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THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly capsule**
- **Current Affairs**

(हिन्दी)

Economy | Appointment |Awards|Ranking
Government Scheme|Summit |Partnership | GDP
Banking & Financial | Defence |Sports|
Book and Author | Science and technology

The Hindu Review (December 2025)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

Organization	Person
Appointed as the Managing Director of PUMA India	Ramprasad Sridharan (Updated 1 December)
Assumed charge as Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air Headquarter	Air Marshal Tejbir Singh (Updated 4 December)
Appointed as Executive Director of RBI, bringing over three decades of experience in central banking	Usha Janakiraman (Updated 4 December)
Taken additional charge as BSF DG	Praveen Kumar (Updated 4 December)
Assumed charge as the Managing Director of LIC *About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)* • *Founded – 1 September 1956* • *Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra* • *Chairperson – R. Doraiswamy*	Ramakrishnan Chander (Updated 5 December)
Become the first full-time woman Vice-Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University	Dr. Manali Kshirsagar (Updated 5 December)
Joined TeamLease Services as Managing Director & CEO effective 2 February 2026	Suparna Mitra (Updated 6 December)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved as the new CEO of Bank of America NA (BoFA) in India	Vikram Sahu (Updated 6 December)

Received a rare one-year extension as ONGC Chairman	Arun Kumar Singh (Updated 7 December)
Punjab National Bank (PNB) has appointed as its first-ever female brand ambassador	Harmanpreet Kaur (Updated 7 December)
Elected unopposed as President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)	Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo (Updated 11 December)
Became the new Secretary General during the elections conducted by Justice (Retd.) Nirmaljit Kaur	Pawan Singh (Updated 11 December)
Elected President of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA)	Venkatesh Prasad (Updated 12 December)
PNB Housing Finance appointed as Managing Director and CEO	Ajai Kumar Shukla (Updated 16 December)
The BJP Parliamentary Board has named as the National Working President of the party	Nitin Nabin (Updated 16 December)
Elected as the first woman President of the Press Club of India	Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty (Updated 17 December)
Appointed as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)	Ravi Ranjan (Updated 17 December)
Sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of the Central Information Commission	Raj Kumar Goyal (Updated 18 December)
Coal India appointed as its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)	B. Sairam (Updated 18 December)
The Government has extended the tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Managing Director for another two years	Ashwini Kumar Tewari (Updated 19 December)

Appointed as Managing Director & CEO of Airtel India	Shashwat Sharma (Updated 19 December)
India Infoline Finance Limited (IIFL) has appointed as non-executive chairman of its board	B.P. Kanungo (Updated 23 December)
Appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank	Brajesh Kumar Singh (Updated 24 December)
Assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) **About Rail Vikas Nigam Limited** • **Founded**- 24 January 2003 • **Headquarters**- New Delhi • RVNL is a Navratna PSU in India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways, GoI	Saleem Ahmad (Updated 29 December)
Appointed as Odisha's Chief Secretary *About Odisha* • *Capital – Bhubaneswar* • *Chief Minister – Mohan Charan Majhi (replace Naveen Patnaik)* • *Deputy CM - KV Singhdeo and Pravati Parida* • *Governor – Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati*	Anu Garg (Updated 30 December)
The Central Government has appointed three Senior Advocates as Additional Solicitors General (ASGs) to represent the Union of India before the Supreme Court of India	Devinder Pal Singh, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, and Anil Kaushik (Updated 31 December)

(International)

Organization / Country	Person

United Arab Emirates (NewsVoir) DP World signs Indian cricket star as its new brand ambassador, joining Sachin Tendulkar and Tommy Fleetwood in the company's growing sports portfolio	Abhishek Sharma (Updated 3 December)
Appointed as Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank Group	Paschal Donohoe (Updated 4 December)
United Nations Secretary-General has appointed as the new UN Resident Coordinator in India	Stefan Priesner (Updated 8 December)
Becomes Investor and Global Brand Ambassador for AI Firm Perplexity	Cristiano Ronaldo (Updated 9 December)
Sworn in again as the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic	Andrej Babis (Updated 12 December)
Wins Chile Presidential Election *About Chile* • *Capital- Santiago* • *Official language- Spanish* • *President- José Antonio Kast* • *Continent- South America*	Jose Antonio Kast (Updated 18 December)
Elected Chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission for the 2026–2029 term	PV Sindhu (Updated 30 December)

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

Award	Person/Organization	Purpose/ Field
The Silver Medal (Second Prize) for excellence in display under the Central Ministries &	The Ministry of Mines	CPSEs under the **Ministry showcased India's industrial and strategic strengths, with NALCO** highlighting its

Government Departments category at IITF 2025		leadership in aluminium production and its applications in **clean energy, transportation, and strategic sectors.**
PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year	**Raveena Tandon**	For her commitment to a **meat-free lifestyle, wildlife protection**, and advocacy for community animals.
The Union Home Minister's Efficiency Medal	Dinesh Khatak	For **exemplary service, recognising his leadership, operational excellence,** and sustained contribution to national security
Two prestigious PRSI National Awards 2025 **The Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign award**	The National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)	For the **Har Ghar Museum** initiative and the Special/Prestige Publication award for its **"Waste to Art"** publication.
The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar	Vaibhav Suryavanshi	The Bihar-based teenager, just months away from turning **15, achieved a historic milestone,** joining the league of young achievers like **R Praggnanandhaa and R Vaishali.**

<div align="center">**(International)**</div>

Award	Person/Organization	Purpose/ Field
The 'Rum Brand of the Year' award at the Spirits Business Awards 2025	Camikara	Produced by **Piccadily Agro Industries Ltd, Camikara** is **India's first pure cane-juice aged rum, distilled** from **fresh sugarcane juice and aged in American oak**

		barrels without added colour, flavour, or sugar
2025 World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards	Armand Duplantis (Sweden) and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA)	Recognizing **their record-breaking performances in pole vault and 400 metres** respectively
"FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World"	US President Donald Trump	**FIFA President Gianni Infantino,** known for his close association with Trump, has previously stated that **Trump deserved a Nobel Peace Prize** for his efforts toward negotiating a Gaza ceasefire
TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year	Neal Mohan	For Shaping Global Digital Culture
The Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare	Anant Ambani	The award recognises his leadership in creating **Vantara**, a large-scale conservation initiative using modern **veterinary science, species recovery programmes,** and structured **wildlife rehabilitation**.
The Geddes Gavel Award	Col Prateek Roy of the Indian Army	The award honors the student who **demonstrates exceptional understanding of regional relationships,** decision-making, and superior knowledge across **political, diplomatic, military, cultural, and economic domains**

TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year	A'ja Wilson	Recognized for **her outstanding performance on the court, leadership in women's sports**, and cultural impact, marking **2025** as a landmark year in her career.
The UN Environment Programme's 2025 Champions of the Earth	Supriya Sahu	For her **outstanding contributions to climate action**
Ethiopia's highest civilian honour, "The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia"	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	The award acknowledges **Modi's exceptional contribution to strengthening India–Ethiopia relations** and his influence in global leadership.
Oman's highest civilian honour — The First Class of the Order of Oman by Sultan Haitham bin Tariq	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	The award, traditionally given to eminent **global leaders,** marks a significant **diplomatic recognition** and places **PM Modi** among an elite group of world figures who have received this prestigious honour.
Best Domestic Airline at the Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025	Air India	The award highlights **Air India's focus on comfort, service quality, and consistency,** and acknowledges the efforts of **frontline staff delivering services across airports** and onboard flights.

NASA's 2025 International Space Apps Challenge	Chennai Team	The **Chennai-based team, Photonics Odyssey**, proposed a sovereign, phased-array satellite internet infrastructure to expand broadband access across remote regions and won the Most Inspirational Award.
The Best Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Institute in India	PGIMER, Chandigarh	**PGIMER's achievement** is driven by its **HTA Resource Hub** under the **Department of Health Research**, led by **Prof Shankar Prinja**, which has played a key role in building national capacity for evidence-based health decision-making.
The Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, one of France's highest cultural honours	Malayalam publisher Ravi Deecee, Managing Director of DC Books	For his contribution to **literature and cross-cultural exchange**.

Awards 2025: Complete winners list

President Droupadi Murmu Presents National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 on Energy Conservation Day

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu presented the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025 and National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation prizes in New Delhi on 14 December 2025.

National Energy Conservation Awards 2025

- Organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power to recognize outstanding energy conservation efforts across sectors like Industry, Buildings, Transport, Institutions, Appliances, Innovation, and Professionals/Influencers.
- 558 applications were received; awards included 25 First Prizes, 5 Second Prizes, 26 Certificates of Merit, and 3 Certificates of Recognition for Innovation.

- Key winners in Industry included Munitions India Ltd., JSW Steel, Tata Steel, Raymond Luxury Cottons, Manali Petrochemicals, Balrampur Chini Mills.
- In Transport, **Miyana Railway Station (MP) and DMRC East Vinod Nagar Metro Station (Delhi) won first prizes;** other stations received Certificates of Merit.
- Buildings & Institutions awards recognized energy-efficient government buildings, colleges, and state performance, with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, and Chandigarh topping their groups.
- Appliance of the Year awards included energy-efficient products from Atomberg, LG, Haier, Crompton, Daikin, Kirloskar.
- Innovation Awards went to **ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, Vedanta, Electric Loco Shed Kanpur, MOTORAMA EV Pvt. Ltd., EPVI New Technological Epoch Pvt. Ltd.**
- Energy Conservation Professionals, Audit Firms, and Social Media Influencers were recognized for spreading awareness and driving energy-saving initiatives.

National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2025

- Targeted students of 5th–10th standards, organized in School, State, and National levels; over 80 lakh students participated.
- Divided into Group A (5th–7th) and Group B (8th–10th); National Level competition held on 11 December 2025 in New Delhi.
- Winners received cash prizes, laptops/tablets, and opportunities for study tours within India.

Energy Conservation Initiatives:

- India emphasizes emission reduction and the Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) requiring Designated Consumers (DISCOMs, Captive Power Plants, Open Access users) to consume a minimum portion of electricity from non-fossil sources.

President Droupadi Murmu Honours 20 Children with Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on Veer Bal Diwas

- **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas in New Delhi**.
- 20 children from 18 States and Union Territories were honoured for outstanding achievements in fields like bravery, art & culture, environment, innovation, and science & technology.
- Veer Bal Diwas is observed annually to commemorate the martyrdom of Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh ji and Baba Fateh Singh ji, sons of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji.
- Highlighting awardees' achievements, **Vishwanath Karthikey from Hyderabad** was **honoured for becoming the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits Challenge**, holding four world records.

- **Sunaina Kumari from Bihar** received the **award for the exceptional bravery of her brother**, who sacrificed his life while saving a boy from drowning.

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
A ₹476.03 crore scheme for the development of Makhana for the period 2025–26 to 2030–31	Focusing on **research and innovation, quality seed production, farmer training**, improved **harvesting, value addition, branding, marketing, exports, and quality control**
The 'Atal Canteen' Scheme	The **Atal Canteen scheme** aims to provide meals at just **₹5** for needy and working people; **45 canteens began operations immediately, with 55** more to open within **15 days.**

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
The 35-nation International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) for 2026	Stockholm, Sweden	**CEC Gyanesh Kumar** will assume the role of Chairperson of IDEA for 2026, taking over on 3 **December 2025** during the **Council of Member States meeting.** **CEC Gyanesh Kumar** reflecting the Election Commission of **India's global credibility and innovative election management practices**
The "Vision for Sujalam Bharat" Summit 2025	New Delhi	To strengthen **India's long-term water and sanitation security** through grassroots participation and **scientific approaches**.
The 46th Annual Conference of the Indian	Kolkata	The conference is held under the **theme "People, Planet, Prosperity: Demographic Drivers of India's Inclusive Growth,"** bringing

Association for the Study of Population (IASP)		together experts and policymakers to deliberate on population and development issues
The 18th Plenary Meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes	New Delhi	**Theme**- "**Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation.**"
The 3rd Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2025	Vijayawada	Theme - **Celebrating the Richness of Telugu Music Traditions**
The 7th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)	Nairobi, Kenya	Theme: **Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet**
Italy–India Business Forum 2025	Mumbai	Several major MoUs were signed, including **SIMEST–ICC cooperation, SAIL awarding €500 million green steel projects to Italy's Danieli Group, Prada's Kolhapuri**-inspired collaboration, expansion of Carpisa retail in India, and a **€5 million Italian investment by Cavagna Group,** reinforcing long-term bilateral trade and investment ties.
The second meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on AYUSH	New Delhi	The Minister highlighted the government's efforts to integrate **AYUSH systems** into the **national healthcare framework**, focusing on promoting **healthy lifestyles and creating a sustainable health system.**
The Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine	New Delhi	Theme- "**Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being," jointly organised by the WHO and the Ministry of AYUSH, and held from 17–19 December 2025**
The 11th United Nations Alliance of Civilisations (UNAOC)	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	The **11th UNAOC**, hosted by Saudi Arabia, marked two decades of dialogue under the theme "**Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity Advancing a New Era of Mutual Respect and Understanding in a Multipolar World" and also commemorated the 20th anniversary of UNAOC, established in 2005**.
BRICS 2026	India	The presidency handover positions India to host the **18th BRICS Summit in 2026**, furthering its

		role in shaping strategic cooperation among emerging economies. **India will officially assume the chair on January 1, 2026.**
The two-day Anti-Terrorism Conference– 2025	New Delhi	The conference focuses on actionable outcomes, enhanced **inter-agency coordination, and analysing global and domestic terror** incidents under the **government's zero-tolerance policy**.

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
Bisleri International has been announced as the Official Beverage Partner for the Tata Women's Premier League (WPL) for the next two seasons	The partnership will include **limited-edition packs, strong on-ground branding through visicoolers and iceboxes** in team dugouts, plus in-stadium hydration support and digital fan-engagement initiatives to enhance the **overall WPL experience**
India signed a ₹7,995-crore follow-on support deal with the U.S.	To sustain the **Indian Navy's fleet of 24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters** for five years, **covering spares, training, repairs, and component replenishment**
Cashfree has partnered with J.P. Morgan Payments	Enabling compliant processing of import transactions under **RBI's Payment Aggregator regulations**
Vrutti partners with HSBC India	To launch the **FPO Shakti financing facility to provide stage-based, blended capital support** to **Farmer-Producer Organisations (FPOs)** for timely and suitable credit access
ICICI Lombard General Insurance and Vastu Housing Finance have partnered	To provide insurance solutions to **Vastu's housing loan customers** across **17 States and 340 districts** in India
Gujarat Fluorochemicals (GFL) has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is investing $50 million in its subsidiary GFCL EV Products	To establish **India's first integrated battery materials facility**

NPCI International Payments (NIPL) has partnered with ACLEDA Bank of Cambodia	Enabling acceptance of **India's UPI in Cambodia and allowing Cambodia's Bakong (KHQR) QR network** to be accepted in India.
Juspay has partnered with Sabre Direct Pay	To modernise payment solutions for **travel merchants globally**, aiming to improve conversion rates and streamline transactions.
LIC has signed a strategic bancassurance partnership with Yes Bank	Enabling the **bank's customers** to access **LIC's insurance** products through **Yes Bank's branch network and digital channels**
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) –Kundli (Haryana) and NIFTEM–Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu), under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, have partnered with institutions in Karnataka such as UAS Bengaluru, UAHS Shimoga, CSIR–Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, and others	To strengthen **academics, research, capacity building**, and **skill development, including short-term courses** on Cold Chain Management
NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has partnered with Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) under Project Circular Bharat	To launch a start-up acceleration programme that will **support 50 high-potential start-ups** over three years, focusing on **plastic recycling, reuse and refill models, next-generation packaging, and material recovery** from textiles and e-waste.
Airtel Payments Bank, in partnership with NPCI Bharat BillPay	Enabled **electric vehicle (EV) wallet recharges on the Airtel Thanks app through the Bharat Connect (BBPS)** platform.

