



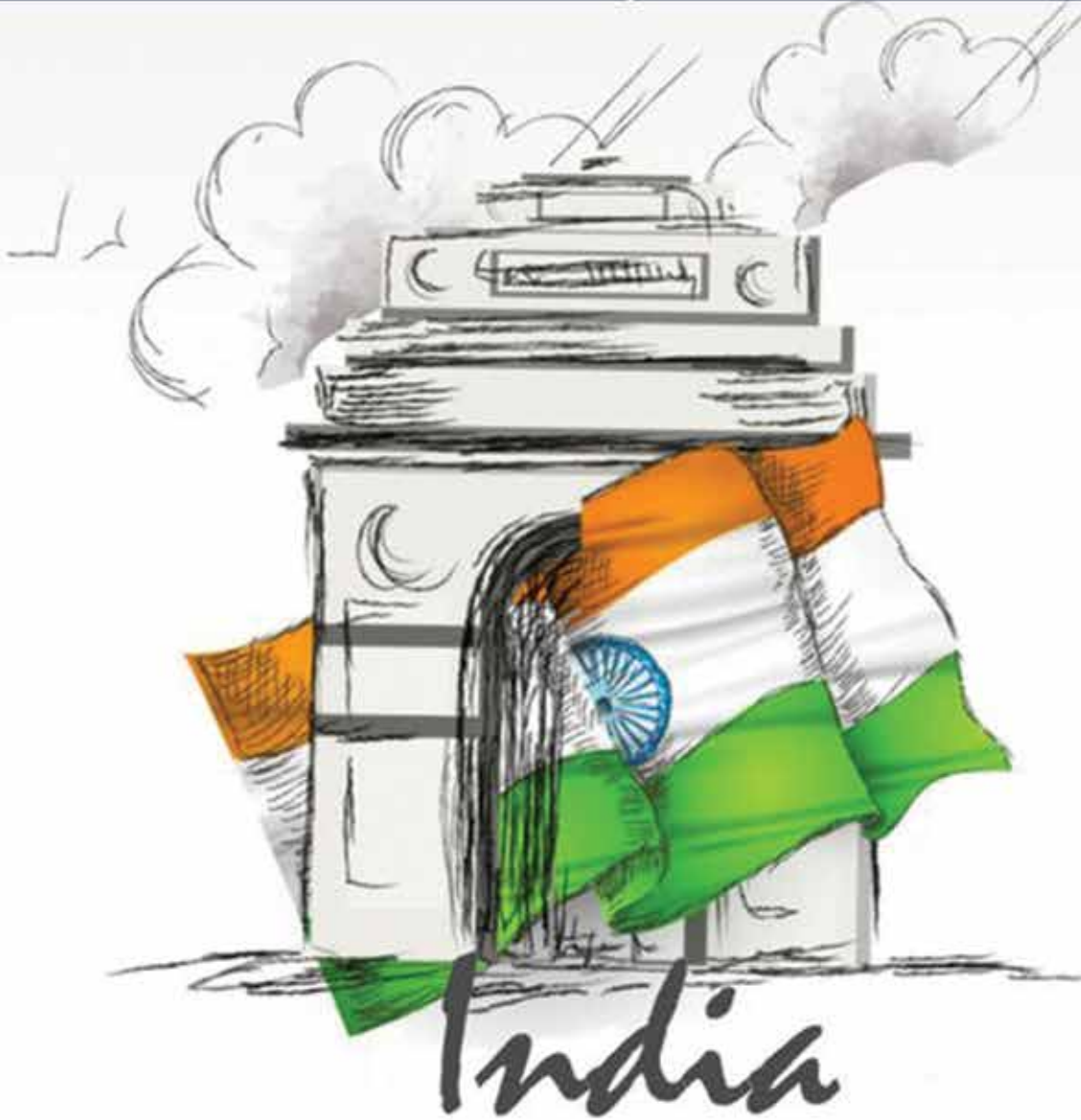
# Smart Leaders IAS

*Smart Way to Succeed*

# SANGAMAM

Monthly Current Affairs for Competitive Exams

JANUARY- 2025 (English / Tamil)



Happy Republic Day

26th January

3 Colors of flag not just to look beautiful,  
3 Colors to give us a message that we should,  
**LOVE EACH OTHER, LIVE IN PEACE & LIVE IN UNITY**



# Smart Leaders IAS

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RANK  
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RANK  
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**NALINI. S**



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India celebrated its 76th Republic Day on January 2025 ,26, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution in 1950. This significant day commemorates India's transition to a sovereign republic, emphasizing its commitment to democracy and the rule of law.

The central celebrations took place at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, where President Smt. Droupadi Murmu presided over the events. The festivities commenced with Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying homage to fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. Following this, the grand parade showcased India's military prowess and cultural diversity. A notable highlight was the participation of a -342member contingent from the Indonesian National Armed Forces, marking the first instance of an ASEAN country's troops joining the parade. This inclusion underscored the deepening ties between India and Indonesia.

The parade featured 31 tableaux under the theme 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' (Golden India: Heritage and Development), representing various states and government departments. For the first time, a tri-services tableau was displayed, symbolizing the integration and jointness among the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Additionally, a cultural performance by 5,000 artists spanned the entire Kartavya Path, celebrating India's rich heritage and unity in diversity.

The choice of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as the Chief Guest highlighted the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, focusing on areas such as defense cooperation, trade, and cultural exchange. This invitation continued India's tradition of honoring its diplomatic relationships during Republic Day celebrations.

In addition to the main event in New Delhi, Republic Day was celebrated across the nation. In Prayagraj, during the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025, special ceremonies were held, including flag hoisting at various Akharas and camps. Senior citizens from different parts of Uttar Pradesh participated, symbolizing inclusivity and respect for all sections of society.

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## TAMILNADU NEWS

### Kamarajar Port Performance

- The Chennai Port Trust and its subsidiary Kamarajar Port Ltd have set a target of crossing 100 million metric tonnes of cargo in the current financial year.
- The Kamarajar Port handled 43.51 million metric tonnes of cargo in 2022-23.
- This is a growth by 12.31 per cent from 38.74 million metric tonnes recorded the previous year.
- Kamarajar Port exported 1,48,307 units in 2022-23 as compared to 1,35,702 in 2021-22.
- The financial performance of this port surpassed ₹1,000 crore mark as income to reach ₹1,002.45 crore.
- This is an increase of 17.82 per cent from ₹850.84 crore registered in 2021-22.

### Tamil Nadu Tops Gold Ownership

- A recent report by the World Gold Council has revealed data about Tamil Nadu's gold ownership.
- The state owns the largest amount of gold in the world, with 6,720 tons.
- This accounts for 28% of India's total gold reserves.
- Tamil Nadu surpasses the gold reserves of countries like USA, Germany, Italy, France, and Russia.
- Indian women own 24,000 tons of gold, with 40% held by women in South India.
- According to Indian income tax laws, married women can hold up to 500g, unmarried women 250g, and men 100g of gold.

### Draft Employment Policy on Young Adults

- The draft Tamil Nadu Employment Policy was formulated by the State Planning Commission (SPC).

- It highlights high unemployment rates among educated youth and mismatches between skills and jobs.
- Tamil Nadu's total labour requirement in 2031-32 is estimated to be 36.5 million, compared to 34.11 million in 2021-22.
- In the previous ten years (2011-12 to 2021-22), the net increase in employment was 2.12 million.
- The proportion of employed young adults (aged 20-29) dropped below 50% in 2021-22, down by 15% since 2004-05.
- The decline is due to fewer young adults working in agriculture, now at only 5.9%.

### Creation of 13 Municipalities

- The Tamil Nadu government announced reorganisation of local bodies.
- It includes merging many village panchayats with urban local bodies.
- 13 new municipalities will be created, including Kanniyakumari, Harur, and Perundurai.
- The government has also proposed establishing 25 town panchayats, including Yercaud, Kalayarkoil, and Thirumayam.
- 29 village panchayats are likely to be merged with 25 town panchayats.
- This move aims to improve urban governance and infrastructure.

### Tamil Nadu Borrowings in Q4 2024-25

- Tamil Nadu government plans to borrow ₹45,000 crore in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2024-2025.
- Till the first half of 2024-2025, Tamil Nadu raised ₹50,000 crore through State Development Loans (SDLs).
- The borrowing ceiling is 3% of the projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

- Additional borrowing of 0.5% of GSDP is allowed for Power Sector Reforms.
- Tamil Nadu's outstanding SDL liability was ₹5,96,619.2 crore as of March 31, 2024.
- This is estimated to increase to ₹6,87,034.3 crore by March 31, 2025.

### **Guidelines for Prevention of Scrub Typhus**

- The Directorate of Public Health in Tamil Nadu has released guidelines for controlling and preventing scrub typhus.
- Scrub typhus is a mite-borne zoonotic disease, where humans are accidental hosts.
- The incubation period for this disease is one to two weeks.
- High-risk groups include agricultural workers, outdoor enthusiasts, and those living near shrubs.
- Prevention measures include cold fogging, clearing bushes, and rodent population control.
- The disease has been reported in multiple districts of Tamil Nadu.

### **100% Transition Rate in School Education**

- Tamil Nadu's school education system has achieved a 100% transition rate from primary to upper primary.
- This means that all students who join Class I are completing up to Class VIII.
- The transition rate increased from 99% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.
- Among girls, the transition rate rose from 97.5% in 2019 to 100% in 2024.
- Tamil Nadu outperformed the national average in education transition rates.
- The government continues to invest in school infrastructure and teacher training.

