haryana has modified the disbursement structure of the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana (DDLLY). Starting December 2025, financial assistance under the scheme will be released on a quarterly basis, with beneficiaries receiving a lump sum of ₹6,300 every three months instead of ₹2,100 monthly.
- ➔ This update was announced by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who confirmed the change while releasing the scheme's second instalment. The decision reflects an effort to streamline welfare distribution while preserving the core objective of boosting social security and financial stability for women in the state.

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Women, Peace and Security:

- ➔ The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index 2025/26 has painted a sobering picture of women's wellbeing across the globe.
- ➔ While some nations continue to excel, a majority are witnessing stagnation or reversal of gains achieved over three decades. For government exam aspirants and concerned readers, this latest index offers critical insight into global gender realities.



Taj Mahal:

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- ➔ India's rich heritage, architectural masterpieces, and cultural diversity continue to attract millions of travellers every year. Among the 145 centrally protected ticketed monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Taj Mahal in Agra emerged as the most visited monument—a title it continues to retain year after year.
- ➔ With its global heritage appeal, architectural beauty, and UNESCO World Heritage status, the Taj Mahal remains the primary symbol of India's tourism identity.



Malnutrition:

- ➔ Recent government data tabled in Parliament reveals that malnutrition among children below five years continues to be a serious challenge in India, even though real-time monitoring shows gradual improvement.
- ➔ The information originates from the Poshan Tracker system, which compiles measurements of children enrolled in Anganwadi centres nationwide. According to the latest Poshan Tracker records, over 6.44 crore children were assessed for their height and weight.
- ➔ The analysis shows that 33.54 per cent of children are stunted, indicating chronic undernutrition, 14.41 per cent are underweight, and 5.03 per cent are wasted, reflecting acute growth deficiency. These indicators give a real-time picture of child nutrition status under community-based surveillance.

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Defence Research and Development Organisation:

- ➔ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a major breakthrough by carrying out a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system in Chandigarh.
- ➔ This important trial proved that the pilot-saving technology works safely and effectively during emergencies. The test took place at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL). This advanced track allows scientists to check how escape systems perform at very high speeds, similar to real flying conditions.

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Arunachal Dao:

- ➔ The Arunachal Dao, a hand-forged tribal blade, has received the GI tag, recognising it as a unique craft rooted in Arunachal Pradesh's cultural heritage.
- ➔ The recognition protects centuries-old metalworking traditions and supports blacksmithing clans who create daos in distinct designs associated with various tribes.



Prime Minister's Office:

- ➔ The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has been renamed 'Seva Tirth', while Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas across the country will now be known as Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas, marking a symbolic shift from authority to service in governance.

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- ➔ The renaming is seen as part of a broader cultural and ideological transition, with governance moving from “power to responsibility” and “authority to service”, supported by reforms like naming the Central Secretariat as Kartavya Bhavan.



Tenkasi Forest Division:

- ➔ Tenkasi Forest Division is launching a ‘Golden Jackal Ambassadors’ scheme in schools and colleges. The scheme aims to protect the golden jackal, whose population is declining due to construction and loss of shrubs and forests.
- ➔ Students will receive training and will spread awareness about conserving golden jackals and helping injured animals return to the forest. The plan also covers awareness about other small wildlife such as mongoose, anteater, tortoise, snakes, and monitor lizard.

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2025, December 5-6

World Soil Day:

- ➔ Each year on December 5, the world comes together to recognize the life-giving role of soil through World Soil Day (WSD).
- ➔ The 2025 theme, “Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities,” shifts the spotlight to urban environments, urging citizens, planners, and governments to rethink the role of soil beneath our cities.



International Volunteer Day:

- ➔ On December 5, the world celebrates International Volunteer Day (IVD), spotlighting the transformative power of volunteerism.
- ➔ This year's theme, “Every Contribution Matters,” carries special weight as it marks the global launch of the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development (IVY 2026).

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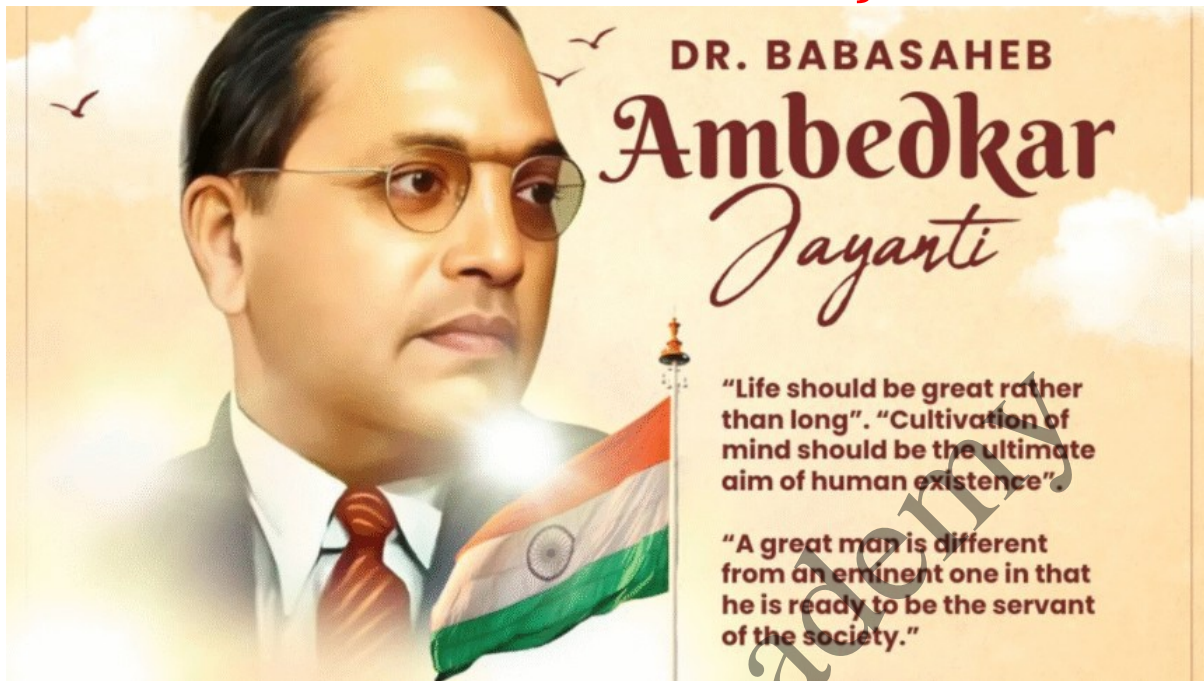
December 6:

- ➔ Every year on December 6, India observes Mahaparinirvan Diwas to pay tribute to Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, one of the country's greatest social reformers and the architect of the Indian Constitution.
- ➔ The year 2025 marks his 68th death anniversary, and the day is solemnly commemorated, especially at Chaitya Bhoomi in Mumbai, where thousands gather to honour his legacy. Dr. Ambedkar's lifelong battle against caste-based discrimination and his role in ensuring social justice through constitutional means continue to shape India's democratic and inclusive ideals.
- ➔ The term "Mahaparinirvan" is derived from Buddhist philosophy, signifying the state of ultimate liberation from the cycle of birth and death (samsara).
- ➔ In Buddhism, it represents the final nirvana attained after physical death — a state beyond suffering and rebirth. Dr. Ambedkar, who embraced Buddhism in October 1956 along with over 500,000 followers, is remembered with this term, symbolising his spiritual and ideological transition and the impact of his final departure on Indian society.

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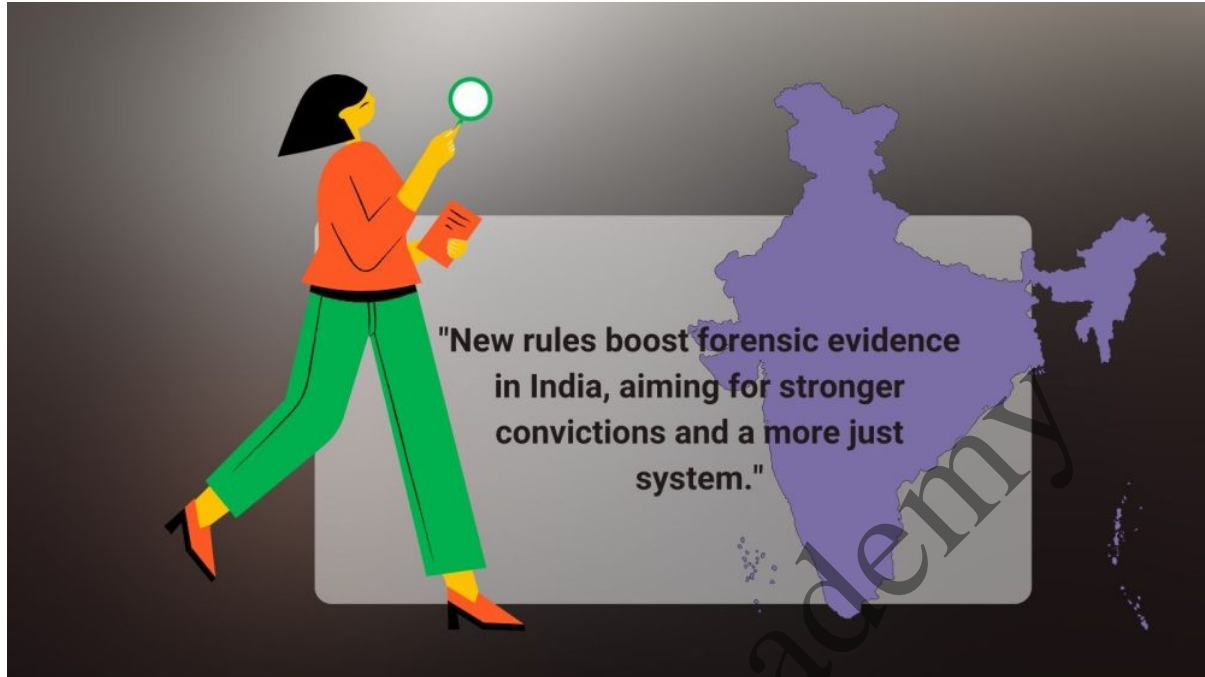
NFIES:

- ➔ With rising crime complexity and new legal mandates requiring forensic evidence, India is strengthening its forensic ecosystem.
- ➔ To address these challenges, the government launched the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES), aimed at building state-of-the-art laboratories and trained manpower. The NFIES is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2024 to build robust forensic capabilities across India.

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Sunil Narine:

- ➔ In a landmark moment for cricket, Sunil Narine has become the first player in the world to claim 600 wickets in competitive T20 cricket, setting a benchmark that could take years to surpass.
- ➔ The veteran West Indian spinner achieved this historic feat on December 4, 2025, during the World T20 match between Abu Dhabi Knight Riders and Sharjah Warriors.



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India–Russia:

- ➔ India–Russia relations continue to evolve in a changing global order. Ahead of President Vladimir Putin’s 2025 India visit, Russia has approved the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement, marking a major milestone in bilateral defence cooperation.
- ➔ The agreement comes at a time when India seeks strategic flexibility from the Indo-Pacific to Eurasia, while Russia aims to deepen Asian partnerships amid shifting geopolitical realities.



Harimau Shakti:

- ➔ India and Malaysia have initiated the fifth edition of their joint military exercise, Harimau Shakti, in the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges of Rajasthan. Scheduled from 5 to 18 December 2025, this two-week military engagement aims to enhance interoperability, coordination, and tactical proficiency in sub-conventional operations, particularly within the framework of United Nations Chapter VII mandates.
- ➔ Exercise Harimau Shakti is an annual bilateral military exercise between the Indian and Malaysian armies, initiated in 2012. Alternating between the two nations, this drill offers

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both countries an opportunity to share tactics, operational techniques, and conduct joint missions in varied environments.



Victoria University:

- ➔ In a significant development for higher education in India, Victoria University (VU) from Australia is establishing its first international campus in Gurugram, located in the Delhi NCR region.
- ➔ This move makes VU one of the first foreign universities to be licensed by the Indian government under the National Education Policy (NEP) reforms, which now allow top global institutions to set up campuses in India.
- ➔ This campus is expected to become operational by mid-2026, bringing VU's globally recognised curriculum — especially its signature Block Model of teaching — closer to Indian students.

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AI:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu Police used Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the first time to manage the crowd and vehicles at the Karthigai Deepam festival in Tiruvannamalai. The AI system was connected to hundreds of CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) cameras around the temple, streets, and girivalam routes.
- ➔ The system gave crowd density alerts when 4–5 people gathered in one square metre, helping police prevent overcrowding. The technology showed 95% accurate data on the number of people and vehicles at each location.



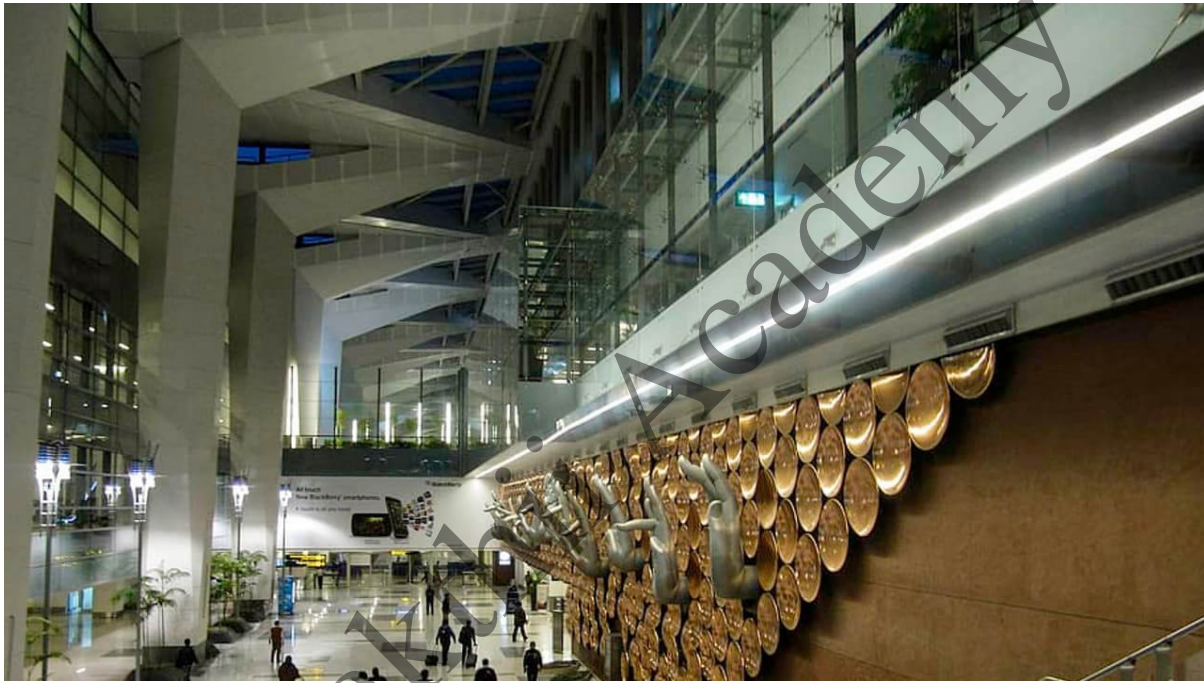
Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport:

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- ➔ Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi is India's first water-positive airport, handling over 40 million passengers. A water-positive place recharges more freshwater than it uses.
- ➔ The airport has 625 rainwater harvesting structures and two reservoirs storing 9 million litres of water. A 16.6 million-litres-per-day (MLD) zero-liquid-discharge sewage plant recycles all wastewater. Recycled water is used for air-conditioning, gardening and toilets through automated systems.
- ➔ The certification was given under the NITI Aayog – Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) water neutrality framework.



Assam Cabinet:

- ➔ Assam Cabinet approved a report recommending Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for six communities. The communities are Tai Ahoms, Tea Tribes (Adivasis), Moran, Matak (Motok), Chutia, and Koch-Rajbongshi. Granting ST status aims to address long-standing demands and provide social and economic benefits to these groups.
- ➔ Article 366 (25) defines STs as communities deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of the Constitution. Article 342 Clause (1) - The President of India is empowered to specify the communities to be deemed as STs in a particular State or Union Territory.
- ➔ Article 342 Clause (2) - It grants the Parliament the exclusive power to include or exclude any community from the ST list through a legislative Act and once Parliament enacts a law, the Presidential order cannot be modified by a subsequent notification.

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Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu scored 55.3% in the State Energy Efficiency Index 2024, the highest in India. The State is ranked above Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. Under the PEACE (Promotion of Energy Audit and Conservation of Energy) scheme, Tamil Nadu invested Rs 2.6 crore in 2023–24.
- ➔ The funds supported awareness programmes, training, and subsidies for energy audits in MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) units. A total of 25 states received Energy Conservation Awards. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha received the highest number of awards among all the states.

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2025, December 7-8

Armed Forces Flag Day:

- ➔ Armed Forces Flag Day is an annual national observance in India held on 7 December. It is dedicated to showing gratitude and support to the country's uniformed personnel — from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force — including serving personnel, ex-servicemen, war casualties, widows and their families.
- ➔ On this day, citizens across the country are encouraged to contribute voluntarily to support the welfare of defence personnel and their dependents — making it a national expression of solidarity and respect.



International Civil Aviation Day:

- ➔ International Civil Aviation Day 2025, celebrated annually on December 7, recognizes the pivotal role of civil aviation in global development and commemorates the founding of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ➔ The day aims to raise awareness about the significance of civil aviation in connecting people, driving economic growth, and ensuring global cooperation through a safe and efficient international air transport system.

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Sarbananda Sonowal:

- ➔ Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the steel-cutting ceremony for India's first all-electric green tug — marking the beginning of the country's move toward green maritime operations. The tug — being built for Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla under the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) — will feature a 60-ton bollard pull, electric propulsion, zero carbon emissions, and silent operations.
- ➔ Officials say the new electric tug will set a benchmark for next-generation fleet modernisation at India's major ports — cutting operational costs, improving energy efficiency, and supporting the country's broader push for sustainable port infrastructure.

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RSP:

- ➔ From 1st February 2026, all pan masala packages, including small packs of 10 grams or less, must display the Retail Sale Price (RSP) along with all declarations required under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.
- ➔ The earlier proviso under Rule 26(a), which allowed small packs to avoid certain declarations, has been withdrawn, ensuring full compliance for all pack sizes.
- ➔ The amendment ensures transparent pricing, prevents misleading or deceptive labeling on smaller packs, and enables consumers to make better informed purchasing decisions.

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Bodhi Day:

- ➔ Bodhi Day 2025 will be observed on Monday, December 8, by Buddhist communities across the globe. This sacred occasion commemorates the spiritual awakening of Siddhartha Gautama, who attained enlightenment (Bodhi) under the Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya, India, more than 2,500 years ago.
- ➔ The event is a serene reminder of the journey from ignorance to insight and symbolizes the essence of Buddhism — liberation through self-realization, compassion, and wisdom.

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NMDC:

- ➔ In a strategic move to modernize its operations and secure its digital infrastructure, NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), India's largest iron ore producer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.
- ➔ This partnership marks a significant step in strengthening cybersecurity measures and advancing the use of digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) across NMDC's operations.

