

# Monthly January Daily Current Affairs

## India, Pakistan

- **India and Pakistan exchanged the list of nuclear installations** and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between both countries.
- The list was exchanged through diplomatic channels simultaneously in New Delhi and Islamabad. The Agreement was signed **on 31st December 1988 and entered into force on 27th January 1991.**



- It provides that India and Pakistan inform each other of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the Agreement on the first of January of every year.
- **India and Pakistan exchanged the lists of civilian prisoners and fishermen** in each other's custody through diplomatic channels. Under the provisions of the bilateral Agreement on **Consular Access 2008**, such lists are exchanged every year on 1st January and on 1st July.



- External Affairs Ministry said in a statement that India has shared **names of 381 civilian prisoners and 81 fishermen in its custody**, who are Pakistani or are believed-to-be-Pakistani. Pakistan has shared names of **49 civilian prisoners and 217 fishermen in its custody**, who are Indian or are believed-to-be-Indian. India has called for early release and repatriation of civilian prisoners, fishermen along with their boats, and missing Indian defence personnel from Pakistan's custody.
- Pakistan has been asked to expedite the release and repatriation of 183 Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, who have completed their sentence.
- Pakistan has been asked to **provide immediate consular access to the 18 civilian prisoners and fishermen** in its custody, who are believed-to-be-Indian and have not been provided consular access so far. **Pakistan has been requested to ensure the safety, security and welfare** of all Indian and believed-to-be-Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen, pending their release and repatriation to India.

## World's Fastest High-Speed Train Prototype

- **China has introduced the CR450**, the world's fastest high-speed train prototype, with test speeds **reaching 450 km/h**. **Surpassing** the current CR400 Fuxing trains (350 km/h), the CR450 marks a breakthrough in rail technology, combining speed with advancements in energy efficiency, safety, and passenger comfort.



- This innovation aligns with China's ambitious plans to expand its high-speed rail **network to 70,000 km by 2035**, cementing its leadership in global rail systems.
- CR450 surpasses its predecessors with a maximum commercial operating speed **of 400 km/h and test speeds of 450 km/h**, achieved after rigorous testing spanning 200,000 km, 3,000 simulations, and 2,000 platform tests.
- Equipped with **water-cooled permanent magnet traction systems** and high-stability bogie systems, the **CR450 reduces energy consumption by over 20% and ensures** operational stability at unprecedented speeds.
- Featuring noise reduction technologies, expanded cabin spaces, and storage for items like bicycles and wheelchairs, the CR450 prioritizes passenger comfort and accessibility.



- China's high-speed rail journey, **which began in the early 2000s, has transitioned from following global trends** to setting them. The CR450 follows iconic projects like the Shanghai Maglev (430 km/h) and international initiatives like the Laos-China Railway, which links Kunming to Vientiane.
- Future plans include extending high-speed networks through Southeast Asia, connecting **Kunming to Singapore via Laos**, Thailand, and Malaysia. With over 47,000 km of high-speed rail already operational, the CR450 prototype reinforces China's ambition to redefine rail travel by cutting major travel times—such as reducing the Beijing-Shanghai route from 4.5 hours to just over 3 hours.
- **Expected to debut commercially as early as 2025**, this project showcases China's pursuit of sustainable, efficient, and technologically advanced rail systems.

## India Completes Over 9 Km Fencing Along Myanmar

- India has completed the fencing of over **nine kilometres of its border** with Myanmar and work on the road along the fence is in progress. The fencing has been **done at Moreh in Manipur**.
- The Union Home Ministry stated this in a report published recently. The construction of **around 21 km of fence and road was awarded to Border Road Organisation** in February last year for which the work is in progress.



- The **country shares a 1,643 km long border with Myanmar** which passes through **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram**.
- The ministry added that out of the **1,643 km border, the demarcation of the 1,472 kilometres border has been completed**. Construction work on two pilot projects of a **Hybrid surveillance system in Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur** is in progress.

## ISRO To Launch US Communications Satellite Bluebird

- ISRO is set to make history by launching an **American communications satellite**. This is the **first time an American company** is using an Indian rocket for such a large and advanced satellite.
- The mission is expected to occur in **February or March 2025**. **AST SpaceMobile, a Texas-based company**, is expected to be the manufacturer of the satellite. The company has developed technology that allows **users to make voice calls using standard smartphones**.