### **Tamil Nadu Government Awards 2025**

- Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award – M. Padikkaramu
- Anna Award – DMK leader L. Ganesan
- Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award – Poet Kabilan

- Bharathidasan Award – Pon. Selvaganapathy
- Thanthai Periyar Award – Journalist Viduthalai Rajendran
- Kalaignar Award – Muthu Vavasi

### **Deciphering Indus Valley Script**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced a ₹1 million prize for deciphering Indus Valley scripts.
- A ₹2 crore grant will be given to set up a research chair in Iravatham Mahadevan's name.
- The government will institute two awards for numismatists and epigraphists.
- 60% of Tamil Nadu's graffiti marks resemble Indus seals.
- 90% of South Indian graffiti marks match Indus Valley symbols.
- This initiative aims to promote research on Tamil's ancient linguistic heritage.

### **Tamil Nadu's First Floating Restaurant**

- Tamil Nadu's first floating restaurant was opened in Muttukadu near Chennai.
- It is located on the backwaters and offers a unique dining experience.
- The restaurant features local Tamil cuisine and seafood.
- It aims to boost tourism along the East Coast Road (ECR).
- Operated under Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC).
- Expected to attract both domestic and international tourists.

### **Public EV Charging Stations in Tamil Nadu (2024)**

- Tamil Nadu's public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations consumed 8.77 million units of electricity from April to October 2024.
- This consumption is relatively low compared to states like Delhi (206.23 MU), Maharashtra (108.13 MU), and Gujarat (36.34 MU).

- Tamil Nadu is an EV manufacturing hub, with 40% of India's EV four-wheelers and 70% of EV two-wheelers produced in the state.
- Tamil Nadu's EV sales stood at 92,978 units in 2024, with a penetration rate of 5.05%.
- Electric two-wheelers were the highest-selling segment, with 79,849 units sold and a 5.58% penetration rate.
- The government aims to increase EV infrastructure to boost adoption.

### Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls 2025 - Tamil Nadu

- The integrated final version of the Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls, 2025 was released.
- It was published by the Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik.
- 9 lakh additional voters have been added to the electoral rolls since October 2024.
- As of January 5, Tamil Nadu's total electorate stood at 6.36 crore.
- Of the 6.36 crore voters, 3.24 crore are women, 3.11 crore are men, and 9,120 belong to the third gender.
- Sholinganallur remains the Assembly constituency with the highest number of voters.

### Tamil Nadu Governor Speech Controversy (2025)

- Tamil Nadu Governor skipped the customary address in the Legislative Assembly for the first session of 2025.
- The Governor left the Assembly without reading the prepared speech.
- Since July 1991, the convention in the Tamil Nadu Assembly includes playing the State song before and the national anthem after the speech.
- Speaker M. Appavu read out the Tamil version of the Governor's speech prepared by the state government.
- The Assembly passed a resolution to record only the government-approved speech.
- This move reflects the ongoing tensions between the state government and the Governor.

### Special Officers Appointed for Village Panchayats (2025)

- The Tamil Nadu government appointed special officers (SO) for 9,624 village panchayats, 314 panchayat unions, and 28 district panchayats.
- This follows the expiry of the term of elected representatives of rural local bodies (RLBs) on January 5, 2025.
- Block Development Officers (BDO - village panchayats) were made SOs for all village panchayats.
- Assistant Directors (Panchayats) and (Audit) in the RD&PR department were appointed SOs for panchayat unions.
- Additional Collectors or Joint Directors will oversee district panchayats.
- The move ensures smooth governance in local bodies until elections are held.

### Sangam Period Habitation Discovered Near Villupuram

- Researchers uncovered archaeological evidence of Sangam-era habitation near Villupuram.
- The discoveries were found on the banks of the Pambai river at Ayyankoyilpattu and Thennamadevi-Anaimedu.
- The cultural mound at Thennamadevi-Anaimedu spans 10 acres.
- The mound at Ayyankoyilpattu covers more than 15 acres.
- Artefacts found suggest a rich trade and settlement history from the Sangam period.
- The findings will undergo further excavation and analysis by archaeologists.

### Tamil Nadu Government Announces ₹10 Crore Tamil Learning Scheme for Diaspora

- The Tamil Nadu government launched a ₹10 crore scheme to teach Tamil and folk arts to Tamil diaspora children.
- 100 Tamil teachers and artists will be sent to various countries to work with Tamil Sangams (associations).
- The initiative aims to preserve and promote Tamil language and culture among the younger generation abroad.

- The government has identified key Tamil diaspora regions for program implementation.
- The scheme will include traditional art forms, literature, and Tamil history in the curriculum.
- This is part of Tamil Nadu's World Tamil Diaspora Day 2025 initiatives.
- It is operated by Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC).
- The restaurant offers local seafood and Tamil delicacies.
- It is expected to boost tourism along the East Coast Road (ECR).

### **Tamil Nadu's First AI Hub in Coimbatore**

- Tamil Nadu government will set up a 2 million sq. ft. facility for artificial intelligence (AI) research in Coimbatore.
- The AI facility will be built under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The initiative aims to position Tamil Nadu as a leader in AI innovation.
- The AI hub will focus on AI-based healthcare, education, and agriculture solutions.
- Startups and global tech firms will be encouraged to collaborate with the AI facility.
- This is part of Tamil Nadu's digital transformation and tech-based job creation plan.

### **Tamil Nadu's 2025 Jallikattu Season Begins in Pudukkottai**

- The first Jallikattu event of 2025 was held at Thatchankurichi village, Pudukkottai district.
- Hundreds of bulls and tamers participated in the event.
- Jallikattu is a traditional bull-taming sport celebrated during Pongal.
- The event was conducted under strict safety regulations.
- The Tamil Nadu government deployed medical teams and veterinary experts at the venue.
- The sport continues to face opposition from animal welfare groups, but remains a cultural tradition.

### **Tamil Nadu's Floating Restaurant in Muttukadu**

- Tamil Nadu's first floating restaurant opened in Muttukadu backwaters near Chennai.

- The floating restaurant provides a unique waterfront dining experience.
- It aims to attract both domestic and international tourists.

### **Tamil Nadu's Climate Action: Monitoring Pollution in Adyar River**

- High levels of faecal coliform bacteria were found in Adyar River.
- The pollution is due to untreated sewage and industrial waste.
- The Tamil Nadu government has initiated a clean-up and water treatment plan.
- New wastewater treatment plants will be installed along the river.
- The Adyar River restoration project will focus on reducing pollution and improving biodiversity.
- The government plans to make Adyar River pollution-free by 2030.

### **Tamil Nadu Government Introduces New Sexual Harassment Bill (2025)**

- Tamil Nadu has introduced the Tamil Nadu Sexual Harassment Bill 2025 to strengthen workplace safety.
- The bill focuses on preventing sexual crimes in workplaces, educational institutions, and public spaces.
- It mandates strict penalties for offenders and stronger enforcement of workplace safety rules.
- The bill includes provisions for fast-track courts for sexual harassment cases.
- Companies and institutions must implement mandatory training programs for employees.
- The bill is seen as one of the most progressive measures to protect women and workers.



## **TN Government Allocates Surplus Temple Funds for Public Welfare**

- Tamil Nadu government has decided to use surplus funds from temples for social causes.
- The funds will be used for education, healthcare, and infrastructure development.
- Over ₹10,000 crore is estimated to be available in temple funds.
- The decision is being opposed by some Hindu religious groups.
- The government clarified that only excess funds will be used while maintaining religious activities.
- This move is expected to help fund various state welfare schemes.

## **Tamil Nadu's First AI-Based Traffic Management System in Chennai**

- Chennai will implement an AI-based traffic control system to manage congestion.
- The system will use real-time data and AI-powered signals.
- The initiative is part of the Smart City Mission.
- AI-driven adaptive traffic lights will reduce waiting times at intersections.
- The project is being tested in Adyar and Anna Salai.
- If successful, it will be expanded to other Tamil Nadu cities.

## **New Excavation in Kodumbalur to Uncover Ancient Tamil Civilization**

- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has begun excavations in Kodumbalur, Pudukkottai district.
- Kodumbalur is historically linked to Sangam-era Tamil civilization.
- The site features remains of ancient temples and settlements.
- It was an important trade and cultural center during the Chola period.

- Archaeologists hope to discover inscriptions and pottery from early Tamil culture.
- The government plans to develop the site into a tourist attraction.

## **TN Farmers Protest Over Wild Boar Attacks**

- Tamil Nadu farmers have raised concerns over increasing wild boar attacks on farmlands.
- Farmers demand immediate culling to prevent crop destruction.
- The government has permitted selective culling in specific districts.
- Environmentalists warn against widespread hunting due to ecological balance concerns.
- The Forest Department is exploring alternative solutions, like fencing and repellents.
- Farmers in Coimbatore, Salem, and Erode are the most affected.

## **Tamil Nadu to Set Up Largest Solar Power Plant in India**

- Tamil Nadu plans to build India's largest solar power plant.
- The project will be located in Virudhunagar district.
- It will have a capacity of 5,000 MW.
- The plant will help Tamil Nadu achieve renewable energy targets.
- The government will invest ₹10,000 crore in the project.
- It will be developed in collaboration with private firms.

## **TN Government Expands Rural Internet Connectivity Under BharatNet**

- Tamil Nadu is expanding high-speed internet to rural areas under BharatNet.
- 5,000 village panchayats will get fiber-optic broadband by mid-2025.
- The government is investing ₹1,200 crore in the project.

- The initiative will improve digital literacy and e-governance services.
- Rural schools and healthcare centers will get free high-speed internet.
- BharatNet will help Tamil Nadu become a leader in digital inclusion.

### **Tamil Nadu Launches "Pongal Bird Count 2025" to Monitor Wildlife**

- The Pongal Bird Count 2025 is a citizen science initiative to track birds in Tamil Nadu.
- The event will run from January 13 to January 16.
- Volunteers, birdwatchers, and students will record bird species across the state.
- It will help scientists monitor migratory bird patterns.
- Data collected will be used to improve conservation efforts.
- The survey will cover wetlands, forests, and urban areas.