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Rajasthan:

- ➔ In a major electoral milestone, Rajasthan has become the first state in India to complete 100% digitisation of its electoral rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme.
- ➔ Announced by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navin Mahajan on 6 December 2025, this achievement marks a significant stride toward enhancing electoral transparency, efficiency, and voter convenience through digital governance.

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Bihar government:

- ➔ The Bihar government will launch the 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' to take secondary school students on educational tours across India. The scheme expands on the existing 'Mukhyamantri Bihar Darshan Yojana', which currently sends primary and middle school students on tours within Bihar.
- ➔ Under the new initiative, students will visit major historical sites and research institutions, with possible destinations including the Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Charminar, and Agra Fort.

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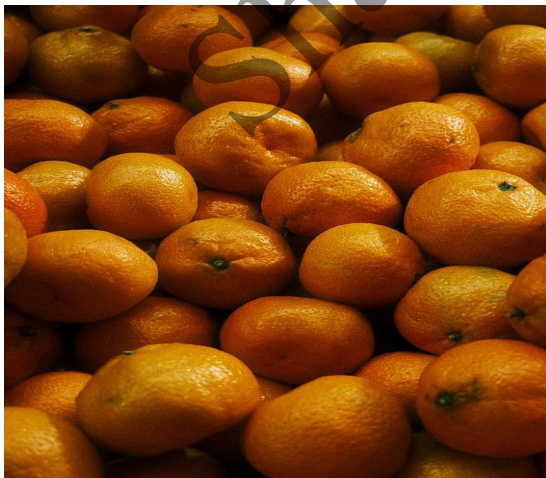
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Mandarin Orange:

- ➔ Darjeeling Mandarin Orange has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognising its historic sweetness, superior quality, and deep cultural association with the hills of Darjeeling and Kalimpong.
- ➔ The GI application was community-driven, initiated by former UBKV professor Tulsi Saran Ghimiray and later transferred to the Darjeeling Organic Farmers Producer Organisation, ensuring that the benefits directly reach local growers.



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Economic Census:

- ➔ The 8th Economic Census in India is scheduled for 2027, to be conducted after the two-phase Population Census (April–September 2026 and February 2027), as stated by Statistics Secretary Saurabh Garg.
- ➔ Data from the Economic Census will be used to create the Statistical Business Register (SBR), which will map enterprises across states and track their operational status (active or closed). The first Economic Census was held in 1977, and the upcoming 2027 Census will coincide with India's 16th decennial Population Census since the first nationwide census in 1872.



Konark Festival:

- ➔ Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the 36th Konark Festival and 15th International Sand Art Festival, beginning five days of cultural celebrations featuring dance, music and creative sand art.
- ➔ The festivals, organised by the Tourism Department, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi, and OTDC, aim to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and artistic excellence.
- ➔ The inaugural evening featured Odissi performances by Sonali Mohapatra and Nrutya Upasana Pitha, including presentations on Hanuman Chalisa, Saranga Pallavi, and Chari Yuga Devi depicting the power of Maa Durga.

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2025, December 9

International Anti-Corruption Day:

- ➔ Every year, December 9 is observed as International Anti-Corruption Day, a global initiative led by the United Nations to raise awareness about corruption and its harmful impact on governance, development, and society.
- ➔ For 2025, the focus is on empowering young people under the theme “Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow’s Integrity.” Corruption – defined as the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain – weakens institutions, slows growth, and erodes trust in public systems.
- ➔ By dedicating a day to collective awareness, the world acknowledges that transparency and accountability are pillars of a fair society.



December 9:

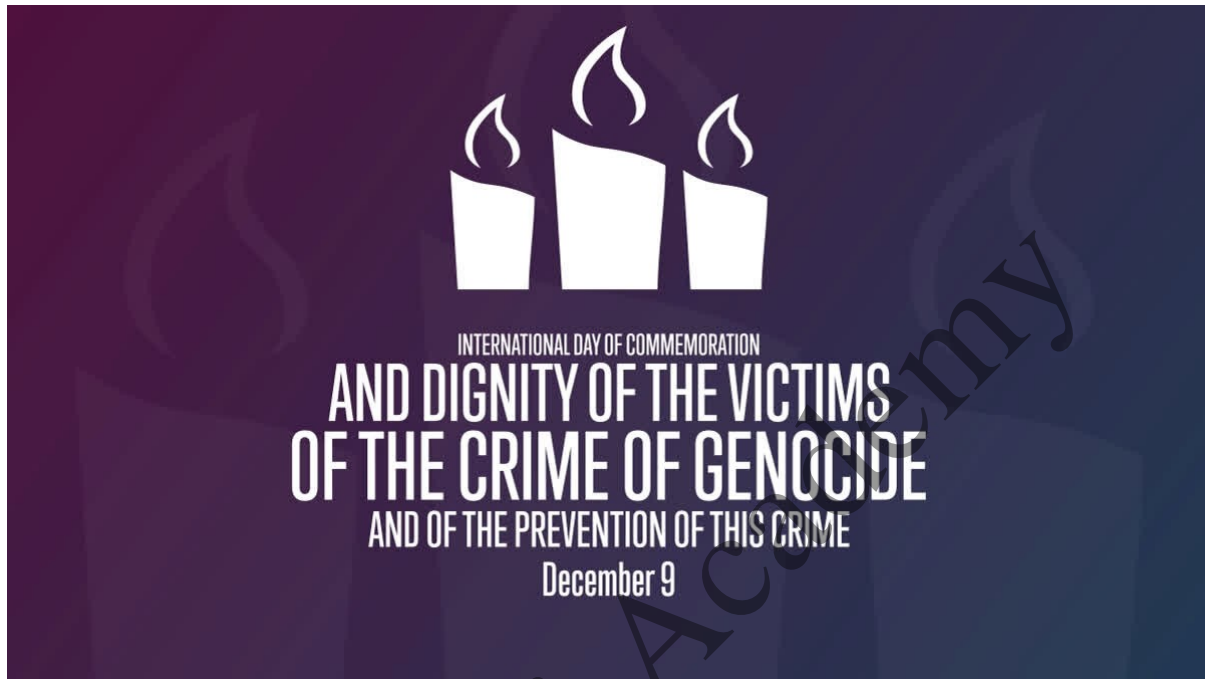
- ➔ The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime is observed every year on December 9, marking a solemn moment to reflect on the horrors of genocide, honour its victims, and renew global commitment to preventing such crimes.

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- ➔ This year, 2025, marks the tenth anniversary of this UN-designated day, providing an opportunity to assess international progress, confront new challenges, and strengthen mechanisms that uphold human dignity, accountability, and justice.



Gyan Bharatam:

- ➔ India has launched Gyan Bharatam, an ambitious national programme under the Ministry of Culture to conserve and digitize the country's priceless manuscript heritage. Announced in the Union Budget 2025, the initiative reflects India's growing effort to preserve its civilizational knowledge and make it globally accessible for scholars, researchers, and the public.
- ➔ Gyan Bharatam is the Government of India's flagship cultural conservation initiative. Its mission is to survey, document, conserve, digitize and distribute India's manuscript heritage—a treasure that includes ancient writings on science, philosophy, literature, medicine, astronomy, and much more.

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Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha:

- ➔ In December 2025, India marked yet another historic milestone in global chess as 3-year-old Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha from Madhya Pradesh became the youngest officially rated chess player in the world.
- ➔ At just 3 years, 7 months, and 20 days old, he entered the records of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) with a rapid rating of 1572—far exceeding the baseline 1400 required for official recognition.
- ➔ This groundbreaking feat has captured the attention of the global chess community, not only for the prodigious ability Sarwagya has shown at such a young age but also for what it signifies about India's growing prominence in the world of chess.

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Maharashtra:

- ➔ In a major leap toward clean energy and sustainable agriculture, Maharashtra has set a Guinness World Record by installing 45,911 off-grid solar agricultural pumps in just 30 days.
- ➔ The feat underscores the state's leadership in renewable energy adoption, particularly in the agricultural sector, and its commitment to reducing reliance on conventional power sources.
- ➔ This achievement also places Maharashtra second globally after China in terms of the speed and scale of solar pump deployment by a single administrative region.

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Adani Group:

- ➔ In a strategic move to bolster India's digital infrastructure, the Adani Group has announced the establishment of a 48-megawatt green data centre in Telangana. This cutting-edge facility will be powered by artificial intelligence (AI) and focused on meeting the rapidly rising demand for cloud services, high-performance computing (HPC), and data storage solutions in India.
- ➔ The announcement was made by Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd, during the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025. The new data centre represents a major push into the technology sector and reinforces Adani Group's growing footprint in the infrastructure and digital economy.

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BPCL:

- ➔ BPCL Becomes the Only Indian Company Named Among Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025. BPCL has been named among the Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars (CSS) 2025 by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and Mind the Bridge, becoming the only Indian organisation on the global list for excellence in startup collaboration.
- ➔ BPCL's startup initiative 'Ankur', launched in 2016, has supported 30+ startups in domains like robotics, AI, industrial IoT, safety technologies, and predictive maintenance, and also includes the BPCL Ankur Fund for early-stage investments.

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Garuda Shakti:

- ➔ The 10th India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise ‘Garuda Shakti’ began in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, focusing on strengthening interoperability through counter-terrorism drills, combat shooting, heliborne ops, sniping, and drone/counter-UAS tactics.
- ➔ The exercise includes exchange of expertise on weapons, equipment and operational practices, culminating in a high-intensity validation exercise simulating real-world scenarios to assess combat readiness.

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India and Russia:

- ➔ India and Russia launched the Economic Cooperation Programme till 2030 to boost trade and strategic ties. The programme focuses on energy, defence, technology, and the industrial collaboration. Both countries aim to increase annual bilateral trade volume to US \$100 billion.
- ➔ Transport corridors like the International North-South Transport Corridor and Arctic shipping lanes are prioritised. Cooperation will include nuclear energy, small modular reactors, floating nuclear plants, and energy infrastructure.
- ➔ The plan also covers defence R&D, joint manufacturing, space collaboration, technology, tourism, and skilled workforce mobility.

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Nitish Kumar:

- ➔ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar became the first Indian Chief Minister to take oath ten times. The World Book of Records, London, honoured him for this achievement.
- ➔ He first became Chief Minister (CM) in 2000 and has served mostly continuously since 2005. His 10th swearing-in followed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) victory in the 2025 election.

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2025, December 10-11

Supriya Sahu:

- ➔ Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, has been honoured with the 2025 Champions of the Earth Award, the United Nations' highest environmental recognition.
- ➔ The award, announced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) during the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) in Nairobi, celebrates her pioneering contributions to sustainable cooling, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation.
- ➔ She received the award in the Inspiration and Action category, which recognises individuals creating measurable and transformative environmental benefits for people and the planet.



International Anti-Corruption Day:

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- ➔ Every year, December 9 is observed as International Anti-Corruption Day, a global initiative led by the United Nations to raise awareness about corruption and its harmful impact on governance, development, and society.
- ➔ For 2025, the focus is on empowering young people under the theme “Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow’s Integrity.” Corruption – defined as the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain – weakens institutions, slows growth, and erodes trust in public systems.
- ➔ By dedicating a day to collective awareness, the world acknowledges that transparency and accountability are pillars of a fair society.



Human Rights Day:

- ➔ Every year on 10th December, the world observes Human Rights Day to commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.
- ➔ Human Rights Day 2025 reinforces the universal commitment to protecting the dignity, liberty, and equality of every individual, regardless of nationality, class, gender, or identity.
- ➔ Governments, civil society, academic institutions, and communities come together to organize campaigns and discussions that deepen awareness about fundamental rights and the responsibilities that accompany them.

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UNICEF Foundation Day:

- ➔ UNICEF Foundation Day 2025 arrives at a time when the world continues to struggle with wars, climate change, and rising inequalities.
- ➔ These crises affect children most severely, making this observance far more meaningful than just an annual anniversary. For 79 years, UNICEF has worked as a global guardian of child rights, health, education, protection, and dignity, shaping what it means to grow up safely in the modern world.
- ➔ As we move into 2025, UNICEF's mission remains focused on building strong national systems that can protect children during emergencies, climate shocks, and digital-age vulnerabilities. The day reminds us that children are not only recipients of help but also active agents of change, capable of shaping a better, safer future.

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International Mountain Day:

- ➔ International Mountain Day (IMD) 2025 comes at a defining moment for the planet. With glaciers melting at unprecedented rates and mountain ecosystems under severe pressure, this observance encourages the world to recognize the deep connection between glaciers, water, agriculture, food security, and livelihoods.
- ➔ The United Nations has also declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, giving this year's Mountain Day even greater global relevance.
- ➔ As mountain communities suffer the earliest and most severe climate impacts, IMD 2025 serves as a collective call to protect the icy reservoirs that sustain life far beyond the mountains.

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Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya:

- ➔ Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's specialised university for the transport and logistics sector, has entered into a new partnership with Amazon, one of the largest e-commerce companies in the world.
- ➔ This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to strengthen learning, research, and innovation in the logistics and warehousing fields. The main purpose of this MoU is to encourage the sharing of knowledge between the university and Amazon.
- ➔ Both partners will work together to design new academic courses, update existing study material, and carry out joint research. A major highlight of the agreement is the creation of an Amazon Chair Professorship at GSV, which will focus on research related to modern warehousing using data-driven methods.

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Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship:

- ➔ India is all set to host the first-ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship from March 9 to March 14, 2026. More than 24 countries from the Commonwealth are expected to take part in this historic event, marking a major milestone for the traditional Indian sport of Kho Kho.
- ➔ The Commonwealth Sports has officially approved India to host the 2026 Kho Kho Championship. This recognition highlights the growing global interest in Kho Kho, a sport that has deep roots in Indian culture and heritage.

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Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa:

- ➔ Indian chess continues to rise globally, and Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa added another remarkable achievement to India's sporting history in December 2025.
- ➔ The 20-year-old Indian prodigy won the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Circuit 2025 with 115.17 points, topping a year-long leaderboard featuring the world's strongest players.
- ➔ With this victory, he becomes the only male player to qualify through the FIDE Circuit and officially books his place in the Candidates Tournament 2026, the final stage to determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship 2026.

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Gen-Z:

- ➔ In a landmark initiative aimed at reimagining how young India experiences postal services, India Post has inaugurated Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office Extension Counter at CMS College, Kottayam.
- ➔ India Post, one of the world's oldest and largest postal networks, has been adopting modernisation strategies to stay relevant in the age of digital communication.
- ➔ Introducing Gen-Z-themed postal counters is part of its broader mission to bridge heritage with innovation, ensuring that essential services remain attractive and convenient for younger generations.

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INDIA bloc MPs:

- ➔ INDIA bloc MPs submit letter to LS Speaker to move impeachment motion against Justice Swaminathan. They sought to move a motion for his removal under Article 217, read with Article 124, of the Constitution of India.
- ➔ They stated that the conduct of Justice Swaminathan raised serious questions regarding impartiality, transparency, and the secular functioning of the judiciary. The MPs submitted copies of letters written by members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha to the President of India and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- ➔ One hundred members of the Lok Sabha or 50 members of the Rajya Sabha have to sign an impeachment motion against a High Court judge. If the motion is accepted, a three-member committee will investigate it.
- ➔ Thereafter, both Houses must pass the motion by a special majority (two-thirds present and voting, plus absolute majority of total membership). Finally, the President will issue the removal order. However, no judge has been successfully impeached in India.

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Private Member's Bill:

- ➔ A Private Member's Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2025 to amend the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. The Bill seeks to allow Members of Parliament (MPs) to vote independently on Bills and Motions, reducing strict party whip enforcement.
- ➔ The 10th Schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985. It was designed to prevent unprincipled defections and ensure political stability.
- ➔ Whips are the directions issued by the political parties to MPs/MLAs to vote in a particular manner; defying a whip can lead to disqualification under the 10th Schedule.

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Rajasthan:

- ➔ Rajasthan is carrying out its first inter-state tiger translocation by bringing a tigress (Tigress PN-224) from Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. This is the India's second tiger translocation.
- ➔ The tigress will be airlifted to Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve (RVTR) to help increase tiger numbers and improve genetic diversity. RVTR is in the Bundi district of Rajasthan, notified in May 2022, and covers 1,501.89 sq km with a core and buffer zone.
- ➔ The reserve forms a natural corridor between the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, helping tiger movement. The translocation aims to strengthen the new habitat and support long-term conservation under Project Tiger.

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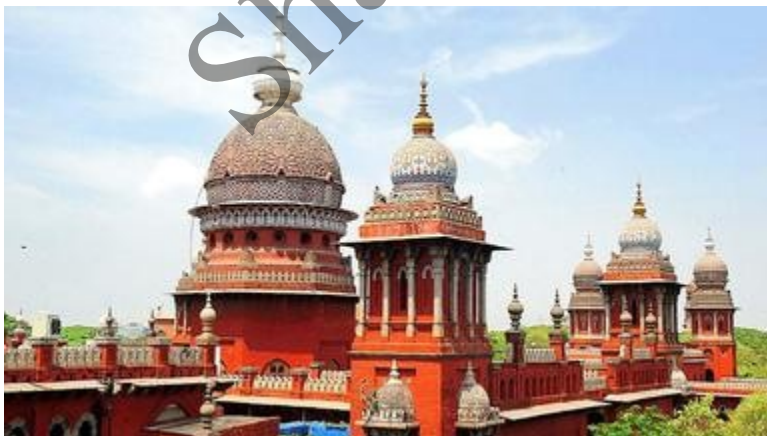
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Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu issued the Alienation of Immovable Property of the Religious Institutions Rules, 2025 for temple land sale, exchange, lease, and mortgage. The rules were notified through a Government Order on December 1, 2025.
- ➔ Temple land value must be fixed using the higher of the market value or guideline value. Sale value is set at 225% in urban areas, 275% within 30 km, 325% within 30–50 km, and 425% beyond 50 km from urban areas. Lands offered in exchange must have a clear title, no encumbrances, and must not be in restricted or eco-sensitive zones.



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2025, December 12

International Universal Health Coverage Day:

- ➔ Every year on 12 December, the world observes International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) — a global reminder that quality, affordable healthcare is a right, not a privilege.
- ➔ The day calls on leaders, governments, and communities to work together toward health systems that protect everyone, everywhere.
- ➔ The theme for UHC Day 2025, “Unaffordable health costs? We’re sick of it!”, highlights the growing burden of high healthcare expenses on families worldwide. This theme brings attention to the human stories behind rising costs and urges governments to invest in stronger, fairer, and more affordable health systems.



International Day of Neutrality:

- ➔ Every year on 12 December, the world observes the International Day of Neutrality, a significant day declared by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This day highlights the importance of neutrality, a principle that helps countries stay impartial in conflicts and encourages peaceful solutions.
- ➔ For students preparing for government exams and general readers, this day is important because it connects directly to international peace efforts, UN initiatives, and global diplomacy.

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India and Liberia:

- ➔ India and Liberia have taken a significant step toward strengthening global health collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in the field of pharmacopoeia.
- ➔ The agreement focuses on developing shared medicine quality standards, improving regulatory alignment, and expanding access to safe, effective and affordable medicines.
- ➔ The MoU was signed in Monrovia by India's Ambassador Manoj Bihari Verma and Liberia's Health Minister Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, marking an important milestone in India–Liberia bilateral health relations.