## ISRO SET TO LAUNCH US SATELLITE TO FACILITATE VOICE CALLS FROM SPACE VIA SMARTPHONES

- Unlike other satellite communication providers, **AST SpaceMobile does not require users to purchase special** handsets or terminals, making it more accessible to the general public.
- The satellite in question is the **Bluebird satellite, which will be launched into** low Earth orbit using **ISRO's Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**. It will feature a large **64 square-meter antenna, approximately half the size of a** football field.



- The satellite is projected to **weigh around 6,000 kg, showcasing its capability to** handle substantial data transmission. **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle** is designed to place communication satellites into Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO) using a cryogenic third stage for higher thrust.

## 'Pujari Granthi Samman' Scheme

- Delhi Government has initiated the '**Pujari Granthi Samman**' scheme. This programme aims to provide **financial assistance to Gurudwara priests** in the region.
- The announcement was made by former **Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on December 30**, with the registration process commencing on December 31. The '**Pujari Granthi Samman**' scheme offers a **monthly grant of Rs 18,000**.

### Understanding the Pujari Granthi Samman Yojana

- The scheme promises to alleviate economic burdens by providing a stable income to religious leaders, depicted here as they receive financial support.
- By ensuring financial stability for religious figures, the initiative aims to build trust within the community.



- This financial support is designated for **every temple and Gurudwara priest** in Delhi. The initiative seeks to ensure economic stability for religious leaders who serve their communities.
- The initiative **aims to provide recognition and financial security** to religious figures. It reflects a growing awareness of the needs of temple and Gurudwara priests. The **scheme may also influence voter sentiments** in the approaching elections.

## India's First Glass Sea Bridge

- **Tamil Nadu inaugurated a groundbreaking glass bridge over the sea**, enhancing connectivity between two landmarks. This development coincides with the silver jubilee celebrations of the **Tiruvalluvar Statue, which has become a symbol** of cultural pride.
- **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin officially opened** the bridge, linking the Tiruvalluvar Statue and the **Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari**.

- The event celebrated the **statue's 25th anniversary**, marking its significance in **Tamil culture**.
- The **glass bridge spans 77 metres and is 10 metres wide**, constructed at a cost of ₹37 crore.



- **Tiruvalluvar Statue** : Unveiled on **January 1, 2000**, the statue stands at a **height of 133 feet**, representing the 133 chapters of the Tirukkural. The statue, installed on a rock in the sea, is an important identity for Tamil people and embodies the philosophy of social justice expressed in the Thirukural: **“Pirapokkum ella uyirkkum” (Everyone is equal at birth)**.
- Designed by renowned **sculptor V. Ganapathi Sthapathi**, it weighs approximately 7,000 tonnes and has withstood natural disasters, including the 2004 tsunami. Recently, it was officially **renamed as the Statue of Wisdom**.
- **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** : The Vivekananda Rock Memorial is located on one of the two rocks, **about 500 meters off the mainland of Vavathurai**, at the **southernmost tip of India in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu**. The rocks are surrounded by the **Laccadive Sea, where the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea meet**. The memorial was **constructed in 1970 to honor Swami Vivekananda**, who is believed to have attained enlightenment on the rock.
- Its main structures are **Vivekananda Mandapam (A hall dedicated to Swami Vivekananda)** and **Shripada Mandapam** (built to enshrine the footprint of Devi Kanyakumari) and Dhyana Mandapam (Meditation Hall).

## Sevdalinka: Added To UNESCO Cultural Heritage List

- **Sevdalinka is a traditional Bosnian love song** that has recently gained recognition, and added to **UNESCO's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage**.
- The song, often **referred to as the Balkan Blues**, reflects a rich cultural history and emotional depth. **Sevdalinka dates back to the 16th century**. It originated in the **South Slavic regions** and combines elements of **South Slavic poetry** with music **influenced by the Ottoman Empire**.