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank

The Asia Power Index 2025	Australia-based Lowy Institute	3rd	United States
A United Nations report	-	**New Delhi, India (30.2 million)** **Asian cities**	Jakarta (Indonesia) 41.9 million people
The world's strongest passport for 2025	-	67th	**UAEwith a mobility score of 179**
Hurun India Rich List 2025	Hurun India	**-**	Indian-origin billionaire **Jayshree Ullal**, CEO and President of Arista Networks

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
Netflix has announced a definitive agreement to acquire Warner Bros., including its film and television studios, HBO Max, and HBO, following the separation of Warner Bros. Discovery's Global Networks division, Discovery Global	The acquisition is valued at **$27.75 per WBD share**, with a total enterprise value of approximately **$82.7 billion (equity value of $72.0 billion),** making it one of the largest media deals in recent history
The Reserve Bank of India has approved HDFC Bank, along with its group entities, to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.5% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in IndusInd Bank.	The approval is valid for one year till **December 14, 2026**, with the condition that **HDFC Bank's aggregate** holding must not exceed **9.5%** at any time; any increase from below **5%** will require prior RBI approval.
Piramal Finance has signed a share purchase agreement to sell its entire 14.72% equity stake in Shriram Life Insurance Company Ltd (SLIC) to Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Ltd for ₹600 crore.	The deal is expected to be completed by the quarter ending **March 31, 2026, subject to necessary regulatory approvals, including clearance from IRDAI**.
Shriram Finance has entered into definitive agreements with Japan's MUFG Bank for a ₹39,618 crore ($4.4	**MUFG** will be allotted over **471 million shares at ₹840.93 per share** and will have the right to appoint two nominee directors to Shriram Finance's board.

billion) investment to acquire a 20% stake via a preferential share issue, marking India's largest FDI in a financial services company.	
India and New Zealand have successfully concluded a historic and ambitious Free Trade Agreement (FTA)	The agreement will deepen **bilateral economic engagement, improve market access, boost investment flows, and strengthen strategic cooperation between the two countries.**
Bharti Enterprises and Warburg Pincus announced a strategic investment in Haier India, acquiring a collective 49% stake in the Indian subsidiary of China's Haier Group; the deal size was not disclosed	The partnership aims to strengthen Haier India's **"Made in India, Made for India"** strategy by expanding local sourcing, manufacturing capacity, product innovation and market penetration
Canara HSBC Life Insurance and Equitas Small Finance Bank have entered a strategic bancassurance partnership	To increase life insurance accessibility across **India, integrating the insurer's portfolio with the bank's branch network**.

Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	$800 million	The Government of India	For projects in **Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat**, led by the **Department of Economic Affairs**
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	$2.2 billion	India	**To support key development projects across the country**
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A USD 108 million	The Mizoram government	To strengthen the state's public healthcare system under the project **"Supporting Public Healthcare System Strengthening to Achieve Universal Healthcare for Mizoram."**
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A USD 240 million	For Chennai Metro Rail Expansion	**For the second tranche of the Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project to expand metro connectivity and promote cleaner, safer, and more reliable urban transport in the Chennai Metropolitan Area**

The World Bank	USD 600 million	Uttar Pradesh and Haryana	For two large clean-air programmes in **Uttar Pradesh (USD 299.66 million)** and **Haryana (USD 300 million)**, aiming to improve air quality for around 270 million people in the Indo-Gangetic Plains.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	USD 4.258 billion	India	Supporting projects in skills development, renewable energy, urban infrastructure, metro expansion, healthcare, and ecotourism
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	A $650 million policy-based loan	India	Aiming to provide clean and affordable energy to 10 million households by 2027

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
InDApp	National Industries Research and Development Council (NIRDC)	To enhance ease of doing business for **MSMEs by improving access to approvals, market information, and nationwide business opportunities**
The Sujalam Bharat App	The Ministry of Jal Shakti	A digital platform aimed at increasing transparency and strengthening **community ownership in rural drinking water supply systems under the Jal Jeevan Mission.**

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed an MoU to collaborate on advancing research and innovation in cutting-edge communication technologies	**C-DOT** with **IIT Roorkee**
Signed three MoUs during a one-day training programme on Pharmacovigilance and Materiovigilance in Nagaland	Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (**IPC**) with the Nagaland Medical Council, Nagaland State Drugs Control

	Administration (**NSDCA**), and **Nagaland State Pharmacy Council**
Signed an MoU to jointly establish a Centre of Excellence in Strategic Partnership, aiming to boost leadership, expertise, and innovation in project financing across India	SBI and Bank of India
Signs MoU to introduce a telecom-based safety alert system across National Highways, aiming to enhance road safety for commuters	NHAI with Reliance Jio
Signed a two-year MoU to enhance India's image as a premium travel destination for both domestic and international tourists, using Mastercard's global platforms like the Priceless™ program	The Government of India and Mastercard
Signed an MoU to enhance cyber security and advance digital technologies like AI and ML across its operations, strengthening industry–academia collaboration.	State-owned miner National Mineral Development Corporation (**NMDC**) with **IIT Kanpur**
Signed an MoU to explore manufacturing and advanced packaging of Intel's chips in India, including production at Tata's upcoming semiconductor fab in Dholera (Gujarat) and packaging at the Guwahati OSAT facility	**Tata Electronics and Intel**
The Ministry of MSME has signed an MoU with Amazon	To support **Vishwakarma artisans**, enabling them to access **digital marketplaces and modern e-commerce** tools to expand their reach
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on pharmacopoeia, aimed at promoting shared quality standards, regulatory alignment, and improving access to safe and affordable medicines	India and Liberia
Established the India–Netherlands Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) through an MoU, marking a key step toward strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation	India and the Netherlands

Signed an MoU to strengthen collaboration in research, education, training, and technology support for defence and internal security.	**DRDO** and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
Signed an MoU to enable nationwide collection and safe, timely delivery of samples to NTH laboratories for testing	**National Test House (NTH) and the Department of Posts**
Signed an MoU to collaborate in academics, research, training, student exchange and skill development in the BFSI sector.	**The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) and IIIT Hyderabad**
Signed an MoU to implement the PM VIKAS Scheme as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA)	**NIFTEM–Kundli with the Ministry of Minority Affairs**
Signed an MoU to embed ethical leadership in social security administration	**The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS), the apex training institute of EPFO with the IC Centre for Governance (ICCfG)**

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

CRISIL raises India's GDP growth forecast to 7% for FY25 after stronger-than-expected first-half performance
- **CRISIL revised India's GDP growth** forecast to 7**% for the current financial year**, citing stronger-than-expected 8% growth in the first half, driven mainly by robust private consumption, manufacturing, and services.
- Despite real GDP growth of 8.2% in Q2, nominal GDP growth remained moderate at 8.7% due to easing inflation; growth is expected to slow to 6.1% in the second half due to factors like higher U.S. tariffs.

Fitch Raises India's FY26 GDP Forecast to 7.4% Boosted by GST Reforms and Strong Consumer Spending
- **Fitch Ratings raised India's FY26 GDP** growth forecast **to 7.4% from 6.9%,** citing higher consumer spending and improved sentiment following GST reforms.
- The agency noted falling inflation provides RBI room for another policy rate cut in December to 5.25%, after 100 basis points of reductions in 2025 so far.

ADB Raises India's FY26 Growth Forecast to 7.2% on Strong Economic Momentum
- **ADB** has raised **India's growth forecast for FY 2025-26 to 7.2%,** up from 6.5%, citing strong economic performance in the July–September quarter and improved prospects for the fiscal year
- ADB has kept its FY 2026-27 growth projection for India unchanged at 6.5%, indicating expectations of stable growth in the following year.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

NBA Releases ₹5.34 Crore to 85 Biodiversity Committees in Maharashtra Under Access and Benefit Sharing Framework

- The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** has released ₹**5.34 crore to around 85 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in Maharashtra** under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework, benefiting communities in Wada Tehsil, Palghar District, and BMC Mumbai.
- Approximately 15% of ABS applications involve accessing microorganisms, highlighting how small biological resources can generate significant benefits for farmers, local communities, and other stakeholders.

Chhattisgarh Housing Board Launches ₹2,060 Crore Projects to Build 12,000 Affordable Homes

- The **Chhattisgarh Housing Board (CGHB)** has launched **55 housing projects worth ₹2,060 crore across 26 districts**, aiming to provide affordable homes for 12,000 families, inaugurated by CM Vishnu Deo Sai in Raipur.
- The state has cleared loans worth ₹790 crore, and CGHB plans to fund these projects using money from home bookings, with construction starting in about three months and completion expected within 24 months.

VOC Port Receives First Clinker Shipment Under MoU with Ambuja Cement

- **VOC Port** received its **first coastal clinker consignment** under **the MoU with Ambuja Cement Ltd.,** ensuring the **annual movement of 2,50,000 metric tonnes of clinker** under the Minimum Guaranteed Tonnage-based Incentive Scheme.
- The vessel MV Lima Trader, carrying 56,440 metric tonnes of clinker from Sanghi Port, Gujarat, was berthed at NCB-II and handled by Seaport Shipping (agent) and Seaport Logistics (stevedore).

Paradip Port Sets Record with Fastest-Ever 100 MMT Cargo Throughput in a Fiscal

- **Paradip Port Authority (PPA)** achieved its **fastest-ever 100 MMT cargo** throughput, reaching 100.15 MMT on 27th November — 12 days earlier than the previous fiscal, marking its 9th consecutive year crossing the 100 MMT milestone.
- The record was achieved in 241 days in FY 2025–26, compared to 253 days in FY 2024–25, reflecting a 4.78% year-on-year growth despite market challenges.

DoT Mandates SIM-Linking for Messaging Apps to Prevent Fraud

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has made it **mandatory for messaging apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Arattai** to be **constantly linked to a SIM card** to operate on a device.
- This move aims to prevent fraud and hijacking of messaging accounts by ensuring that apps can only be used with a specific, active SIM card.

- Web versions of messaging apps must be logged out periodically and re-linked within six hours using a QR code, as per DoT instructions.

ICAI Sets Guinness World Record with Largest Career Advice Session in Mumbai

- **The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** set a **Guinness World Record** by conducting the largest career advice programme session in a single day in Mumbai, with participation from over 7,400 students and others.
- The event, titled '**Career in Accounting and Finance for Youth (CAFY 4.0) & Super Mega Career Counselling Programme'**, saw 1.3 lakh+ participants pan-India, with an eligible record count of 6,166 students, securing the title of 'Largest Career Advice Lesson'.

PM Modi Unveils World's Tallest 77-Foot Bronze Statue of Lord Ram in Goa

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled a **77-feet-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram** at the historic Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Goa during the **Math's 550th anniversary celebrations**.
- **The Math, one of India's oldest Dvaita Vaishnava institutions**, marked a major milestone as PM Modi also inaugurated the Ramayana Theme Park, and released a special postal stamp and commemorative coin.
- The statue, crafted by renowned sculptor Ram V. Sutar (designer of the Statue of Unity), has been presented as the world's tallest statue of Lord Ram, symbolizing unity, devotion, and India's cultural continuity.

Amazon and Google Launch New Multicloud Service for Faster, High-Speed Connectivity

- **Amazon and Google** have jointly launched a **new multicloud networking service** that allows customers **to create private, high-speed connections between AWS and Google Cloud within minutes instead of weeks.**
- The service merges AWS Interconnect–multicloud with Google Cloud's Cross-Cloud Interconnect, significantly improving network interoperability and multicloud performance.

Arunachal Dao Receives GI Tag, Preserving Centuries-Old Tribal Metalcraft Tradition

- 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.**
- Several unique items from Arunachal Pradesh with GI status include:
  - Wakro Orange
  - Idu Mishmi textiles
  - Khamti Rice
  - Yak Churpi
  - Wancho wooden craft

Centre to Invest Rs 4,500 Crore to Modernise Mohali Semiconductor Laboratory, Boost India's Chip Manufacturing

- **Centre to invest Rs 4,500 crore** in **Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali,** to modernise it into one of the **world's most advanced small-node semiconductor centres**, boosting wafer production nearly 100 times and supporting students, researchers, and startups.
- India's unified national chip roadmap will involve C-DAC, DRDO, top research institutes, and industry experts to develop cutting-edge fabrication technologies, defence-grade semiconductors, advanced EDA tools, and high-reliability packaging solutions, moving beyond the 90 nm technology node.

UPI Transactions Surge 32% YoY in November, Reinforcing Digital Payments Dominance

- **UPI transactions grew 32% year-on-year in November**, crossing 19 billion transactions, **with a 22% annual rise in transaction value;** average daily transaction amount reached ₹87,721 crore.
- November recorded 682 million average daily transactions, higher than 668 million in October, showing consistent month-on-month growth.

PMO Renamed 'Seva Tirth' as Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas Become Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas in Major Governance Shift

- 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.
- Home Minister Amit Shah stated that this change reflects the Modi government's 11-year philosophy of 'seva over satta', where the Prime Minister considers himself the Pradhan Sevak and works round the clock for the people.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Inaugurates Saras Ajeevika Food Festival 2025 Showcasing Culinary Culture of 25 States

- **Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated the **Saras Ajeevika Food Festival 2025 in New Delhi,** showcasing food that reflects the cultural vibrancy of 25 states, with the event's motto highlighting taste, self-reliance, and indigenous products.
- Around 300 Lakhpati Didis and women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the country are participating in the festival, which will continue till 9th of this month.

DoT Mandates Pre-Installation of Sanchar Saathi App on All Mobile Devices to Strengthen Telecom Cyber Security

- **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has **mandated pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi mobile app** on all mobile handsets manufactured or imported for India, ensuring the app is clearly visible and accessible during first use, with no key functions hidden or restricted.
- Manufacturers and importers must comply within 90 days, and submit compliance reports within 120 days; devices already produced must receive the app through software updates.

Coal Ministry Unveils Simplified Approval System to Fast-Track Exploration and Geological Reports

- **Ministry of Coal** has introduced a s**implified approval mechanism for exploration programs and Geological Reports (GRs) for coal and lignite blocks,** replacing the earlier methodology and removing the need for the 2022 approval committee, ensuring faster and more transparent processing.
- The new system allows Notified Accredited Prospecting Agencies (APAs) accredited by QCI-NABET, along with mandatory peer review by another APA, to prepare and validate reports, strengthening the technical robustness of exploration activities.