DSC A20:

- ➔ The Indian Navy is set to commission DSC A20, the first vessel in its new class of indigenously designed and built Diving Support Craft, on 16 December 2025 at Kochi, under the Southern Naval Command.
- ➔ The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command. DSC A20's induction marks a major step forward in enhancing the Navy's underwater operations, diving support capability, and overall coastal mission effectiveness.

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Government of Maharashtra:

- ➔ The Government of Maharashtra has taken a major leap in AI-driven policing by partnering with Microsoft to launch MahaCrimeOS AI, an advanced platform designed to modernise and accelerate cybercrime investigations across the state.
- ➔ The platform was unveiled by Satya Nadella, Microsoft Chairman and CEO, during the Microsoft AI Tour in Mumbai.
- ➔ MahaCrimeOS AI is an AI- and Azure-powered digital investigation platform built to streamline, standardise and speed up cybercrime case management. Currently deployed in 23 police stations in Nagpur, it has already demonstrated impressive results.

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Pagdi system:

- ➔ The Maharashtra government has announced a major policy shift by introducing a new regulatory framework to dismantle the century-old Pagdi system, a rental arrangement deeply embedded in Mumbai's housing history.
- ➔ Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde stated that the move aims to resolve long-standing disputes, provide legal clarity to tenants and landlords, and fast-track redevelopment of thousands of ageing, dilapidated buildings across the city.
- ➔ The Pagdi system, a pre-Independence rental arrangement, became widespread in Mumbai before the 1940s. Though informal in nature, it continues to be recognised under Maharashtra's Rent Control Act.



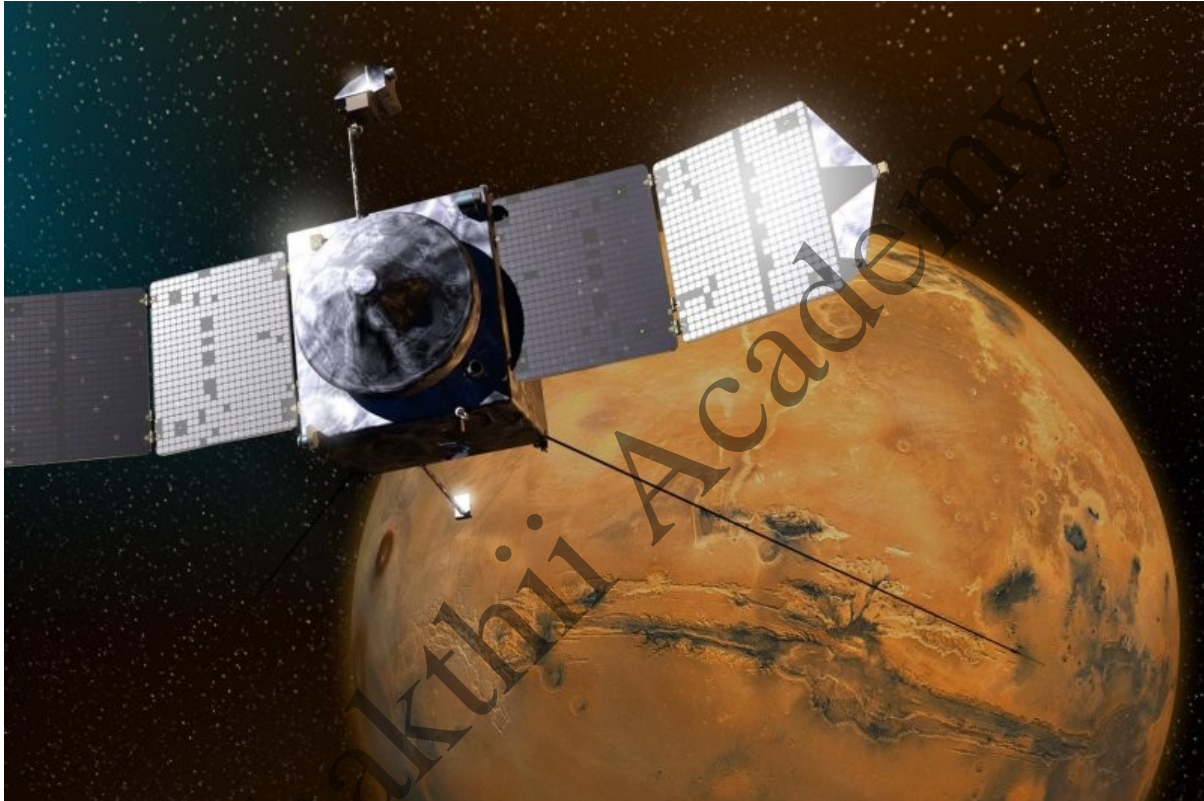
NASA:

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- ➔ NASA has reported the loss of communication with MAVEN (Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution), a spacecraft that has been orbiting Mars for more than 10 years. The unexpected silence occurred over the weekend when the spacecraft went behind Mars and failed to reconnect with Earth-based ground stations upon re-emerging.
- ➔ NASA confirmed that MAVEN was functioning normally before it passed behind Mars. However, when the spacecraft came back into view, it did not re-establish contact, sparking concern among mission engineers.



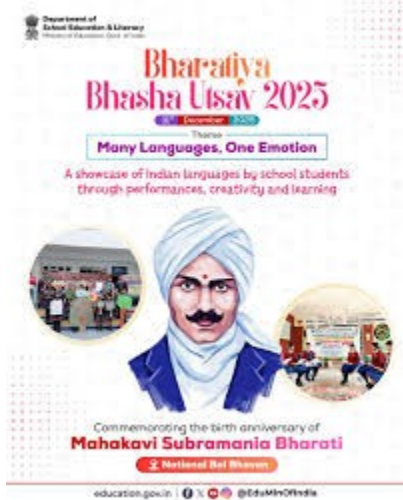
Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav:

- ➔ Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 was celebrated in New Delhi on the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, honouring India's extraordinary linguistic diversity.
- ➔ Organized by the Ministry of Education, this year's event embraced the theme "Many Languages, One Emotion," showcasing how India's hundreds of languages come together to create a shared cultural identity.

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Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has amended the Hostels and Homes for Women and Children(Regulation) Rules, 2015. It was reducing the average space norm per woman from 120 sq. ft to 50 sq. ft.
- ➔ The rules operate under the Tamil Nadu Hostels and Homes for Women and Children (Regulation) Act, 2014. In May 2025, the State has revised the licence procedure, requiring an online application to the District Collector with a ₹10,000 fee.



IndiGo:

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- ➔ IndiGo faced mass flight cancellations after the rollout of revised Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) rules, prompting temporary exemptions by the DGCA. FDTL norms are safety regulations by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) to prevent pilot fatigue.
- ➔ Revised rules include 48 hours of weekly rest, maximum 2-night landings, and no more than 2 consecutive night duties.
- ➔ DGCA, under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, regulates air safety, licenses pilots, and ensures compliance with international standards. India is the 3rd-largest domestic aviation market, supporting over 7.7 million jobs, with rapid growth in passenger traffic and airports.



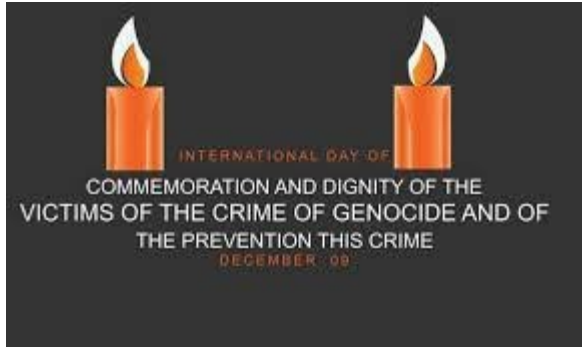
December 09:

- ➔ International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of Genocide Victims 2025 - December 09. The day aims to honour and remember all victims of genocide and promote global prevention efforts.
- ➔ The day was first observed in 2015 by the UN General Assembly. The day aligns with the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, which defines genocide and obligates states to prevent and punish it.

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2025, December 13-14

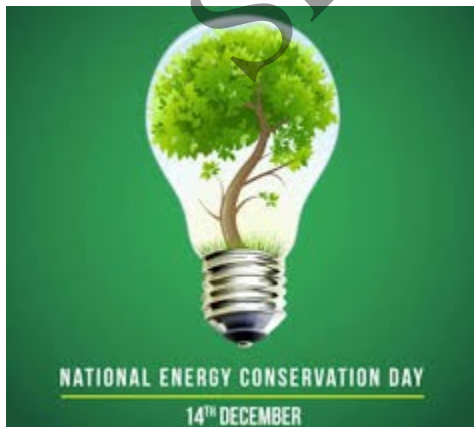
14 December:

- ➔ The United Nations has taken a historic step in strengthening the global commitment to decolonization. With the adoption of Resolution A/RES/80/106, the UN has officially declared 14 December as the International Day Against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations.
- ➔ First observed in 2025, this day highlights the urgent need to end colonialism in every form and reaffirm the core values of the UN Charter.



National Energy Conservation Day:

- ➔ National Energy Conservation Day is observed in India every year on 14 December to spread awareness about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation. The day encourages citizens—especially students and youth—to understand how saving energy today ensures a sustainable and secure future.
- ➔ As energy demand continues to rise, conserving existing resources has become a national priority. National Energy Conservation Day is a nationwide observance aimed at promoting responsible energy use across households, institutions, and industries.



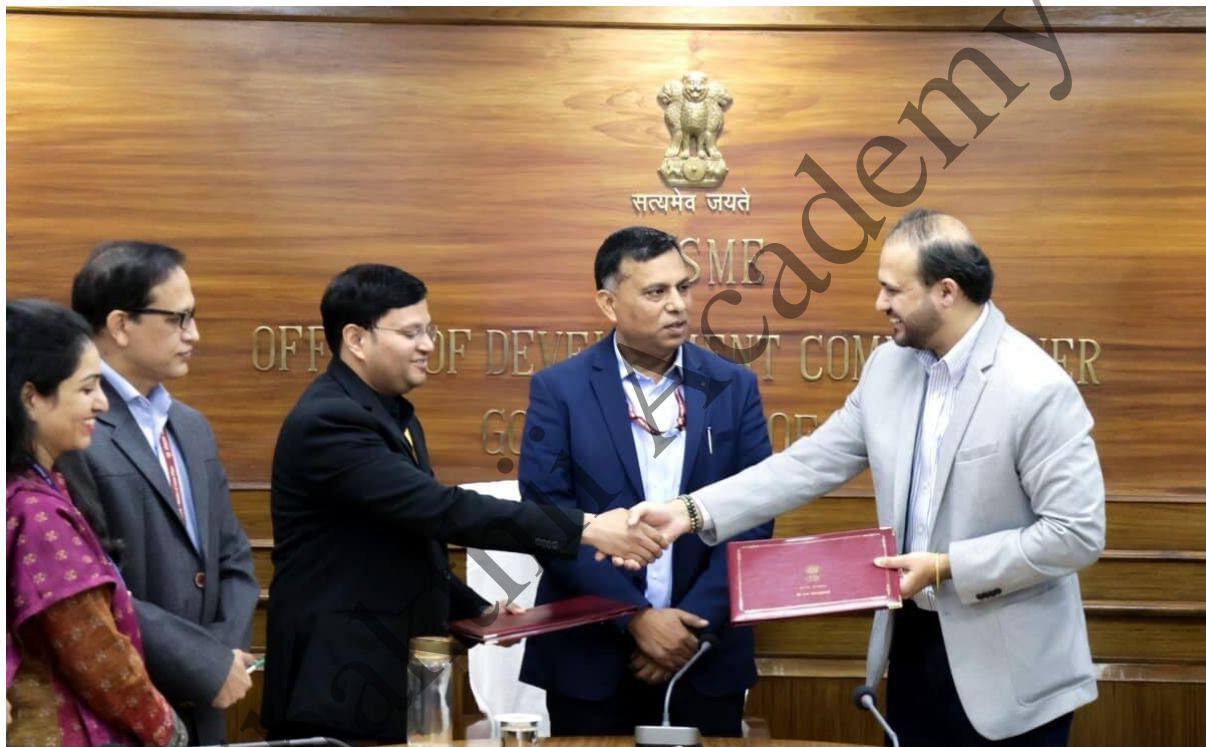
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Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises:

- ➔ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon Seller Services in New Delhi to support artisans enrolled under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.
- ➔ This partnership aims to improve online market access and help artisans reach customers across India. And also to promote traditional crafts through digital platforms. The PM Vishwakarma Scheme, launched in September 2023, is designed to support artisans working in traditional trades.



Kopra Reservoir:

- ➔ Chhattisgarh has achieved a major environmental milestone with the declaration of the Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur district as the state's first Ramsar Site.
- ➔ This recognition places Chhattisgarh on the global map of wetlands of international importance, strengthening India's commitment to biodiversity conservation, sustainable water management, and climate resilience.
- ➔ The Ramsar designation for Kopra Reservoir was officially announced on 12 December 2025. The recognition followed coordinated efforts by the State Wetland Authority, forest officials, environmental experts, researchers, and local communities. Kopra Reservoir is not just a water body—it is a thriving ecological hotspot.

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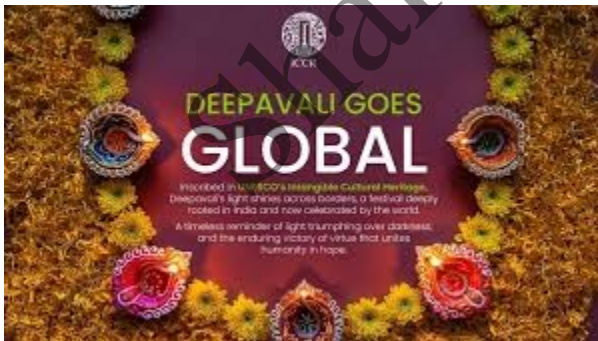
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Deepavali:

- ➔ Deepavali has been officially added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, marking a historic moment for India during the 20th ICH Committee Session held at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- ➔ The recognition strengthens India's global cultural presence, bringing the nation's total entries to 16, and places responsibility on India to preserve, promote, and safeguard the festival's rich traditions for future generations.



IIT Bombay:

- ➔ IIT Bombay's SINE launched India's first incubator-linked deep tech VC fund, the ₹250-crore Y-Point Venture Fund, aimed at supporting early-stage deep tech startups and helping them transition from lab research to market-ready innovations.

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- ➔ The fund will primarily invest in AI, advanced computing, advanced manufacturing, materials, nuclear tech, space & defence, climate & cleantech, life sciences, and healthcare, while the strategy plan promotes learning-centric, experiential, and globally connected education pathways.



Bihar government:

- ➔ The Bihar government has launched a new initiative, 'Bhumi Sudhar Samvad', starting 12 December, to accelerate the settlement of land disputes and improve transparency in land administration.
- ➔ The government plans a targeted drive in March to remove encroachments from state-owned land, taking strict action against illegal occupants and corrupt staff, while offering rewards to credible informants.

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Strongest Passport:

- ➔ UAE has been ranked the world's strongest passport for 2025 with a mobility score of 179, offering its citizens the highest access to countries visa-free or with visa-on-arrival.
- ➔ Singapore and Spain hold the second position with scores of 175, followed by a large group of European and Asian nations such as Belgium, France, Sweden, Germany, Japan, and South Korea with scores of 174.
- ➔ India ranks 67th globally, indicating comparatively limited travel freedom when measured against top-tier passports.

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Polling stations:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has a total of 75,035 polling stations after the rationalization process. This is an increase of 6,568 from the earlier 68,467 stations. After the rationalization process, a total of 6,648 stations were created and 80 were merged.
- ➔ While the location was changed for 2,509 polling stations, re-arrangement of sections was undertaken in 7,752. The number of electors has been limited to 1,200 per polling station and a station was within two-kilometre radius. No polling station is located in police stations, hospitals, temples or places having religious significance.

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Chang'e-6:

- ➔ China's Chang'e-6 mission discovered tiny iron oxide crystals in lunar soil. Hematite and maghemite were detected in samples from the South Pole–Aitken Basin.
- ➔ The basin is the oldest and largest known impact zone in the Solar System. Iron oxide formation is linked to oxygen-rich vapour from massive ancient impacts. Chang'e-6 returned deep-region lunar samples to Earth in 2024.

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Boreendo:

- ➔ UNESCO added Pakistan's Boreendo to the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding list in 2025. The Boreendo is a clay vessel-flute from Sindh linked to musical traditions of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ➔ It is handmade from terracotta, has a round hollow body, and produces soft, breathy musical tones. Archaeological sites like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa have shown that similar clay and bone flutes existed in the Indus Valley Civilization (3300–1300 BCE).



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Tangail saree:

- ➔ Bangladesh's Tangail saree weaving craft was inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list during the 20th Committee session. The recognition highlights the two-century-old weaving tradition of the Tangail district, known for its fine handloom work.
- ➔ India had earlier given a GI tag to the "Tangail Saree of Bengal" in 2024, citing long-term production by migrant weavers in West Bengal. Bangladesh stated that the UNESCO recognition and India's GI tag do not conflict, as both countries are parties to the international convention.



Bengal tiger:

- ➔ A Bengal tiger has been spotted at nearly 10,000 ft in the Himalayas. The sighting occurred in the Sunderdhunga Glacier Valley of Uttarakhand. Camera traps captured the big cat in this remote alpine terrain.
- ➔ This is one of the highest confirmed elevations for the species. Bengal tigers are usually found below 6,000 feet altitude.

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2025, December 15

India's resolution:

- ➔ A major diplomatic and environmental victory, India's resolution on "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires" was adopted at the 7th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya. The resolution saw broad support from UN Member States, reflecting growing global concern over the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires across continents.
- ➔ The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world's highest decision-making body on environmental matters. It brings together environment ministers from UN member countries to set priorities, develop international environmental law, and guide global environmental action.



Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty:

- ➔ A pathbreaking development for India's media scene, senior journalist Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty was elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India.

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- ➔ The declaration of results on December 14, 2025, marked a historic milestone in the annals of one of the most powerful journalist bodies of the country, and a step towards changing the trend of low gender representation in media leadership.
- ➔ Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty becomes the first woman to head the Press Club of India since its inception. A senior journalist with extensive experience in political and investigative reporting.



WSF Squash World Cup:

- ➔ India created history in sports by winning the WSF Squash World Cup 2025 for the first time in the history of the tournament.
- ➔ In addition, the Indian team put on a great show to defeat top-seeded Hong Kong 3-0 in the final held at Express Avenue Mall, Chennai, in front of an enthusiastic home crowd.
- ➔ This is a major victory for Indian squash, incidentally, highlighting the country's steady rise into prominence on the global squash stage.

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INAS 335:

- ➔ The Indian Navy is scheduled to commission INAS 335 (Ospreys), its second squadron of MH-60R multi-role helicopters, on 17 December 2025 at INS Hansa, Goa. The ceremony will be led by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi in attendance.
- ➔ This commissioning thus forms a very important milestone in the Navy's efforts to continue the process of modernizing its aviation arm and improve operational readiness.



Tiger:

- ➔ Another significant step in wildlife conservation efforts by the state of Madhya Pradesh is that of developing Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve into a cheetah sanctuary before the next monsoon session, announced Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

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- ➔ Situated at Nauradehi in the Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh, it would be the third cheetah sanctuary in the state after the success of cheetah shifting at Kuno National Park. India became the only country globally to successfully rehabilitate cheetahs, after the extinction of the Asiatic cheetah in the 1950s.