- The genre has evolved over centuries, retaining its melancholic essence. Sevdalinka is typically performed as a **cappella or accompanied by traditional instruments**, such as the lute and the saz.
- The songs are characterized by their emotional lyrics and intricate melodies, often **conveying themes of love and longing**. The performance of Sevdalinka is cultural practice in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**. It is commonly sung at family gatherings and community events, allowing for the transmission of cultural values and stories across generations.

## Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025** in New Delhi tomorrow. The Mahotsav aims to enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and **foster innovation within rural communities**.
- The theme of the six-day Mahotsav is Building a Resilient Rural India for a **Viksit Bharat 2047** & motto **“गांव बढ़े, तो देश बढ़े”**.





- The objective of this event includes promoting **economic stability and financial security among rural populations**, with a special focus on North-East India. A significant focus of the Mahotsav will be to empower rural women through entrepreneurship.
- This will bring together **government officials, rural entrepreneurs, artisans**, and stakeholders from diverse sectors to build a roadmap for collaborative and collective rural transformation. **The Mahotsav will showcase India's rich cultural heritage through** vibrant performances and exhibitions.

## 'BAANKNET' For e-auction Of Properties

- Government launched the revamped **portal 'BAANKNET' for the e-auction of properties**. The platform consolidates information on e-auction properties from **all public sector banks and offers a one-stop destination** for buyers and investors to discover a wide range of assets.



- Launching the portal, the secretary of the Department of Financial Services, M. Nagaraju, emphasised that the introduction of the platform will **aid the recovery process of PSBs**, improve the balance sheets of banks, and enhance credit availability to businesses and individuals.
- The listings in the portal include **residential properties such as flats, independent houses, and open plots**, as well as commercial properties, industrial land and buildings, shops, vehicles, plant and machinery, and agricultural and non-agricultural land.

## India's 1st 'Coastline-Waders Bird Census'

- Country's first-ever '**Coastline-Waders Bird Census**' will begin at **Marine National Park and Sanctuary** in Jamnagar.
- The three-day census which has been jointly organized by the **Department of Forest and the Bird Conservation Society** will also host significant events focusing on counting wader and coastal bird species.



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- A **wading bird is a long-legged bird**, such as a crane, heron, or stork, that frequents shallow water, especially in search of food. Also called wader.

## Project VISTAAR

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** has partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to launch **Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources)**.

- This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of India's agricultural **extension system through digitalization**, providing farmers with improved access to innovative technologies and advisory services. **Project VISTAAR seeks to empower farmers** by integrating innovative technologies and solutions into the agricultural sector. By digitalizing the extension system, the project aims to provide high-quality advisory services on crop production, marketing, value addition, and supply chain management.



- **Additionally, it will offer comprehensive information** about government schemes related to agriculture, rural development, and allied sectors, ensuring farmers can fully benefit from these initiatives.
- **Start-ups play a critical role in addressing challenges** in agriculture by providing solutions that improve productivity, supply chain management, and market access.
- The **Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing at IIT Madras**, along with its **incubated start-up YNOS Venture Engine**, has developed an extensive database of over **12,000 agriculture-focused start-ups**.



- This database will be integrated into the **VISTAAR platform, enabling farmers and other stakeholders to explore innovative solutions**, adopt new technologies, and improve agricultural practices.
- Through this collaboration, farmers will gain access to high-quality advisory services, including insights on crop production, supply chain management, and market intelligence.
- The **digitalization of the existing agricultural extension system** will significantly expand its reach, allowing every farmer—regardless of their location—to access timely, contextual, and accurate information. This includes updates on best **farming practices, weather forecasts, pest control methods**, and sustainable agriculture techniques.



- The partnership between **IIT Madras and the Ministry of Agriculture** marks a significant milestone in India's journey towards a resilient, digitally empowered, and sustainable agricultural sector.
- By creating a seamless connection between start-ups and farmers, **Project VISTAAR aims to reduce information gaps, improve decision-making**, and enhance overall productivity.
- Additionally, the project will **focus on training and capacity-building initiatives** to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills to adopt these innovative solutions effectively, ensuring the long-term sustainability and scalability of digital agricultural extension services.