APY Enrolments Cross 8.34 Crore with Strong 48% Participation from Women

- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** enrolments have **crossed 8.34 crore**, as informed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha; 48% of total subscribers are women, highlighting strong female participation.
- **Launched in May 2015,** APY aims to provide a universal social security system, especially for unorganised-sector workers; it is open to individuals aged 18–40 years with a savings or post-office account.

Indian Railways Promotes Women's World Cup Cricket Champions Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana, and Renuka Singh Thakur to OSD (Sports)

- **Indian Railways** has promoted **Pratika Rawal, Sneh Rana, and Renuka Singh Thakur to the Group 'B' Officer post of OSD (Sports)** through Out-of-Turn Promotion, recognising their key contributions to India's 2025 ICC Women's World Cup victory.
- The promotion grants them Group 'B' Gazetted Officer status under Level-8 of the 7th CPC, providing financial security along with additional administrative responsibilities within the Railway Sports Promotion Board.

Government to Set Up 50,000 New Atal Tinkering Labs Across Schools to Boost Innovation

- The **Government** plans to **establish 50,000 new Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** in schools across India, aiming to foster innovation, creativity, and problem-solving skills among students.
- Over 10,000 ATLs have already been set up under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog, initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote research and innovation at the school level.

Annapurna Devi to Launch 100-Day National Campaign for a Child Marriage-Free Bharat

- **Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi** will **launch a 100-day awareness campaign for a Child Marriage-Free Bharat** in New Delhi, marking the one-year anniversary of the 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign.
- The campaign will feature the National Pledge to End Child Marriage, a film showcasing inspiring stories, and testimonies from frontline champions, highlighting collective progress and reinforcing momentum for the next phase.

India Post Releases Commemorative 'My Stamp' to Honour P. Obul Reddy on His Birth Centenary

- **India Post** released a **customised commemorative 'My Stamp'** to honour the birth centenary of industrialist and Nippo Batteries **founder Pottipatti Obul Reddy**, unveiled in Chennai by Manoj M., Director of Postal Services.
- P. Obul Reddy was instrumental in the Indo-Japanese collaboration with Matsushita (Panasonic) in 1972, leading to the founding of Indo National Ltd (Nippo Batteries), which became India's second-largest dry-cell manufacturer.

Tamil Nadu's Five Traditional Products Earn GI Tag, Taking State's Total to 74

- **Five traditional products** from **Tamil Nadu — Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi naatu sakkarai (jaggery powder), Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware), Thooyamalli rice, and Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys**) — have been awarded the GI tag, showcasing the State's cultural and agricultural richness.
- With these additions, Tamil Nadu now holds 74 GI-tagged products, as confirmed by IPR attorney P. Sanjai Gandhi, who filed the applications for the respective groups.

India Launches Its First All-Electric Green Tug Project

- **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.

AIM–NITI Aayog and Hitachi MGRM Net Launch AI-Powered "MStar Global AI Connect" to Build India's Nationwide Innovation Backbone

- **AIM–NITI Aayog and Hitachi MGRM Net Ltd**. signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop "MStar™ Global AI Connect",** an AI-driven single innovation platform to boost innovation and entrepreneurship across India.
- The partnership aims to build a federated national digital innovation backbone, connecting rural, urban, and suburban schools with mentors, incubators, accelerators, research institutions, and industry under the vision of "Viksit Bharat".

DoT Withdraws Mandatory Sanchar Saathi App Order Amid Public Backlash and Rising Security Concerns

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) withdrew its order** requiring smartphone **manufacturers to preload the Sanchar Saathi app from next year**, after public backlash and a surge in voluntary downloads.
- The initial mandate—issued under newly expanded powers regulating Telecommunication Identifier User Entities (TIUE)—triggered strong criticism from civil society, internet users, and the Opposition for attempting to install a government app without user consent.

PM-WANI Scheme Empowers Public Wi-Fi Expansion with 3.9 Lakh Hotspots, Key Reforms Boost Accessibility and Affordability

- The **Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme** was **approved on 9th December 2020** to accelerate broadband proliferation across India via Public Wi-Fi networks, aligning with the National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) 2018 and enabling Public Data Offices (PDOs) to set up Wi-Fi hotspots under PDO Aggregators (PDOAs).
- As of **26th November 2025**, **India has 3,91,599 active PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots**, delivered by PDOs, facilitating affordable and widespread internet access across urban and rural areas.

Retail Sale Price Now Mandatory on All Pan Masala Packs from February 2026

- **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.

Bihar Launches 'Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana' to Take Secondary Students on Nationwide Educational Tours

- 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.

Darjeeling Mandarin Orange Secures GI Tag

- **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.

Numaligarh Refinery Granted Navratna Status, Boosting Assam's Energy and Green Growth Initiatives

- **Numaligarh Refinery Ltd (NRL)** has been granted **Navratna status**, a major milestone for Assam's oil and gas sector, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanking PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri for their support.
- The upgrade highlights the Centre's strong confidence in NRL's strategic role as it leads major energy and petrochemical projects in the Northeast, including the

large-scale NREP refinery expansion and the newly inaugurated bamboo-based 2G bioethanol plant.

India to Conduct 8th Economic Census in 2027 Following Two-Phase Population 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).

Odisha CM Inaugurates 36th Konark Festival and 15th International Sand Art 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.

India–Russia Discuss Expansion of Fisheries, Meat & Dairy Trade Ahead of High-Level Talks

- **India and Russia** held **bilateral talks in New Delhi** to expa**nd trade in fisheries, meat, and dairy products, address market access issues,** and speed up export establishment listings under Russia's FSVPS system.
- India highlighted its fishery exports worth USD 7.45 billion in 2024–25, discussed diversification of exports (shrimp, prawns, tuna, squid, etc.), and requested early approvals for Indian dairy and meat establishments, including AMUL/GCMMF.

11th India International Science Festival Begins in Panchkula

- The **11th India International Science Festival (IISF 2025),** being held in **Panchkula, Haryana**, will showcase India's science-led progress while bridging traditional knowledge with modern scientific research.
- The festival's theme, "**Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat**," highlights the role of science, technology, and innovation in strengthening self-reliance, national development, and economic growth.

BPCL Becomes the Only Indian Company Named Among Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025

- **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.

Indian Army Achieves Historic First Ascent of Mount Kangto, Arunachal Pradesh's Highest Peak

- **Indian Army's Eastern Command** mountaineering team **achieved a historic milestone by successfully summiting Mount Kangto (7,042 m),** the highest and **previously unconquered** peak of Arunachal Pradesh, marking its first-ever recorded ascent.
- The 18-member team, flagged off on November 3, braved extreme weather, rarefied air, icy ridgelines, deep crevasses, and near-vertical ice walls, showcasing exceptional courage, discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

Nationwide 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' Campaign to Run from 19–25 December

- **Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore campaign** will be conducted nationwide **from 19 to 25 December**, covering all districts, states, and Union Territories, with participation from over 700 District Collectors who will visit Tehsils and Panchayat Samiti Headquarters.
- The campaign aims to strengthen grassroots governance, improve administrative outreach, and ensure efficient delivery of government services in rural areas.

Madhya Pradesh Approves Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve as State's Third Cheetah Habitat

- **The Mohan Yadav** cabinet has approved the **development of Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Nauradehi) in Sagar district as Madhya Pradesh's third cheetah habitat**, after Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Madhya Pradesh currently has 31 cheetahs, with 28 in Kuno and 3 in Gandhi Sagar, all originally translocated from Kuno; the third habitat is needed due to the upcoming translocation of 8 cheetahs from Botswana by January 2026.
- The 8 Botswana cheetahs have already been identified and are kept in quarantine enclosures in a reserve forest in Botswana, awaiting their transfer to India.

Gujarat Launches 'Operation Mule Hunt' to Dismantle Cyber Fraud Networks Using Advanced Tech and Statewide Coordination

- **Gujarat Police's Cyber Centre of Excellence** has launched '**Operation Mule Hunt**', a coordinated statewide crackdown targeting mule bank accounts used by cybercriminals, with Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi directing police units to intensify verification and trace networks up to the masterminds.
- The state is strengthening its cybercrime response through advanced data analytics, AI-based monitoring, digital forensics labs, dedicated cyber police

stations, and enhanced inter-department coordination to accelerate both prevention and detection of cyber fraud.

Rajasthan Becomes First State in India to Achieve 100% Digitisation of Electoral Roll Under Special Intensive Revision

- **Rajasthan** has become the **first state in India to achieve 100% digitisation** of its electoral roll **under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR),** thanks to coordinated efforts by BLOs, supervisors, district election officers, and other staff.
- The state now leads the country in voter mapping, with over 97% of mapping completed, meaning only 3% of voters will need to submit documents during the claims-objections phase, averaging about 30 voters per booth.

Maharashtra Launches Mahadeva Football Initiative to Train 60 Rural U-13 Players with World-Class Facilities

- The **Maharashtra Government** launched the **Mahadeva Football Initiative (Project Mahadeva)** to provide world-class training facilities for 60 young football players from rural and remote areas.
- The programme specifically targets Under-13 (U-13) boys and girls, aiming to create a long-term pathway for football development in the state.

Ageas Federal Life Insurance Unveils New Brand Identity with "Har Wada Mumkin" Promise

- **Ageas Federal Life Insurance** unveiled its **refreshed brand identity with a new logo and the promise "Har Wada Mumkin – Promises Made Possible,"** launched by MD & CEO Jude Gomes along with brand ambassador Sachin Tendulkar in Mumbai.
- The new logo features two unifying arcs symbolising protection and guidance, with orange representing optimism and violet signifying trust, reflecting the company's aim to simplify insurance and expand financial protection across India.

Deepavali Secures UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Status, Marking a Historic Milestone for India

- **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.
- Leaders, including the PM, Vice President, Union Ministers, and UNESCO, highlighted Deepavali's universal message of light over darkness, unity, cultural diversity, and community-driven traditions, supported by artisans, farmers, diaspora, and various social groups.

IIT Bombay Unveils India's First Incubator-Linked Deep Tech VC Fund and Releases Strategy Plan 2026–2030

- **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.

- The institute also unveiled its Strategy Plan 2026–2030, approved by the Board of Governors chaired by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, focusing on innovation-led growth and strengthening India's deep tech ecosystem.

India Launches First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Passenger Vessel in Varanasi

- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off **India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel in Varanasi,** marking a major step toward clean and sustainable inland water transport.
- Launched at Namo Ghat, the hydrogen-powered vessel showcases India's advancing technological capabilities and places the country among global leaders like China, Norway, the Netherlands, and Japan operating hydrogen-driven vessels.

Bihar Launches 'Bhumi Sudhar Samvad' to Fast-Track Land Dispute Resolution and Curb Encroachments

- 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 programme provides a public interface for citizens to present land documents for on-the-spot resolution of mutation, ownership, and documentation issues, initially in Patna, later in Lakhisarai.

UPSC Ensures Preferred Examination Centres for PwBD Candidates to Boost Accessibility

- **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.

FICCI Annapoorna Interfood Exhibition 2025 Showcases India's Growing Food Processing Ecosystem

- The **17th edition of the FICCI Annapoorna Interfood Exhibition 2025**, held in **Mumbai,** highlighted India's rapidly expanding food processing ecosystem, with MoFPI Secretary Avinash Joshi calling it a key platform to transform agriculture, livelihoods, and consumer experience.
- The event witnessed wide international participation from 17–18 countries, including stakeholders from India, Africa, the US, Europe, UAE, and Australia, bringing together leading food-processing companies, buyers, and trade professionals.

NIT Rourkela Develops Low-Cost AI-Powered Social Robot for Homes, Schools and Hospitals

- **Researchers at NIT Rourkela** have developed a **low-cost social robot (₹80,000–90,000) that uses AI and Large Language Models (LLMs) to enable human-like interaction** through speech, gestures, facial-expression recognition and real-time conversation.
- Unlike pre-programmed machines, the robot can understand everyday language, follow verbal instructions, recognise emotions and gestures, and respond empathetically, making it suitable for homes, classrooms, hospitals and community spaces.

Amazon Announces $35 Billion Investment in India by 2030

- **Amazon** announced a **$35 billion investment in India by 2030 at the Smbhav Summit 2025,** with funds spread across its retail operations, cloud services and AI arm (AWS), reinforcing its long-term commitment to the Indian market.
- The investment comes amid a broader push by global tech firms to scale AI and data centre infrastructure, following Microsoft's $17.5 billion commitment, and as Amazon explores growth in quick-commerce, competing with BlinkIt, Zepto and Swiggy.

Government Likely to Rename MGNREGA as 'Pujya Bapu Gramin Rozgar Yojana', Proposes Key Reforms

- 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.

Union Cabinet Approves MSP for Copra 2026

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2026 season, with ₹12,027 per quintal** for milling copra and **₹12,500 per quintal for ball copra,** marking an increase of ₹445 and ₹400 per quintal respectively compared to the previous season.
- Since 2014, the MSP for milling copra has increased by 129% and for ball copra by 127%, reflecting the government's effort to provide better income support and financial stability to coconut farmers.

Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 Celebrates India's Linguistic Diversity with Tribal Language Showcase and Cultural Performances

- **Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025** was organised in **New Delhi** to mark the birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, celebrating India's rich linguistic diversity under the theme "**Many Languages, One Emotion.**"
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs showcased the cultural significance of tribal languages through a stall featuring publications from Tribal Research Institutes of Jharkhand, Odisha, and Gujarat, along with a live demonstration of the Adi Vaani app for real-time translation between Hindi/English and tribal languages.

Microsoft Unveils MahaCrimeOS AI to Accelerate Cybercrime Investigations in Maharashtra

- **Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella** unveiled **MahaCrimeOS,** an AI-powered platform designed to accelerate cybercrime investigations, during the AI Tour in Mumbai, which was developed in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government's MARVEL.
- The platform aims to augment police efficiency, reducing investigation turnaround time by up to 80%, enabling features such as instant case creation, multilingual data extraction, contextual legal assistance, and integration with India's criminal laws and open-source intelligence.

Cabinet Clears SHANTI Bill To Allow Private Players In Nuclear Energy Field

- 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.
- 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.

Sudha Murty Inaugurates 'Craftkatha 2025' to Celebrate India's Handicraft Heritage

- **Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty** inaugurated the "**Craftkatha – 2025**" exhibition in New Delhi, showcasing artisans from across India as part of National Handicrafts and Heritage Week 2025.
- The exhibition aims to celebrate India's artistic heritage, support sustainable livelihoods, encourage young artisans, and strengthen grassroots craft ecosystems.

India's Resolution on Strengthening Global Wildfire Management Adopted at UNEA-7

- **India's resolution** titled "**Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires**" was adopted at the **7th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) held in Nairobi, Kenya**, receiving broad support from UN Member States.
- India highlighted that wildfires have become a major global environmental challenge, with increasing frequency, scale, and intensity across regions, and stressed the need for stronger international cooperation and coordinated action.

Kopra Reservoir Becomes Chhattisgarh's First Ramsar Site

- **Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur** district has been designated as **Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar site,** marking a major milestone in the state's environmental conservation efforts.

- The recognition aligns with **"Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision 2047",** which aims to secure Ramsar status for 20 wetlands by 2030, strengthening water resources, irrigation, and biodiversity protection.