Chennai Metro Rail:

- ➔ A significant development for India's urban infrastructure, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 240 million loan to support the expansion of the Chennai Metro Rail network.
- ➔ The decision strengthens India's push towards cleaner, safer, and more reliable public transport systems, particularly in rapidly growing metropolitan regions.
- ➔ ADB has been a long-standing partner in India's infrastructure development, particularly in sectors such as urban transport, energy, and climate action.

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MARVEL:

- ➔ In a historic move towards using technology in law enforcement, Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella announced the state-wide implementation of an AI-based crime-solving solution named MahaCrimeOS AI for the state police.
- ➔ MARVEL (Maharashtra Research and Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement) is a government-owned AI initiative, established in 2024 to modernise policing in Maharashtra.

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Indian Space Research Organisation:

- ➔ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has revealed plans for no less than seven space launch missions by March 2026. This is a very important phase for India's space agency. Some of these plans include the Gaganyaan unmanned mission of its human space flight mission series.
- ➔ This is in addition to other satellite technological advancements as well as space services. This eventful launch schedule of ISRO portrays its dual efforts of conducting strategic national missions and contributing to the global space economy through India.

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UPSC:

- ➔ UPSC will ensure that every Person with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) candidate is allotted the examination centre of their choice as mentioned in the application form, improving accessibility in its exams.
- ➔ The Commission will first use the existing capacity of exam centres for both PwBD and non-PwBD candidates; once a centre reaches full capacity, it will be closed for non-PwBD applicants but remain available for PwBD candidates.
- ➔ UPSC will also make additional capacity arrangements so that no PwBD applicant is denied their preferred examination centre under any circumstances. UPSC is established in 1926. UPSC is the central recruitment agency in India for Group 'A' officer posts under the Government of India. It is established as a constitutional body under Article 315 of the Indian Constitution.

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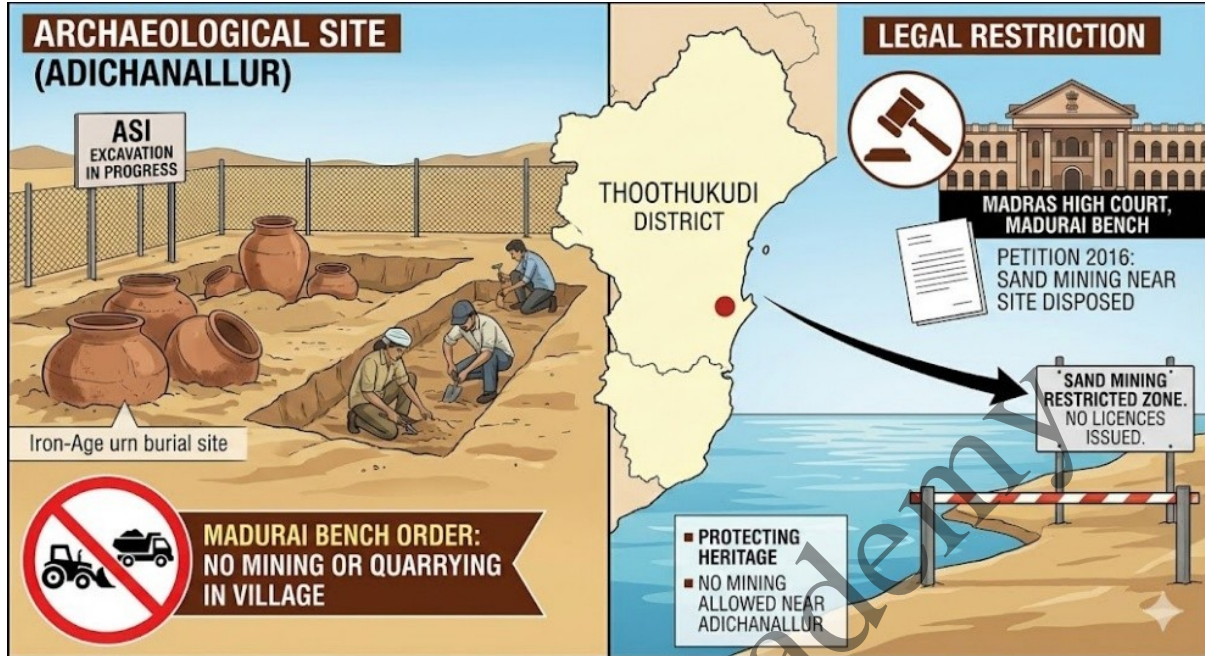
Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court:

- ➔ The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court ruled that sand mining is not allowed near the Adichanallur archaeological site or within the village. A Division Bench passed the order while disposing of a petition filed in 2016.
- ➔ The petition related to alleged sand mining near the Adichanallur Iron-Age urn burial site in the Thoothukudi district. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is carrying out excavations at the fenced archaeological site. No sand mining or quarrying licence has been issued in Adichanallur village.

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Supreme Court:

- ➔ The Supreme Court set aside the Patna High Court order allowing involuntary narco tests in *Amlesh Kumar v. State of Bihar* (2025). Narco tests involve sedating an accused using drugs such as Sodium Pentothal to extract information, similar to polygraphs or brain mapping.
- ➔ The Forced narco tests violate Article 20(3) of the Constitution, which protects individuals against self-incrimination. Conducting narco tests without consent also breaches Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) and the Right to Privacy, forming part of the constitutional “Golden Triangle” with Articles 14 and 19.
- ➔ The Courts have held that narco test results cannot confirm guilt and must be corroborated with other evidence.

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SUPREME COURT BARS INVOLUNTARY NARCO-TESTS DURING BAIL HEARINGS



UNESCO:

- ➔ UNESCO released the report “Right to Education: Past, Present and Future”. The report urges modernising the global legal framework for the right to education.
- ➔ Modernisation is needed to address inequalities caused by climate change, conflicts, and rapid technological change. Since the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education, free primary schooling coverage rose from 56% in 2000 to 82% in countries today. Completion rates increased from 77% to 88%.
- ➔ Gender parity in schooling is nearly achieved. Higher education enrolment grew from 100 million students in 2000 to 264 million, including significant growth in the least developed countries. Despite progress, 272 million children drop out prematurely.
- ➔ 762 million adults remain illiterate (two-thirds are women), and in some low-income countries, up to 70% of ten-year-olds cannot read a simple sentence. Lifelong learning is

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essential for adults and older workers, with countries like France, Singapore, Australia, and Morocco implementing vocational and skills development programs.



New Delhi:

- ➔ New Delhi, India, holds the first rank for the worst air quality index (AQI). Hanoi, Vietnam, was ranked the second most polluted city in the world in 2025.
- ➔ High levels of PM2.5 pollutants in Hanoi exceed World Health Organization (WHO) daily exposure limits. The ranking was reported by a Swiss air quality monitoring company.



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2025, December 16-17

Miyana Railway Station:

- ➔ A significant achievement for Indian Railways, Miyana Railway Station in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh has been honoured with the National Energy Conservation Award (NECA) 2025.
- ➔ This recognition highlights how even smaller railway stations can play a vital role in India's broader goals of energy conservation, cost efficiency, and environmental sustainability. The National Energy Conservation Award is conferred annually by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power. It recognizes institutions, industries, and establishments that demonstrate outstanding achievements in reducing energy consumption and promoting efficient energy use.
- ➔ The awards are presented on National Energy Conservation Day (14 December) and aim to encourage adoption of energy-efficient technologies across sectors such as industry, transport, buildings, and public utilities.



Ethiopia's highest national honour:

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- ➔ Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Ethiopia's highest national honour. The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia, during his official visit to Addis Ababa. With this, PM Modi became the first global Head of State or Head of Government to receive the prestigious award, underlining India's growing diplomatic stature, particularly in Africa and the Global South.
- ➔ This honour is the 28th top foreign State award given upon to PM Modi, reflecting sustained international recognition of India's leadership and its expanding global engagement.



Vijay Diwas:

- ➔ Vijay Diwas, also known as Victory Day or Bijoy Dibos, is observed every year on 16 December across India and Bangladesh. In 2025, the day marks the 54th anniversary of India's historic victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, a conflict that reshaped the geopolitical landscape of South Asia and led to the creation of Bangladesh.
- ➔ The day commemorates not only a decisive military triumph but also pays tribute to the martyrs from both nations who laid down their lives during the war.

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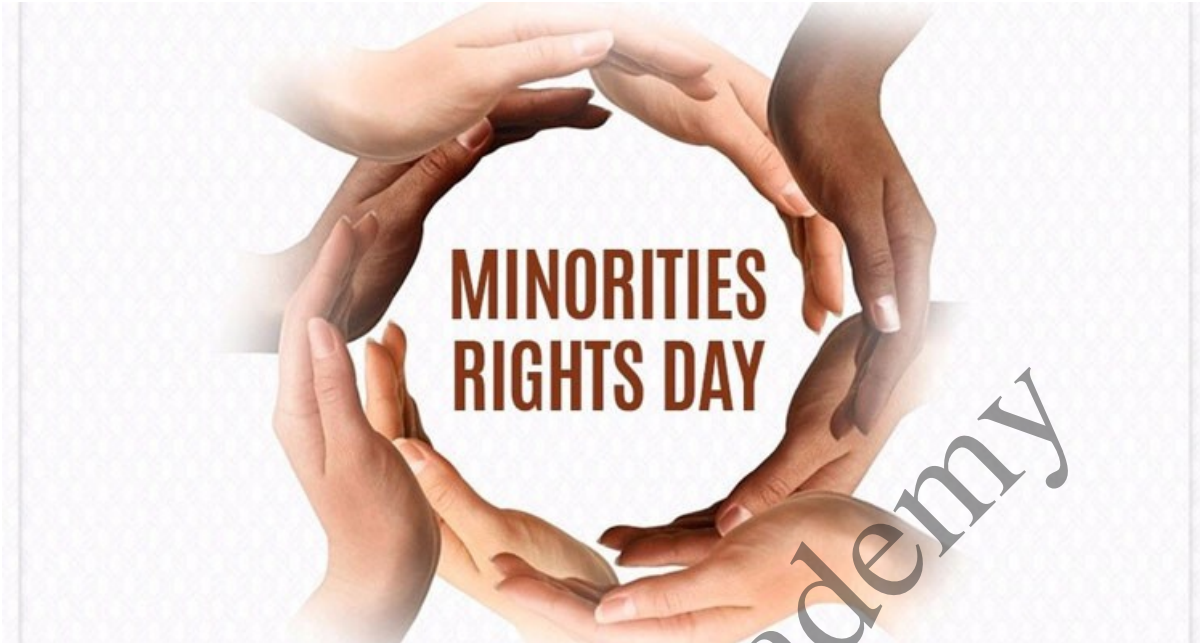
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Minorities Rights Day:

- ➔ Minorities Rights Day in India 2025, observed on 18 December, serves as a reminder of India's constitutional commitment to equality, justice, and inclusion for all citizens. India is globally known for its unity in diversity, with people belonging to different religions, languages, cultures, and traditions living together.
- ➔ A such a plural society, protecting the rights of minority communities is essential for social harmony and democratic stability.
- ➔ Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on 18 December to commemorate the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992). In India, Minorities Rights Day has been observed since 2013.

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International Migrants Day:

- ➔ Migration is a defining feature of the modern world. People move across borders in search of employment, safety, education, and better living conditions. In this context International Migrants Day, observed every year on 18 December, holds special importance.
- ➔ International Migrants Day 2025 draws attention to the valuable contributions made by migrants to societies and economies across the globe, while also highlighting the growing challenges faced by migrants in an increasingly complex and uncertain global environment.

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IPL:

- ➔ The IPL mini-auction witnessed history when Australian all-rounder Cameron Green attracted a staggering INR 25.2 crore bid from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). Making it the highest-ever bid for an overseas player at an IPL auction. However, despite the headline-grabbing figure, Green will actually take home only INR 18 crore.
- ➔ This apparent contradiction stems from a new rule introduced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Which will be aimed at regulating overseas player earnings and maintaining financial balance among franchises.

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Ponduru Khadi:

- ➔ A significant boost to India's traditional handloom heritage, Ponduru Khadi, a unique handspun and handwoven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh. Which has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ➔ This recognition comes nearly 100 years after Mahatma Gandhi himself praised Ponduru Khadi, calling attention to its exceptional fineness and craftsmanship.
- ➔ Ponduru Khadi is a traditional handspun and handwoven cotton fabric, renowned for its extremely fine texture and durability. Historically, Ponduru Khadi gained prominence during India's freedom struggle when Mahatma Gandhi encouraged its production and use as a symbol of self-reliance and Swadeshi.
- ➔ A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is an intellectual property right granted to products that originate from a specific geographical location and possess qualities or a reputation linked to that place. GI tags help protect traditional knowledge, prevent misuse of the product name, and ensure that only authorised producers can market the product under the GI name.

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DHRUV64:

- ➔ India has marked a historic milestone in its journey towards technological self-reliance with the launch of DHRUV64. The country's first fully indigenous 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor.
- ➔ Developed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP), the processor represents a significant step in strengthening India's domestic semiconductor design ecosystem.
- ➔ DHRUV64 is a homegrown, high-performance microprocessor designed and developed entirely in India. It operates at a clock speed of 1.0 GHz and features a 64-bit dual core architecture, enabling efficient processing, improved multitasking, and higher reliability compared to earlier indigenous processor efforts.

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Maitri II:

- ➔ India is set to expand its polar research footprint with Maitri II, a next-generation research station in East Antarctica. The government has announced that the station is now expected to be completed by 2032, marking a revised timeline from earlier projections.
- ➔ The project reflects India's long-term commitment to scientific research, climate studies, and environmental monitoring in the polar regions. Maitri II is India's proposed fourth research station in Antarctica and will replace the existing Maitri I, which has been operational since 1989 in the Schirmacher Oasis.
- ➔ It is designed as a modern, all-weather facility capable of supporting advanced scientific research throughout the year. The station will significantly upgrade India's research infrastructure in Antarctica with state-of-the-art laboratories and improved logistics.

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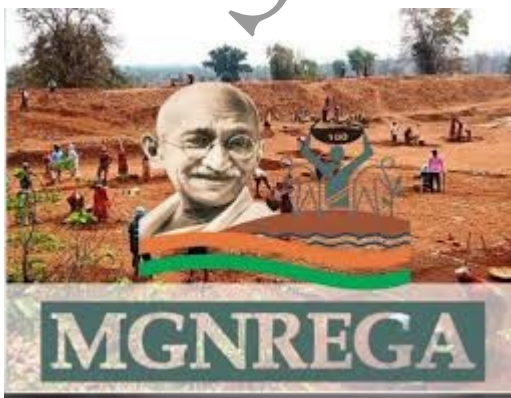
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MGNREGA:

- ➔ The government is likely to introduce an amendment Bill in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament to rename MGNREGA as “Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana”, with the proposal reportedly cleared by the Union Cabinet.
- ➔ The amended Bill may also propose increasing the guaranteed employment days from 100 to 125 days per household, even as the average employment provided over the last five years has been about 50.35 days per household.
- ➔ The amendments are expected to factor in the recommendations of the Amarjeet Sinha-led review panel, including possible exclusionary clauses based on State-level economic indicators and addressing inter-State disparities in scheme expenditure.
- ➔ The government may further revise the funding pattern and introduce stronger compliance checks, particularly to prevent Centre-State fund-related disputes, such as the prolonged standoff with West Bengal over scheme implementation.



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SHANTI:

- ➔ The Union Cabinet has approved the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, marking a major policy shift by opening India's nuclear power sector to private participation to help achieve 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 and strengthen energy security.
- ➔ The Bill allows private companies to participate in civil nuclear power generation under strict government oversight, while strategic functions such as nuclear material production, heavy water management, and radioactive waste handling will remain under the Department of Atomic Energy.
- ➔ It proposes amendments to the civil nuclear liability framework, caps supplier liability, redesigns operator insurance cover at ₹1,500 crore per incident, permits up to 49% FDI, and introduces a unified atomic energy law with a specialised nuclear tribunal to boost investor confidence.
- ➔ The reforms align with India's net-zero target by 2070, positioning nuclear energy as a stable, low-carbon base-load source alongside renewables; the government has also announced a ₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission and plans to operationalise five indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.



Nitin Nabin:

- ➔ The BJP Parliamentary Board has named Bihar minister and five-time MLA Nitin Nabin as the National Working President of the party with immediate effect, recognising his organisational leadership and political experience.

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- ➔ At 45 years old, Nitin Nabin becomes the youngest Working President in BJP history and the first leader from Bihar to hold this prestigious post. He currently represents the Bankipur Assembly constituency and holds the Road Construction portfolio in the Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government.
- ➔ With nearly two decades of political and organisational experience, Nitin Nabin has served as Bihar President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and as the BJP's election in-charge for Chhattisgarh, demonstrating strong leadership and strategic capabilities within the party.



Andhra Pradesh government:

- ➔ The Andhra Pradesh government has approved Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd's proposal to establish India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard and systems development centre at Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Nellore district, focusing on next-generation maritime and autonomous systems.
- ➔ The facility will specialise in autonomous and unmanned maritime platforms, including surface and underwater vessels, along with intelligent maritime systems and command-and-control technologies, generating around 750 jobs (300 direct, 450 indirect).

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Meghalaya:

- ➔ Meghalaya inaugurated Soil Lake at Williamnagar under the Nengsang River Valley Project, aiming to rejuvenate a critical waterbody, promote eco-tourism, and enhance the region's ecological resilience amid climate challenges.
- ➔ The project focuses on soil and water conservation, restoring natural water systems that support both human livelihoods and biodiversity, while improving the town's landscape and tourism potential.
- ➔ The state faces climate change challenges, including erratic rainfall, soil erosion, and declining spring discharge, with over 40% of villages reporting reduced water availability, prompting the formation of the Meghalaya Climate Change Council for long-term climate action.

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Gross State Domestic Product:

- ➔ The State of Tamilnadu topped other States by recording a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of 16 %. This growth figure was reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ➔ The report 'Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2024-25' was released by the RBI. Between 2021 and 2025, Tamil Nadu's economy grew by ₹10.50 lakh crore. The total GSDP value of Tamil Nadu stands at ₹31.19 lakh crore. The State's per capita income crossed ₹1.9 lakh per year, marking a major economic milestone.
- ➔ The GSDP at current prices increased from Rs 26.88 lakh crore in 2023-24 to Rs 31.18 lakh crore in 2024-25. In this regard, Tamilnadu was outpacing Maharashtra and Gujarat. Maharashtra, despite having the largest GSDP in absolute terms, reported slower growth compared with Tamil Nadu.
- ➔ Karnataka saw consistent double-digit performance but remained behind Tamil Nadu in 2024-25 in terms of the pace of expansion. Tamilnadu ranks fourth in per capita income, behind Delhi, Telangana and Karnataka.

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Pax Silica:

- ➔ Pax Silica is a United States (U.S.)-led initiative focused on securing semiconductor, AI, and critical mineral supply chains. The initiative covers silicon, rare earth minerals, energy, advanced manufacturing, and computing infrastructure. It is led by the U.S. Department of State and was launched in December 2025.
- ➔ The grouping includes selected partner countries such as Japan, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, Israel, and the European Union (EU). India is not part of the Pax Silica initiative as of December 2025.