## Ramesh Chand Committee

- Government of India has established a committee to update the base year for the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**, aiming to enhance the accuracy of factory-gate inflation measures.
- This initiative reflects structural changes in the economy since the last update in 2011-12. The 18-member panel, led by **Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog, is tasked with advising** on transitioning the base year to 2022-23. This move is expected to improve the estimation of economic output adjusted for inflation.



- The primary goal of updating the WPI is to provide a more precise measure of inflation at the producer level. The **current WPI only accounts for goods, neglecting the service sector**, which constitutes over half of India's economic output. By shifting to a more comprehensive Producer Price Index (PPI), the government aims to capture a broader spectrum of economic activity.
- The committee **comprises 18 experts from various sectors**, including economics and finance. Notable members include Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Dharmakirti Joshi, and Indranil Sengupta. The diverse expertise within the panel is expected to facilitate a thorough review of the existing price collection system and propose necessary improvements.
- **The WPI has undergone revisions in the past, with the last update occurring in 2015** when the base year was changed **from 2004-05 to 2011-12**. **This new update aims to reflect** the current economic landscape and improve the accuracy of national income calculations. The previous base year has become outdated, necessitating this review.

## Indigenous Technology To Produce Paracetamol

- Science and Technology Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced that **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-CSIR** has developed an indigenous technology to produce Paracetamol, a widely used **pain reliever and fever reducer drug**.
- Addressing the Foundation Day of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi, he said that this innovation **aims to make India self-reliant in paracetamol manufacturing** and reducing dependence on imported ingredients to make this drug.



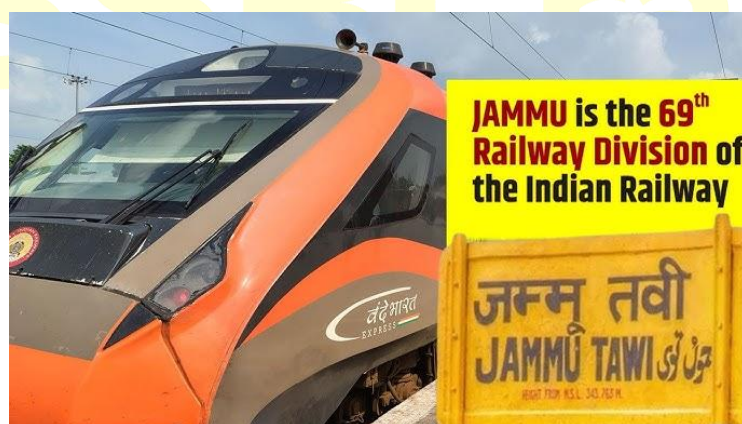
- Dr Singh also highlighted that there has been a series of indigenous developments like **India's 1st Indigenously developed Antibiotic-Nafithromycin to treat both atypical and typical drug-resistant bacteria**.

## Jammu Is To Be The 69th Railway Division

- **Railway Ministry will set up a new division** with headquarters at Jammu under the **Northern Railway Zone** by reorganising the Ferozpur division.
- The proposed **Jammu division will include five sections**: Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur (now martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan), Srinagar-Baramulla, Bhogpur Sirwal-Pathankot, Batala (excluding)-Pathankot, and Pathankot-Joginder Nagar.
- Currently, **the Indian Railways has 68 divisions and** when the notification is issued by the Indian Railways, Jammu will be the **69th division of the Indian Railways**.



- **India has the fourth largest rail network** in the world after the United States of America, China, and Russia. However, the Indian railways is the world's largest railway system under single management and the largest employer with around **1.25 million employees**.
- To manage the vast network the Indian Railway has **divided its operation into 17 Zones and within the Zones the network** is divided into divisions.
- Northern Zone is the largest zone of the Indian railways. The Jammu Division will be under the **Northern Railway Zone**. It will be formed by reorganising the existing Firzopur division and it will **manage the 742.1 km network**.



## 38th National Games Torch 'Tejaswini'

- **38th National Games** will be hosted by **Uttarakhand for the first time**, marking a significant event in the state's sports history. The **torch, named 'Tejaswini,'** has begun its journey across the state, spreading excitement and awareness about the games.



- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off the **torch rally from Haldwani**, and it is expected to cover **3,823 km**, visiting **99 locations in 13 districts** before reaching the capital, Dehradun.
- The National Games will take place from **January 28 to February 14, 2025**, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Dehradun. The torch rally was officially **inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** on December 26, 2024, in Haldwani, which marked the beginning of the journey.
- The torch, named Tejaswini, **travels across 13 districts of Uttarakhand**, visiting 99 locations in total.



- The journey covers an **extensive distance of 3,823 kilometers** and is set to culminate in Dehradun on January 25, 2025.
- **Mascot "Mauli"** : Inspired by the Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand. Symbolizes the region's uniqueness and encourages young athletes to aim high.
- **Logo** : **Reflects** the beauty and biodiversity of Uttarakhand, incorporating the Monal's vibrant imagery.



- **Tagline : “Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak”** (From Resolve to Zenith), representing determination and ambition.



## Hanoi Declared World’s Most Polluted City

- **Hanoi, Vietnam’s capital, has recently been identified as the world’s most polluted city, with PM2.5 levels reaching 266 micrograms per cubic meter.** This alarming air quality has raised **significant health concerns** among residents and prompted government action.
- **AirVisual reported that Hanoi’s PM2.5 levels were the highest globally,** indicating severe air pollution.

THE STRAITS TIMES

Saturday, January 04, 2025

### Hanoi declared world’s most polluted city

HANOI – Vietnam’s capital Hanoi has been covered in thick smog over recent weeks, putting it at the top of a list of the world’s most polluted cities, as the government said it would push for more electric vehicles (EVs) to alleviate the problem.

Levels of hazardous small particles, known as PM2.5, were measured at 266 micrograms per cubic metre in Hanoi early on Jan 3, the highest reading among a list of most-polluted cities, according to AirVisual, which provides independent global air pollution information via a phone app.

The South-east Asian country, a regional manufacturing hub with one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia, has reported severe air pollution in its major cities for years, particularly in Hanoi.

The thick smog is mostly caused by heavy traffic, the burning of rubbish and industrial activities. “We the elderly can feel it very clearly when we suffer from respiratory problems that lead to breathing difficulties”, said 64-year-old Lam Minh Duc, a resident of the city. “The situation seems to have become worse recently.”

Young people are also complaining. “At first I thought it was foggy... but later I found out that it is actually fine dust that reduces my vision and makes me feel like it is not healthy to breathe,” said student Nguyen Ninh Huong, 21.

Speaking at a meeting with the Transport Ministry on Jan 2, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha called for an accelerated transition to EVs as part of the efforts to reduce pollution, state media reported.

So far, Hanoi has a target for at least 50 per cent of buses and 100 per cent of taxis to be EVs by 2030. “This is the responsibility of the state to the people, and there must be specific and timely actions,” Mr Ha was quoted as saying by the Tien Phong newspaper.

The ministries of natural resources, environment and health did not immediately respond to requests for comment. REUTERS

Levels of hazardous small particles were measured at 266 micrograms per cubic metre in Hanoi on Jan 3. PHOTO: AFP

- **Sources of Pollution Heavy Traffic:** The city's dense traffic contributes significantly to air pollution.
- **Trash Burning:** Open burning of waste releases harmful pollutants into the air.
- **Industrial Activities:** Emissions from factories and industrial sites add to the deteriorating air quality.



- **Health Impacts on Residents : Respiratory Issues:** Elderly residents report increased breathing difficulties due to poor air quality.
- **Reduced Visibility:** Young people have noted decreased visibility and discomfort while breathing.
- **Government Initiatives :** Promotion of Electric Vehicles (EVs): Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha has called for an accelerated transition to EVs to reduce pollution. EV Adoption Targets: Hanoi aims for at least 50% of buses and 100% of taxis to be electric by 2030.

## **BHARATPOL Portal**

- Home Minister Amit Shah will launch **BHARATPOL portal developed by Central Bureau of Investigation** in New Delhi. The **BHARATPOL portal will streamline the processing of all requests for international assistance** through INTERPOL, including the issuance of **Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices**.

- Home Ministry said in a statement that under the **leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, the central government has taken several important initiatives to strengthen the country's law enforcement agencies.