BHEL Hands Over Rs 109 Crore Dividend to Government for FY25

- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** handed over a **dividend cheque of over Rs 109 crore to the Government of India for FY 2024-25**, marking a 100% increase compared to FY 2023-24.
- BHEL reported a net profit of Rs 375 crore in Q2 FY26, recovering from a net loss of Rs 455.5 crore in Q1 FY26, reflecting a year-on-year increase of over 250% from Rs 106.15 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal year.

Kerala's Rural Local Bodies Receive Over ₹260 Crore First Instalment of XV Finance Commission Grants

- The **Union Government** released ₹**260.20 crore to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Kerala** as the first instalment of XV Finance Commission grants for FY 2025-26, covering 14 District Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, and 941 Gram Panchayats.
- The grants, recommended by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, are released in two installments by the Ministry of Finance during the financial year.

Andhra Pradesh to Host India's First Dedicated Autonomous Maritime Shipyard in Nellore

- 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).

Meghalaya Inaugurates Soil Lake at Williamnagar to Boost Water Conservation and Eco-Tourism

- 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.

Lionel Messi Virtually Unveiled 70-Foot Statue in Kolkata during GOAT India Tour 2025

- **Argentine football legend Lionel Messi** virtually un**veiled a towering 70-foot statue of himself in Lake Town, Kolkata**, as part of the kickoff to his GOAT India Tour 2025, marking a grand tribute to his iconic career.
- The statue, depicting Messi and celebrating his achievements, including the FIFA World Cup, was commissioned **at the Sree Bhumi Sporting Club** and revealed remotely by the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner ahead of his arrival in the city.
- The unveiling event in Kolkata, which also featured appearances from celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan and fellow football stars, served as the opening highlight of Messi's three-day tour across major Indian cities.

India Unveils DHRUV64, Its First Fully Indigenous 64-Bit Microprocessor

- **India** launched **DHRUV64**, the country's first fully indigenous microprocessor, developed by **C-DAC under the Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP**), marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor journey.
- The DHRUV64 is a 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core processor capable of supporting strategic and commercial applications, with higher efficiency, enhanced multitasking, and improved reliability.

Jyotiraditya Scindia Unveils 25-Foot Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Belagavi, Karnataka

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** unveiled a **25-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Athani in Karnataka's Belagavi district**, calling it a historic moment that celebrates India's spirit of courage, self-respect, and national duty.
- The unveiling symbolizes a resolve to carry forward the ideals of Hindavi Swaraj, inspiring future generations with Shivaji Maharaj's values of fearlessness, strategic brilliance, and visionary leadership.

Kavita Chand Scales Mount Vinson, Becomes First Woman from Uttarakhand to Summit Antarctica's Highest Peak'

- **Kavita Chand**, a native of Almora, Uttarakhand, successfully **summited Mount Vinson (4,892 m) in Antarctica,** marking a major milestone in her Seven Summits quest.
- Considered one of the world's most unforgiving peaks, Mount Vinson tested the climbers with extreme cold, isolation and unpredictable Antarctic weather, requiring meticulous planning and acclimatisation.

University of Patanjali Declared India's First Yoga and Ayurveda-Based Cluster Centre under Gyan Bharatam Mission

- The **University of Patanjali** has been designated as I**ndia'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.

NLC India Awarded 110 MW Solar PV Project by NCRTC in Uttar Pradesh

- **NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL)** has received a **Letter of Acceptance (LoA)** from **NCRTC to develop a 110 MW grid-connected solar PV power project** in Uttar Pradesh under captive mode.
- The project aims to power NCRTC's entire Regional Rapid Transit System corridor, involving setting up, commissioning, operation, and maintenance of the solar plant, with completion expected within 24 months.

NCDEX Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Mutual Fund Transaction Platform

- **NCDEX** has received in-**principle approval from SEBI** to launch a **Mutual Fund (MF) transaction platform,** marking a significant step in its strategy to become a diversified, multi-asset market infrastructure institution.
- The exchange will facilitate mutual fund subscription and redemption through an exchange-led framework, with a focus on low-denomination Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) to improve access for a broader investor base.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas

- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Vijay Diwas**, featuring portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees to honour India's bravest soldiers.
- Observed on **December 16, Vijay Diwas commemorates India's victory in the 1971 war**, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh, highlighting the joint efforts of the Indian Armed Forces and Mukti Bahini in reshaping South Asia's history.

Ponduru Khadi from Andhra Pradesh Receives Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- **Ponduru Khadi**, the traditional **handspun and handwoven cotton fabric from Andhra Pradesh**, has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- Locally known as Patnulu, Ponduru Khadi is produced exclusively in Ponduru village, Srikakulam district, showcasing the area's rich textile heritage.

Bihar: Motihari Police Roll Out 'Abhaya Brigade' to Curb Harassment Near Schools and Colleges

- 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.

Gujarat's Mitiyaj Becomes First Village to Run Gram Panchayat Office at Night

- **Mitiyaj Gram Panchayat in Gir Somnath** district has **become the first in Gujarat to operate at night**, keeping the panchayat office open from 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm to make governance accessible for working villagers.

- The initiative, taken by Sarpanch Surpal Singh Barad, addresses the needs of farmers and daily wage labourers, enabling them to access essential services without losing daytime wages.

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini Announces Hansi as 23rd District of the State

- **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.**

India's Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.7% in November

- **India's overall unemployment rate (UR)** fell to **4.7% in November 2025**, the lowest level since April, for individuals aged 15 years and above, reflecting an improvement in the job market.
- Rural unemployment dropped to 3.9%, while urban unemployment fell to 6.5%, matching the lowest urban unemployment recorded earlier this year, according to MoSPI data.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme Helps Arrest Decline in Parsi Population; 232 Babies Born in Five Years

- 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.
- Financial assistance is provided through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) after biometric verification; **during 2020–21 to 2024–25, an expenditure of ₹17.64 crore resulted in the birth of 232 babies under the scheme.**

MY Bharat Launches Dedicated Portal for Republic Day Celebrations–2026 Youth Competitions

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,** through the **MY Bharat Portal**, has launched a special webpage to host national-level youth competitions as part of Republic Day Celebrations–2026.
- The initiative includes Essay Writing, Painting, and Slogan/Signature competitions, aimed at fostering patriotism, creativity, and civic engagement among youth nationwide.

Union Government Approves ₹887 Crore Plan for World-Class Mumbai Marina to Boost Coastal Shipping & Maritime Tourism

- The **Union Government** has approved the **development of a world-class Mumbai Marina at an estimated cost of ₹887 crore,** aiming to boost coastal shipping, maritime tourism, and waterfront-led urban development.
- The **Mumbai Port Authority** will **invest ₹470 crore to construct core marina infrastructure on an EPC basis**, while a private operator will develop onshore facilities with ₹417 crore investment; tenders close on 29 December 2025.

India Post Launches Karnataka's First Gen Z-Themed Post Office at Acharya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

- **India Post** unveiled **Karnataka's first Gen Z-themed post office at Acharya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru**, aimed at engaging the younger generation and reimagining the role of post offices in the digital age.
- The post office includes colourful interiors, full Wi-Fi, selfie points, student-designed decor, reading areas, cafe-style seating, wellness spaces, and a physiotherapy lab, making it a social and functional hub for students.

Good Governance Week 2025 Launched with 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' to Strengthen Grassroots Governance

- **Good Governance Week 2025** has been launched by **the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** and will be **observed from 19 to 25 December 2025,** with guidelines released by DARPG Secretary Rachna Shah.
- The campaign is being conducted in two phases—a preparatory phase (11–18 December) and an implementation phase (19–25 December), with district-level dissemination workshops on 23 December 2025 focusing on District @100 and good governance initiatives.

MSME Ministry Implements NSSH Scheme to Boost SC/ST Entrepreneurship and Public Procurement Participation

- The **Ministry of MSME** is implementing the **National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub (NSSH) Scheme** to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST communities and ensure 4% mandatory public procurement from SC/ST MSEs under the Public Procurement Policy.
- The scheme provides multi-dimensional support through capacity building, market linkage initiatives, Special Vendor Development Programmes (SVDPs), awareness workshops, subsidies on plant & machinery, and financial assistance for the Single Point Registration Scheme.

GI-Tagged Indi Lime from Karnataka Enters Oman Market with First Export Shipment

- **GI-tagged Indi Lime from Vijayapura**, Karnataka entered the **Oman market with its first export shipment of 3 metric tonnes**, boosting India's agricultural exports.
- As part of market diversification, 350 kg of Indi Lime was also flagged off for export to the United Kingdom, taking the total exports to nearly 12.35 MTs from the district.

DDWS Organises Second Edition of Sujal Gram Samvad to Strengthen Rural Water Governance

- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS)** under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti organised the second edition of Sujal Gram Samvad** to enhance rural water governance.
- Sujal Gram Samvad provides a direct communication platform between the Union Government and rural communities, enabling villagers to share their experiences and feedback on the Har Ghar Jal mission.

Uttar Pradesh to Establish India's First Dedicated Forest University in Gorakhpur

- **Uttar Pradesh** will establish **India's first dedicated Forest University in Gorakhpur**, focusing on forestry, wildlife, and environmental sciences, marking a historic step in specialised education and research.
- **UP government allocated ₹50 crore in the 2024 budget** for preliminary work; the campus will include hostels, laboratories, classrooms, an auditorium, sports facilities, and faculty housing, making it a national hub for forest education and conservation training.

Centre to set up statutory Bureau of Port Security to strengthen maritime security framework

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** convened a **high-level meeting to initiate the creation of a dedicated Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** aimed at strengthening the security of ships and port infrastructure across India.
- The **Bureau of Port Security** will be **set up as a statutory body under Section 13** of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, functioning under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, with responsibilities for regulatory oversight and coordination of port security.

Meghalaya Mandates Khasi and Garo in Early Education to Strengthen Cultural Roots

- **Meghalaya** has made **Khasi and Garo mandatory** in the **curriculum up to Class-1** to simplify learning and strengthen cultural identity from the foundational years.
- New textbooks will be optional in the coming academic year and will become compulsory from the next session, considering schools have already finalised syllabi.

Jammu & Kashmir Inaugurates First Gen Z Post Office at AIIMS Vijaypur

- **Jammu and Kashmir** inaugurated its **first Gen Z Post Office at the AIIMS Vijaypur campus,** marking a major step in modernising postal services.
- Launched under the Department of Posts' modernisation initiative, the facility offers a contemporary ambience, digital payments, and simplified service delivery tailored for Generation Z.

President Assents to Viksit Bharat (Gramin) Act

- **The President has** given **assent to the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025,** replacing MGNREGA, 2005 and aligning rural employment policy with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- The Act increases the statutory wage employment guarantee to at least 125 days per rural household per financial year, strengthening livelihood security, income stability, and the right to demand employment.

PM Modi Lays Foundation for ₹10,601-Crore Fertiliser Plant in Assam

- **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **₹10,601-crore brownfield ammonia-urea plant** in Dibrugarh, Assam, **set to be commissioned by 2030.**

- The new Assam Valley Fertiliser and Chemical Company Ltd (AVFCCL) plant will have an annual urea production of 12.7 lakh metric tonnes, enhancing the region's fertiliser output.

NCVET Recognises Flipkart as Awarding Body (Dual) to Strengthen Industry-Led Skilling in E-commerce

- **CVET**, under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, **has recognised Flipkart as an Awarding Body (Dual)** to strengthen industry-led vocational education in the e-commerce and logistics sector.
- The collaboration aims to create nationally recognised, benchmarked skilling pathways aligned with the Skill India Mission, enhancing workforce employability in India's rapidly growing e-commerce ecosystem.

Union Tourism Ministry to Set Up City-Level Convention Promotion Bureaus to Boost MICE Tourism from 2026

- The **Union Ministry of Tourism** will establish **independent, city-level Convention Promotion Bureaus from 2026,** in partnership with stakeholders, to strengthen India's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions) tourism ecosystem.
- Global MICE Positioning: With world-class venues like Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, and Jio World Centre, and MICE tourism prioritised under the Incredible India campaign, the initiative aims to position Indian cities as globally competitive MICE destinations.

PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Nature-Themed Airport Terminal at Guwahati's LGBI Airport

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new terminal building of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport in Guwahati, Assam**, built at a cost of ₹4,000 crore and recognised as India's first nature-themed airport terminal.
- The new terminal has an annual capacity of over 13 million passengers, making it the largest airport terminal in Northeast India and a major aviation hub and gateway to Southeast Asia.

"Shunya Se Shatak" Programme Held in Indore to Commemorate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Birth Centenary

- The "**Shunya Se Shatak: Ek Shatabdi Atal Bharat Ki**" programme was **held in Indore,** Madhya Pradesh on 21 December to commemorate the **100th birth anniversary year of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**
- Key Dignitaries and Tributes: The event was attended by Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Governor Mangubhai Patel, and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, among others, with cultural tributes, felicitation of eminent personalities, performances, and screenings reflecting Vajpayee's life and legacy.

Bihar Cabinet Approves Saat Nischay-3 (2025–2030) to Transform State into Developed Economy

- **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.

Punjab Becomes First State to Implement Amended Bharat Net Scheme Across Entire State

- **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.

Gujarat Becomes First State to Launch Large-Scale Genome Sequencing Project for Tribal Communities

- **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.

HCLTech Secures Multi-Year Deal to Modernise ASN Bank's Digital Operations in the Netherlands

- **IT services firm HCLTech** has secured a multi-year contract with **ASN Bank (formerly de Volksbank) to modernise the Dutch retail bank's digital operations.**
- The partnership aims to consolidate IT services and simplify the vendor landscape, improving operational efficiency.

FM Sitharaman Chairs Finance–Corporate Affairs 'Chintan Shivir' to Review Policy and Development Challenges

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman,** along with MoS Harsh Malhotra, chaired the '**Chintan Shivir'** of the Ministries of Finance and Corporate Affairs to deliberate on key policy and governance issues.
- The brainstorming session was attended by Finance and Corporate Affairs Secretaries, Chairpersons of CBDT and CBIC, the Chief Economic Adviser, and senior officers from related departments.

India Hands Over Three Quick Impact Projects to Myanmar to Boost Socio-Economic Development

- **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.

MoHUA Launches 10th Edition of Swachh Survekshan 2025–26

- **MoHUA** launched the **10th edition of Swachh Survekshan (2025–26) in Bhopal,** marking a decade of the world's largest urban cleanliness survey under Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U); the toolkit was released by Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal.
- The theme **"Swacchata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath"** highlights citizen participation and collective responsibility as key drivers of urban sanitation and waste management reforms.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Launches 'VijAIpatha' to Introduce AI and STEM Education in Government Schools

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** launched '**VijAIpatha',** a pilot AI education initiative to equip government school students with AI, STEM, robotics, coding and digital innovation skills.
- The programme is being **implemented by Cyient Foundation in partnership with the Karnataka government and was inaugurated at Government Girls' PU College**, Amaravati (Hosapete taluk, Vijayanagara district).

PM Modi Inaugurates Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 101st Birth Anniversary

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,** dedicated to **former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 101st birth anniversary**, describing it as a symbol of self-respect, unity and service, aligned with the vision of Sabka Prayas for a developed India.
- He praised the transformation of a 30+ acre former garbage dump into a modern national memorial, congratulating the Uttar Pradesh government, planners and workers for converting the area into a landmark of national inspiration.