### **Tamil Nadu to Introduce Kalaignar Porkizhi Award 2025**

- Tamil Nadu announced a new award in memory of former CM M. Karunanidhi.
- The Kalaignar Porkizhi Award 2025 will recognize contributions to Tamil literature, cinema, and politics.
- The award carries ₹10 lakh cash prize and a gold medal.
- It will be given annually on Karunanidhi's birth anniversary.
- The first recipient will be announced in June 2025.
- The award aims to honor Tamil cultural icons.

### **TN Launches "Namma School, Namma Ooru Palli" Initiative**

- The government launched the "Namma School, Namma Ooru Palli" (NSNOP) initiative.
- It aims to improve infrastructure in government schools.
- The project will involve alumni and NGOs in school development.
- Schools will receive smart classrooms, better sanitation, and library upgrades.
- The government will provide matching grants for donations received.
- The initiative hopes to reduce dropout rates and improve learning outcomes.

### **TN Government Allocates ₹500 Crore for Fishermen Welfare**

- The Tamil Nadu government has set aside ₹500 crore for fishermen's welfare.
- The funds will be used for subsidized diesel, insurance, and new fishing harbors.
- A marine training institute will be set up for skill development.
- Fishermen affected by cyclones and natural disasters will receive direct aid.
- The plan includes coastal security upgrades to protect fishermen from threats.
- Tamil Nadu has one of India's largest fishing communities.

### **TN Approves ₹200 Crore for Traditional Arts & Folk Performers**

- The Tamil Nadu government announced ₹200 crore to support traditional arts.
- The funds will benefit folk performers, temple artists, and street musicians.

- It aims to preserve endangered Tamil folk arts.
- Monthly financial aid will be given to aged and retired artists.
- The state will host cultural festivals to showcase Tamil heritage.
- A digital archive will be created for recording Tamil folk traditions.



### **TN Launches First "Battery Energy Storage System"**

- The system is set up in Tirunelveli.
- It will store renewable energy from solar and wind power plants.
- The project aims to ensure uninterrupted power supply.
- Tamil Nadu is a leader in renewable energy adoption.
- More BESS projects will be developed across the state.

Institute For Administrative Studies



### **Supreme Court on Coconut Oil**

- The Supreme Court ruled that coconut oil sold in small packets cannot be classified as edible oil.
- The decision affects multiple FMCG companies selling coconut oil in sachets.
- The court stated that product labeling must clearly define usage to avoid consumer confusion.
- The ruling impacts taxation and regulatory classifications under the Food Safety and Standards Act.
- Manufacturers must now change packaging and marketing strategies.
- The decision may result in increased pricing for small sachets of coconut oil.

### **Good Governance Index 2023**

- The Good Governance Index (GGI) 2023 was released by the Indian government.
- Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra topped the rankings for best governance practices.
- The ranking evaluates 10 sectors, including infrastructure, public service delivery, and law & order.
- Bihar, Jharkhand, and Nagaland were ranked at the bottom.
- The index aims to improve transparency and administrative efficiency.
- The government will use the findings to reform governance models at the state level.

### **Exchange List of Nuclear Installations (2025)**

- India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations under a bilateral agreement.
- The exchange occurs annually on January 1 as part of a treaty signed in 1988.
- The agreement prohibits attacks on nuclear facilities in both countries.
- Both nations also exchanged lists of prisoners and fishermen held in custody.
- The diplomatic exchange is seen as a trust-building measure between the two nations.
- Experts call for more cooperation on nuclear safety and risk reduction.

### **PM CARES Fund (2022-23 Report)**

- The government released the financial report of PM CARES Fund for the year 2022-23.
- The fund collected ₹12,700 crore in donations, mainly for pandemic relief and disaster aid.
- ₹5,000 crore was allocated for healthcare infrastructure improvements.
- The report showed ₹3,200 crore was used for vaccine procurement and hospital support.
- Opposition parties demanded greater transparency in fund allocation.
- The Supreme Court is set to review a PIL demanding more public scrutiny of the fund.

## **Amendments to Prison Manual Rules (2025)**

- The Union government introduced major amendments to the Prison Manual Rules.
- The new rules allow video calls between inmates and family members.
- Prisons must now provide skill development programs for inmates.
- Special provisions were made for elderly and female prisoners.
- The manual includes measures for rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
- State governments have six months to implement the revised manual.

## **Extension of Agricultural Schemes**

- The Centre extended key agricultural schemes, including PM-KISAN and PM Fasal Bima Yojana.
- PM-KISAN will continue providing ₹6,000 annually to farmers in three installments.
- The PM Fasal Bima Yojana saw a 15% rise in enrollments in 2024.
- Government aims to enhance insurance coverage for small and marginal farmers.
- The scheme has been criticized for delays in compensation disbursement.
- New technology-based monitoring will be introduced for better claim settlements.

## **Supreme Court on CBI's State Consent**

- The Supreme Court ruled that CBI cannot investigate cases in a state without prior consent.
- The ruling was in response to West Bengal and Maharashtra withdrawing CBI's general consent.
- States now have greater control over investigations within their jurisdiction.
- This ruling may affect ongoing high-profile corruption cases.

- The Centre argued that this could weaken anti-corruption efforts.
- Experts believe this ruling could impact federal agency powers in the long term.

## **UDISE+ 2023-24 Report on School Education**

- The Ministry of Education released the UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education) 2023-24 report.
- The report shows a 2% increase in gross enrollment ratio (GER) for primary education.
- Girls' enrollment in higher education increased significantly compared to previous years.
- Over 95% of schools now have basic infrastructure like drinking water and toilets.
- The dropout rate remains high in tribal and rural areas.
- The government plans to introduce AI-based monitoring for attendance and academic performance.

## **India's Digital Infrastructure in Schools (2025 Update)**

- The Centre launched an initiative to improve digital access in government schools.
- The plan includes providing 10 lakh tablets and smart classrooms nationwide.
- Over ₹8,500 crore allocated to upgrade digital learning tools.
- Special focus on rural and economically backward districts.
- Private partnerships encouraged to expand the initiative.
- Expected to benefit over 5 crore students by 2026.

## **Regional Conference on Drug Trafficking & National Security**

- A high-level regional conference on drug trafficking was held in New Delhi.

- The conference focused on cross-border smuggling networks and international drug cartels.
- Over 15 state governments and central agencies participated.
- A National Drug Monitoring System was proposed for real-time tracking of narcotics.
- The Centre emphasized greater cooperation with neighboring countries.
- Special fast-track courts to handle drug-related cases will be set up.

### India's Gaganyaan Mission Update

- ISRO announced that Gaganyaan, India's first human spaceflight mission, is on track for a 2025 launch.
- The final unmanned test flight will be conducted in mid-2025.
- The mission will carry three Indian astronauts (Gaganauts) into space.
- The astronauts are undergoing rigorous training in Bengaluru and Russia.
- The mission aims to demonstrate India's capability for human space exploration.
- ISRO is also working on developing indigenous space suits and emergency escape systems.

### India's GDP Growth Rate for 2024-25

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projected India's GDP growth at 6.8% for 2024-25.
- The manufacturing and services sectors have shown strong recovery.
- Inflation remains a concern, especially in food and fuel prices.
- The government plans to increase capital expenditure in infrastructure to sustain growth.
- Private consumption is expected to rise, boosting the economy.
- India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world.

### India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue 2025

- India and the US held the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in Washington, D.C.
- Defense and foreign ministers discussed regional security and defense cooperation.
- The two nations signed agreements on artificial intelligence and cyber security.
- India sought greater US investment in its defense sector.
- The US reaffirmed support for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council.
- Both nations agreed to enhance maritime security in the Indo-Pacific.

### National Green Hydrogen Mission

- The Centre launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an investment of ₹19,744 crore.
- The goal is to make India a global leader in hydrogen energy.
- Hydrogen fuel will be used in transportation, industry, and power generation.
- India aims to produce 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen annually by 2030.
- The government is offering subsidies and tax incentives to industries adopting hydrogen fuel.
- This initiative is part of India's net-zero emissions target by 2070.

### Parliament Passes Data Protection Bill 2025

- The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2025 was passed in Parliament.
- The law aims to protect citizens' personal data from misuse.
- It mandates companies to store critical data within India.
- Strict penalties of up to ₹250 crore for data breaches are introduced.

- Citizens can request deletion of their data from online platforms.
- Critics argue that government agencies are exempt from many provisions, raising privacy concerns.

### **Indian Railways Introduces Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains**

- Indian Railways unveiled the first Vande Bharat Sleeper train for long-distance travel.
- The train will operate on Mumbai-Delhi and Bengaluru-Kolkata routes initially.
- It features modern sleeper compartments, automatic doors, and WiFi connectivity.
- The trains will run at a speed of 160 km/h.
- This is part of the government's plan to modernize the rail network.
- More routes will be added in the coming years to replace old express trains.

### **India Becomes 2nd Largest Smartphone Market**

- India surpassed the US to become the world's second-largest smartphone market after China.
- Over 200 million smartphones were sold in India in 2024.
- Brands like Samsung, Apple, and Xiaomi dominate the market.
- India's 5G adoption increased by 60% in 2024.
- The Make in India initiative has boosted local smartphone production.
- Experts predict India will soon become the largest smartphone manufacturing hub.

### **Indian Navy Inducts INS Vishakhapatnam-Class Destroyer**

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Imphal, the third Vishakhapatnam-class stealth destroyer.
- The warship is indigenously built under Project 15B.

- It features BrahMos missiles, advanced radar, and electronic warfare systems.
- INS Imphal strengthens India's maritime defense in the Indo-Pacific.
- The Navy aims to add two more stealth destroyers by 2026.
- The ship is part of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) initiative.

### **Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission Expands**

- The government expanded the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (AB-HIM).
- ₹64,000 crore was allocated to upgrade healthcare facilities across India.
- The plan includes setting up 1,500 new rural health and wellness centers.
- AI-based predictive health analytics will be introduced.
- Medical colleges will be set up in 10 more states under the scheme.
- The mission aims to ensure universal health coverage by 2030.