- BHARATPOL portal will significantly **facilitate Indian law enforcement agencies enabling real-time information** sharing for faster access to international police assistance.



- The **growing footprint of transnational crimes including cyber-crime**, financial crimes, online radicalization, organized crimes, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, necessitates rapid and real-time international assistance in criminal investigations.
- To address this challenge, **CBI has developed BHARATPOL Portal**, which will bring all the stakeholders on a common platform. **By facilitating easier and**

**faster access to international assistance**, it will strengthen India's efforts in combating transnational crimes.

## V Narayanan Appointed As New ISRO Chief

- Centre has appointed **V Narayanan as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and Secretary of the Department of Space. Mr Narayanan will assume **office on January 14**.



- He will succeed the **current ISRO chairman, S Somanath**. Mr Narayanan currently serves as the **Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)** of the ISRO in Valiamala, Kerala.
- He is a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion. He is a rocket and **spacecraft propulsion expert**, **joined ISRO in 1984**, and functioned in various capacities before becoming director of LPSC.

## India's First Organic Fisheries Cluster In Sikkim

- Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the country's **first-ever organic fisheries cluster** in Soreng District, Sikkim. This initiative **aims to revolutionize the aquaculture industry** by promoting ecologically sustainable and **chemical-free fish farming practices**.
- The cluster will focus on **providing organic, antibiotic-free, and pesticide-free fish**, catering to eco-conscious markets globally. This development aligns with

Sikkim's reputation for **sustainable agricultural practices**, as the state has already embraced organic farming.



- The initiative is part of the government's **broader effort to boost farmers' incomes and promote sustainability in aquaculture**.
- Sikkim, known for its commitment to organic farming, is aligning its vision to include organic fisheries as a key sector. The organic fisheries cluster emphasizes **ecologically healthy practices by avoiding the use of chemicals, antibiotics, and pesticides** in fish farming. This focus on sustainability will ensure minimal environmental pollution and protect aquatic ecosystems.
- Minister Singh inaugurated **50 projects under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**, which is set to enhance aquaculture across northeastern states (except Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram). These projects have a combined value of ₹50 crore and aim to promote sustainable fish production practices in the region.

## India Ranked Second For Cyberattacks

- In 2024, **India became the second most targeted nation globally for cyberattacks**, with 95 entities falling victim to data theft, according to **CloudSEK's ThreatLandscape Report 2024**.
- The **United States topped the list with 140 attacks**, while Israel ranked third with 57 attacks.



- **Finance and banking sectors** were the most affected, with 20 victims. Other impacted sectors included government (13 victims), telecommunications (12), healthcare and pharma (10), and education (9).
- Significant breaches included the **leak of 850 million records of Indian citizen data from Hi-Tek Group, customer data from Star Health and Allied Insurance, and 2TB of data from Telecommunications Consultants India.**
- Ransomware Incidents: The report identified 108 ransomware incidents in India, with Lockbit **being the most active group, responsible** for over 20 incidents. Other notable groups included Killsec and Ransomhub.
- India has faced significant cyber threats in the past. **In 2018, it ranked second globally for data breaches, with over 690 million** internet subscribers and a growing number of breaches in both private and public sectors.

## Genome India Project

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has highlighted that the world is looking towards **India today for solutions to various global problems.** In a video message at the **Genomics Data Conclave in Delhi,** Mr. Modi said the **Genome India Project marks a defining moment** in the country's biotechnology landscape.
- The Prime Minister noted that the **combination of biotechnology and biomass** in the 21st century forms a crucial foundation for a developed India as a **Bio Economy.**



- He highlighted that in the past 10 years, the bio-economy has jumped **from 10 billion dollars to 150 billion dollars** today. The Prime Minister also lauded the **release of the Genome India Data**, hailing it as a historical step for research and healthcare in the nation.
- Mr. Modi mentioned that genome sequences of **10 thousand Indians from various groups have been analysed**, and its data is now available at the Indian Biological Data Center.