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Pax Silica initiative



Ramsar Site:

- ➔ Siliserh Lake in Alwar district of Rajasthan has been declared a Ramsar site, becoming India's 96th wetland of international importance. Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh, has become the first Ramsar site of Chhattisgarh. Siliserh Lake supports over 100 species of birds and animals, including migratory cranes and resident kingfishers.
- ➔ Siliserh Lake was constructed in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh to supply drinking water to Alwar city. Ramsar status aims to strengthen conservation measures, promote eco-tourism, and support sustainable livelihoods in both regions.



ILO:

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- ➔ India is among the world's most overworked countries, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Indian workers work an average of 45.7 hours per week, as per ILO data (2024).
- ➔ This is higher than in the most developed countries, where average working hours are lower. India is grouped with countries like Bangladesh, Mongolia, and Iran for long working hours.



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2025, December 18

Changi Airport:

- ➔ Singapore's Changi Airport has once again reaffirmed its global leadership in aviation by being named the World's Best International Airport for 2025. The recognition came at the Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards 2025, where readers from across the world voted Changi as the top airport for overall travel experience, comfort, and facilities.
- ➔ The award was announced as part of the 14th edition of Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards, which honours excellence across the travel and hospitality sector. India's national carrier Air India has once again secured the title of Best Domestic Airline at the Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025, marking its second consecutive win.
- ➔ The recognition is significant as it comes at a time when the airline is undergoing one of the most ambitious transformation programmes in global aviation, focusing on fleet renewal, service quality, and customer experience.



ICAR–INTA:

- ➔ India and Argentina have taken an important step to deepen their agricultural partnership with the signing of the ICAR–INTA Work Plan 2025–27.

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- ➔ The agreement aims to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the area of agricultural research, technology exchange, and capacity building.
- ➔ Which also reflecting the growing importance of science-led and sustainable agriculture for food security.



University of Patanjali:

- ➔ The University of Patanjali has been designated as India's first Yoga and Ayurveda-based Cluster Centre under the Gyan Bharatam Mission of the Ministry of Culture, aimed at preserving and promoting ancient Indian knowledge systems.
- ➔ As a Cluster Centre, the university will mentor 20 institutions nationwide and lead efforts in research, education, digitisation, and dissemination of manuscripts related to Yoga, Ayurveda, and allied traditions.
- ➔ The recognition highlights the government's push to safeguard India's intellectual and cultural heritage, with the University of Patanjali becoming the first institution exclusively focused on Yoga and Ayurveda to receive this status under the mission.

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Mizoram government:

- ➔ The Mizoram government will sign a USD 108 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen the state's public healthcare system under the project "Supporting Public Healthcare System Strengthening to Achieve Universal Healthcare for Mizoram."
- ➔ Mizoram has already spent over ₹100 crore under MUHCS, benefiting nearly 60,000 beneficiaries, while major healthcare infrastructure upgrades are underway, including expansion of Zoram Medical College & Hospital and strengthening of Aizawl Civil Hospital. ADB Founded – 19 December 1966. Headquarters – Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

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CIC:

- ➔ Retired IAS officer Raj Kumar Goyal (1990 batch) was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of the Central Information Commission, with President Droupadi Murmu administering the oath at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ➔ He succeeded Heeralal Samariya as the Chief Information Commissioner and was appointed with effect from December 15, under the provisions of Section 12 of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

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Thoothukudi Muthu:

- ➔ The Thoothukudi Muthu Manufactures Sangam has applied for GI tag. Thoothukudi pearls are natural pearls from the Gulf of Mannar with a recorded history of over 2,000 years.
- ➔ Thoothukudi is known as the “Pearl City” because of its long tradition of pearl fishing. These pearls are naturally formed and occur in round, semi-round and buttonshaped forms.



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Lok Adalat:

- ➔ The 4th National Lok Adalat of 2025 successfully resolved 2.59 crore disputes across India. From 2022–23 to 2024–25, more than 23.5 crore cases were resolved through various Lok Adalats nationwide. Lok Adalats were established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- ➔ They provide speedy & cost-effective justice through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Lok Adalats aim to reduce case pendency, which stands at over 4.7 crore cases as per the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG). Lok Adalats are organised by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) with the Chief Justice of India (CJI) as Patron-in-Chief.



India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:

- ➔ India and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan established diplomatic relations in 1950, marking 75 years in 2025. Bilateral cooperation spans political, economic, strategic, security, and people-to-people sectors. Indian Prime Minister will visit Jordan as the first full bilateral visit after nearly 40 years.
- ➔ India is Jordan's third-largest trading partner, with bilateral trade valued at about USD 2.8 billion; Jordan supplies phosphates and potash to India. Indian investments in Jordan include over 15 garment manufacturing companies with cumulative investments of around USD 500 million.

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Dandami Madia tribe:

- ➔ The Dandami Madia tribe performed the traditional Bison Horn Maria dance at Judiya Para in Jagdalpur, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh. This dance is a symbol of the region's cultural pride and the enduring legacy of the Dandami Madia community.
- ➔ The Dandami Madia (also spelt as Maria) people have long shaped the cultural landscape of southern Chhattisgarh. It is Performed by both men and women and Men wears horn-shaped headgear made from bamboo, adorned with bison horns, and feathers.

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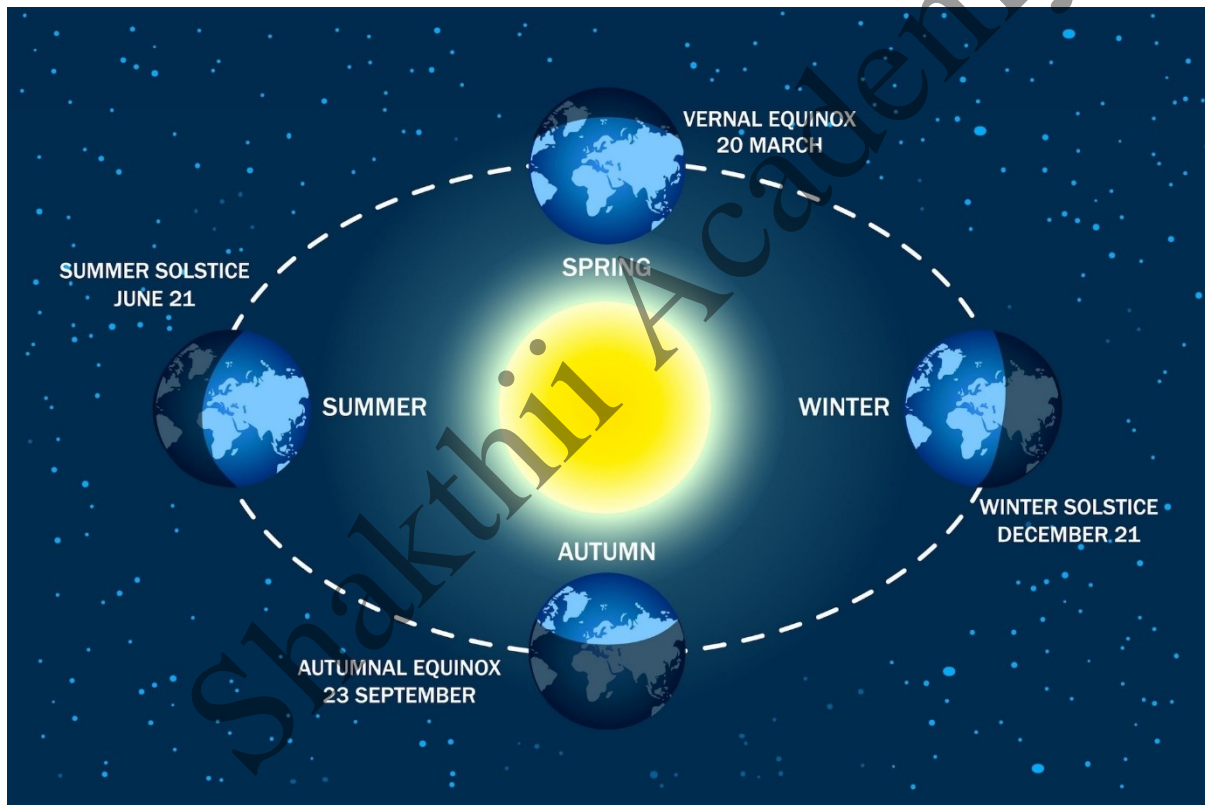
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2025, December 21

Winter Solstice:

- ➔ The Winter Solstice 2025 occurs on Sunday, December 21 marking the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. On this day many regions experience only eight to nine hours of daylight.
- ➔ While it often goes unnoticed amid holiday celebrations, the winter solstice is a key astronomical event that explains why seasons change and why daylight begins to increase after December.



World Meditation Day:

- ➔ The United Nations marked the second World Meditation Day on the 21st December with a high level event at its headquarters in New York. Reaffirming the growing global recognition of meditation as a pathway to inner peace and global harmony.
- ➔ The observance brought together diplomats, spiritual leaders, scientists, and civil society members, reflecting the universal relevance of mindfulness in today's fast-changing and conflict-prone world.

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Parsi (Zoroastrian) population:

- ➔ The Parsi (Zoroastrian) population declined sharply from 1.14 lakh in 1941 to 57,264 in 2011, prompting the Government of India to launch the Jiyo Parsi Scheme in 2013–14 under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- ➔ The scheme has three components—Medical Assistance (support for infertility and pregnancy-related treatment up to ₹30 lakh income limit), Health of Community (care for children and dependent elderly up to ₹15 lakh income limit), and Advocacy to raise awareness.

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IRDAI:

- ➔ IRDAI imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Care Health Insurance Ltd for serious lapses in claims settlement, violating policyholder protection norms and corporate governance standards.
- ➔ The action followed a remote inspection, which uncovered failures in grievance redressal mechanisms, handling of unclaimed amounts, and deficiencies in reinsurance accounting practices. IRDAI Established- In the year 1999 under the IRDA Act, 1999. Headquarters- Hyderabad, Telangana.

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Orderly system:

- ➔ The DGP of Tamil Nadu ordered the complete removal of the orderly system. Police personnel must not be posted to the residences of serving or retired police officers. The Madras High Court ruled that using orderlies for non-official work is against the law.
- ➔ A Government Order issued in 1979 had already abolished the orderly system. All senior police officers were instructed to review and ensure full compliance. Any orderly found at an officer's residence must be withdrawn immediately.

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Congress MP Shashi Tharoor:

- ➔ Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has recently introduced a private member's Bill in the Lok Sabha to remove the marital rape exception in criminal law. A Private Member's Bill is a legislative proposal introduced in Parliament by a member (MP) who is not a minister. Only 14 private members' bills have ever been passed into law, and none by both Houses since 1970.
- ➔ Section 63 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 (Section 375 of the IPC) – Marital rape is not a specific criminal offence under the penal code if the wife is over 18 years of age. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) – Marital rape is treated as a form of domestic violence, and prescribes a lighter penalty compared to non-marital rape.

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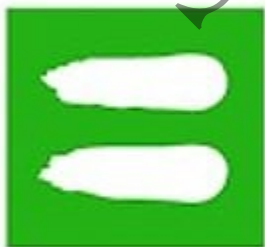
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Global Doping Violations Report:

- ➔ Global Doping Violations Report 2025 was released by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). India recorded the highest number of doping violations in the world for the third year in a row. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) reported 260 doping cases involving Indian athletes in 2024.
- ➔ India's positivity rate was 3.6 per cent, the highest among countries with largescale testing. The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India conducted 7,113 doping tests during the year. Other countries like France, Russia, China, and the United States reported fewer violations.



**world
anti-doping
agency**

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Odisha Assembly:

- ➔ The Odisha Assembly passed a Bill to triple the monthly salary of the Chief Minister, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- ➔ Under the revised structure, an MLA will receive ₹3.45 lakh per month, up from ₹1.10 lakh in 2007. The Chief Minister's monthly pay is ₹3.74 lakh, including salary of ₹1 lakh, car allowance of ₹91,000, and sumptuary allowance of ₹1.83 lakh.
- ➔ The Deputy CM will get ₹3.68 lakh, Cabinet Ministers ₹3.62 lakh, and Ministers of State ₹3.56 lakh per month.
- ➔ The Speaker's salary is ₹3.68 lakh, the Deputy Speaker's ₹3.56 lakh, and the Leader of Opposition and Government Chief Whip's ₹3.62 lakh. Odisha's per capita income is ₹1,82,548 per year, below the national average of ₹2,05,324.



President of India:

- ➔ The President of India rejected the West Bengal Assembly amendment bill proposing the CM as Chancellor of state universities.
- ➔ Governor Dr. C. V. Bose had reserved the bill for the President's consideration on 20 April 2024. Another amendment bill related to Aliah University, proposing the CM as Amire-Jamia or Chancellor, was also rejected.
- ➔ The existing arrangement remains unchanged, and the Governor continues as Chancellor under the current legal framework. The bills aimed to replace the Governor with the CM in the role of Chancellor, but the proposal was not approved.

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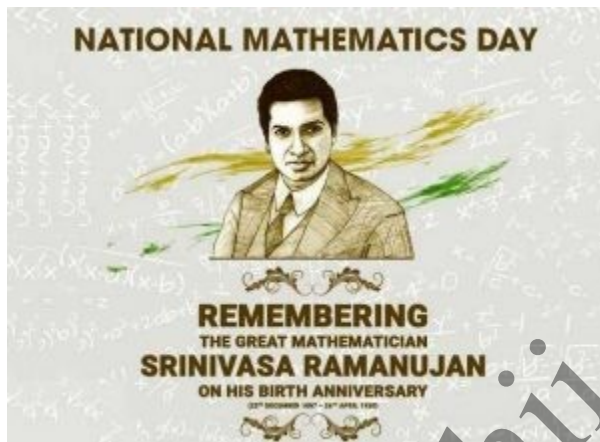
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2025, December 22-23

National Mathematics Day:

- ➔ National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year on December 22 across India. The day marks the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan who was one of the greatest mathematicians India has ever produced.
- ➔ India has a deep rooted history in mathematics, dating back several thousand years. As per the official records cited by the Press Information Bureau, India's mathematical contributions can be traced to as early as 1200–1800 BCE.



Kisan Diwas:

- ➔ Kisan Diwas 2025 which is also known as National Farmers Day, is celebrated across India on December 23 every year. The day recognises the enormous contribution of farmers to India's social and economic fabric and underlines the importance of agriculture in ensuring food security and rural prosperity.
- ➔ The date marks the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister and a lifelong champion of farmers' rights and rural development.

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Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises:

- ➔ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has recently intensified efforts to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities through the National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme.
- ➔ This move aligns with the government's broader objective of inclusive economic growth, social justice, and equitable participation of marginalized communities in India's MSME ecosystem.
- ➔ The National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) is one of the flagship schemes of the Ministry of MSME, launched to empower SC/ST entrepreneurs by providing them with financial support, skill development, and market access. The scheme is implemented by the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of MSME.

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Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Government of India

Defence Research and Development Organisation:

- ➔ To strengthen India's defence and internal security ecosystem the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 22 December 2025.
- ➔ The agreement which is aims to foster collaboration in research, education, training, and technology support, aligning with India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and enhanced national security during Amrit Kaal.
- ➔ The primary objective of the MoU is to strengthen India's self reliance in defense and internal security technologies. It seeks to integrate technology development, academic research, and operational insight to address present and future security challenges.
- ➔ Another key aim is to reinforce India's strategic autonomy, particularly in internal security domains handled by agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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Auroville Foundation:

- ➔ The Auroville Foundation which is located in Puducherry has once again come into the national spotlight. After a Parliamentary Standing Committee recommended that it be accorded the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI).
- ➔ The recommendation tabled in Parliament in December 2025 underscores Auroville's unique international character, its long standing UNESCO endorsement and its role in promoting global harmony and peace. Auroville is an international cultural township established in 1968 following a vision endorsed by UNESCO. Conceived as a place where people from different nations could live together in peace and harmony.
- ➔ Auroville represents an experiment in human unity beyond religion, nationality, and politics. It is governed by the Auroville Foundation, a statutory body created under the Auroville Foundation Act, 1988. The Foundation functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

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Tamil Nadu government:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu government has launched a special conservation initiative to protect the smooth-coated otter which is a vulnerable species found in the Cauvery river delta.
- ➔ The programme focuses on studying otter populations, improving habitats, and reducing conflicts between otters and local fishing communities. This initiative reflects growing concern over the decline of freshwater ecosystems and highlights the importance of conserving species.

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Chillai Kalan:

- ➔ As Jammu and Kashmir prepares for a fresh spell of rain and snowfall the region is also entering Chillai Kalan, the coldest and most severe phase of winter. Beginning on December 21 this 40 day period traditionally marks the harshest winter conditions in the Kashmir Valley. Also characterized by freezing temperatures, snowfall, and icy winds.
- ➔ Chillai Kalan is a centuries-old Kashmiri term referring to the 40 day peak winter period, lasting from December 21 to January 30. During this time, temperatures often plunge well below freezing, water bodies partially freeze, and heavy snowfall is common in higher reaches.
- ➔ This phase is followed by Chillai Khurd (20 days of milder cold) and Chillai Bacha (10 days of comparatively moderate winter), making Chillai Kalan the most critical period for weather and water cycles.

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Delhi-NCR:

- ➔ A new study has once again highlighted the severe air pollution crisis in Delhi-NCR. According to an analysis by the Health Effects Institute (HEI) all of the top 20 most polluted air quality monitoring stations in India in 2024 were located in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- ➔ This assessment reviewed air quality trends after the launch of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 and shows that while there are signs of improvement at some locations, absolute pollution levels in Delhi-NCR remain among the highest in the country.



James Webb:

- ➔ A groundbreaking discovery astronomers using the James Webb Space Telescope have identified one of the most unusual planets ever observed. An exoplanet stretched into a lemon like shape due to intense gravitational forces.

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- ➔ The discovery highlights the telescope's unparalleled ability to study extreme cosmic environments and expands our understanding of how diverse planetary systems can be. The newly discovered planet is named PSR J2322-2650b. It is roughly Jupiter sized but orbits its host pulsar at an extraordinarily close distance of about one million miles, which is just 1% of the Earth Sun distance.
- ➔ Due to this proximity the planet completes one orbit in just 7.8 Earth hours, making its 'year' shorter than a typical workday on Earth.



Mallankinaru:

- ➔ A possible Middle Palaeolithic period site was identified after quartz stone tools were discovered at Mallankinaru in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu. The artefacts include multidirectional cores, radial cores, flakes, notches, and scrapers.
- ➔ The stone tools were found in a stratified quarry section near a waterbody at Mallankinaru. Preliminary analysis indicates that the tools may belong to the Middle Palaeolithic period. The site is part of the lower Gundar basin and was formed due to fluvial (riverrelated) activity.

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SIR:

- ➔ Over 97 lakh voters were removed from Tamil Nadu's draft electoral roll after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). The total number of voters in Tamil Nadu reduced from 6.41 crore to 5.43 crore after the revision.
- ➔ Of the deleted voters, 26.9 lakh were deceased, 66.4 lakh had shifted residence or were absent, and 3.98 lakh were duplicate entries. In Chennai district, 14.2 lakh voters were deleted, which is about 35.6% of the voters before SIR.