### **India's First Semiconductor Plant Breaks Ground in Gujarat**

- India began construction of its first semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat.
- The plant is a joint venture between Tata Electronics and Taiwan's TSMC.
- The project is worth ₹75,000 crore and will reduce India's dependence on China.
- It will focus on manufacturing high-end chips for electronics and automotive industries.
- The plant is expected to begin production by 2027.
- The semiconductor industry is key to India's future in AI, 5G, and digital technologies.

## **New Foreign Trade Policy (2025-30)**

- The Centre introduced India's new Foreign Trade Policy (2025-30).
- The policy aims to boost exports to \$1 trillion by 2030.
- Special incentives were announced for textiles, pharma, and automobile sectors.
- India is focusing on expanding trade with African and Latin American markets.
- The government will set up export credit schemes to support MSMEs.
- The policy also includes E-commerce export reforms to help startups.

## **Supreme Court Rules Against Electoral Bonds**

- The Supreme Court ruled that electoral bonds violate transparency in political funding.
- The verdict was passed following multiple PILs challenging the scheme.
- The Court directed the Election Commission to disclose all past donors.
- Critics argued that anonymous political donations encourage corruption.
- The government defended the scheme as a measure to curb black money in elections.
- The ruling will change how political parties receive funding in India.

## **India's First Hyperloop Test Track Approved**

- The Indian government has approved the country's first Hyperloop test track in Maharashtra.
- The project will be developed between Mumbai and Pune.
- The Hyperloop aims to reduce travel time to just 25 minutes.
- The test track will be 10 km long and used for research and development.
- If successful, India could become the first country to commercialize Hyperloop technology.

- The project is a collaboration between Virgin Hyperloop and Indian Railways.

## **India's EV Sales Cross 1.5 Million Units in 2024**

- India's electric vehicle (EV) market recorded sales of over 1.5 million units in 2024.
- Two-wheelers dominated the segment, accounting for 70% of total sales.
- Tata, Ola Electric, and Mahindra are the leading players in the EV market.
- The government extended FAME-II subsidies for EV buyers until 2027.
- Over 5,000 new public charging stations were installed across major cities.
- EV sales are expected to double by 2027, with India becoming a global EV hub.

## **India to Host G20 Digital Economy Summit in 2025**

- India has been selected to host the G20 Digital Economy Summit in Bengaluru.
- The summit will focus on AI, blockchain, and cybersecurity.
- Over 50 global tech leaders and policymakers will attend the event.
- The summit will discuss regulating Big Tech companies and data privacy laws.
- India will showcase its Digital India initiatives as a model for other countries.
- The event is expected to boost India's global leadership in digital governance.

## **Government Extends Ujjwala Yojana LPG Subsidy**

- The Centre extended the Ujjwala Yojana LPG subsidy of ₹300 per cylinder.
- The move aims to support low-income families amid rising fuel prices.
- Over 9 crore women beneficiaries will receive subsidies directly in their bank accounts.



- The government also launched a new scheme for free LPG connections in rural areas.
- LPG penetration in India has now reached over 98% of households.
- Critics argue that frequent price hikes have reduced the subsidy's benefits.

### **India's First Artificial Intelligence Law Passed**

- India has passed the AI Regulation and Ethics Act 2025.
- The law establishes a national framework for responsible AI development.
- AI-generated deepfakes and misinformation will face heavy penalties.
- Companies developing AI tools must ensure ethical AI usage.
- A new AI Ethics Committee will monitor AI's impact on jobs and privacy.
- India aims to become a global leader in AI governance with this law.

### **India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train Flagged Off**

- Indian Railways launched India's first hydrogen-powered train.
- The train operates on the Jind-Sonipat route in Haryana.
- Hydrogen fuel cells produce zero carbon emissions.
- The project is part of India's net-zero carbon goal by 2070.
- If successful, hydrogen trains will replace diesel locomotives.
- The Railways aims to introduce 50 hydrogen-powered trains by 2030.

### **Supreme Court Strikes Down Section 124A (Sedition Law)**

- The Supreme Court of India struck down Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

- The court ruled that the sedition law is unconstitutional and outdated.
- Section 124A was widely criticized for being used to suppress dissent.
- The government will introduce a new law balancing free speech and national security.
- Human rights groups welcomed the verdict, calling it a win for democracy.
- Opposition parties hailed the decision as a landmark ruling for civil liberties.

### **India Achieves Record FDI Inflows of \$90 Billion in 2024**

- India received a record \$90 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2024.
- The IT, manufacturing, and renewable energy sectors saw the highest investments.
- The top investors were the US, UAE, Japan, and Singapore.
- The government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme attracted global firms.
- India is now the third-largest recipient of FDI globally.
- Experts predict FDI inflows will cross \$100 billion by 2026.

### **India Joins Artemis Accords for Space Exploration**

- India officially joined NASA's Artemis Accords for moon exploration.
- The agreement promotes collaborative space research and resource sharing.
- ISRO will work with NASA on building a lunar habitat.
- India plans to send a crewed mission to the Moon by 2035.
- India's space sector will benefit from US technology and funding.
- Scientists call this a historic moment for India's space ambitions.

## RBI Launches Digital Rupee for Retail Transactions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expanded the digital rupee (CBDC) for retail transactions.
- Citizens can now use digital rupee wallets for daily payments.
- Digital rupee transactions are faster and more secure than UPI.
- The initiative aims to reduce cash dependency in India.
- The government is offering incentives for businesses accepting digital rupees.
- India joins China, the US, and the EU in launching digital currencies.

## PM Modi Inaugurates India's Longest Expressway

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Delhi-Katra Expressway.
- The 650 km expressway reduces travel time between Delhi and Vaishno Devi to 6 hours.
- Built under Bharatmala Project, it features 8 lanes and smart traffic monitoring.
- It is India's first expressway with solar-powered charging stations.
- The project cost ₹45,000 crore and was completed ahead of schedule.
- The expressway will boost tourism and trade in North India.

## India's First Drone Air Taxi Service Launched



- India launched its first drone air taxi service in Gurugram.
- The taxis can carry two passengers and fly at 150 km/h.
- The service is being tested for urban transport and medical emergencies.
- Powered by electric batteries, the taxis have zero carbon emissions.
- If successful, the government plans to expand to Mumbai and Bengaluru.
- India aims to become a global leader in drone technology by 2030.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### World Economic Forum 2025 Annual Meeting in Davos

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) held its Annual Meeting from January 20 to 24, 2025, in Davos, Switzerland, under the theme “Collaboration for the Intelligent Age.” Established in 1971 by Klaus Schwab, the WEF fosters dialogue among global leaders to build resilient and sustainable economies. The 2025 meeting focused on leveraging technology and fostering international cooperation to address global challenges.

### Justin Trudeau Resigns as Prime Minister of Canada

- On January 7, 2025, Justin Trudeau announced his resignation as Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the Liberal Party. His departure marked the end of a significant political era in Canada, leading to discussions about the future leadership of the country and the Liberal Party’s direction.

### Series of Earthquakes Strike Tibet

- On January 7, 2025, Tibet experienced six earthquakes, including a powerful one measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale. These seismic events resulted in over 53 fatalities and significant structural damage, prompting international offers of aid and raising concerns about earthquake preparedness in the region.

### Wildfires Devastate Los Angeles

- In early January 2025, ferocious wildfires swept through Los Angeles, resulting in at least 10 fatalities and the destruction of thousands of structures. The fires highlighted the ongoing challenges of climate change and urban planning in wildfire-prone areas, leading to discussions

on improving disaster response and mitigation strategies.

### Pangsau Pass International Festival 2025 in Arunachal Pradesh

- The Pangsau Pass International Festival (PIF) 2025 was held in Arunachal Pradesh, India, celebrating the region’s cultural heritage and its historical significance during World War II. Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced plans to enhance tourism by restoring World War II remnants in the area, aiming to boost local economies and preserve history.

### Switzerland Enforces Facial Covering Ban, Raises Pensions

- Starting January 2025, Switzerland enforced a nationwide ban on facial coverings in public spaces following a referendum supporting the move. The policy aims to strengthen public safety and integration while upholding Swiss cultural values. Alongside this, pensions for retirees have been increased, reflecting the government’s commitment to improving social welfare.

### Russia Implements Nationwide Tourist Tax

- Effective January 1, 2025, Russia implemented a tourist tax nationwide, aiming to generate additional revenue for local infrastructure and tourism development. Visitors are required to pay a nominal fee, varying by region, which will directly fund improvements in amenities and cultural heritage sites.

### **India Achieves 36% Reduction in GDP Emission Intensity**

- India achieved a significant milestone in climate action by reducing GDP emission intensity by 36% from 2005 levels, exceeding its Paris Agreement targets. This achievement reflects the nation's commitment to sustainable development through renewable energy expansion, afforestation, and energy efficiency programs.

### **Bangladesh Batsman Tamim Iqbal Khan Retires from International Cricket**

- On January 10, 2025, 35-year-old Bangladeshi left-handed batsman Tamim Iqbal Khan announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket. He became the first Bangladeshi player to reach 50 half-centuries in ODIs and is the only Bangladeshi cricketer to score centuries in all three formats of the game.



### **Indian Navy to Commission Three Indigenously Built Warships**

- The Indian Navy is set to commission three indigenously built warships at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, showcasing advancements in domestic shipbuilding capabilities. Designed to meet modern naval warfare needs, these warships feature advanced weaponry, stealth technology, and improved operational efficiency.

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### **Pallas's Cat Spotted in Himachal Pradesh**

- In a remarkable discovery, the elusive Pallas's cat was photographed for the first time in Himachal Pradesh during a snow leopard survey. This finding underscores the rich biodiversity of the Indian Himalayas and highlights the need for focused conservation efforts for lesser-known species in the region. Pallas's cats are small, long-haired felines native to Central Asia, known for their distinctive appearance and elusive nature.