**GenomeINDIA**  
**'Cataloguing the Genetic Variation in Indians'**

**Reference Genome for India**  
 A national genome sequencing project to sequence 10,000 Indians

**Disease gene identification**  
 Catalogue all the genetic variations in Indians to help identify disease causing genes

**Capacity building & networking**  
 Training manpower to handle large genetic data sets and other resources across institutions in India

**Genetic basis for adverse affects and response to drugs**  
 This study will help pave the way to understand why some people respond to some drugs & why some develop adverse reaction depending upon their genetic background.

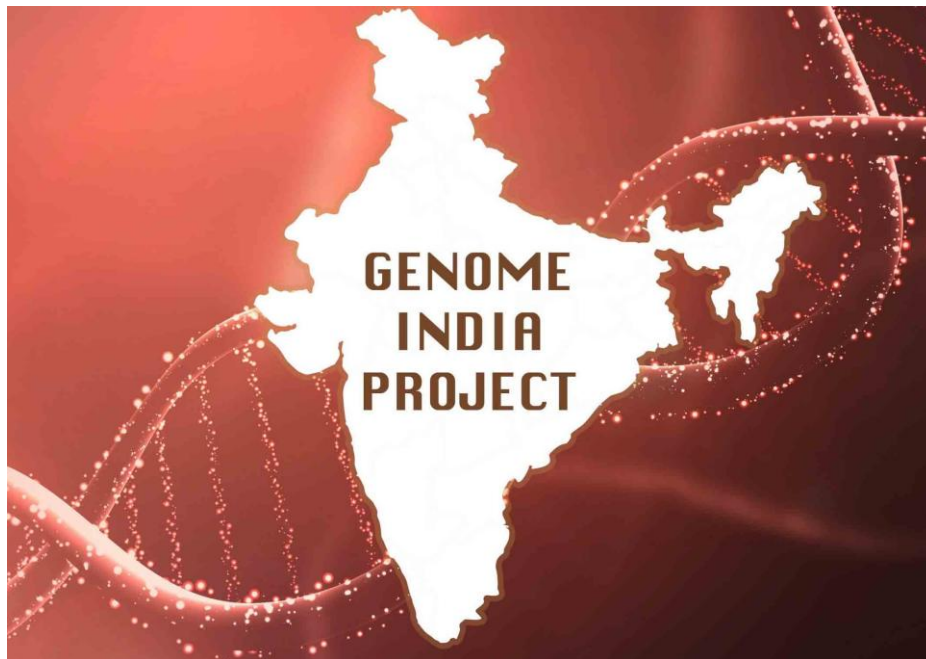
**Resources for larger & cheaper genetic studies**  
 Resources generated, will help build arrays and technologies for large scale cheaper genetic studies in India.

An initiative of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India

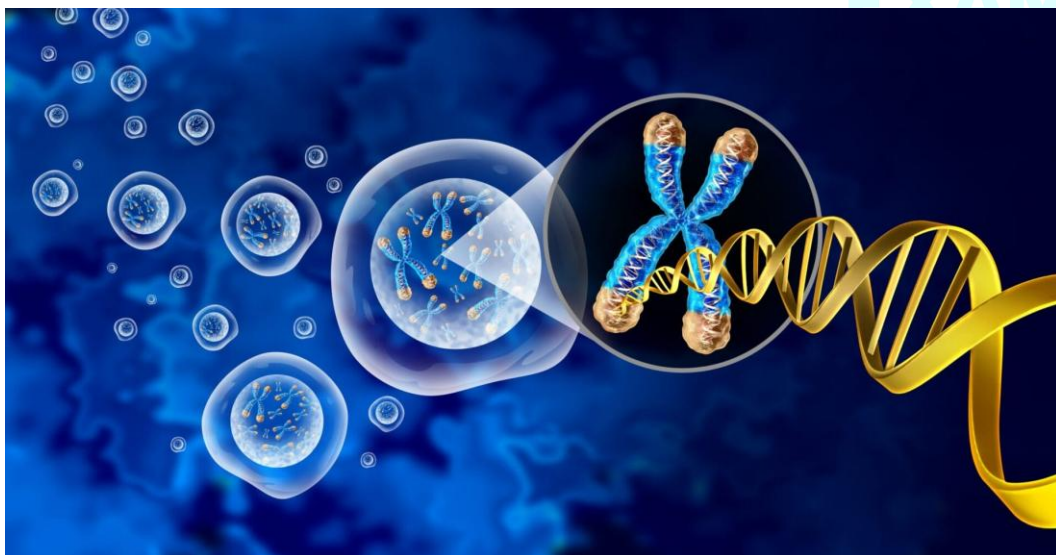
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 Department of Biotechnology, Government of India  
 Centre for Brain Research, CBR  
 IGB  
 NIBMG  
 CCMB  
 Institute of Life Sciences, Hyderabad  
 NCBS