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Adwa Victory Monument:

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute at the Adwa Victory Monument in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The monument commemorates Ethiopia's victory over Italian forces in the Battle of Adwa in 1896.
- ➔ PM Modi also addressed a joint session of the Ethiopian Parliament during his visit. He was awarded Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, the Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia.



Porunai Archaeological Museum:

- ➔ TN Chief Minister has inaugurated the Porunai Archaeological Museum near Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli district. The museum is built on 13 acres at a cost of ₹56.36 crore and was sanctioned by the Tamil Nadu Government in 2021.
- ➔ It displays artefacts excavated from Adichanallur, Sivakalai, and Korkai in the Thoothukudi district, and Thulukkarpatti in the Tirunelveli district.

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- ➔ Exhibits include burial urns, iron tools, bronze and gold ornaments, coins, pottery, and artefacts with Thamizhi (ancient Tamil script) letters. Carbon dating shows iron use by Tamils as early as 3300 BC at Sivakalai and 2613 BC at Adichanallur.



Supreme Court of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India ruled that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) must inherently include protection of the environment and ecology. The Court held that CSR spending on environmental protection is a constitutional obligation and not charity. This obligation arises under Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India.
- ➔ The judgment was delivered in the case of MK Ranjitsinh and Others versus Union of India. The case was related to the protection of the Great Indian Bustard, an endangered bird species. The Court stated that companies must bear conservation costs if their activities harm wildlife and ecosystems.

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Securities Market Code Bill 2025:

- ➔ The finance minister introduced the Securities Market Code Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha. The Bill will be referred to the department-related standing committee for further discussion.
- ➔ It merges the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992; the Depositories Act, 1996; and the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 into one code.
- ➔ The Bill proposes to increase the number of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Board members from 9 to 15. It aims to reduce compliance burden, improve regulatory governance, and support technology-driven securities markets. The Bill focuses on strengthening investor protection and improving the ease of doing business in financial markets.

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Madhya Pradesh:

- ➔ Madhya Pradesh will develop the country's first state-level, multi-national park tiger corridor. The corridor is being created in coordination with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the Public Works Department (PWD).
- ➔ It will include underpasses in forest areas, slow-traffic zones, and wildlife-safe designs to balance tiger movement, tourism, and connectivity. The corridor aims to promote eco-tourism and strengthen the local economy.



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2025, December 24

National Consumer Day:

- ➔ National Consumer Day is observed in India every year on December 24 to underline the importance of consumer rights, protection, and awareness.
- ➔ This day marks a historic milestone in India's legal framework as it was on 24 December 1986 that the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 when the assent of the president has been received.
- ➔ For the 2025, National Consumer Day is guided by the theme 'Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice' which is reflecting India's growing reliance on technology driven solutions to ensure accessible, transparent, and timely consumer grievance redressal.



Christmas Eve:

- ➔ Christmas Eve is the evening before Christmas Day and is celebrated every year on December 24th. People all over the world look forward to this night because it feels warm, joyful, and special.

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- ➔ For students, it also marks the beginning of holidays, a break from studies, and a chance to relax, celebrate, and spend time with friends and family. Christmas Eve is closely linked with the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- ➔ In early Christian tradition, a new day began at sunset, so celebrations started on the evening of December 24th.
- ➔ That is why Christmas Eve became an important part of the festival. In many cultures, Christmas Eve is just as meaningful as Christmas Day. Some people also write “Xmas Eve,” where the letter X comes from the Greek word for Christ.



Indian Coast Guard:

- ➔ The Indian Coast Guard has marked a major milestone in maritime environmental protection with the induction of its first Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) which is a Samudra Pratap.
- ➔ The vessel was formally delivered at Goa Shipyard Limited by highlighting India's growing indigenous shipbuilding and pollution response capabilities.
- ➔ More than 60% of the vessel's components are indigenous, underlining strong domestic manufacturing capability.

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Subansiri:

- ➔ India has taken another major step towards clean and sustainable energy with the commissioning of Unit 2 (250 MW) of the Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project.
- ➔ The project which is located on the Subansiri River along the Arunachal Pradesh–Assam border, is the largest hydropower project in India and a key pillar of India's renewable energy strategy.

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Madhya Pradesh:

- ➔ A major fiscal and governance innovation Madhya Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to prepare a three-year rolling budget. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish Devda announced that the state budget starting 2026-27 will include indicative estimates for the next two financial years.
- ➔ Which will marking a shift towards long-term, adaptive budget planning. Traditionally state budgets in India are prepared on an annual basis, focusing largely on short-term revenue and expenditure projections.
- ➔ However, evolving economic challenges, infrastructure needs, and development priorities have highlighted the need for medium-term fiscal planning. Against this backdrop Madhya Pradesh has introduced the concept of a rolling budget, which allows periodic review and adjustment based on actual performance and changing conditions.
- ➔ A rolling budget differs from a conventional static budget in several ways. Instead of being fixed for a single year, it is continuously updated, with future year estimates revised annually. This approach improves planning, monitoring, forecasting, and fiscal discipline, making budgeting more responsive and realistic.

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Hansi:

- ➔ In a significant administrative reform, the Haryana government has officially declared Hansi as a new district, making it the 23rd district of the state. The decision came into effect following the issuance of an official government notification, with the objective of improving governance and speeding up development activities in the region.
- ➔ The notification for the creation of Hansi district was issued under the provisions of the Haryana Land Revenue Act, 1887 and the Registration Act, 1908. As per constitutional and statutory requirements, the order was approved by the Governor of Haryana, giving it formal legal validity.

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BlueBird Block-2:

- ➔ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launches the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite on December 24, 2025. The satellite will be carried by India's most powerful rocket, the LVM3, also known as the 'Baahubali' rocket, from Sriharikota.
- ➔ This launch is being seen as a major milestone in global satellite-based mobile connectivity and India's growing role in commercial space missions. The BlueBird Block-2 is an advanced communication satellite developed by AST SpaceMobile, a United States based company.

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Saat Nischay-3:

- ➔ Bihar Cabinet approved Saat Nischay-3 to be implemented from 2025 to 2030, aiming to place the State among India's developed states, building on the success of the previous two programmes.
- ➔ The programme focuses on seven pillars — Double Employment-Double Income, Prosperous Industry-Empowered Bihar, Progress in Agriculture, Advanced Education-Bright Future, Accessible Health-Secure Life, Strong Foundation-Modern Expansion, and Respect for All-Easy Life — targeting income, employment, industries, agriculture, health, education, infrastructure, and ease of living.

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Punjab:

- ➔ Punjab has emerged as the first state in India to implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across the entire state, enabling live monitoring of border areas from anywhere in the country. Under the scheme, internet and broadband services have been extended to 43 shadow areas, with only one village left, which is expected to be covered by the end of November.
- ➔ The Bharat Net Scheme aims to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats, households, and institutions, while promoting e-health and e-governance services in rural areas.

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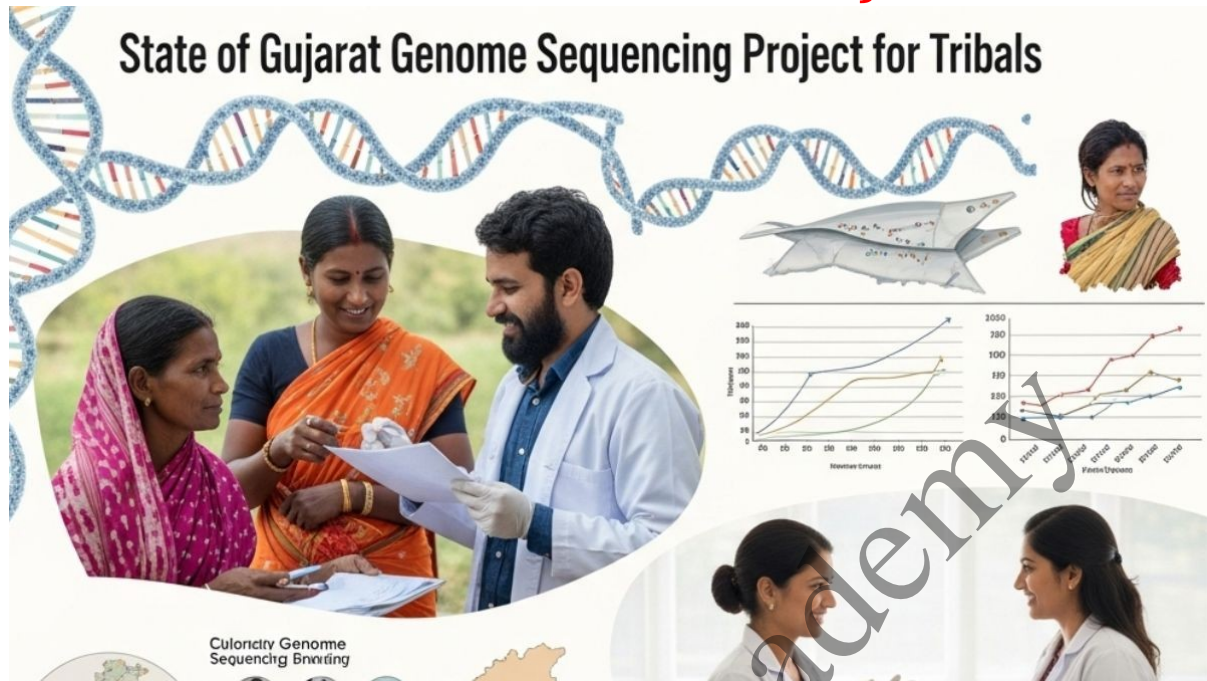
Gujarat:

- ➔ Gujarat has become the first state in India to launch a large-scale genome sequencing project focused exclusively on tribal communities. The project is being led by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC) to decode the genetic blueprint of tribal populations.
- ➔ The initiative aims to develop customised diagnostics, treatment strategies, and long-term preventive healthcare based on genetic insights.
- ➔ The project targets early detection of genetic diseases like thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia, enabling low-cost diagnostic panels, prenatal screening, and embryo-level testing during IVF.

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Forest authorities:

- ➔ Forest authorities prevented illegal land encroachment in Udanti Sitanadi Tiger Reserve. The reserve is located in Chhattisgarh, India. It was formed by merging Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ➔ The reserve covers approximately 1,842 square kilometres. Major rivers in the reserve are the Mahanadi, Udanti, Sitanadi, Indravati, and Pairi. The forest types are Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest and Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest.



Supreme Court of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India has accepted the Centre's new definition of the Aravalli Hills. Under this definition, only landforms rising 100 metres or more above local relief are legally recognised as the Aravalli Hills.

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- ➔ The ruling limits mining regulation and protection to these higher-elevation landforms. The Save Aravalli campaign is a citizen-led environmental movement opposing this narrow definition.
- ➔ Experts warn that low-lying ridges, forests, and catchments may become vulnerable to mining. The Aravalli's play a key role in groundwater recharge, climate moderation, and biodiversity conservation, especially in North India.



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2025, December 29

REPM:

- ➔ India has taken a major strategic step towards self-reliance in critical minerals and advanced manufacturing with the approval of the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM).
- ➔ The scheme which is designed to build India's first fully integrated domestic manufacturing ecosystem for high value rare earth magnets, which are essential for modern clean energy and high-technology industries. With a significant financial outlay and a focus on end-to-end value-chain development, the initiative aligns closely with India's long term goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat by 2047.
- ➔ The primary objective of the REPM scheme is to establish a self sustaining domestic supply chain for rare earth permanent magnets.
- ➔ The Ministry of Mines has complemented the REPM scheme with international cooperation to secure raw material supply. India has entered into bilateral agreements with mineral-rich countries such as Australia, Argentina, and Zambia, ensuring access to critical minerals and diversifying supply sources.



Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY:

- ➔ The year in 2025 marked a turning point for India's public healthcare system. With Odisha and Delhi joining Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY, digital health platforms scaled up

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rapidly. Various Technology, insurance coverage, and disease control came together to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

- ➔ With this, West Bengal remains the only state outside PMJAY. Both Odisha and Delhi signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Union Health Ministry for implementation.



Rashtriya Raksha University:

- ➔ India is set to host a major international sporting event for uniformed services. Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) in Gujarat will host eight disciplines of the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) 2029.
- ➔ This will be India's debut as a host nation for this prestigious global event. It is exclusively for police, fire service, and law enforcement personnel from across the world.

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Himachal Pradesh:

- ➔ A policy shift aimed at transforming its rural economy and promoting sustainability Himachal Pradesh has initiated the cultivation of industrial hemp. Which is marking a decisive move from illicit associations to regulated economic utilization.
- ➔ Chief Minister Sukhvinder Sukhu launched the 'Green to Gold' initiative envisioning hemp as a key driver in achieving a self-reliant Himachal Pradesh by 2027 and positioning the state as a leader in the bio-economy.



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Dulhasti:

- ➔ The Union government's environmental clearance mechanism has approved the Dulhasti Stage-II Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district. The approval marks a key step toward expanding hydropower capacity in the Indus basin and enables the floating of construction tenders for the project.
- ➔ The clearance comes at a time when India is accelerating infrastructure development in strategic river basins following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty.



Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana:

- ➔ The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has completed 25 years in December 2025. It is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing all-weather road connectivity to previously unconnected rural habitations.
- ➔ PMGSY was launched on 25 December 2000, on the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

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Communist Party of India:

- ➔ The Communist Party of India (CPI) completed 100 years on 26 December 2025. The CPI was first formed in 1920 at Tashkent by Indian revolutionaries including M.N. Roy, Mohammad Ali, M.P.T. Acharya, and Mohammad Shafiq. It was formally established in India at the Kanpur Communist Conference in December 1925.
- ➔ Singaravelu Chettiar was the first President of the Communist Party of India. The slogan “Inquilab Zindabad” was coined by Maulana Hasrat Mohani and was raised at the Kanpur Conference. The CPI helped build organisations such as the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) and the All-India Kisan Sabha (AIKS).

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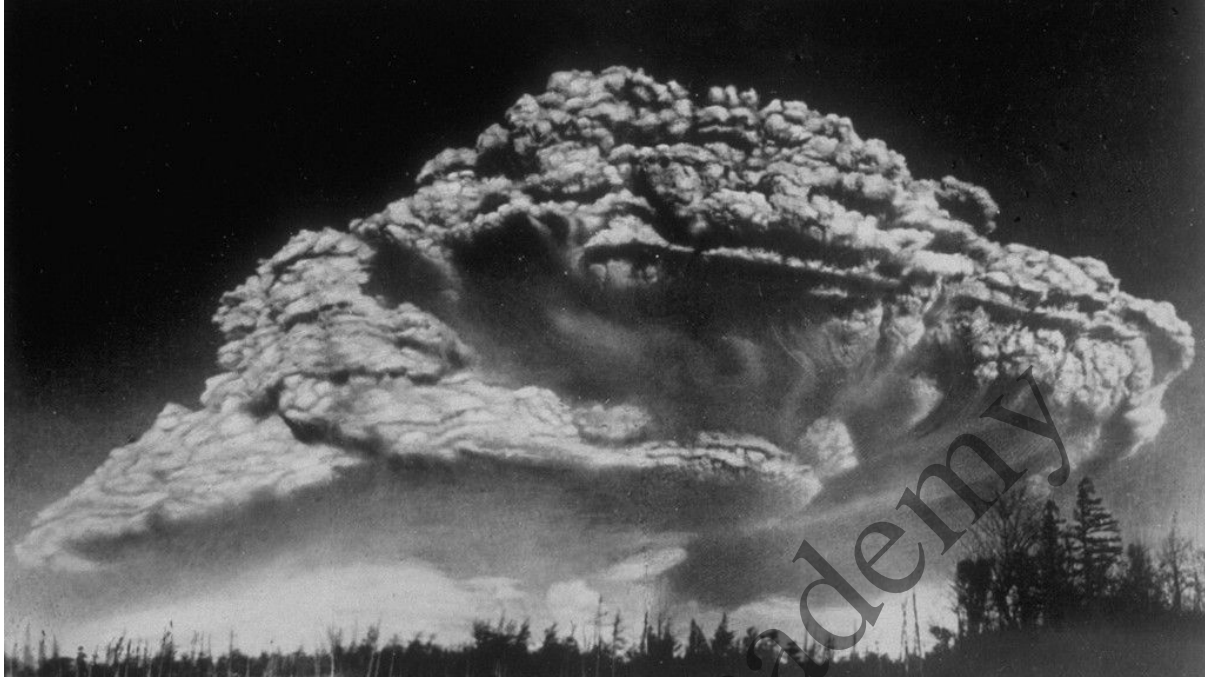


Bezymianny volcano:

- ➔ Russia's Bezymianny volcano blew itself apart 69 years ago, in a massive eruption on 30 March 1956. The eruption caused the summit to collapse, turning the cone-shaped mountain into a horseshoe-shaped amphitheatre. The volcano has been regrowing through frequent eruptions, including a major one in November 2025.
- ➔ A 2020 study reported that Bezymianny is expected to reach its pre-1956 height between 2030 and 2035. The volcano emits explosive ash clouds and pyroclastic flows while also growing via non-explosive lava flows (effusive eruptions).

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2025, December 25

Good Governance Day:

- ➔ Good Governance Day 2025 observed on December 25 which marks the 101st birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He one of India's most respected statesmen.
- ➔ This day was Instituted in 2014 and the day reflects India's commitment to transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric governance.
- ➔ Beyond commemoration it serves as a reminder that good governance is central to democracy, development, and public trust values that Vajpayee exemplified through his leadership and policies.



Indian Navy:

- ➔ The Indian Navy is set to revive India's ancient maritime legacy as INSV Kaundinya, a unique stitched sailing vessel, prepares for its maiden overseas voyage on December 29, 2025. The voyage will begin from Porbandar, Gujarat, and conclude at Muscat, Oman, retracing historic sea routes used by Indian traders centuries ago.

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- ➔ The vessel was built by traditional artisans, guided by master shipwright Shri Babu Sankaran, with design, research, and testing support from the Indian Navy and academic institutions. The ship is fully seaworthy and capable of ocean navigation.



Dedicated raisin research centre:

- ➔ For a major boost for the agricultural crops like for grape and raisin farmers. From the state of Maharashtra district of Sangli will get to a dedicated raisin research centre. The proposal has been approved in principle by the Senate of Shivaji University, following a demand raised by Sangli MLA Sudhir Gadgil.
- ➔ The new centre aims to strengthen raisin production through scientific research, quality improvement, processing support and skill development, helping farmers and processors stay competitive in domestic and export markets.

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Russia:

- ➔ Russia has announced ambitious plans to build a power plant on the Moon by 2036 to support its future lunar missions. The announcement was made by Roscosmos which is Russia's state space agency, as global space powers accelerate efforts to explore and establish a long term presence on the Moon.
- ➔ The proposed plant will supply energy to rovers, scientific observatories, and infrastructure linked to a joint Russian-Chinese lunar base.

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Quick Impact Projects:

- ➔ India handed over three Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to Myanmar, aimed at enhancing the socio-economic well-being of people in Mandalay Region. A flexible rapier loom, a modern high-tech weaving machine made in India, was installed at the Saunder Weaving and Vocational Institute in Amarapura to promote vocational education in weaving.
- ➔ A new single-storey building for the Girls Training School in Mandalay was inaugurated, providing a safe, spacious, and comfortable learning environment for young students.