Manohar Lal Inaugurates 250 MW Unit of Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project, Boosting India's Clean Energy Push

- **Union Minister Manohar Lal** inaugurated the **commercial operation of Unit–2 (250 MW) of the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project** through virtual mode, marking a key milestone in India's largest hydropower project and boosting clean energy generation in the North-East region.
- The commissioning reflects India's commitment to renewable energy expansion, national grid strengthening and Net Zero goals, while supporting regional development in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and the wider North-East.

Bhogapuram International Airport to Be Dedicated to Nation in May 2026

- **Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu** announced that the **Bhogapuram International Airport near Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh**

will be dedicated to the nation in May 2026, with trial runs scheduled next month, advancing the inauguration ahead of the original June 2026 timeline.

- He made the announcement during the launch of the Aviation, Aerospace and Defence (AAD) EduCity near Bhogapuram Airport, noting that 91.7% of the airport construction work has already been completed.

President Murmu Gives Assent to VB—G RAM G Act 2025

- **President Droupadi Murmu** gave assent to the **Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Act, 2025**, **replacing the MGNREGA** and providing a modern statutory framework for rural employment aligned with Viksit Bharat @2047 vision.
- The Act enhances the wage **employment guarantee to 125 days** per financial year for rural households, strengthens livelihood security, and links employment with the creation of durable and productive rural assets.

NHAI's Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust Gets SEBI Approval to Monetise Road Assets via InvIT

- **The Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT),** sponsored by NHAI, received **SEBI approval as an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** to enable monetisation of road assets through retail and domestic investors.
- Raajmarg Infra Investment Managers Pvt. Ltd. (RIIMPL) has been incorporated as the Investment Manager for RIIT, with equity participation from leading banks and financial institutions including SBI, PNB, Axis Bank, HDFC, ICICI, IDBI, IndusInd, Yes Bank, and Bajaj Finserv Ventures.

President Droupadi Murmu Releases Constitution of India in Santhali Language at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- **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.

Cabinet Approves Three New Corridors Under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A)

- The **Union Cabinet** approved **three new corridors under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A) worth about ₹12,015 crore—R.K. Ashram Marg–Indraprastha, Aerocity–Airport Terminal-1**, and Tughlakabad–Kalindi Kunj, taking the **metro network beyond 400 km.**
- The project includes 13 new metro stations, with the **R.K. Ashram Marg–Indraprastha stretch extending the Botanical Garden–R.K. Ashram Marg corridor** and providing crucial connectivity to the redeveloping Central Vista area.**The Central Vista corridor will connect all Kartavya Bhawans, benefiting nearly 60,000 office-goers and 2 lakh visitors** daily, while improving last-mile access and easing traffic congestion.

JP Nadda Lays Foundation of India's First PPP-Based Medical Colleges in MP's Tribal Districts

- **Union Health Minister JP Nadda** and **Madhya Pradesh CM Dr Mohan Yadav** laid the foundation of **two medical colleges in Dhar and Betul districts**, becoming **India's first medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model**, aimed at strengthening healthcare in tribal-dominated regions.
- The colleges are part of four PPP-based medical colleges in MP (Dhar, Betul, Katni, Panna), linked with district hospitals upgraded as per National Medical Commission (NMC) norms, while the state provides land and private partners build academic and clinical infrastructure.

150th Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan Begins in Jalandhar Celebrating Hindustani Classical Music

- **Punjab** is hosting the **150th Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan,** the oldest Hindustani classical music festival in India, from 26–28 December at Shree Devi Talab Temple, Jalandhar, organised in collaboration with NZCC, Patiala and supported by the state government.
- The 3-day festival is dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji and the late Banaras Gharana vocalist Pt Chhannu Lal Mishra, who passed away in October 2025.

Ola Electric Gets ₹366.78 Crore Incentive under PLI-Auto Scheme for FY 2024-25

- **Ola Electric** has received a s**anction order of ₹366.78 crore from the Ministry of Heavy Industries under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme** for Automobile and Auto Components for FY 2024-25.
- The incentive relates to the Demand Incentive for the Determined Sales Value and will be disbursed through IFCI Limited, the designated financial institution under the PLI-Auto Scheme.

VoxelGrids Develops India's First Indigenous MRI Scanner

- **Zoho-backed start-up VoxelGrids** has developed **India's first indigenous MRI scanner,** marking a major milestone in the country's medical technology ecosystem.
- The **1.5-tesla MRI scanner** has been **deployed at the Chandrapur Cancer Care Foundation near Nagpur**, showcasing successful real-world clinical adoption.
- The scanner is the result of a 12-year mission led by founder Arjun Arunachalam to design and build a critical diagnostic system domestically, reducing dependence on foreign imports.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi Releases New BIS Standard IS 19412:2025 for Safe and Quality Incense Sticks

- **Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi** released **IS 19412:2025 – Incense Sticks (Agarbatti) Standard developed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** on National Consumer Day 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- The new BIS standard prohibits the use of harmful insecticidal chemicals and synthetic fragrance substances in agarbattis to protect human health, indoor air quality, and the environment.

Union Government Releases XV Finance Commission Grants to Strengthen PRIs and Rural Local Bodies in Rajasthan and Jharkhand

- **The Union Government** released **Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV-FC) United Grants in FY 2025–26** to strengthen **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) in Rajasthan and Jharkhand.**
- **Rajasthan received ₹303.04 crore** as the first instalment for FY 2025–26 and an additional ₹145.24 crore of withheld grants for FY 2024–25, benefiting District, Block, and Gram Panchayats across the state.
- **Jharkhand was released ₹275.13 crore** as the first instalment of Untied Grants for FY 2024–25, while the grants will be used for location-specific needs under the Eleventh Schedule, excluding salaries and establishment expenses.

Gujarat Returns to India's Tiger Map After 30 Years

- **After over 30 years, Gujarat** has been **formally recognised again as a tiger-bearing state** following confirmed **photographic evidence from Ratanmahal Sanctuary in Dahod district**.
- A nearly four-year-old tiger has been residing in Ratanmahal Sanctuary for about ten months, with continuous camera-trap and CCTV footage ruling out a transient visit.

Indian Army Eases Social Media Rules, Allows 'Passive Participation' With Strict Safeguards

- **The Indian Army** has revised its **long-standing restrictions to allow "passive participation"** on select social media platforms, while continuing to enforce strict safeguards to protect operational and national security.
- The new guidelines, issued by Army Headquarters through the DGMI, are effective immediately, with Instagram formally included in the list of restricted-use platforms.

Govt Notifies SBFAS & SbDS Guidelines to Strengthen India's Shipbuilding Sector

- The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW**) notified **operational guidelines for the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS)** and the **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)** to strengthen India's domestic shipbuilding capacity and global competitiveness.
- **With a total corpus of ₹24,736 crore,** SBFAS provides 15%–25% financial assistance per vessel, based on vessel category, with graded and milestone-linked disbursement, independent valuation, and security-backed governance mechanisms.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) completing 25 years in 2025

- **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY),** launched on 25 December 2000, **completed 25 years in 2025**, emerging as one of India's most impactful schemes for all-weather rural road connectivity and inclusive development.

- Since its inception, 8.25 lakh km of rural roads have been sanctioned, of which about 7.88 lakh km (≈95%) have been completed as of December 2025, significantly integrating rural areas with markets and services.
- The scheme evolved through multiple phases—PMGSY-I (universal access), PMGSY-II (road upgradation), RCPLWEA (LWE areas), PMGSY-III (strategic rural links), and PMGSY-IV (2024-29) targeting last-mile connectivity.

Ministry of Civil Aviation Grants NOCs to Three New Airlines

- **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.
- 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.

Param Rudra Supercomputer Launched at IIT-Patna

- **IIT-Patna** inaugurated the **PARAM Rudra supercomputer**, **marking Bihar's first high-performance computing facility** installed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- The launch ceremony was presided over by Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), highlighting the government's push for advanced research infrastructure.
- **Under the National Supercomputing Mission, 37 supercomputers** have already been deployed across India with a combined capacity of 39 petaFLOPS, supporting over 12,000 researchers.

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

India Re-Elected to IMO Council for 2026–27 with Highest Vote Count in Category B

- **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.

PM Modi Unveils Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Bust at UNESCO on Constitution Day

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled a **bust of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris** on Constitution Day, calling it a fitting tribute to Ambedkar's pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution.
- Constitution Day is observed annually on 26 November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution in 1949, with PM Modi emphasizing citizens' focus on constitutional duties and active participation in democracy.

Riyadh Metro Becomes World's Longest Driverless Network

- **Riyadh Metro** has been officially **recognized by Guinness World Records** as the **world's longest fully driverless metro network, covering 176 km, operating across 6 lines and 85 stations,** showcasing Saudi Arabia's growing leadership in advanced urban mobility.
- The metro forms a key part of the King Abdulaziz Project for Riyadh Public Transport, a major initiative of the Royal Commission for Riyadh City (RCRC), aimed at transforming urban transportation with cutting-edge automation and centralized real-time control (GoA4 driverless model).

Leonardo Unveils AI-Powered "Michelangelo Dome" Multi-Layered Air Defense System for Europe

- **Italian aerospace and defence giant Leonardo** has unveiled the "**Michelangelo Dome,**" an **AI-powered multi-layered air defence system** designed to protect cities and critical infrastructure from threats like missile attacks and drone swarms.
- The system integrates space, air, land, and sea defence platforms, enabling real-time detection, tracking, interception, and neutralisation of diverse aerial threats, strengthening Europe's overall defence readiness.

Oxford University Press Names "Rage Bait" as Word of the Year 2025

- **Oxford University** Press has named "**rage bait" as the Word of the Year 2025** — a phrase that refers to online content deliberately designed to provoke anger, outrage or shock to drive engagement.
- The usage of "rage bait" has reportedly tripled over the past year, reflecting how digital content and social media algorithms are increasingly rewarding emotionally provocative material.

India Post Launches Kerala's First Gen-Z Post Office at CMS College, Kottayam

- **India Post** unveiled **Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office extension counter** at CMS College, Kottayam, introducing a youth-centric approach to postal services.
- The facility was inaugurated by N.R. Giri, Director Postal Services (Kerala Central Region), and is designed around the theme: "of the students, by the students, for the students."

Australia Becomes First Country to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

- **Australia** has become the **first country to ban social media access for children under 16,** effective December 10, 2025, blocking platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook, with companies facing heavy fines for non-compliance.
- Under the new law, major platforms must enforce age restrictions or face penalties of up to A$49.5 million, a move welcomed by parents and child advocates but criticised by tech companies and free-speech groups.

Italy Becomes First Country to Have Entire National Cuisine Recognized by UNESCO

- **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.

Armenia Unveils 'Yerevan Blue Butterfly' as Official Logo for COP17 Biodiversity Conference

- **Armenia** unveiled the **official logo for COP17, featuring the 'Yerevan Blue Butterfly' (Polyommatus eriwanensis),** a species endemic to the Yerevan region.
- The logo is accompanied by the slogan "Taking action for nature", highlighting the conference's emphasis on implementation over commitments in biodiversity conservation.

India Announces $450 Million Relief Package to Support Sri Lanka's Post-Cyclone Recovery

- **India** announced **a $450 million relief and reconstruction package to support Sri Lanka's recovery from Cyclone Ditwah,** as stated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.
- The announcement was made in Colombo, where Jaishankar affirmed that India stands firmly with Sri Lanka during the post-cyclone recovery phase.

Oman Unveils First Polymer One-Rial Banknote with Advanced Security Features, to Circulate from 2026

- **Oman** has unveiled its **first polymer one-rial banknote**, issued by the **Central Bank of Oman,** which will enter circulation from January 11, 2026, alongside existing paper-based notes as legal tender.
- The shift to polymer material enhances durability, suits Oman's hot and humid climate, reduces replacement costs, and strengthens protection against counterfeiting, aligning Oman with global best practices.

Trump Announces "Trump-Class" Battleships

- **Donald Trump** announced that a **new class of US battleships will be named "Trump-class battleships",** with the declaration made at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, USA.
- The announcement was formally made by USA Navy Secretary John Phelan, who said the first vessel, USS Defiant, would be the largest and most powerful battleship ever built by the USA.

Japan Approves Restart of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant

- **Japan** has approved the **restart of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant** after **nearly 20 years**, signalling a major shift in post-Fukushima energy policy with a renewed focus on energy security, cost control, and decarbonisation.

- The move aims to reduce Japan's heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels, which cost about ¥10.7 trillion annually, positioning nuclear power as a stable domestic energy source despite local protests.

India to Chair Kimberley Process from January 2026, Strengthening Global Fight Against Conflict Diamonds

- 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.

Over 24,600 Indians Deported From 81 Countries in 2025; Saudi Arabia Tops the List

- **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.

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

CBDT Launches Second NUDGE Campaign to Ensure Accurate Reporting of Foreign Assets and Income

- The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)'s** Analysis of the **Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) data for FY 2024-25** identified high-risk cases where taxpayers failed to report foreign assets, **prompting the launch of the second NUDGE campaign from 28 November 2025,** advising taxpayers to revise their ITRs by 31 December 2025 to avoid penalties.
- The campaign focuses on ensuring accurate disclosure in Schedule FA (Foreign Assets) and Schedule FSI (Foreign Source Income) as mandated under the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Black Money Act, 2015.

SEBI Eases Educational Criteria for Investment Advisers and Research Analysts

- **Markets regulator SEBI** relaxes educational criteria for **Investment Advisers (IAs)** and **Research Analysts (RAs),** allowing graduates from any discipline, including law and engineering, to apply for registration.
- Despite the relaxation, passing the NISM certification exam remains mandatory to ensure domain knowledge and professional preparedness.

NPCI's Banking Connect Launched to Enable Real-Time RBI Monitoring and Boost Bill Payments

- **Banking Connect**, a newly launched **net banking platform by NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL),** will allow the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to monitor fund transfers in real time, improving oversight over sectors like cryptocurrency and gaming.
- NBBL aims to quadruple monthly bill payments from 260 million to 1 billion in four years, expanding accessibility to over 135 million households, or about half of India's households.

RBI Imposes ₹3.10 Lakh Penalty on Mannakrishna Investments for Governance Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **imposed a ₹3.10 lakh penalty on Kolkata-based Mannakrishna Investments Pvt Ltd,** an NBFC, **for failing to comply with the RBI's NBFC Scale-Based Regulation, 2023,** particularly regarding governance norms.
- RBI's inspection found that the company had appointed a director without obtaining prior written approval, resulting in a management change where over 30% of directors (excluding independent directors) were replaced, violating regulatory provisions.

RBI Retains SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2025 List with Unchanged Bucketing Structure

- **RBI** has retained **SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank** as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2025,** keeping them in the same bucketing structure as the previous year.
- The additional CET1 requirement is set at 0.80% for SBI, 0.40% for HDFC Bank, and 0.20% for ICICI Bank, which will be over and above the Capital Conservation Buffer.

GST collection moderates after rate cuts to ₹1.7 lakh crore in November

- The **first full month** after the GST rate cut showed a moderate 0.7% rise in total GST collections, reaching **₹1.7 lakh crore in November,** though officials stated that overall consumption momentum remains positive.
- Domestic GST revenues fell by 2.3% to ₹1.24 lakh crore, while GST from imports grew over 10% to around ₹46,000 crore, reflecting differing trends in domestic and international demand.