### **India's Emissions Inventory Released**

- On January 6, 2025, India published its latest emissions inventory, detailing the country's greenhouse gas emissions across various sectors. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of emissions from industries, transportation, agriculture, and other sources, serving as a crucial tool for policymakers to design effective strategies to mitigate climate change and meet international commitments.

### **New Ant Species Discovered in Western Ghats**

- Researchers have identified a new ant species in the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot in India. This discovery adds to the rich entomological diversity of the region and emphasizes the importance of continued exploration and conservation efforts in these ecologically sensitive areas. The Western Ghats are renowned for their unique flora and fauna, many of which are endemic to the region.

### **India's Emission Reduction Since 2005**

- A recent report highlights that India has achieved a significant reduction in its emission intensity, decreasing by approximately 24% since 2005. This progress aligns with India's commitment under the Paris Agreement to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030, reflecting the country's efforts towards sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

### **Excessive Nitrates in India's Groundwater**

- The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has raised concerns over high nitrate levels in groundwater across various states in India. Elevated nitrate concentrations, primarily resulting from agricultural runoff and improper waste disposal, pose significant health risks, including methemoglobinemia or 'blue baby syndrome.' The CGWB emphasizes the need for sustainable agricultural practices and effective waste management to address this issue.

### **2024: A Year of Climate Crisis - UN Report**

- The United Nations released a report declaring 2024 as a year marked by unprecedented climate crises. The report documents extreme weather events, including record-breaking temperatures, widespread wildfires, and severe storms, attributing these phenomena to accelerating climate change. The UN calls for immediate global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience against climate impacts.

## Second Fishing Cat Census Initiated

- Conservationists have commenced the second census of the fishing cat, a vulnerable species found in wetland regions of India. The census aims to gather data on the population distribution and habitat preferences of these elusive felines, providing insights necessary for developing targeted conservation strategies to protect and preserve their habitats.

## Arsenic Contamination in Indian States

- Recent studies have identified alarming levels of arsenic contamination in groundwater across several Indian states, including West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. Prolonged exposure to arsenic-contaminated water is linked to severe health issues, such as skin lesions and cancer. Authorities are urged to implement mitigation measures, including providing alternative safe water sources and promoting awareness about the dangers of arsenic exposure.

## Two Red Pandas Transferred from the Netherlands to India

- In a bid to bolster conservation efforts, two red pandas have been relocated from the Netherlands to a zoological park in India. This initiative aims to enhance the genetic diversity of the captive

red panda population in India and raise public awareness about the species' conservation. Red pandas are endangered due to habitat loss and poaching, and such international collaborations are vital for their survival.

## Hydrothermal Vent Discovered in the Indian Ocean

- Marine scientists have discovered a new hydrothermal vent system in the Indian Ocean. These vents, located along mid-ocean ridges, emit mineral-rich fluids and support unique ecosystems, including chemosynthetic organisms. The discovery offers valuable insights into deep-sea biodiversity and the geological processes shaping the ocean floor. Studying these ecosystems can also advance our understanding of life's adaptability in extreme environments.

## Marine Heat Wave of 2024

- The year 2024 witnessed an unprecedented marine heat wave, with sea surface temperatures reaching record highs across various oceans. These elevated temperatures have led to widespread coral bleaching, disrupted marine ecosystems, and affected fisheries. Scientists attribute this phenomenon to climate change and emphasize the need for global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to protect marine life.

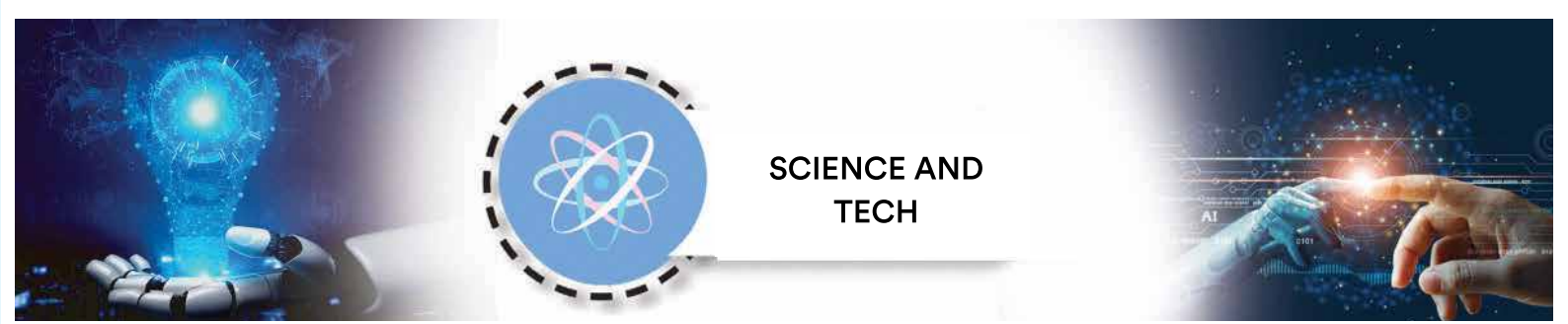


## Arctic Tundra's Carbon Release Crisis

- Recent research indicates that the Arctic tundra is releasing carbon dioxide at alarming rates due to thawing permafrost. This release exacerbates global warming, as the Arctic has historically acted as a carbon sink. The findings highlight the urgency of addressing climate change to prevent further destabilization of these critical ecosystems.

## Humpback Whale Migration Patterns Altered

- Studies have observed significant changes in humpback



## SCIENCE AND TECH

### **Planet Parade 2025**

- On January 21, 2025, a rare astronomical event known as the "Planet Parade" occurred, where multiple planets aligned in the night sky. This alignment provided a spectacular view for stargazers and offered astronomers a unique opportunity to study planetary positions and their gravitational interactions. Such events are significant as they enhance our understanding of celestial mechanics and the dynamic nature of our solar system.

### **Black-Eyed Pea Seeds in Space**

- On January 20, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced the successful germination of black-eyed pea seeds aboard a space mission. This experiment aimed to study plant growth in microgravity conditions, contributing to research on sustainable food production for long-duration space missions. The findings could pave the way for cultivating crops in space, ensuring food security for astronauts on future interplanetary journeys.

### **Space Docking Exercise**

- On January 18, 2025, ISRO conducted its first space docking experiment, marking a significant milestone in India's space capabilities. The mission involved the docking of two spacecraft modules in orbit, demonstrating technologies essential for future space station construction and spacecraft rendezvous. This achievement positions India among the few nations capable of performing complex space docking maneuvers.

### **First Private Satellite Constellation**

- On January 18, 2025, a private Indian aerospace company launched its inaugural satellite constellation into low Earth orbit. This network

of small satellites aims to provide global broadband connectivity, especially in remote and underserved regions. The initiative signifies a growing role for private enterprises in India's space sector, contributing to advancements in communication technologies and digital inclusion.

### **Purulia Observatory Inauguration**

- On January 17, 2025, a new astronomical observatory was inaugurated in Purulia, West Bengal. Equipped with state-of-the-art telescopes and research facilities, the observatory is set to become a hub for astronomical research and public education. It aims to foster interest in space science among students and support advanced research in astrophysics and related fields.

### **Tinnitus Matching Device Development**

- On January 17, 2025, researchers developed a novel device to assist individuals suffering from tinnitus, a condition characterized by persistent ringing in the ears. The device enables users to match the pitch and frequency of the sounds they experience, facilitating personalized treatment approaches. This innovation holds promise for improving the quality of life for millions affected by tinnitus worldwide.

### **New Search and Rescue Aid Tool**

- On January 17, 2025, a new search and rescue tool was introduced, leveraging advanced technology to enhance emergency response efforts. The tool integrates satellite communication, geolocation, and real-time data analysis to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of search and rescue operations.

This development is expected to significantly reduce response times and increase survival rates in emergency situations.

### Thorium-Based Nuclear Energy Solutions

- On January 13, 2025, scientists announced advancements in thorium-based nuclear energy research. Thorium, being more abundant and potentially safer than uranium, offers a promising alternative for sustainable nuclear power. The research focuses on developing reactors that utilize thorium, aiming to provide cleaner and more efficient energy solutions to meet growing global demands.

### Discovery of the Longest Tidal Tail

- On January 11, 2025, astronomers reported the discovery of the longest known tidal tail extending from a distant galaxy. Tidal tails are streams of stars and interstellar material stripped from galaxies during gravitational interactions. Studying these structures provides insights into galaxy formation and evolution, as well as the dynamics of cosmic collisions.

### Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility

- On January 9, 2025, a new Shallow Wave Basin Research Facility was inaugurated to study

coastal processes and marine engineering. The facility allows scientists to simulate and analyze wave dynamics, sediment transport, and coastal erosion, contributing to the development of effective coastal management strategies and resilient infrastructure designs in response to climate change impacts.

### First Meteor Shower of 2025

- On January 9, 2025, skywatchers witnessed the first meteor shower of the year, offering a dazzling display of shooting stars. Meteor showers occur when Earth passes through debris trails left by comets, providing opportunities for both public enjoyment and scientific observation. Studying these events helps scientists understand the composition of comets and the dynamics of our solar system.

### India's First Space Robotic Arm Demonstration

- On January 8, 2025, ISRO successfully demonstrated India's first space robotic arm. Designed for satellite servicing and space station maintenance, the robotic arm showcases capabilities in precision handling and autonomous operations in the challenging environment of space. This technology is crucial for future missions involving spacecraft repair, assembly, and debris removal.



### IIT Ropar's New Bluetooth System

- On January 9, 2025, researchers at IIT Ropar developed an advanced Bluetooth communication system with enhanced security features and extended range. This system addresses common vulnerabilities in wireless communication, offering applications in secure data transmission for personal devices, industrial automation, and healthcare monitoring systems. The innovation represents a significant step forward in wireless technology.