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Asian Development Bank:

- ➔ Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$650 million policy-based loan to support India's rooftop solar expansion, aiming to provide clean and affordable energy to 10 million households by 2027.
- ➔ The funding will back the government's flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY), which promotes nationwide adoption of residential rooftop solar systems. Founded – 19 December 1966. Headquarters – Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

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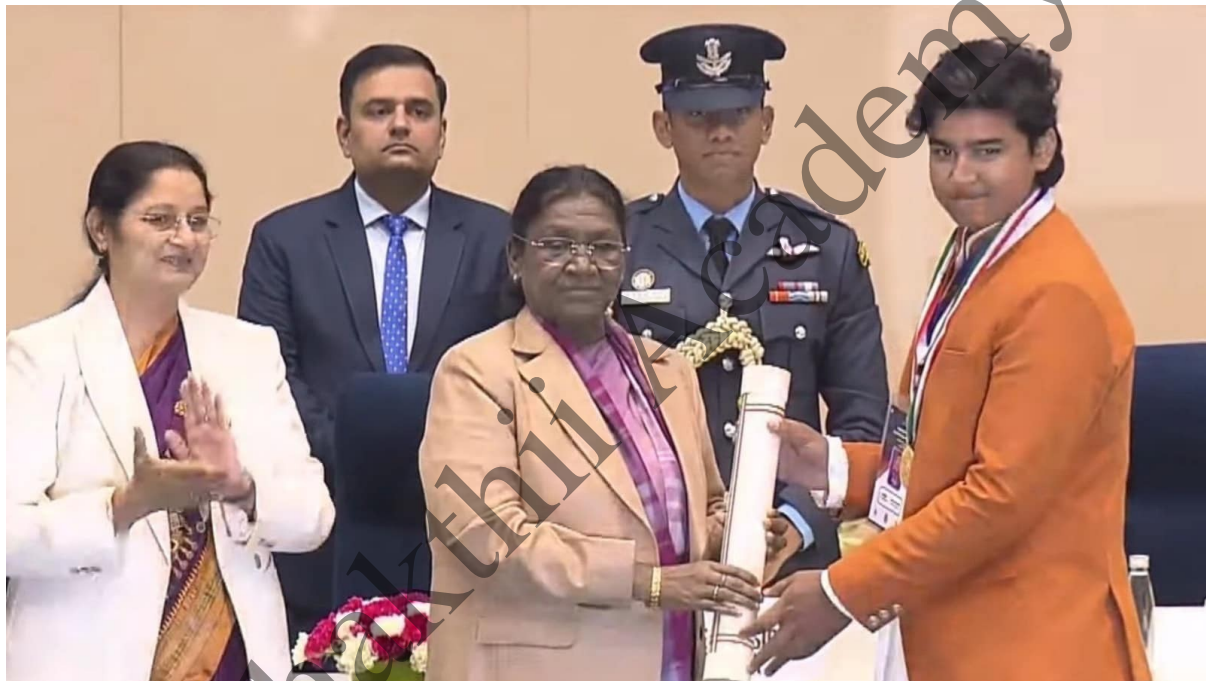
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2025, December 26-28

Vaibhav Suryavanshi:

- ➔ Emerging cricketer who is 14 years old prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi has been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar by President Droupadi Murmu for his outstanding achievements in domestic and Under 19 cricket.
- ➔ The award is India's highest civilian honour for children aged 5 to 18 recognizing excellence in fields such as sports, art, science, social service, environment and bravery.



Veer Bal Diwas:

- ➔ Veer Bal Diwas is a nationally observed day in India that reminds us of the extraordinary courage shown by young children in Indian history. Day honors the sacrifice of the Sahibzadas the sons of Guru Gobind Singh Ji who laid down their lives to protect their faith and principles.
- ➔ The observance is especially important for the India's history. The observance was officially announced by the Government of India in 2022, with the aim of educating children and youth about the values of dharma (righteousness) courage, and sacrifice.

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Sardar Udham Singh:

- ➔ The 126th birth anniversary of Sardar Udham Singh, observed on 26 December 2026, is a solemn reminder of India's relentless struggle for justice during the colonial era. Remembered as a revolutionary who dedicated his life to avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Udham Singh occupies a unique place in the history of the Indian National Movement.
- ➔ His life reflects sacrifice, patience, and an unwavering commitment to justice against imperial oppression. One of the most defining moments in Udham Singh's life was his presence during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on 13 April 1919.
- ➔ On that day, British troops under Reginald Dyer opened fire on thousands of unarmed civilians gathered peacefully in Amritsar. More than 400 people were killed, and over a thousand were injured.
- ➔ The massacre took place under the administration of Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab. Udham Singh survived the tragedy, but the brutal incident left a permanent imprint on his mind and became the driving force behind his revolutionary path.

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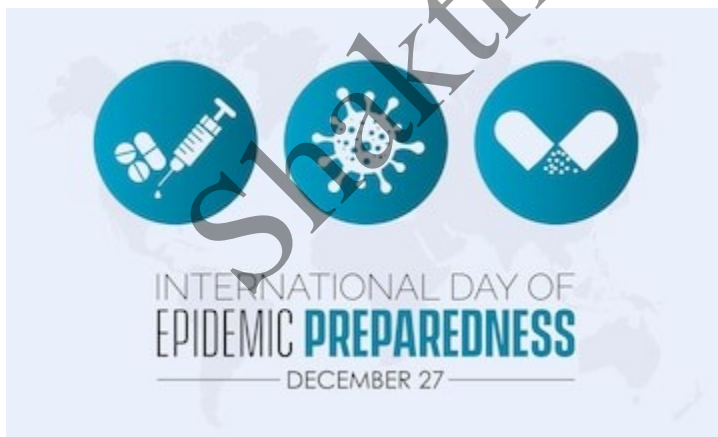
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December 27:

- ➔ The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness is observed every year on December 27 to underscore the critical importance of preventing, preparing for and responding to epidemics.
- ➔ The observance highlights the urgent need for robust health systems, early warning mechanisms, and international cooperation to reduce the devastating impact of infectious disease outbreaks on human lives and economies.
- ➔ The COVID 19 pandemic clearly demonstrated that epidemics are not only health crises but also social, economic and security challenges, making preparedness a global priority.



ASGs:

- ➔ In India's legal and constitutional framework, the Central Government has appointed three senior advocates as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) to represent the Union before the Supreme Court of India. The appointments were formally notified on

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December 22, 2025 and are aimed at strengthening the government's legal representation in matters before the apex court.

- ➔ The Additional Solicitors General are among the top law officers of the Union of India appointed under the Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules. They assist the Solicitor General of India and the Attorney General for India in representing the government in important legal matters.
- ➔ ASGs primarily appear before the Supreme Court and High Courts, handling cases related to constitutional interpretation, central laws, inter-governmental disputes, and major public interest litigation.



PV Sindhu:

- ➔ India's badminton icon Puserla Venkata Sindhu popularly known as PV Sindhu, has achieved another major milestone off the court.
- ➔ The two-time Olympic medallist and former world champion has been elected Chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes Commission for the 2026–2029 term, marking a significant step in her leadership journey within global sports governance.

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Anu Garg:

- ➔ Odisha is set to create history as senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Anu Garg assumes charge as the state's first woman Chief Secretary from January 1, 2026.
- ➔ Her appointment marks a significant milestone in the administrative history of Odisha, reflecting growing representation of women in the country's top bureaucratic positions.

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Gujarat:

- ➔ In a landmark development for wildlife conservation Gujarat has been officially reinstated as a tiger bearing state after a gap of 33 years. The decision was taken by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which has confirmed Gujarat's inclusion in the All India Tiger Estimation (AITE) 2026 following sustained evidence of tiger presence in the Ratanmahal Sanctuary.
- ➔ This move marks Gujarat's return to India's official tiger map which is strengthening the country's conservation narrative under Project Tiger. The turning point came with the confirmed presence of a nearly four-year-old tiger in the Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary, located in Dahod district along the Gujarat Madhya Pradesh border.

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VoxelGrids:

- ➔ In a major boost to Make in India and the medical technology sector, VoxelGrids a Zoho backed Indian startup, has developed India's first indigenous MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner.
- ➔ This achievement reduces India's dependence on imported diagnostic equipment and strengthens domestic healthcare infrastructure. VoxelGrids has successfully designed and built a 1.5-tesla MRI scanner which has been deployed at the Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation near Nagpur.
- ➔ The project is the result of a 12-year effort led by Arjun Arunachalam, founder of VoxelGrids. Until now India relied almost entirely on foreign companies like Siemens and GE Healthcare for MRI machines.

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Santhali:

- ➔ President Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script, at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Santhali, one of India's most ancient living languages included in the Eighth Schedule through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, is spoken widely in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Bihar.
- ➔ The President said the move will help Santhali-speaking people read and understand the Constitution in their own language and praised Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal for this initiative in the Constitution's centenary year.

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National Test House (NTH) and the Department of Posts:

- ➔ National Test House (NTH) and the Department of Posts have signed an MoU to enable nationwide collection and safe, timely delivery of samples to NTH laboratories for testing. Under the agreement, the Department of Posts will provide doorstep sample pickup and transport samples to NTH labs in Kolkata, Ghaziabad, Mumbai, Jaipur, Guwahati, Varanasi and Chennai, using its extensive postal network.
- ➔ The collaboration will improve accessibility, affordability, and efficiency of NTH's testing services by reducing logistical hurdles and turnaround time across the country.



Kimberley Process:

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- ➔ The Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to assume the Chairpersonship from 1 January 2026, with India taking over as Vice Chair; this marks the third time India will chair the KP.
- ➔ The Kimberley Process is a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society, aimed at preventing the trade in conflict diamonds, as defined by UN Security Council resolutions.
- ➔ Established in 2003, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) has 60 participants (with the EU counted as one) and regulates over 99% of global rough diamond trade, making it the most comprehensive mechanism in the sector. During its tenure, India will focus on strengthening governance and compliance, promoting digital certification and traceability, enhancing transparency, and building global trust in conflict-free diamonds.



VB-G RAM G:

- ➔ The President of India has given assent to the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025. The Act replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005. Under the Act, the Government has listed four focus areas for works.

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- ➔ These focus areas are water security and water-related works, core rural infrastructure, and livelihood-related infrastructure. The fourth focus area under the Act is works to mitigate extreme weather events. Wage employment under the Act is linked to the creation of durable public assets in rural areas.



Pa Pa Pagli Project:

- ➔ The Pa Pa Pagli Project is being implemented in Dahod district of Gujarat. It is a pre-school learning programme for children aged three to six years.
- ➔ The project is carried out at Anganwadi centres. Children are taught through play-based activities and games-cum-learning methods. It is supported by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India.

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DRDO:

- ➔ The DRDO has completed User Evaluation Trials (UET) of the Akash-NG missile system. Akash-NG (Next Generation) is an indigenously developed surface-to-air missile. It is used to destroy aircraft, drones and cruise missiles.
- ➔ The missile has an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker for accurate targeting. It uses a dual-pulse solid rocket motor for a longer range and faster response.

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Public–Private Partnership(PPP) model:

- ➔ India announced its first medical colleges under the Public–Private Partnership(PPP) model in the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh. Four colleges are planned in Dhar, Betul, Katni, and Panna, linked with existing district hospitals.
- ➔ The PPP (Public–Private Partnership) model allows joint investment and management by the government and private sector.
- ➔ Government incentives include Viability Gap Funding (VGF), India Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IIPDF), long-term debt support, and up to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The project aims to strengthen medical education and public healthcare delivery in tribal regions.

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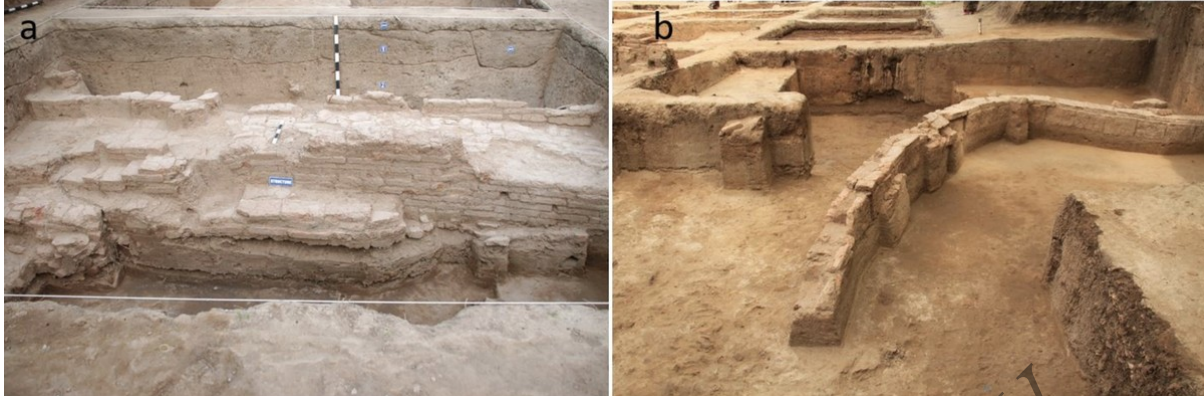
Archaeological evidence:

- ➔ Archaeological evidence shows that floods buried the Keezhadi settlement on the Vaigai floodplain in Tamil Nadu around 1,155 years ago. Keezhadi is located in the Sivagangai district and lies on a mound within the Vaigai river floodplain. Excavations have revealed brick structures, canals, floors, and pottery reflecting urban life described in Sangam literature.
- ➔ The sediment layers indicate repeated flooding, with coarser sand below brick structures and silty clay above, suggesting high-energy flood events. These findings help understand late Holocene climate variability and how environmental forces shaped human settlements in South India.

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Dhanu Yatra:

- ➔ Dhanu Yatra was inaugurated at Bargarh in Odisha. It is held annually and is recognised as the world's largest open-air theatre festival. During the festival, Bargarh is shown as the ancient city of Mathura.
- ➔ The event depicts episodes from the life of Lord Krishna, including the defeat of King Kansa. Dhanu Yatra has been given National Festival status by the Central Government.



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2025, December 30-31

NIA:

- ➔ In an important administrative development related to internal security, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has assigned the additional charge of Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to senior IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal.
- ➔ The move aims to ensure institutional stability and continuity at the helm of India's premier counter-terrorism agency.
- ➔ The National Investigation Agency is India's premier counter-terrorism investigation agency. The agency functions under the NIA Act, 2008 and plays a crucial role in safeguarding India's internal security.



ACC:

- ➔ The Union government has announced a significant bureaucratic reshuffle, appointing senior IAS officers to key economic, energy, and social sector positions. The changes, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), aim to strengthen policy implementation and administrative efficiency across ministries.
- ➔ Among the prominent appointments Lav Aggarwal will take charge as Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) while Rabindra Kumar Agarwal will head the Food Corporation of India (FCI). In total, 25 civil servants have been assigned new responsibilities.

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Parvati Arga:

- ➔ In a significant step towards biodiversity conservation, the Union government has declared the Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as an Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ). The move aims to strengthen ecological protection around the sanctuary while promoting sustainable and responsible ecotourism.
- ➔ Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary is a well known wetland ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh that plays a vital role in supporting avian biodiversity.
- ➔ The sanctuary attracts a wide variety of resident and migratory bird species and is recognized for its ecological importance within the Gangetic plains. Wetlands like Parvati Arga serve as crucial habitats for birds, help maintain water balance and support local livelihoods linked to nature-based activities.

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Delhi government:

- ➔ In a major step towards technology-driven governance, the Delhi government has joined hands with IIT Kanpur to develop an AI-based grievance redressal system. The initiative aims to make public service delivery faster, transparent, and more accountable by using artificial intelligence and data analytics.
- ➔ The Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) is an AI and machine learning based platform. It is designed to consolidate, analyse, and monitor public grievances across departments. Its primary goal is to improve resolution timelines, enhance efficiency, and strengthen citizen trust in governance.

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NITI Aayog report:

- ➔ India's ambition to become a global education hub has received strong validation. A recent NITI Aayog report on the globalization of higher education has lauded Gujarat's early initiative of establishing the Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU) at GIFT City, calling it a benchmark model aligned with national education reforms.
- ➔ NITI Aayog report on the globalization of higher education praised the Gujarat Biotechnology University at GIFT City as a benchmark initiative, highlighting its alignment with national education reforms and India's goal of becoming a global education hub.
- ➔ The report highlights that Gujarat took a decisive and forward-looking step in 2020 by establishing GBU in Gandhinagar.



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Abu Dhabi:

- ➔ Abu Dhabi has achieved a historic milestone in global healthcare. For the first time in the world, ITVISMA gene therapy has been administered to a patient suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).
- ➔ The treatment marks a major leap in precision medicine and genomics-based healthcare. With this step, the UAE became the second country after the United States to approve ITVISMA for clinical use.



PM VIKAS:

- ➔ NIFTEM–Kundli signed an MoU with the Ministry of Minority Affairs in New Delhi to implement the PM VIKAS Scheme as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA). The PM VIKAS Scheme aims to skill minority youth through need-based training programmes and ensure employment and livelihood opportunities.
- ➔ Under the project, NIFTEM-K will train 2,110 beneficiaries in courses such as Multi Skill Technician (Food Processing), Millet Products Processor, and Assistant Baking Technician across Jharkhand, Bihar, Punjab, and Haryana.
- ➔ The initiative seeks to enhance employability, provide market and credit linkages, and integrate minority communities into the economic mainstream, with rollout expected in January 2026.

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MEA data:

- ➔ Over 24,600 Indian nationals were deported from 81 countries in 2025, as per MEA data tabled in the Rajya Sabha on December 18, with Saudi Arabia accounting for the highest number (over 11,000). About 3,800 Indians—mostly private employees—were deported from the United States, the highest figure in five years, largely due to stricter checks on visa validity, work authorisation, documentation, and overstays.
- ➔ Significant deportations were also reported from Myanmar, Malaysia, UAE, Bahrain, Thailand, and Cambodia, reflecting diverse regional patterns affecting Indian migrants.

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Ministry of Civil Aviation:

- ➔ The Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to three new airlines—Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, and FlyExpress to enter the Indian aviation market. These approvals mark a significant move to boost competition and diversify India's domestic airline sector, which has long been dominated by a few major carriers.
- ➔ Shankh Air has already received its NOC and is preparing to commence commercial operations in early 2026, with plans to connect regional and underserved routes. Al Hind Air and FlyExpress recently secured their NOCs and are also targeting operational launches in 2026, aiming to enhance connectivity and offer more choices to flyers.

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National Family Health Survey:

- ➔ India has pledged to end child marriage by 2030 under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The government launched the Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and marked its first anniversary with a 100-day awareness campaign against child marriage. National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data show child marriage among women aged 18–29 declined from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 23.3% in 2019-21.
- ➔ Highest rates of child marriage are in West Bengal, Bihar, and Tripura, while Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan also show significant cases.
- ➔ 40% of girls from the poorest households marry before 18, compared to 8% from the wealthiest households. 48% of girls with no education are married before adulthood, compared to only 4% among educated girls. The Prevention of Child Marriage Act was enacted to prevent this in 2006.