Policy repo rate cut by 25 basis points to 5.25%

- The **RBI** reduced the **Policy Repo Rate by 25 basis points to 5.25%,** setting the **SDF rate at 5%** and the MSF/Bank Rate at 5.5%; all six MPC members voted unanimously for the rate cut.
- The **RBI revised the GDP growth estimate for FY 2025-26 upward to 7.3%,** from the earlier projection of 6.8%.

S&P Upgrades India's Insolvency Regime to 'B' as IBC Boosts Recovery Rates and Cuts Resolution Time

- **S&P Global Ratings** upgraded **India's insolvency regime ranking from 'C' to 'B',** citing stronger creditor-led resolutions and improvements under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Average recovery rates under IBC have risen to over 30%, compared to just 15–20% under the previous insolvency framework, showing better outcomes for creditors.

Razorpay Gets RBI Cross-Border Payment Licence, Expands Global Payment Capabilities

- **Razorpay receives Payment Aggregator – Cross Border (PA–CB) licence** from the RBI, allowing it to facilitate regulated inward and outward cross-border payments for businesses operating in India.
- The licence enables Razorpay to support exporters, SaaS firms, freelancers, D2C brands, and global companies, offering payments in over 130 currencies with a 95% international transaction success rate.

SEBI Launches SWAGAT-FI to Simplify Investment for Low-Risk Foreign Investors in India

- **SEBI** introduces **single-window access for low-risk foreign investors**, simplifying participation in the Indian securities market and enhancing India's appeal as an investment destination.
- The framework, **named SWAGAT-FI (Single Window Automatic & Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors),** provides unified registration across multiple investment routes and reduces repeated compliance and documentation.

RBI Grants 'In-Principle' Approval to Fino Payments Bank for Conversion into Small Finance Bank

- **RBI** has granted **'in-principle' a**pproval to **Fino Payments Bank** for its conversion into a **Small Finance Bank (SFB),** after assessing its application under the established regulatory guidelines.
- Under RBI's 'on tap' licensing framework, payments banks controlled by residents and having completed five years of operations are eligible to apply for conversion into an SFB.

RBI Announces ₹1 Lakh Crore OMO and $5 Billion Forex Swap to Boost Durable Liquidity

- **RBI** announced **major liquidity infusion through ₹1,00,000 crore OMO purchases** and a $5 billion 3-year USD/INR Buy-Sell swap to ensure sufficient durable liquidity in the system.
- **RBI** also notified a **₹50,000 crore G-Sec purchase** on December 11, 2025, **with the remaining ₹50,000 crore to be conducted later in the month.**
- Governor Sanjay Malhotra clarified that the Dollar-Rupee swap is a liquidity measure, not meant to support the rupee, and stated that the RBI is comfortable with the current exchange rate despite volatility.

India to Update National Accounts Base Year to 2022–23 from February 2026

- The **Government of India** will **revise the national accounts base year to 2022–23**, replacing the **outdated 2011–12 base year**, with the new system coming into effect from February 26–27 next year.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman clarified that the IMF's recent C grade for India's national accounts was due to the old base year, not the quality or credibility of the data.

RBI Launches Two-Month Drive to Resolve All Pending Customer Complaints

- **RBI urges** banks and other **regulated entities to improve customer service** and reduce grievances, emphasizing customer-centric policies and operations.
- A special two-month campaign will be held from 1st January next year to resolve all complaints pending for more than a month with the RBI Ombudsman.
- RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra highlighted previous initiatives such as Re-KYC, financial inclusion measures, and the "**Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar" campaign** to enhance customer experience.

PNB Launches Premium 'Luxura' RuPay Metal Card

- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched a new **premium RuPay metal credit card 'Luxura',** in New Delhi, targeting high-end customers.
- The bank also appointed Indian women's cricket captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its first female brand ambassador during the launch event.

Deloitte Launches AI-Powered Tax Platform 'Tax Pragya' to Revolutionize Tax Research and Insights

- **Deloitte** launches '**Tax Pragya', an AI-powered tax research and insights platform**, leveraging data from over one million court cases and Deloitte's internal knowledge papers to accelerate tax analysis.
- The platform reduces research time from hours to minutes, providing solutions from Deloitte's privately curated database rather than open-source data.

India's UPI Becomes World's Largest Real-Time Payment System, Handling 49% of Global Transactions

- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has been **recognised by the IMF as the largest real-time payment system globally**, **accounting for 49% of total global real-time retail payment volumes with 129.3 billion transactions.**
- Global comparisons show **Brazil (14%), Thailand (8%), China (6%), and South Korea (3%)** lagging behind India, highlighting the success of coordinated digital payment initiatives and broad merchant adoption in driving UPI's dominance.

SEBI Launches PaRRVA to Verify Past Returns and Curb Misleading Financial Claims

- **SEBI** launches **PaRRVA (Past Risk and Return Verification Agency)** to verify past performance claims of market intermediaries and curb misleading financial claims.

- Two-tier verification structure: a SEBI-registered credit rating agency as PaRRVA and a recognised stock exchange as the PaRRVA Data Centre, both independently verifying returns using a transparent methodology.

Bank of Baroda Launches 'Masterstroke' Campaign Featuring Sachin Tendulkar to Promote Key Retail Banking Products

- **Bank of Baroda** launched a new **advertising campaign featuring Sachin Tendulkar** as its global brand ambassador, promoting four key retail products—home loans, car loans, MSME loans via **bob Digi Udyam**, and the bob Masterstroke Lite Savings Account.
- The campaign continues the "Play The Masterstroke" theme and uses four short films to show how choosing the right financial partner helps customers achieve goals like buying homes, cars, or expanding businesses.

Bank of Baroda Named 'Best Bank in India' at Bank of the Year Awards 2025 by The Banker Magazine

- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has been awarded the title of '**Best Bank in India' at The Banker magazine's "Bank of the Year Awards 2025 – Asia-Pacific,**" a prestigious Financial Times publication.
- The recognition highlights BoB's enhanced customer experience through the expansion of its phygital branches, which seamlessly integrate physical and digital banking services.

SBI, BoB get RBI nod to set up fraud detection platform

- **SBI and Bank of Baroda** have received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to establish a new company called Indian Digital Payment Intelligence Corporation (IDPIC) aimed at enhancing fraud detection in digital transactions across public sector banks.
- The new entity will be set up as a Section 8 (non-profit) company under the Companies Act, 2013, and will focus on identifying and preventing fraudulent digital payments to strengthen the security framework of India's banking system.

AU Small Finance Bank Gets DFS Approval to Raise Foreign Investment Limit from 49% to 74%

- **AU Small Finance Bank (SFB)** received approval from the **Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance,** to raise its **foreign investment limit from 49% to 74%** of the paid-up capital of the bank.
- The DFS approval follows the bank's in-principal approval from RBI four months earlier for its transition to a universal bank, and the approval has no time limit on its validity, according to the bank's regulatory filing.

RBI Slaps ₹99.30 Lakh Penalty on J&K Bank for Violating KYC and Customer Service Norms

- **RBI** has imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹99.30 lakh on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for violating Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, and for non-compliance with RBI directions related to the Internal Ombudsman Scheme 2018, Customer Service in Banks, and KYC Directions.

- The penalty was imposed by the RBI under the powers vested in Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act.

Trump Launches 'Gold Card' Visa Offering Fast-Track US Residency for $1 Million Investors

- **US President Donald Trump** has launched the "**Trump Gold Card" scheme,** offering fast-tracked US visas to wealthy foreigners who can pay at least $1 million, promising a direct and expedited path to residency and eventual citizenship for vetted applicants.
- The scheme requires applicants to demonstrate a "substantial benefit" to the United States, with higher tiers including a $2 million employer-sponsored option and a forthcoming $5 million "platinum" card offering special tax benefits, alongside additional processing fees.

DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025 by The Banker

- **DBS,** the Singapore-based lender, was **recognised by The Banker,** part of the Financial Times Group, **as Global Bank of the Year 2025,** marking its third win in this category after 2018 and 2021.
- The bank also secured multiple awards, including Asia Bank of the Year, Singapore Bank of the Year, Investment Bank of the Year – Asia, and Investment Bank of the Year for Financial Institutions Group, chosen from 294 global banks.

Wise Enters Indian Market with Multi-Currency Travel Card to Cut Hidden Forex Fees

- **Global money movement company Wise** introduced its **multi-currency travel card in India**, targeting the growing outbound travel market, which saw 3.89 crore departures in 2024 and an increase in overseas spending to an average of $17 billion annually.
- Unlike traditional forex cards that charge 2–4% conversion margins, Wise uses the mid-market exchange rate with a transparent conversion fee, potentially saving thousands on transactions.

India's Retail Inflation Rises to 0.71% in November; Food Prices Remain in Deflation

- **India's retail inflation rose** to **0.71% in November on a year-on-year basis,** up from a record low of 0.25% in October, with rural inflation at 0.1% and urban inflation higher at 1.4%.
- Food inflation remained in deflation for the sixth consecutive month, easing to –3.91% in November compared to –5% in October; rural food deflation stood at 4.05% and urban food deflation moderated to 3.6%.

CCEA Clears Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025 to Allow 100% FDI in Insurance Sector

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved the **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposing to allow 100% foreign direct investment (FDI)** in the insurance sector, subject to the condition that the entire premium is invested within India.

- The Bill, to be introduced as **"Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha"**, will replace the Insurance Act, 1938, LIC Act, 1956, and IRDAI Act, 1999, and will also permit insurers to operate under a composite licence covering life, general, and health insurance.

IndusInd Bank Launches RuPay-Powered Co-Branded 'Jio-bp Mobility+' Fuel Credit Card

- **IndusInd Bank** has launched its **first fuel-linked co-branded credit card** in partnership **with Jio-bp,** marking Jio-bp's first such collaboration; the card is **called 'IndusInd Bank Jio-bp Mobility+' and is powered by RuPay.**
- The card offers 12 reward points per ₹100 spent at Jio-bp Mobility Stations and convenience stores, 400 bonus points on the first fuel transaction within 30 days, and 200 bonus points per month on fuel spends of ₹4,000, along with rewards on supermarket, dining, and grocery spends.

India's WPI Inflation Remains Negative at -0.32% in November 2025

- **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** inflation remained in **negative territory at -0.32% in November 2025,** indicating continued deflation in wholesale prices compared to the same month last year.
- The negative WPI inflation in November was an improvement from October's -1.21%, showing a slower pace of decline as some prices, especially food items, began rising month-on-month.

Finance Ministry Unveils New Unified Logo for Regional Rural Banks

- The **Finance Ministry unveiled** a new c**ommon logo for all 28 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to create a single and unified brand identity, strengthening their visibility and recognition nationwide.
- Under the principle of '**One State One RRB', 26 RRBs across 11 states/UTs were consolidated** effective May 1, 2025, aiming to build stronger and more efficient rural banking institutions.
- The **colours of the logo convey** the mission of RRBs—d**ark blue represents finance and trust, while green signifies life and growth, reflecting their commitment to serve rural India.**

IRDAI Fines Care Health Insurance ₹1 Crore for Claims Settlement and Governance Lapses

- **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.

RBI Imposes Six-Month Restrictions on Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank, Caps Withdrawals at ₹35,000

- **RBI** imposed operational **restrictions on The Gauhati Cooperative Urban Bank** due to its deteriorating financial position, **including a cap of ₹35,000 on customer withdrawals**.
- The restrictions, issued as 'Directions', took effect from the close of business and will remain in force for a period of six months.

SBI to Sign €150 Million Credit Line with KfW for Climate-Friendly Energy Projects

- **SBI** will sign **a €150 million credit line with KfW,** Germany's development bank, in Frankfurt **to finance climate-friendly energy generation projects.**
- The facility, structured as Phase-2 of the SBI–KfW arrangement, will see SBI act as the lending intermediary for eligible projects aligned with climate and sustainability goals.

Amazon Pay Launches UPI Biometric Authentication for Faster, PIN-Free Transactions

- **Amazon Pay** introduces **UPI Biometric Authentication**, allowing users to approve UPI transactions using fingerprint or face recognition without entering a PIN.
- The feature **covers transactions up to ₹5,000 across Amazon Pay UPI services**, including peer-to-peer transfers, merchant payments, in-store QR payments, and balance checks.

Piramal Finance to Sell Entire 14.72% Stake in Shriram Life Insurance for ₹600 Crore

- **Piramal Finance Ltd** will sell its **entire 14.72% equity stake in Shriram Life Insurance (SLI**) **to Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Ltd (SEMM)** for around ₹600 crore.
- The transaction is expected to be completed by the quarter ending March 31, 2026, subject to regulatory approvals.

RBI Imposes ₹61.95 Lakh Penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank for Regulatory Lapses

- **RBI** imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹61.95 lakh on Kotak Mahindra Bank** for non-compliance with multiple regulatory norms.
- The violations relate to Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts, Business Correspondents (BCs) guidelines, and provisions of the Credit Information Companies (CIC) Rules, 2006.

South Indian Bank Launches RuPay Contactless 'SIB Paytag' NFC Payment Sticker

- **South Indian Bank** has introduced the **RuPay Contactless SIB Paytag Sticker**, an NFC-enabled payment solution for faster, secure, and seamless transactions.
- The compact sticker can be affixed to mobile phones, wallets, or cardholders, allowing customers to make contactless payments without carrying a physical debit card.

Mswipe Technologies Secures RBI's Final Payment Aggregator Licence

- **Mswipe Technologies** received the **RBI's final Payment Aggregator (PA) licence,** enabling it to operate across both online and physical payment acceptance channels under a unified regulatory framework.
- The licence allows Mswipe to onboard merchants, aggregate digital and in-person payments, and facilitate inward and outward cross-border transactions, expanding its scope beyond point-of-sale solutions.

RBI Announces ₹2 Lakh Crore OMO Purchases, $10 Billion Dollar-Rupee Swap to Boost Liquidity

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced OMO **purchase auctions of ₹2 lakh crore** and a USD/INR buy-sell swap of $10 billion (3-year tenor) to inject liquidity into the banking system.
- The OMO purchases will be conducted in four tranches of ₹50,000 crore each on Dec 29, 2025; Jan 5, Jan 12, and Jan 22, 2026, while the Dollar-Rupee swap auction is scheduled for Jan 13, 2026.

SBI Launches YONO 2.0, Unifying Mobile and Internet Banking to Boost Digital Scale and Security

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched **YONO 2.0**, a major upgrade of its digital banking platform, integrating mobile and internet banking on a single backend architecture to enhance scale, security and seamless customer experience.
- YONO 2.0 features include simplified KYC/re-KYC, improved personalisation and security, bilingual support (English & Hindi) with plans to expand to 15 regional languages, and sustainability tools like carbon footprint tracking and green score.

Canara Bank Launches 'Canara ai1Pe', Unified Next-Gen UPI App for Seamless Digital Payments

- **Canara Bank** launched its **unified UPI app Canara ai1Pe**, enabling users of any bank to link accounts for fund transfers, QR payments, bill payments and auto-debit of recurring payments.
- Canara ai1Pe is part of the Canara ai1 Mobile Banking Super App, which offers 300+ features, including deposits, insurance and everyday banking services, providing a seamless digital payment experience.