## SPORTS NEWS



### **Khelo India Winter Games 2025 Conclude in Leh, Ladakh**

- The fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 concluded in Leh, Ladakh. The first phase was held in Ladakh from January 23 to 27, while the second phase is scheduled in Jammu and Kashmir from February 21 to 25. Ladakh led the medal tally with four golds, two silvers, and a bronze, followed by Tamil Nadu with three golds and two silvers.

### **ICC Cricketers of the Year 2024 Announced**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the Cricketers of the Year 2024. The awards recognized outstanding performances in international cricket across various categories, including Men's and Women's Cricketer of the Year, Test Cricketer of the Year, and Emerging Player of the Year. These accolades celebrate the exceptional contributions of players to the sport during the year 2024.

### **India Hosts First-Ever Kho-Kho World Cup 2025**

- India hosted the inaugural edition of the Kho-Kho World Cup 2025, featuring 20 men's and 19 women's teams from various countries. The Indian men's and women's teams clinched victory against Nepal in the finals, marking a significant milestone in promoting traditional Indian sports on the global stage.

### **Unveiling of Kho-Kho World Cup 2025 Trophies and Mascots**

- The Kho-Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies and mascot for the first-ever Kho-Kho World Cup. The tournament features two trophies—a blue one for the men's

championship and a green one for the women's event. The mascot, named 'Tejas,' symbolizes agility and sportsmanship, embodying the spirit of Kho-Kho.

### **Tokyo Selected to Host 2025 World Athletics Championships**

- The World Athletics Council selected Tokyo, Japan, to host the 2025 World Athletics Championships. This decision marks Tokyo's continued prominence in the global athletics arena, following its successful hosting of the 2020 Summer Olympics. The 18th edition of the Championships is anticipated to attract athletes and spectators worldwide.

### **Uttarakhand Set to Host 38th National Games 2025**

- Uttarakhand is set to host the 38th National Games from January 28 to February 14, 2025. The event's mascot, 'Mauli,' inspired by the state's bird, the Monal, was unveiled alongside the logo, jersey, anthem, and tagline 'Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak' (From Resolve to Zenith). The Games aim to showcase Uttarakhand's natural beauty and promote sports development in the region.

### **National Sports Awards 2025 Presented at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

- The National Sports Awards 2025 ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, honoring exceptional athletes for their contributions to Indian sports. Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh, and Praveen Kumar received the prestigious Khel Ratna awards. Additionally, 32 athletes were honored with the Arjuna Award, recognizing their outstanding achievements in various sports disciplines.

- Tiger Woods Launches TGL to Revitalize Golf
- Golf legend Tiger Woods announced the launch of TGL, a new golf league aimed at rejuvenating the sport and attracting a younger audience. The league plans to incorporate innovative formats and technology to enhance viewer engagement. This initiative is part of broader efforts to modernize golf and increase its global appeal.

### **FIFA Announces Revamped Club World Cup Format for 2025**

- FIFA unveiled plans for a revamped Club World Cup format set to commence in 2025. The new structure aims to increase participation from clubs worldwide, enhancing the tournament's competitiveness and global reach. However, the initiative faces challenges from domestic leagues and player unions concerning scheduling and player welfare.



### **Lewis Hamilton Joins Ferrari for 2025 Formula One Season**

- Seven-time Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton confirmed his move to Scuderia Ferrari for the 2025 season. This high-profile transfer is expected to reshape the competitive landscape of Formula One, as Hamilton aims to secure his eighth championship title with the iconic Italian team.



## IMPORTANT DAYS



### Indian Republic Day – January 26

- India celebrated its 76th Republic Day on January 26, 2025, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution in 1950. This significant day commemorates India's transition to a sovereign republic, emphasizing its commitment to democracy and the rule of law.
- The central celebrations took place at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, where President Smt. Droupadi Murmu presided over the events. The festivities commenced with Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying homage to fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. Following this, the grand parade showcased India's military prowess and cultural diversity. A notable highlight was the participation of a 342-member contingent from the Indonesian National Armed Forces, marking the first instance of an ASEAN country's troops joining the parade. This inclusion underscored the deepening ties between India and Indonesia.
- The parade featured 31 tableaux under the theme 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' (Golden India: Heritage and Development), representing various states and government departments. For the first time, a tri-services tableau was displayed, symbolizing the integration and jointness among the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Additionally, a cultural performance by 5,000 artists spanned the entire Kartavya Path, celebrating India's rich heritage and unity in diversity.
- The choice of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as the Chief Guest highlighted the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, focusing on areas such as defense cooperation, trade, and cultural exchange. This invitation continued India's tradition of honoring its diplomatic relationships during Republic Day celebrations.

- In addition to the main event in New Delhi, Republic Day was celebrated across the nation. In Prayagraj, during the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025, special ceremonies were held, including flag hoisting at various Akharas and camps. Senior citizens from different parts of Uttar Pradesh participated, symbolizing inclusivity and respect for all sections of society.
- The 76th Republic Day celebrations not only honored India's constitutional legacy but also showcased its advancements and the unity of its diverse populace. The events reinforced the nation's dedication to its foundational principles and highlighted its evolving role on the global stage.

### World Logic Day – January 14

- World Logic Day, observed on January 14, aims to bring attention to the intellectual history, conceptual significance, and practical implications of logic. Proclaimed by UNESCO's 40th General Conference on November 26, 2019, this date coincides with the death anniversary of Kurt Gödel and the birth anniversary of Alfred Tarski, two prominent logicians of the twentieth century. The day fosters interdisciplinary science communities' engagement and public understanding of logic's role in various fields.

### National Youth Day – January 12

- National Youth Day is celebrated annually on January 12 to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, a revered Indian philosopher and spiritual leader. The day emphasizes the ideals and teachings of Vivekananda, inspiring the youth to contribute positively to society. Various educational institutions and organizations conduct events like seminars, discussions, and cultural activities to promote the values of discipline, dedication, and spirituality among young individuals.

### **Armed Forces Veterans' Day – January 14**

- Armed Forces Veterans' Day, observed on January 14, honors the selfless service and sacrifices of military veterans in India. The day acknowledges the contributions of former armed forces personnel in safeguarding the nation's security. Ceremonies and events are organized across the country to recognize and appreciate the dedication of veterans, fostering a sense of respect and gratitude among citizens.

### **Indian Army Day – January 15**

- Indian Army Day is celebrated on January 15 to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) K.M. Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Butcher in 1949. The day honors the bravery and dedication of army personnel. Parades, military exhibitions, and other events are held nationwide to showcase the army's achievements and capabilities.

### **National Startup Day – January 16**

- National Startup Day, observed on January 16, aims to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation in India. The day recognizes the contributions of startups to the nation's economic growth and encourages young entrepreneurs to pursue innovative ventures. Various programs, workshops, and discussions are organized to provide support and guidance to emerging startups, fostering a culture of innovation.

### **Parakram Diwas – January 23**

- Parakram Diwas, or the Day of Valour, is observed on January 23 to honor the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, born in 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa. In 2021, the Indian government declared this day to commemorate Bose's efforts in India's freedom struggle. Notably, he cleared the Indian Civil Services examination in 1920, securing the fourth rank, and became the youngest-ever President of the Indian National Congress in 1938.

### **National Girl Child Day – January 24**

- Introduced in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Girl Child Day on January 24 promotes gender equality and addresses issues concerning the welfare of girls in India. The 2025 theme, "Empowering Girls for a Bright Future," emphasizes the importance of providing equal opportunities for girls in education, health, and social spheres. Initiatives like the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, launched on January 22, 2015, highlight the government's commitment to improving the status of girls in society.

### **International Day of Education – January 24**

- The International Day of Education, observed on January 24, underscores the importance of education in ensuring peace and development globally. First celebrated in 2019, the 2025 theme is 'AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation,' focusing on the integration of artificial intelligence in education while maintaining human-centric learning approaches. The day calls for inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

### **National Voters Day – January 25**

- Since 2011, National Voters Day has been observed on January 25 to encourage young voters to participate in the political process. The day aims to enhance voter enrollment, especially among newly eligible voters, and emphasizes the significance of exercising the right to vote in strengthening democracy. Various awareness campaigns and educational programs are conducted to inform citizens about the electoral process and the value of their vote.

### **International Customs Day – January 26**

- International Customs Day, celebrated on January 26, acknowledges the role of customs officials in security, trade compliance, and anti-smuggling efforts. The Customs Cooperation Council, now known as the World Customs Organization (WCO), was established in 1952, with its inaugural session on January 26, 1953,

in Brussels, Belgium, attended by 17 member nations. Today, the WCO comprises 183 member states overseeing nearly 98% of global trade, highlighting the critical role of customs in international commerce.

### **World Leprosy Day – January 28**

- World Leprosy Day is observed annually on the last Sunday of January, which falls on January 28 in 2025. Established by the French humanitarian Raoul Follereau in 1954, the day aims to raise awareness about leprosy, dispel myths, and encourage efforts to eliminate the disease. Leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, remains a public health challenge in many developing countries. The day emphasizes early detection, treatment, and social inclusion of affected individuals.

### **Data Privacy Day – January 28**

- Data Privacy Day is observed globally on January 28 to promote awareness about the importance of protecting personal information online. It was initiated in 2007 to commemorate the signing of the Council of Europe's Data Protection Convention (Convention 108) in 1981. The day focuses on educating individuals and organizations about responsible data management, cybersecurity threats, and the ethical use of personal information in an increasingly digital world.

### **National Tourism Day (India) – January 25**

- National Tourism Day is observed in India on January 25 to highlight the economic and cultural significance of tourism. The day emphasizes the importance of promoting domestic and international tourism, preserving heritage sites, and supporting local communities. Various events, campaigns, and awareness programs are organized by the Ministry of Tourism and state governments to encourage sustainable and responsible travel.