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TRRP:

- ➔ Twenty-four coastal villages in Odisha have been recognized as Tsunami Ready under the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) by UNESCO. TRRP is a voluntary, community-based programme by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to improve coastal disaster preparedness.
- ➔ The programme uses twelve preparedness indicators to assess risk awareness, evacuation planning, warning systems, and community drills.

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Tirupattur:

- ➔ Eighty-six punch-marked gold coins belonging to the Vijayanagara period were found near Jolarpet in Tirupattur district. The gold coins were found inside an iron pot buried below the surface of the farmland.
- ➔ The coins bear a pig emblem, which was commonly used by Vijayanagara rulers. As per the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878, the recovered treasure legally belongs to the government.



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Turmeric:

- ➔ Turmeric exports from Erode district in Tamil Nadu increased by 5% this year due to growing global demand. Erode turmeric is known for high curcumin content (2.5%–3.9%) and has a GI tag.
- ➔ The crop is sown in June–July and harvested in February–March. Erode hosts the second-largest turmeric market in India after Nizamabad, Telangana.
- ➔ It exports to countries like Germany, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, the Netherlands, and Bangladesh. Turmeric cultivation in Erode covers over 30% of Tamil Nadu's 1.60 lakh acres under the spice, producing more than two lakh bags annually.



Group C:

- ➔ The Union Home Ministry has increased reservation for ex-Agniveers in Group C posts of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from 10% to 50%. 50% of vacant constable posts in the Border Security Force (BSF) will now be reserved for ex-Agniveers.
- ➔ Ex-Agniveers are exempted from Physical Standard Test (PST) and Physical Efficiency Test (PET) but must appear for written examinations.

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Vallanadu sanctuary:

- ➔ The blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) population in Vallanadu sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, increased to 300 in the 2023–2024 census, up from 260 in 2022–2023. Vallanadu sanctuary, established in 1987, spans 1,641 hectares and is a natural habitat for the endangered blackbuck, listed in Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Grassland restoration under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) has restored around 50 hectares of native grass, improving habitat conditions for blackbucks.
- ➔ The sanctuary also houses 300 spotted deer, 150 sambar deer. The Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) is listed as Least Concern globally by the IUCN Red List. It is located on an isolated hillock in Vallanadu Village of Srivaikundam Taluk, Thoothukudi. It is the southernmost place in India where a natural population of blackbuck exists.

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2,000-year:

- ➔ Archaeologists have discovered a 2,000-year-old Buddhist site in Zehanpora village, Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir. Excavations revealed stupas, monastic buildings, and structural remains dating to the Kushan period, showing organised Buddhist activity.
- ➔ Zehanpora may have been an important Buddhist centre linked to the Kushan capital Huvishkapura. Architectural features resemble Gandharan layouts, indicating cultural and religious connections between Kashmir and north-western Buddhist regions.

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Indian National Congress:

- ➔ The Indian National Congress (INC) marked its 140th Foundation Day on 28 December 2025. INC was founded on 28 December 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume, along with Indian leaders Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee, Pherozeshah Mehta, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- ➔ The first session was held at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay(Mumbai), and W. C. Bonnerjee was the first president. INC played a key role in India's freedom struggle through movements like NonCooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India, and Purna Swaraj (1929).
- ➔ After Independence, INC contributed to secularism, parliamentary democracy, planned economy, and non-alignment in India. The party helped frame the Indian Constitution and establish democratic institutions.

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2025, December 19-20

PGIMER:

- ➔ The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh, has once again emerged as a national leader in health policy research by win the title of India's Best Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Institute for the 2nd consecutive year.
- ➔ The award was conferred by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) at the ARISE 2025 national conclave held in New Delhi.
- ➔ This recognition highlights PGIMER's growing importance in supporting the Government of India with evidence-based, cost-effective, and equitable healthcare decisions.



Goa Liberation Day:

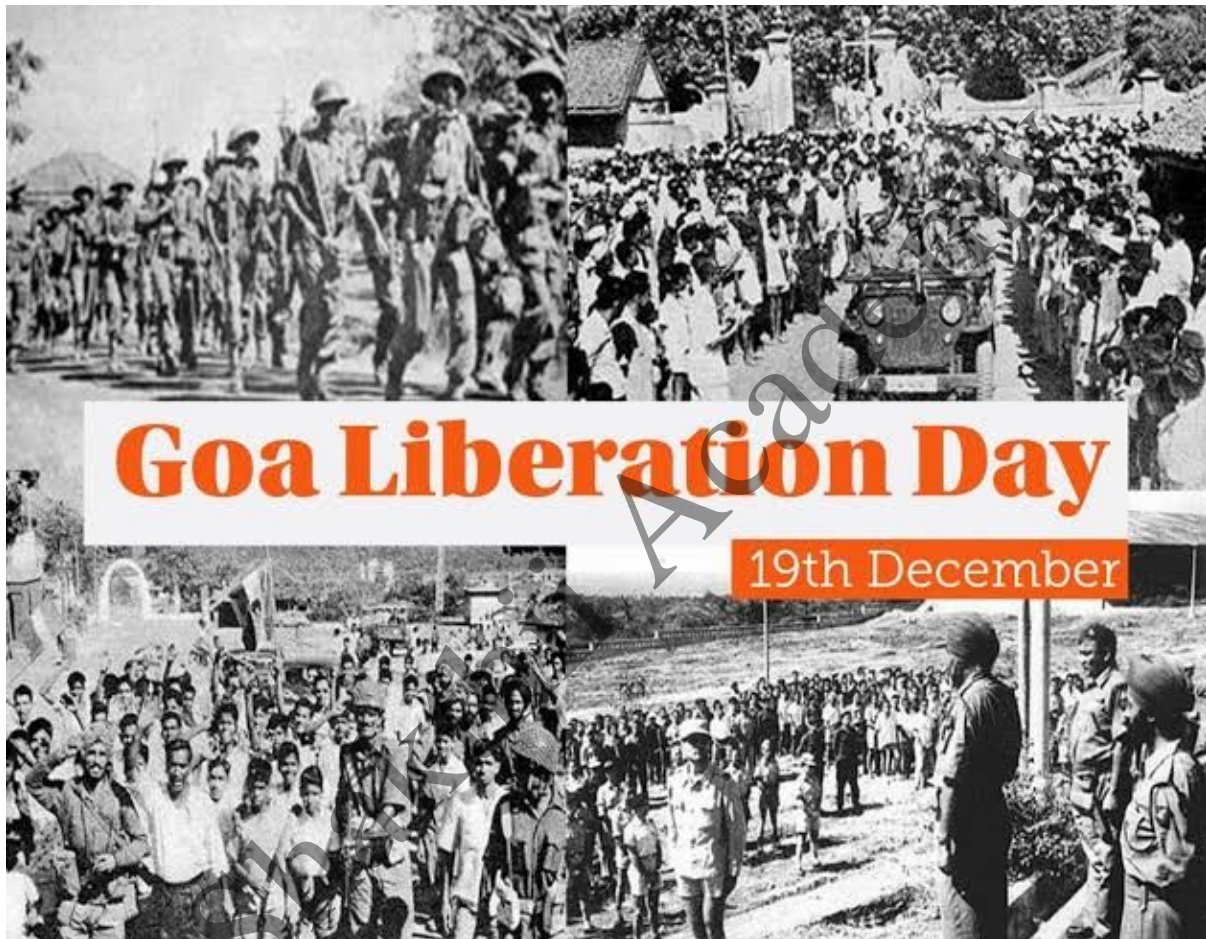
- ➔ Goa Liberation Day 2025 is observed on 19 December across the state of Goa with pride and patriotic fervour. This day commemorates the historic liberation of Goa from over 450 years of Portuguese colonial rule in 1961.
- ➔ It honors the bravery of the Indian armed forces, the sacrifices of freedom fighters, and the long struggle of Goans for self-rule. Though India became independent in 1947 Goa's freedom came later, making this day a crucial chapter in India's post-independence history. Goa Liberation Day holds immense national importance.

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- ➔ It symbolizes the final end of European colonialism in India and reaffirms India's commitment to territorial integrity and sovereignty. The liberation demonstrated India's resolve to protect its people and complete national unification.
- ➔ The day also honors the sacrifices of soldiers and freedom fighters. During Operation Vijay 22 Indian soldiers and around 30 Portuguese soldiers lost their lives. Their sacrifice is remembered as a contribution to India's unity and freedom.



International Human Solidarity Day:

- ➔ International Human Solidarity Day 2025 is observed every year on 20 December. The day reaffirm the importance of global unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility in addressing common challenges faced by humanity.
- ➔ Established by the United Nations this day highlights solidarity as a universal value essential for poverty eradication, better health outcomes, social justice, and inclusive development. In an increasingly interconnected world, the observance reminds nations and individuals that global problems require collective solutions.

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SabhaSaar Initiative:

- ➔ Recently, the Union Minister informed the Rajya Sabha about the progress and impact of the SabhaSaar Initiative, a technology-driven reform aimed at improving governance at the grassroots level. Launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, this initiative uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to simplify and standardize the documentation of Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings across India.
- ➔ The SabhaSaar Initiative is an AI-enabled voice-to-text meeting summarisation tool designed to automatically create structured minutes of meetings. It converts audio and video recordings of Gram Sabha meetings into accurate, readable, and multilingual text summaries. This innovative tool has been made available to all States and Union Territories, and Gram Panchayats are gradually adopting it for routine administrative meetings.

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Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:

- ➔ Jharkhand scripted history by winning their first Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) title in the 2025–26 season. Led by a sensational batting display from Ishan Kishan and Kumar Kushagra, Jharkhand defeated Haryana by 69 runs in the final held at Pune, marking a landmark moment in the state's domestic cricket journey.
- ➔ The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is India's premier domestic T20 tournament, featuring teams from across the country. Over the years, established sides like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Mumbai have dominated the competition. Jharkhand, however, had never lifted the trophy before this season.

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Exercise Desert Cyclone II:

- ➔ India and the United Arab Emirates continue to strengthen their defence partnership with the conduct of Exercise Desert Cyclone II. The second edition of their joint military exercise. The Indian Army contingent has departed for Abu Dhabi, where the exercise will be held from 18 to 30 December 2025.
- ➔ Announced by the Ministry of Defense. This exercise reflects the growing strategic trust, operational synergy, and military diplomacy between the two countries.

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Forest University:

- ➔ India is preparing to set up its first ever Forest University in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. Marking a major step in advancing education and research in forestry, wildlife conservation, and environmental sciences.
- ➔ The project reflects the growing national focus on biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, and sustainable natural resource management.
- ➔ A forest university is a specialized higher education institution dedicated to forest sciences, wildlife studies, ecosystem management, and environmental sustainability. India, despite its vast forest cover and biodiversity, has so far lacked a dedicated forest university, relying mainly on forestry colleges and institutes. The new university aims to bridge this gap.

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Black capped capuchin monkeys:

- ➔ In a significant step towards strengthening conservation-oriented zoo management, the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) near Bengaluru has imported eight black capped capuchin monkeys from South Africa.
- ➔ The import, carried out under a formal animal exchange programme, reflects India's growing emphasis on scientific wildlife management, genetic diversity, and adherence to global conservation standards.

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Michaela Benthaus:

- ➔ German aerospace engineer Michaela Benthaus is set to become the first wheelchair-bound person to travel to space. She will fly aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket on the upcoming NS-37 suborbital mission, marking a major milestone in making human spaceflight more inclusive and accessible.
- ➔ The achievement highlights how space exploration is evolving beyond physical limitations to embrace diversity in all forms.

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Indian Space Research Organization:

- ➔ The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced that its LVM3-M6 mission will be launched on December 24, 2025 in Morning. The launch will take place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota.
- ➔ This mission highlights India's growing strength in both commercial space launches and human spaceflight preparations.
- ➔ The LVM3-M6 mission will use LVM3, India's most powerful launch vehicle. Under a commercial agreement managed by New Space India Limited (NSIL).
- ➔ The rocket will place the BlueBird-6 communication satellite of US-based AST Space Mobile into orbit. This mission marks another important step in ISRO's role as a global launch service provider, deploying international satellites using Indian rockets.

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RESPOND Basket 2025:

- ➔ The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has released the RESPOND Basket 2025, inviting research proposals from universities and academic institutions across India.
- ➔ The initiative is designed to align academic research with ISRO's present and future mission requirements, ensuring that cutting-edge scientific research directly contributes to national space objectives.
- ➔ The RESPOND Basket 2025 is a curated set of mission-oriented research problem statements identified by ISRO and various centres under the Department of Space (DoS). These problem statements are derived directly from ISRO's immediate operational needs and long-term R&D priorities.

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Motihari Police:

- ➔ Bihar, Motihari Police launched the 'Abhaya Brigade' to ensure the safety of women and girl students, with strict action including arrest and jail for miscreants harassing female students around schools, colleges and coaching centres.
- ➔ Special Abhaya Brigade teams have been formed in nearly all 50 police stations of East Champaran, each comprising women officers and constables, and have begun regular patrolling in uniform and plain clothes. Bihar Formation – 22 March 1912.

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Haryana:

- ➔ Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini announced Hansi as the 23rd district of the state, increasing Haryana's total districts from 22 to 23, during a Vikas Rally in Hansi. It was in 2016 that the Haryana government put forward a proposal to carve the new Hansi district out of the Hisar district.
- ➔ The move is expected to improve governance, streamline public services, and accelerate overall development, addressing the demands of residents and local leaders. Since Haryana's formation in 1966 with seven districts, new districts have been added over time; with Hansi's inclusion, the state will now have 23 districts, enhancing administrative reach and focus on local needs.

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Italy:

- ➔ Italy became the first country in the world to have its entire national cuisine recognised by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in December 2025.
- ➔ The recognition highlights Italian cuisine as a living tradition encompassing diverse practices like pasta, cheese, wine, desserts, and regional foods, emphasising community bonding and intergenerational knowledge transfer.
- ➔ While Italy already has 21 elements on UNESCO's intangible heritage list, this is the first time a whole country's cuisine has been recognized, reflecting the importance of food in culture, identity, and social life.

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V.O. Chidambaranar:

- ➔ The V.O. Chidambaranar (VoC) Port in India will launch a Green Hydrogen Pilot Project. The project will set up a bunkering (refuelling) facility for green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ➔ The facility will support ships operating on domestic and international routes. The project aims to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the shipping sector.

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Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas:

- ➔ The Supreme Court (SC) directed the Tamil Nadu government to identify land for Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in every district within six weeks. The court modified an eight-year-old stay on setting up Navodaya schools in the State. The court asked the Central Government and the State Government to hold mutual consultations and submit a report.
- ➔ The court clarified that identifying land does not mean starting construction of the schools. The State was given liberty to raise its grievances with the Centre, including pending education scheme dues.

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Agriculture:

- ➔ Agriculture is the weak spot of Tamil Nadu's economy and has recorded negative growth in the last two years, 2023–24 and 2024–25. This is based on the RBI Handbook of Statistics on Indian States. Despite weak agricultural performance, the State's economy has grown well due to the strong performance of the secondary and tertiary sectors.
- ➔ Total food grain production (rice, pulses, and coarse cereals) ranged between 107 and 120 lakh tonnes. The highest production was 119.98 lakh tonnes in 2021–22, after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lowest was 107 lakh tonnes in 2023–24. Rice is the main food grain in the State, followed by coarse cereals, especially millets, while pulses contribute only a small share.

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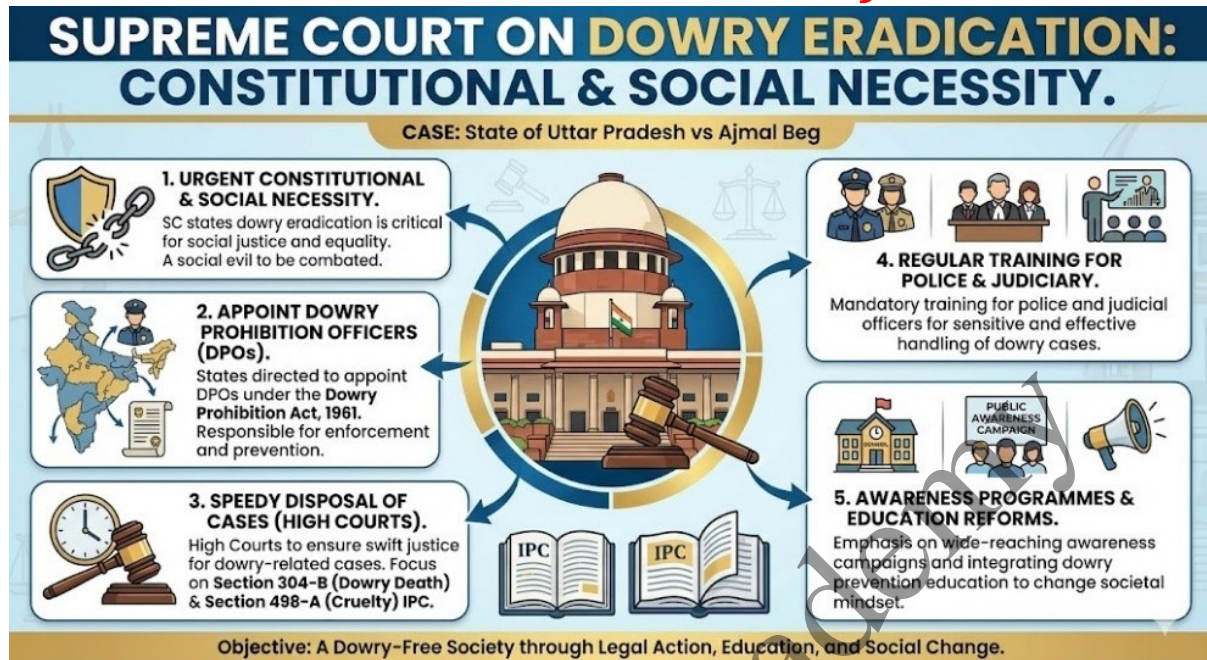
Supreme Court:

- ➔ The Supreme Court said that dowry eradication is an urgent constitutional and social necessity. The directions were issued in the case of State of Uttar Pradesh vs Ajmal Beg. The Court directed States to appoint Dowry Prohibition Officers (DPOs) under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- ➔ High Courts were asked to ensure speedy disposal of cases under Section 304-B(dowry death) and Section 498-A (cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The Court directed regular training of police and judicial officers for proper handling of dowry-related cases.

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Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha:

- ➔ The Lok Sabha passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025. The Bill amends the Insurance Act, 1938, Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. It aims to promote the growth of the insurance sector and improve protection for policyholders.
- ➔ The Bill seeks to improve ease of doing business, transparency, and regulatory oversight in insurance. The government has infused over ₹17,000 crore into public sector insurance companies and increased Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits. The Bill supports wider insurance coverage through schemes like Pradhan Mantri(PM) Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.

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India and Jordan:

- ➔ India and Jordan signed a twinning agreement between UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Petra and Ellora Caves. Ellora Caves are located in the Charanandri Hills of Maharashtra near the Elaganga River. Ellora Caves were carved between 600 and 1000 Common Era (CE) by the Rashtrakuta and Yadava dynasties. It includes Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain monuments with mural paintings.
- ➔ Petra is also called the Rose City because it is carved in pink sandstone cliffs. Petra was the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom from around the 4th century Before Common Era (BCE). Petra is partly built and partly carved into rock and is surrounded by mountains, narrow passages, and gorges.

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