RBI Defers 3-Hour Cheque Clearance Rollout, Revises CTS Timings

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **postponed the January 3, 2026 rollout of the 3-hour cheque clearance** under the Continuous Clearing and Settlement on Realisation (CCSR) framework in the Cheque Truncation System (CTS).
- The directive is issued under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, reinforcing RBI's authority to regulate payment systems and maintain financial stability.
- Phase 1 of CCSR was launched on October 4, 2025, while Phase 2 aimed to reduce cheque settlement time to within three hours, replacing the traditional T+1/T+2 system.

IRFC Extends ₹9,821 Crore Loan to DFCCIL to Refinance World Bank Debt for Eastern Freight Corridor

- **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** has extended a **Rs 9,821 crore rupee loan to DFCCIL** to refinance its World Bank foreign currency debt for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project.
- The loan agreement was signed by DFCCIL's Director (Finance) Rahul Kapoor and IRFC's Executive Director (Finance) Deepa Kotnis at the Railway Board, New Delhi, in the presence of senior officials including Chairman & CEO Satish Kumar.

PayNearby Gets NPCI TPAP License, Launches 'Saathi' App with UPI

- **Fintech Company PayNearby** has received Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Following the approval, PayNearby has launched the PayNearby Saathi app, offering UPI-enabled savings accounts, payments, and investment products including FD, RD, Gold, and Mutual Funds.

Govt to Divest 3% Stake in Indian Overseas Bank Using Green-Shoe Option

- **The government** has decided to **use the green-shoe option to divest an additional 3% stake in Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** through an Offer for Sale (OFS), following strong investor response on the first day.
- The base OFS comprises 2% equity (38.51 crore shares) with an option to sell an extra 1% (19.25 crore shares) at a floor price of ₹34 per share; the government currently holds 94.61% stake in IOB.

IRDAI Imposes ₹1 Crore Penalty on Reliance General Insurance for Regulatory Violations

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has imposed a **₹1 crore penalty on Reliance General Insurance Company** for violations related to outsourcing norms, commission payments, and corporate governance guidelines.
- One major violation involved engaging an individual agent of another insurer for advertising and publishing services, which breached regulatory norms governing insurer–agent relationships.

Aryaman Finance (India) Ltd Gets RBI Nod to Operate as Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

- **Aryaman Finance (India) Ltd,** a wholly owned subsidiary of Aryaman Financial Services Ltd (AFSL), has **received a Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to commence **operations as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).**
- AFSL is a Mumbai-based SEBI-registered Category-I merchant banker, engaged in activities such as lead management, syndication of IPOs/FPOs/Rights Issues/QIPs, PIPE deals, VC funding, and other fund-raising activities.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The 20th session of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the Red Fort, New Delhi	India	Key discussions will include **safeguarding reports, requests for international assistance, and global dialogue** on **living heritage, best practices**, and **future safeguarding strategies**.
The Supreme Court's Artificial Intelligence Committee	**Justice PS Narasimha with** Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V, Anoop Chitkara, and Suraj Govindaraj as members, while Anupam Patra will serve as Member-Secretary and Convenor	To guide the **adoption, development, and deployment of AI tools across the higher judiciary** and subordinate courts

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has reconstituted the Supreme Court's Artificial Intelligence Committee to guide the adoption, development, and deployment of AI tools across the higher judiciary and subordinate courts.

- The revamped panel will be **chaired by Justice PS Narasimha**, with Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V, Anoop Chitkara, and Suraj Govindaraj as members, while Anupam Patra will serve as Member-Secretary and Convenor.

Chapter 16: Defence News

DRDO Successfully Tests Fighter Aircraft Escape System, Marks Major Milestone in Indigenous Defence Capability

- **DRDO successfully conducted** a high-speed **rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility in Chandigarh**, validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing, and complete aircrew recovery.
- The test, conducted in collaboration with ADA and HAL, involved dynamic ejection using a dual-sled system and an instrumented Anthropomorphic Test Dummy to record critical loads, moments, and accelerations, placing India among a select group of nations with advanced in-house escape system testing capability.

TASL and Lockheed Martin to Build Advanced C-130J MRO Facility for Indian Air Force

- **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL)** and **Lockheed Marti**n announced a new **Defence Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Bengaluru to support the Indian Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules fleet,** enhancing in-country sustainment capabilities and regional/global support.
- Construction is expected to complete by the end of 2026, with the first aircraft entering MRO operations in early 2027. The state-of-the-art facility will provide depot-level maintenance, component repair, structural restoration, avionics upgrades, and training programs for Indian engineers and technicians.

Indian Navy to Commission First Indigenous Diving Support Craft 'DSC A20' at Kochi

- The **Indian Navy will** commission **DSC A20,** the **first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Craft, at Kochi** under the Southern Naval Command, enhancing the Navy's diving and underwater operational capabilities.
- Built by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), Kolkata, DSC A20 is the lead ship of a five-vessel series and features a catamaran hull, advanced diving systems, and a displacement of about 390 tonnes, ensuring superior stability, safety, and operational efficiency.

Indian Army Departs for India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE–II in Abu Dhabi

- **An Indian Army** contingent has **departed for the India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE–II,** to be held at **Abu Dhabi, UAE,** from 18 to 30 December 2025.
- The Indian contingent consists of 45 personnel mainly from the Mechanised Infantry Regiment, while the UAE Land Forces are represented by the 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion with similar strength.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions ICGS Amulya

- **The Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Amulya,** the third vessel of the new-generation **Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels, at Goa,** with the ceremony attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and Goa Shipyard Limited.
- Built by Goa Shipyard Limited, the 51-metre vessel has over 60% indigenous content, reflecting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives; Amulya means "priceless".

IOL–Safran Pact Boosts Make-in-India Defence Manufacturing

- **India Optel Limited (IOL)** signed a collaboration agreement **with Safran Electronics & Defense to manufacture two high-precision, combat-proven defence systems** in India under the Make-in-India initiative.
- The systems include the SIGMA 30N Digital Ring Laser Gyro Inertial Navigation System and the CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight, used in artillery, missiles, air defence, radars, and anti-drone systems.

Indigenous ASW Craft Anjadip Inducted into Indian Navy, Boosting Maritime Self-Reliance

- **The Indian Navy inducted Anjadip,** the third of eight indigenous **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata**, with delivery taking place in Chennai.
- The ASW SWC project is being executed under a Public–Private Partnership between GRSE and L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, highlighting India's progress in self-reliant defence shipbuilding.
- The vessel is named after Anjadip Island near Karwar, Karnataka, and revives the legacy of the erstwhile INS Anjadip, a Petya-class corvette decommissioned in 2003.

TASL Delivers First WhAP 8x8 Armoured Vehicles to Royal Moroccan Army from Morocco Plant

- **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** has handed over the **first batch of WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicles to the Royal Moroccan Army**, marking the initial supply under a local manufacturing arrangement in Morocco.
- The Berrechid plant in Morocco, covering 20,000 sq. metres, began production after being inaugurated in September by India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Minister Delegate for National Defence Abdelatif Loudyi.

President Droupadi Murmu Makes Historic Dived Sortie Aboard Submarine INS Vaghsheer

- **President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu** undertook a dived sortie onboard indigenous Kalvari-class submarine **INS Vaghsheer from Karwar Naval Harbour, Karnataka**, becoming the second Indian President after Dr APJ Abdul Kalam to do so.
- During the over 2-hour sortie, the President interacted with the submarine crew and witnessed live operational demonstrations, accompanied by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
The 10th India–Indonesia joint special forces exercise 'Garuda Shakti'	India–Indonesia	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
The 5th edition of Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025	India-Malaysia	The exercise aims to jointly **rehearse Sub-Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the**

		UN Mandate, focusing on enhancing **interoperability and coordination** between the two armies
India–Russia Conduct Joint Air Exercise AviaIndra	India–Russia	The exercise aims to enhance bilateral **defence cooperation, promote mutual understanding, and strengthen aerospace synergy** by sharing best practices and lessons learned

Chapter 17: Sports News

Javokhir Sindarov Becomes Youngest Ever FIDE World Cup Champion

- **Javokhir Sindarov** Becomes **Youngest Ever FIDE World Cup Champion,** Wins $120,00019-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.

India Ranks 8th in Debut at World Skills Asia 2025, Wins Multiple Medals

- **India** achieved a major milestone by **securing 8th rank in its first-ever participation** at the **World Skills Asia Competition 2025**, competing with 29 nations.
- Indian participants **won 1 Silver, 2 Bronze medals**, and 3 Medallions for Excellence across traditional and tech-driven skill categories, showcasing their talent and dedication.

Max Verstappen Wins Qatar GP, Setting Up Dramatic F1 Title Decider in Abu Dhabi

- **Max Verstappen won** the **Qatar Grand Prix 2025**, keeping the Formula 1 championship battle alive and pushing the title fight to the final race in Abu Dhabi next weekend.
- Championship leader Lando Norris, who could have secured his first F1 title with a win, finished fourth, while his McLaren teammate and title rival Oscar Piastri secured second place.

Harmanpreet Kaur joins hands as brand ambassador of Vedanta Pink City Half Marathon 2025

- The **10th Vedanta Pink City Half Marathon (VPCHM)** concluded with massive participation, bringing together nearly 15,000 runners **to support Vedanta's #RunForZeroHunger movement.**
- The event successfully raised 1 lakh Poshan Packs for children at Nand Ghars, Vedanta's flagship social impact initiative focused on nutrition, health, and transformation of anganwadis across India.

Indian Army Hosts Inno-Yoddha 2025, Shortlists 32 Innovations to Boost Operational Readiness

- The **Indian Army** organised its **annual Idea and Innovation Competition & Seminar**, **Inno-Yoddha 2025**, in New Delhi, with Lt. Gen. Pushpendra Pal Singh felicitating the selected innovators.
- The Ministry of Defence reported a record 89 submissions, of which 32 innovative solutions were selected for further development to enhance operational readiness, logistics, and training.

Veteran Pacer Mohit Sharma Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

- **Veteran Indian pacer Mohit Sharma** announced **his retirement from all forms of cricket,** ending a career that included 34 international matches and over a decade-long stint in the IPL with teams like CSK, KXIP/PBKS, DC, and Gujarat Titans.
- Mohit, who debuted for India in 2013, took 35 ODI wickets and 6 T20I wickets, and became a reliable death-overs bowler for CSK under MS Dhoni; he also finished as the second-highest wicket-taker in IPL 2023 for Gujarat Titans.

Rohit Sharma Becomes Fourth Indian to Cross 20,000 International Runs Across Formats

- **Rohit Sharma** became the **fourth Indian cricketer to score 20,000 international runs** across Tests, ODIs, and T20Is, achieving the milestone during India's 3rd ODI against South Africa in Vishakhapatnam.
- Earlier in the series, Rohit also broke Shahid Afridi's record for the most sixes in ODI cricket, highlighting his continued dominance in international cricket even after years of playing at the highest level.
- With this achievement, **Rohit joins an elite group of Indian cricket legends— Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs), Virat Kohli (27,808 runs), and Rahul Dravid (24,064 runs)**—solidifying his status as one of the modern greats of the game.

Lando Norris Clinches Maiden Formula One World Championship, Ending Verstappen's Reign

- **Lando Norris** won his **maiden Formula One World Drivers' Championship in Abu Dhabi,** ending Max Verstappen's four-year dominance and claiming the title by just two points.
- Norris becomes Britain's first F1 world champion since Lewis Hamilton in 2020 and secures McLaren's 13th drivers' crown, marking a historic achievement for the team over half a century after Emerson Fittipaldi's first title in 1974.

Three-Year-Old Indian Prodigy Sarwagya Becomes Youngest Ever to Earn Official FIDE Chess Rating

- **3-year-old Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha** becomes the **youngest ever chess player to earn an official FIDE rating**, achieving the milestone at just three years, seven months, and 20 days.
- Sarwagya, from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, debuted with a rating of 1,572, surpassing the FIDE minimum threshold of 1,400 and defeating older, higher-rated opponents in recognised tournaments.

India to host Squash World Cup for third consecutive time in Chennai

- **India** will host the **Squash World Cup for the third consecutive time** at SDAT Stadium in Chennai, with the tournament running from 9 December to 14th December.
- Twelve nations will compete, including defending champions Egypt, **2023 runners-up Malaysia,** and hosts India, with teams consisting of two men and two women following a seven-point format with sudden-death tiebreaks.

Fifth Khelo India University Games Conclude in Jaipur; Chandigarh University Emerges Overall Champion

- The **fifth edition of the Khelo India University Games** concluded with a **grand ceremony held in Jaipur**. Chandigarh University from Punjab topped the medal tally.
- Lovely Professional University, also from Punjab, secured second place, while Guru Nanak Dev University stood third. During the closing ceremony, the champion university, along with the first and second runner-up universities, were felicitated with trophies.
- Khelo India University Games 2025 medal tally

Rank	University	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Chandigarh University	42	14	11	67
2	Lovely Professional University (PB)	32	24	22	78
3	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	32	22	18	72
4	Jain University, Karnataka	30	9	11	50
5	Guru Kashi University	15	15	18	48
6	Panjab University, Chandigarh	14	33	19	66
7	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (Deemed to be University)	10	3	8	21
8	Savitribai Phule Pune University, MS	9	17	12	38
9	Shivaji University	4	3	13	20
10	Maharshi Dayanand University	4	2	5	11

India to Host First-Ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship in March 2026 with Over 24 Countries Participating

- **India** will **host the first-ever Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship** from **March 9 to 14, 2026,** with participation expected from over 24 countries across Asia, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and the Americas.
- The event will feature 16 men's teams and 16 women's teams, following the format of the first Kho Kho World Cup held in New Delhi earlier this year, which included 23 nations.

India Shines with Six Medals at ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha

- **India** concluded the **ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha** with **six medals (2 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze),** all coming from rifle and pistol events as the country drew blank in shotgun.
- Simranpreet Kaur and Suruchi Singh clinched gold with junior world record–equalling and record-breaking performances in the 25m pistol and 10m air pistol events, respectively.
- India secured three silver medals through Sainyam (women's 10m air pistol), Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar (men's 50m rifle 3 positions), and Anish Bhanwala (men's 25m rapid fire pistol).

Punjab CM Felicitates 2025 Women's World Cup-Winning Players and Inaugurates Stadium Stands

- **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann** felicitated the **members of the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup-winning Team India from Punjab**, including **skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Harleen Deol, and Amanjot Kaur,** ahead of the second T20I against South Africa.
- Monetary rewards were given to the players and coaching staff: Rs 11 lakhs each to Harmanpreet Kaur, Harleen Deol, and Amanjot Kaur, and Rs 5 lakhs to Indian fielding coach Munish Bali.

India Clinches First-Ever Squash World Cup Title, Defeats Hong Kong 3–0 in Chennai

- **India** won the **Squash World Cup for the first time**, defeating **top-seeded Hong Kong 3–0** in the final held at Express Avenue Mall in Chennai.Chennai.
- Joshna Chinappa set the tone by beating Lee Ka Yi (3–1), followed by Abhay Singh, who dominated Alex Lau 3–0.