### **Lala Lajpat Rai's Birth Anniversary – January 28**

- January 28 marks the birth anniversary of Lala

Lajpat Rai, an Indian nationalist, freedom fighter, and social reformer. Known as the "Lion of Punjab," he played a crucial role in the independence movement and was instrumental in founding the Punjab National Bank and the Laxmi Insurance Company. His legacy is honored through events highlighting his contributions to India's freedom struggle.

### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day – January 27**

- The United Nations observes International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27 each year to honor the victims of the Holocaust. This date marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp, in 1945. The day serves as a reminder of the atrocities committed during World War II and promotes education about the dangers of anti-Semitism, hate speech, and discrimination.

### **Basant Panchami (Vasant Panchami) – January 29**

- Basant Panchami, also known as Vasant Panchami, is a Hindu festival that marks the arrival of spring and is dedicated to Goddess Saraswati, the deity of wisdom, learning, and arts. In 2025, it falls on January 29. The day is widely celebrated in India, especially in educational institutions, where students and teachers participate in special prayers and cultural events. People wear yellow, symbolizing energy and prosperity, and engage in kite flying, especially in North India.

### **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti (Desh Prem Divas) – January 23**

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti, also known as Parakram Diwas, is observed on January 23 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the iconic freedom fighter. Bose played a key role in India's independence movement and was the founder of the Indian National Army (INA). The day is marked by tributes, seminars, and public discussions on his leadership, patriotism, and contributions to India's struggle for freedom.

## **Pongal Festival – January 15-18 (Tamil Nadu)**

- Pongal is a major four-day harvest festival celebrated in Tamil Nadu from January 15 to January 18. The festival begins with Bhogi

Pongal, followed by Thai Pongal, Mattu Pongal, and Kaanum Pongal. It is a time of thanksgiving to the Sun God for a bountiful harvest. People prepare a special dish called "Pongal," made of rice and jaggery, and offer it to the gods. Farmers also decorate and worship their cattle on Mattu Pongal.

## **Makar Sankranti – January 14**



- Makar Sankranti is a Hindu festival marking the transition of the sun into Capricorn (Makar Rashi). It is celebrated across India with different names, including Lohri in Punjab, Uttarayan in Gujarat, Pongal in Tamil Nadu, and Magh Bihu in Assam. The festival signifies the end of winter and the beginning of longer days. Kite flying, bonfires, and special sweets made of sesame seeds (til) and jaggery are part of the celebrations.
- These observances in January 2025 highlight cultural, historical, and humanitarian values, emphasizing the importance of remembering significant figures and events while promoting awareness on various social



## REPORTS

### **Global Firepower Index 2025**

- Released on January 29, 2025, this index assesses the military strength of nations worldwide. It evaluates factors such as manpower, equipment, and resources to rank countries based on their military capabilities. The 2025 edition highlights shifts in global military power dynamics, with emerging nations enhancing their defense capabilities.

### **THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025**

- Published on January 29, 2025, by Times Higher Education, this report ranks universities globally across various subjects. It assesses institutions based on teaching, research, citations, international outlook, and industry income. The 2025 rankings showcase the leading universities in fields such as engineering, medicine, and social sciences, reflecting changes in academic excellence and research output.

### **ILO Report on Global Migrant Workers 2022**

- Although focusing on data from 2022, this report was released on January 25, 2025, by the International Labour Organization. It provides comprehensive statistics and analysis on the global migrant workforce, discussing trends, demographics, and the economic impact of migrant labor. The report emphasizes the need for policies that protect migrant workers' rights and promote fair labor practices.

### **Forbes Billionaires List 2025**

- Unveiled on January 25, 2025, this annual list by Forbes magazine ranks the world's wealthiest individuals. The 2025 edition highlights significant changes in wealth distribution, with notable newcomers from the technology and renewable energy sectors. It also discusses the economic factors contributing to shifts in

billionaire rankings.

### **Global Trust Index 2025**

- Released on January 24, 2025, this index measures public trust in institutions such as government, media, business, and non-governmental organizations across various countries. The 2025 report indicates a decline in trust levels globally, attributed to factors like misinformation, political polarization, and economic uncertainties. It calls for initiatives to rebuild public confidence in institutions.

### **New Era of Nuclear Energy – IEA**

- On January 23, 2025, the International Energy Agency published a report titled "New Era of Nuclear Energy." It explores the resurgence of interest in nuclear power as a sustainable energy source, analyzing advancements in technology, safety measures, and policy frameworks. The report advocates for nuclear energy's role in achieving global climate goals and reducing carbon emissions.

### **Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025**

- Presented on January 22, 2025, during the World Economic Forum, this report examines the evolving landscape of cybersecurity threats and defenses. It highlights emerging risks associated with increased digitalization, such as cyberattacks on critical infrastructure and data breaches. The report emphasizes the importance of international collaboration and investment in cybersecurity measures to protect against these threats.

### **Global Risk Report 2025**

- Released on January 21, 2025, by the World Economic Forum, this annual report identifies and analyzes the most pressing global risks. The 2025 edition focuses on issues like climate change, geopolitical tensions, and

technological disruptions. It provides insights into the interconnectedness of these risks and offers recommendations for policymakers and businesses to mitigate potential impacts.

### **World Employment and Social Outlook Report 2025**

- Published on January 20, 2025, by the International Labour Organization, this report provides an overview of global employment trends, labor market developments, and social challenges. It discusses issues such as unemployment rates, income inequality, and the future of work in the context of technological advancements and economic shifts. The report calls for policies that promote inclusive and sustainable employment opportunities.

### **QS World Future Skills Index 2025**

- Released on January 20, 2025, by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, this index evaluates countries' readiness to equip their populations with skills needed for future job markets. It assesses factors like education systems, vocational training, and digital literacy. The 2025 index highlights the growing importance of skills such as critical thinking, adaptability, and technological proficiency in the evolving global economy.

### **UN World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025**

- On January 15, 2025, the United Nations published this report analyzing the global economic outlook. It examines factors influencing economic growth, such as trade dynamics, fiscal policies, and geopolitical developments. The 2025 edition projects moderate global growth while cautioning about potential risks like debt vulnerabilities and trade tensions. It emphasizes the need for coordinated international efforts to foster sustainable economic development.

### **Henley Passport Index 2025**

- Released on January 13, 2025, this index ranks passports based on the number of destinations

their holders can access without a prior visa. The 2025 edition notes that India's ranking has dropped by five points to 85, with Indian passport holders able to travel visa-free to 57 destinations. Singapore tops the index for the second consecutive year, reflecting its strong global mobility.

### **WEF Global Cooperation Barometer 2025**

- Launched on January 13, 2025, by the World Economic Forum, this barometer assesses the state of international cooperation across various domains. It reveals that global cooperation has stagnated due to increased geopolitical tensions and instability. The barometer uses 41 indicators to measure cooperation in areas such as trade, technology, climate, health, and security, highlighting the need for renewed collaborative efforts to address global challenges.

### **Future of Jobs Report 2025**

- Published on January 12, 2025, by the World Economic Forum, this report analyzes employment trends and the impact of technological advancements on job markets. It projects that by 2030, 170 million new jobs will be created, while 92 million jobs will be displaced, resulting in a net increase of 78 million jobs. The report identifies roles such as big data specialists, fintech engineers, and AI & machine learning specialists as among the fastest-growing jobs.

### **Climate Change Performance Index 2025**

- Released at the annual UN climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, this index evaluates countries' efforts to combat climate change. The 2025 report ranks India at 10th among over 60 countries assessed, indicating significant progress in its climate initiatives. The index leaves the first three places empty, followed by Denmark in fourth place and the Netherlands. Major emitters like China and the U.S. remain low in the rankings, at 55th and 52nd, respectively.



### **India's Government Implements Tax Cuts to Stimulate Growth**

- In January 2025, the Indian government introduced tax cuts and business-friendly measures in its annual budget to counteract an economic slowdown. The non-taxable personal income threshold was increased, and tax brackets were adjusted to boost consumption, savings, and investment. Additionally, regulatory reforms were introduced to enhance the ease of doing business. India's GDP growth had slowed to 5.4%, prompting these measures to ensure economic stability and job creation.

### **India's Business Growth Hits 14-Month Low Due to Weaker Services Demand**

- India's business growth in January 2025 slowed to a 14-month low, mainly due to weaker services sector demand. The Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined to 57.9, marking the slowest growth since November 2023. While the services sector showed contraction, the manufacturing sector demonstrated resilience, recording a PMI of 58.0. Rising inflation pressures pose a challenge for the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policies.

### **India's December GST Revenue Reaches ₹1.77 Lakh Crore**

- India collected ₹1.77 lakh crore in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in December 2024, reflecting a 7.3% increase compared to the previous year. Central GST contributed ₹32,836 crore, while State GST amounted to ₹40,499 crore. GST on imports saw a 4% rise, reaching

₹44,268 crore. The highest-ever GST collection was recorded in April 2024 at ₹2.10 lakh crore.

### **Union Cabinet Approves Extension of Special Package Scheme for Di-Ammonium Phosphate**

- The Indian government approved an extension of the special subsidy package for Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) to ensure stable fertilizer prices for farmers. This scheme, initially approved in 2024, was extended beyond the ₹3,500 per metric tonne subsidy under the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) scheme. The decision aims to support agricultural productivity amid fluctuating global fertilizer prices.

### **Cabinet Approves Amendments to Crop Insurance Schemes**

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme until 2025-26, with an allocation of ₹69,515.71 crore. The scheme aims to safeguard farmers against crop loss due to natural calamities. Technological interventions were also introduced, including a Fund for Innovation and Technology worth ₹824.77 crore.

### **India and US Sign Civil Nuclear Collaboration Deal**

- In November 2024, India and the US signed a civil nuclear collaboration deal to boost nuclear energy development and energy security. The agreement focuses on accelerating nuclear technology advancements and strengthening energy cooperation. It aligns with India's goal of increasing nuclear energy's contribution to its power mix.

### **Adani Group Announces \$2 Billion Divestment Plan**

- In early 2025, Adani Group revealed a \$2 billion divestment strategy to reduce debt and optimize its asset portfolio. The conglomerate aims to sell non-core assets, particularly in energy and infrastructure sectors. This move is expected to improve the group's financial position and streamline business operations.

### **NVIDIA Invests in Robotics to Drive Technological Advancements**

- NVIDIA announced substantial investments in robotics in January 2025 to push forward

automation and AI innovations. The initiative focuses on developing advanced robotic systems applicable in manufacturing, healthcare, and logistics. This marks a strategic expansion of NVIDIA's AI-driven product portfolio.

### **India's Union Budget Focuses on Employment and Tax Relief**

- On February 1, 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget, prioritizing job creation and tax relief. Key measures included increased capital expenditure and tax incentives for small businesses. The budget aims to address economic concerns such as slowing GDP growth and inflation.





## AWARDS



### Passing of Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter

- On January 1, 2025, the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, passed away at the age of 100. Serving from 1977 to 1981, Carter was known for his efforts in advancing human rights and brokering the Camp David Accords between Egypt and Israel. After his presidency, he founded the Carter Center, dedicated to global health and conflict resolution, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his humanitarian work.

### Libia Lobo Sardesai Honored

- On January 30, 2025, renowned Goan singer Libia Lobo Sardesai was honored for her contributions to Indian music. Known for her melodious voice and dedication to preserving Goan musical heritage, Sardesai has been a prominent figure in the Indian music scene for decades. Her efforts have played a significant role in promoting Goan culture and music on national and international platforms.

### Tamil Nadu Government Awards 2025

- On January 7, 2025, the Tamil Nadu government announced its State Awards for 2025. M. Padikkaramu was selected for the Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award, DMK leader L. Ganesan received the Anna Award, poet Kabilan was honored with the Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award, and Pon. Selvaganapathy was chosen for the Bharathidasan Award. These awards recognize individuals for their significant contributions to Tamil literature, politics, and social work.

### National Sports Awards 2024

- In early January 2025, the Government of India announced the National Sports Awards for

2024. Athletes from various disciplines were honored for their outstanding performances and contributions to Indian sports. The awards aim to recognize and motivate athletes to achieve excellence in their respective fields.

### New Year Honors List 2025

- On January 1, 2025, the New Year Honors List was released, recognizing individuals for their exceptional contributions across various sectors, including arts, science, charity, and public service. The list includes a diverse group of honorees who have made significant impacts in their respective fields, reflecting the nation's appreciation for their dedication and service.

### Dozens of Victorian Councils to Ignore Australia Day

- In January 2025, it was reported that over 30% of Victorian councils in Australia decided not to celebrate Australia Day on January 26. Councils like Yarra, Darebin, and Warrnambool opted to host citizenship ceremonies on alternate dates, citing diverse community views and reduced attendance as reasons for the change. This move sparked discussions nationwide about the significance and timing of Australia Day celebrations.

### World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2025

- On January 30, 2025, World Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Day was observed globally to raise awareness about diseases that affect over a billion people worldwide. The day aims to highlight the efforts needed to control and eliminate NTDs, promote partnerships, and mobilize resources to improve health outcomes for affected populations.

## **Martyrs' Day 2025**

- On January 30, 2025, India observed Martyrs' Day to honor the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and other freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the nation's independence. The day is marked by various events, including prayers, tributes, and discussions on the principles of non-violence and truth advocated by Gandhi.

## **World's First Deep Sea Radar Launched**

- In January 2025, scientists announced the development of the world's first deep-sea radar system. This groundbreaking technology allows for detailed mapping and exploration of the ocean's depths, providing new insights

into marine geology, ecosystems, and potential resources. The deep-sea radar is expected to revolutionize oceanographic research and contribute to better understanding and conservation of marine environments.

## **Elephant Spotted in Namdapha National Park**

- In January 2025, wildlife enthusiasts reported the sighting of a rare elephant in Namdapha National Park, located in Arunachal Pradesh, India. Namdapha is known for its rich biodiversity, and such sightings highlight the importance of conservation efforts in the region. The park authorities emphasized the need for continued protection of wildlife habitats to ensure the survival of such majestic creatures.





### **Gallantry Awards 2025**

- President Droupadi Murmu has approved Gallantry awards to 93 Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel, including 12 posthumous.
- The awards include two Kirti Chakras, 14 Shaurya Chakras, 66 Sena Medals, and 8 Vayu Sena Medals.
- The President also approved 305 defence decorations to Armed Forces and other personnel.
- These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, and 10 Yudh Seva Medals.
- In addition, 8 Coast Guard personnel received the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal.
- 21 Tamil Nadu police officers were included in the President's Medal list.

### **Indian Army and Air Force Conduct 'Devil Strike' Exercise**

- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force conducted a joint military exercise named 'Devil Strike'.
- The exercise aimed at testing combat readiness, coordination, and operational efficiency in diverse terrain.
- Tactical operations, such as rapid airlift, mechanized infantry maneuvers, and surveillance, were demonstrated.
- Advanced weaponry and drones were deployed for real-time reconnaissance.
- The exercise strengthened inter-service synergy between ground and aerial forces.

- The operation was conducted at a classified military zone.

### **INS Utkarsh Launched at Kattupalli Shipyard**

- The Indian Navy launched INS Utkarsh, a multi-purpose vessel, at the Kattupalli Shipyard near Chennai.
- INS Utkarsh is part of India's indigenous warship-building program.
- The vessel is equipped with advanced surveillance and anti-submarine warfare technology.
- It will play a key role in coastal security and maritime surveillance.
- The ship enhances the Navy's capability for both peacetime and wartime operations.
- The launch aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat's push for indigenous naval defense systems.

### **Bhargavastra Micro-Missile System Tested Successfully**

- India has successfully tested its first domestically developed micro-missile system, Bhargavastra.
- The test took place at Gopalpur, Odisha, and was aimed at countering swarm drone threats.
- The missile has a 6-km range and can neutralize multiple targets with precision.
- It is designed for urban warfare, counter-terrorism, and battlefield deployment.
- The missile is compact and easily deployable, making it an asset for rapid-response teams.
- This marks India's significant progress in miniaturized defense technology.

## **'La Perouse 2025' Naval Exercise**

- India participated in the La Perouse 2025 multinational naval exercise.
- The exercise included France, Australia, Japan, and the USA, alongside India.
- It was conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to enhance maritime security and interoperability.
- The Indian Navy deployed advanced warships and surveillance aircraft.
- Complex naval operations, including anti-submarine warfare and live-fire drills, were carried out.
- The exercise strengthened defense ties and strategic coordination among participating nations.

## **Year of Reforms Declared by Ministry of Defence**

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has declared 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'.
- The reforms focus on indigenization, modernization, and digital transformation of the armed forces.
- Efforts will be made to reduce dependency on imports and promote indigenous defense manufacturing.
- The plan includes reforming military training, procurement processes, and cyber warfare capabilities.
- A new defense export strategy will be launched to boost India's defense exports.
- Automation and AI-driven technologies will be integrated into military operations.

## **INS Vagsheer Commissioned into Indian Navy**

- The Indian Navy commissioned INS Vagsheer, the sixth Scorpene-class submarine.

- It is designed as a hunter-killer submarine under Project 75.
- The first submarine in this class, INS Kalvari, was commissioned in 2017.
- INS Vagsheer enhances India's underwater warfare capabilities.
- It is equipped with torpedoes, stealth features, and long-range anti-ship missiles.
- The submarine was built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

## **India and U.S. to Co-Produce Sonobuoys for Undersea Warfare**

- India and the U.S. signed a defense cooperation agreement to co-produce sonobuoys.
- Sonobuoys are used for underwater surveillance and anti-submarine warfare.
- This agreement is part of the Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA) initiative.
- The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) will lead India's contribution.
- This deal strengthens India's naval defense technology and Indo-Pacific security.
- The first batch of jointly developed sonobuoys will be deployed in 2026.

## **DRDO Successfully Tests Nag Mk-2 Anti-Tank Missile**

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested Nag Mk-2, a next-generation fire-and-forget anti-tank missile.
- The missile features advanced infrared guidance for precision targeting.
- It has a range of over 5 km, making it suitable for modern battlefield scenarios.
- Nag Mk-2 is designed to penetrate explosive reactive armor (ERA) used on enemy tanks.

- The Indian Army plans to deploy Nag Mk-2 in its armored regiments by 2026.
- This test marks a major milestone in India's indigenous missile development.
- The operation is part of the BSF's annual strategy to curb cross-border threats.

### **Operation Sard Hawa 2025 Launched by BSF**

- The Border Security Force (BSF) launched Operation Sard Hawa along the India-Pakistan border.
- The operation aims to tighten border security during extreme winter conditions.
- Surveillance has been increased in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer sector, a sensitive region.
- Drones, thermal imaging cameras, and patrolling units have been deployed.
- Intelligence reports indicate increased infiltration attempts from Pakistan.

### **Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan – India's Battlefield Tourism Initiative**

- The Ministry of Defence launched 'Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan', a battlefield tourism initiative.
- 75 battle sites, including Galwan Valley and Doklam, will be opened for visitors.
- The initiative aims to educate citizens on India's military history.
- The Indian Army has collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism to develop these sites.
- Memorials, museums, and guided tours will be established at key war zones.
- This program will boost patriotism and defense awareness among Indian citizens.

### **Indian Army Expands AI Incubation Centre for Military Tech Development**



- The Indian Army has expanded its AI Incubation Centre (IAIIC) in Bengaluru.
- The center will focus on AI-based surveillance, battlefield automation, and cyber warfare.
- It is a joint initiative with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and DRDO.
- AI-powered drone swarms and robotic warfare units are under development.
- The Army aims to integrate AI-driven decision-making in real-time military operations.
- India seeks to compete with China and the U.S. in military AI advancements.