Raiza Dhillon Clinches Double Gold at 68th National Shooting Championships

- **Olympian Raiza Dhillon** won a **golden double at the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC),** clinching gold medals in both Women's and Junior Women's Skeet at the Karni Singh Shooting Range, Tughlaqabad.
- In the Women's Skeet final, Raiza scored 56 to take gold, finishing ahead of Yashasvi Rathore (55 – silver), while Ganemat Shekhon secured the bronze medal.

Shafali Verma Named ICC Women's Player of the Month After World Cup Final Heroics

- India opener **Shafali Verma** was named **ICC Women's Player of the Month for November**, while **South Africa spinner Simon Harmer** won the award in the **men's category** for his standout bowling performance against India.
- Shafali played a decisive innings of 87 runs off 78 balls in the Women's World Cup final against South Africa in Navi Mumbai, the highest score by an Indian opener in a World Cup final, helping India post 298/7.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes First Indian Woman to Score 4,000 T20I Runs as India Beat Sri Lanka in Series Opener

- **Smriti Mandhana** became the firs**t Indian woman batter to score 4,000 runs in Women's T20 Internationals**, achieving the feat during the first T20I against Sri Lanka at the ACA-VDCA Stadium.
- Mandhana is only the second woman globally after Suzie Bates to cross 4,000 T20I runs and did so in the fewest balls faced (3,227), underlining her consistency and strike efficiency.

Pro Wrestling League Unveils New Logo Ahead of 2026 Season Comeback

- The **Pro Wrestling League (PWL) unveiled** its new official **logo ahead of the 2026 season,** marking the league's return after a seven-year hiatus and its revival under new management.
- The **modern red-and-blue logo, inspired by the traditional wrestling mat, symbolizes strength, balance, and competitive spirit,** reflecting PWL's vision of a world-class professional platform for wrestlers.

East Bengal Football Club Wins Inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025

- **East Bengal FC** has clinched the **title of the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025** with a dominant 3-0 win against hosts Nepal's APF (Armed Police Forces) in the final at Dasrath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- With this win, East Bengal has become the first Indian women's club to win an international tournament.

INS Sindhughosh Decommissioned After 40 Years of Service

- **INS Sindhughosh**, the lead submarine of her class, was decommissioned, after completing **40 years of distinguished service,** marking the end of an important chapter in India's conventional submarine force.
- The decommissioning ceremony was held at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, in the presence of Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, with the submarine formally paid off under the command of Lt Cdr Rajat Sharma.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi Becomes Youngest Centurion in Men's List A Cricket with 36-Ball Hundred

- **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** scored a **blistering 190 off 84 balls**, including 15 sixes, and reached his century in just 36 balls for Bihar against Arunachal Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Plate Group match.
- At 14 years and 272 days, Suryavanshi **became the youngest player in men's List A cricket history to score a century.**

Virat Kohli Becomes Fastest to 16,000 List A Runs, Surpassing Sachin Tendulkar

- **Virat Kohli** became the **fastest player to reach 16,000 List A runs**, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar, achieving the milestone in his **330th innings during Delhi's Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Andhra.**
- Kohli now holds the record for the fastest to each block of 1000 List A runs from 10,000 runs onwards, breaking multiple long-standing records.

R Praggnanandhaa and Anish Giri Lead Alpine SG Pipers to Maiden Global Chess League 2025 Title

- **R Praggnanandhaa** and **Anish Giri's team, Alpine SG Pipers**, won the **Global Chess League 2025 Season 3 title**, defeating defending champions Triveni Continental Kings in Mumbai.
- The finals were dominated by Pipers with scores of 4-2 in the first match and 4.5-1.5 in the second match, marking their maiden GCL title.

Chhattisgarh Unveils Logo, Mascot 'Morveer' for Inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games in Bilaspur

- **The logo**, theme song and official **mascot of the first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) were unveiled at Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium, Bilaspur**, with the Games scheduled to begin from February 14.
- The **official mascot Morveer** reflects Chhattisgarh's cultural identity, **combining 'Mor' (our own) and 'Veer' (bravery), symbolising the pride**, courage and collective spirit of India's tribal communities.

Ayush Mhatre Named India U19 Captain for ICC Men's World Cup 2026

- **Ayush Mhatre** has been named **captain of India's squad for the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup 2026,** scheduled in Zimbabwe and Namibia from January 15 to February 6.
- Mhatre and vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra will miss the pre-tournament South Africa tour (Jan 3–7) due to wrist injuries, with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi leading the side in their absence.

Surya Charishma Tamiri Clinches Women's Singles Title at 87th Senior National Badminton Championships

- **Surya Charishma Tamiri** won the **Women's Singles title at the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships in Vijayawad**a, staging a comeback to defeat Tanvi Patri 17-21, 21-12, 21-14.
- Rithvik Sanjeevi S clinched the Men's Singles title defeating Bharat Raghav 21-16, 22-20, while A. Hariharan and Ruban Kumar won the Men's Doubles 24-22, 21-17.

Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina Clinch World Rapid Chess Championship

- **Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina** won the **World Rapid Chess Championship,** with Carlsen taking the open section and Goryachkina triumphing in the women's section after tie-breaks.

- India's Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy won bronze in the open and women's sections, respectively, while other Indian players like B. Savitha Shri (4th), R. Vaishali (5th), and Divya Deshmukh (8th) also performed strongly.

Bhutan's Sonam Yeshey Creates History with Record 8-Wicket Haul in Men's T20 International

- **Bhutan spinner Sonam Yeshey** created history by **becoming the first bowler to take an eight-wicket haul in a men's T20 International,** setting a new world record.
- The 22-year-old left-arm spinner achieved the feat during the third T20I against Myanmar at Gelephu Mindfulness City, Bhutan, on December 26.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
HarperCollins India	Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
28 November	Red Planet Day	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.
29 November	International Jaguar Day	The day aims to highlight the **threats faced by jaguars, including habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflicts**, and to promote global conservation efforts
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	It aims to raise awareness about **the struggles of Palestinians, promote international cooperation, and encourage efforts toward** a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
1 December	World AIDS Day	Theme 2025 - **Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response**

1 December	National Pollution Control Day	It highlights the need for **strict pollution control measures, industrial safety, and environmental protection**.
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	The day focuses on **ending practices such as human trafficking, forced labour, child labour, forced marriage, and sexual exploitation**
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	The day aims to **bridge the digital divide, encouraging people**, especially those in underserved communities, to learn basic computing and digital literacy.
3 December	World Day of the Handicapped / International Day of Persons with Disabilities	To promote **awareness, rights, and inclusion of people** with disabilities globally
4 December	Indian Navy Day	The day marks the success of **Operation Trident during the 1971 Indo-Pak war**, when the Indian Navy carried out a surprise attack on Karachi harbor.
4 December	International Day of Banks	The day highlights the contribution of the **banking sector in supporting economic growth, poverty reduction, and global financial stability**.
4 December	International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures	It highlights how such measures can affect **human rights, development, and economic stability, particularly in vulnerable nations**.
5 December	International Volunteer Day	The day highlights the role of volunteering in addressing **global challenges, fostering community engagement, and promoting peace, solidarity, and sustainable development**
5 December	World Soil Day	The day emphasizes **sustainable soil management to combat soil

		degradation, erosion, and nutrient depletion, ensuring long-term productivity and environmental health.
5 December	International Volunteer Day	Theme 2025 - **Every contribution matters**
5 December	World Soil Day	Theme 2025 - **Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities**
6 December	National Microwave Oven Day	It encourages awareness of **innovative cooking technologies and inspires people to explore creative ways** to use microwave ovens in daily meal preparation
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	Theme 2025 - **Safe Skies & Sustainable Future for All**
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	The day raises funds through **voluntary donations from the public, which are used to provide welfare measures and support for serving personnel, ex-servicemen**, and their dependents.
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme 2025 - **Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity**
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD)	Theme 2025- **Uniting with Youth Against Corruption**
9 December	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of Genocide	The day aims to honour and remember the victims of all **genocides worldwide, acknowledging their suffering and preserving their dignity**
10 December	Human Rights Day	Theme 2025 **- Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials**
11 December	International Mountain Day	Theme 2025 - **Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond**
11 December	UNICEF Day	The day highlights **UNICEF's work in promoting child rights, health,**

		education, and overall well-being worldwide.
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day	Theme 2025 - **Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!**
13 December	National Horse Day	The day highlights the importance of horses in **agriculture, sports, policing, and recreational activities across the world.**
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	Theme 2025 - **Saving Energy, Securing Future**
14 December	International Day Against Colonialism in All Its Forms and Manifestations	The day highlights the importance of eradicating all forms of **colonial domination, including political, economic, social, and cultural control**, that continue to **affect countries and communities.**
18 December	Minorities Rights Day	Theme 2025 - **Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials**
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	Theme 2025 - **Uniting Communities for a Shared Future**
21 December	World Saree Day	The day highlights the **craftsmanship, regional diversity, and artistry** involved in saree weaving across India.
21 December	World Basketball Day	The occasion **encourages youth participation and grassroots development**, recognising basketball as a tool for **peace, education, and healthy lifestyles worldwide**.
21 December	World Meditation Day	Theme 2025 - **Inner Peace, Global Harmony; One World, One Family; Healing the World From Within**
22 December	National Mathematics Day	The day recognises **Ramanujan's outstanding contributions to mathematical research, including number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions.**

23 December	Kisan Diwas	The day marks the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh, the 5th Prime Minister of India**, known for his work towards farmers' welfare.
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	Theme 2025 - **Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice**
24 December	DMRC Foundation Day	The Delhi Metro is known for its timely project **execution, technological innovation** and **eco-friendly operations, serving** as a model for metro projects across India.
24 December	International Day against Cybercrime	Theme 2025 - **Countering Cybercrime – Sharing Responsibility – Securing our Future**
25 December	Good Governance Day	It aims to ensure **citizen-centric governance, focusing on efficient delivery of public services, inclusive development and responsive institutions**
27 December	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	Theme 2025 - **Strengthening Global Health Systems for Future Crises**
29 December	International Cello Day	The day highlights **the rich sound, versatility and emotional depth of the cello in classical, jazz and contemporary music.**

Chapter 20: Science & Technology

Indian Scientists Discover Ancient Milky Way-Like Galaxy 'Alaknanda' With Fully Formed Spiral Arms

- **Indian scientists** have discovered **an ancient Milky Way–like galaxy named Alaknanda,** notable for having clear and well-defined spiral arms despite forming when the universe was only 1.5 billion years old, compared to today's 13.8 billion years.
- Professor Yogesh Wadadekar of NCRA–TIFR announced that the galaxy appears as a regular, well-structured system, unlike most early-universe galaxies which were typically small, unstable, and lacking any clear shape.

- **Researchers named the galaxy Alaknanda because, just like the Alaknanda river is a sister to the Mandakini river,** Mandakini is also the Hindi name for our Milky Way, making the name symbolically connected and culturally meaningful.

Completion of India's Maitri II Antarctic Research Station Pushed to 2032

- The **completion of Maitri II,** India's next-generation research station in East Antarctica, has been **delayed to 2032**, with scientific operations expected to start later than initially planned, **instead of the earlier target of January 2029.**
- The project is estimated to cost ₹2,000 crore over seven years, and the Ministry of Earth Sciences has approved ₹29.2 crore for pre-investment work, including architectural design and preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- Maitri II will strengthen India's multidisciplinary scientific research in Antarctica, supporting studies in biology, earth sciences, glaciology, atmospheric sciences, climate research, and long-term environmental monitoring.

ISRO Successfully Launches US AST SpaceMobile's BlueBird Block-2 Communication Satellite

- **ISRO** successfully launched the **United States' AST SpaceMobile BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite** from the **Second Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**
- The payload, BlueBird Block-2, is a 6.5-tonne communication satellite, making it the heaviest commercial satellite deployed to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) by LVM3 from India.

Indian Coast Guard inducts First Pollution Control Vessel at Goa Shipyard Limited

- **The Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** inducted **its first Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), Samudra Pratap, at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL),** marking a major step in indigenous shipbuilding.
- Samudra Pratap is equipped with advanced technology, including a 30 mm CRN-91 gun, two 12.7 mm stabilised remote-controlled guns, a shaft generator, Sea boat davit, Pollution Response boat, and a high-capacity external firefighting system.

IIT Delhi Develops AILAS: AI Agent Capable of Conducting Independent Laboratory Experiments

- **IIT Delhi** has developed **an AI agent named AILAS (Artificially Intelligent Laboratory Agent)** capable of conducting scientific experiments independently, mimicking human researchers.
- AILAS can control laboratory devices and make real-time decisions during experiments, enhancing efficiency and accuracy in research workflows.

India Successfully Tests K-4 SLBM from INS Arighaat, Boosting Sea-Based Nuclear Deterrence

- **India s**uccessfully **test-fired the K-4 intermediate-range submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)** from the nuclear-powered **submarine INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Visakhapatnam.**

- With a strike range of around 3,500 km, the K-4 significantly enhances India's sea-based nuclear attack capability, strengthening the most survivable leg of the nuclear triad.

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Renowned Bharatanatyam artiste Kumari Kamala (Kamala Lakshminarayanan)	Trained under **Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai, she helped shape and popularize the Vazhuvur bani**, known for its grace, fluid movements, and dramatic expression, becoming one of the most **influential performers of the mid-20th century**.
Veteran Bengali actor Kalyan Chattopadhyay	Appearing in over **400 films**, major works included **Satyajit Ray's Pratidwandi, Tapan Sinha's Sagina Mahato, Tarun Majumdar's Dhannyi Meye, Safed Haathi, Paar,** and the **Hindi film Kahani**; the film industry mourns his demise
Renowned Socialist Leader Baba Adhav	He was a **prominent progressive leader in Maharashtra, fighting against the caste system and advocating** for the rights of **labourers, head-loaders, waste-pickers, and street vendors**
Veteran Karnataka MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa	India's oldest sitting evening legislator, **Shivashankarappa served as a six-time MLA, former MP and minister, and long-time Congress treasurer**, while also transforming Davanagere into an education hub through the Bapuji Educational Association; his last rites will be held in **Davanagere.**
Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist Peter Arnett	He won the **1966 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for his Vietnam War** coverage with The **Associated Press**, where he worked as a correspondent from **1962 to 1975**.

Renowned litterateur and Jnanpith Awardee Vinod Kumar Shukla	Born in **1937** in **Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, Shukla** had **a literary career spanning over five decades,** earning accolades including the **Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel "Deewar Mein Ek Khidki"**
Veteran Assamese Actress Ranjana Sharma Bordoloi	She starred in landmark Assamese films such as **"Dr Bezbarua" (1969), "Maniram Dewan" (1964), "Morom Trishna" (1968),** and others, earning recognition for her versatility and screen presence during the **1960s–70s**.
French Cinema Icon Brigitte Bardot	Bardot acted in nearly **50 films**, including the famous **"And God Created Woman",** before retiring in 1973 to focus on animal welfare through the Brigitte Bardot Foundation.
Bangladesh's First Female Prime Minister Khaleda Zia	She served as **Prime Minister twice— first after winning the 1991 election** and again during **2001–2006**, with long-standing **political rivalry against Sheikh Hasina shaping Bangladesh's political landscape**.