- This data can be used by researchers, scientists, and scholars across India. Mr. Modi highlighted that there is a significant diversity in the genetic makeup of Indians; thus, understanding **the genetic identity of the population** is essential to determine effective treatments for particular groups.
- He emphasized that this information will greatly assist in **policy-making and planning** for the country. Mr. Modi highlighted that in the past ten years, special attention has been given to research and innovation in the country. He added that India has created a **special identity as a pharma hub in the world**.
- Science and Technology Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh released the Framework** for Exchange of Data Protocols and launched the **IBDC Data Access Portal**. Dr. Singh said that the last decade has been a game-changer for biotechnology in India.





- He noted that the country is **aiming for a one-million genome program**, including specific disease cohorts.
- **Genome: The genome represents the entirety** of an organism's hereditary information, serving as a biological instruction manual inherited from parents.
- Composed of four nucleotide bases: adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G), and thymine (T), the genome contains approximately 3 billion base pairs in humans.



## Republic Day Guests

- Indonesian President **Prabowo Subianto** has formally accepted New Delhi's invitation to be the chief guest for the **2025 Republic Day parade**. The choice of Subianto as the **first guest of third term of Prime Minister Modi** signals the importance India attaches to the bilateral relationship with **Indonesia and its Act East policy**.



- The visit is expected to see both sides stepping up their strategic cooperation and defence ties. India's **first Republic Day guest** was from Indonesia, **President Sukarno**, a key ally of country's **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** during the golden years of the non-aligned movement.



- **Around ten thousand Special Guests** have been invited to witness the Republic Day Parade this year. These special guests include Sarpanches, Disaster Relief Workers, Best Performing Water Warriors, Handloom and Handicraft Artisans, Mann Ki Baat Participants, My Bharat Volunteers, Guests from North Eastern States, and Best Start-Ups.
- **The Defence Ministry said some of the invited guests are carrying out** exemplary work to ensure income and employment generation through Self-Help Groups. Members of the Para-Olympic contingent, Chess Olympiad medalists, Bridge World Games Silver medalists, and Snooker World Championship Gold medalists have also been invited as special guests. The Ministry said these guests will visit the National War Memorial, PM Sangrahalay, and other prominent places in Delhi.

## **US: Fire Spreading Hollywood Hills**

- **Out-of-control wildfires are ripping** across parts of Los Angeles, leading to at least five deaths, burning down hundreds of buildings, and prompting evacuation orders for nearly **180,000 residents across the county**.
- Despite the efforts of firefighters, the biggest blazes remain totally uncontained - with **weather conditions and the underlying impact** of climate change expected to continue fanning the flames for days to come.



- In Los Angeles County, some 179,000 residents are under evacuation orders - many of them **leaving their homes simply carrying whatever** belongings they

can. Another 200,000 residents are under evacuation warning, meaning they could be required to leave their homes soon.

- **Hurricane-force Winds Sent** The Fires, Which Started Earlier This Week On The Outer Fringes Of Los Angeles, Leaping Across Suburbs And Neighbourhoods, Finally Reaching The **Hollywood Hills By The Time** The Winds Slowed.

## IREDA Achieves 'Excellent' Rating

- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)** has achieved 'Excellent' rating for the performance MoU signed with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the **financial year 2023-24, with a score of 98.24.**



- This marks the fourth consecutive year that IREDA has received 'Excellent' rating, showcasing its unwavering commitment to operational excellence and highest standards of corporate governance.
- **In the previous three years, IREDA consistently** delivered exceptional results, achieving an 'Excellent' rating with scores of 93.50 in FY 2022-23, 96.54 in FY 2021-22 and 96.93 in FY 2020-21.

## Startup India Initiative

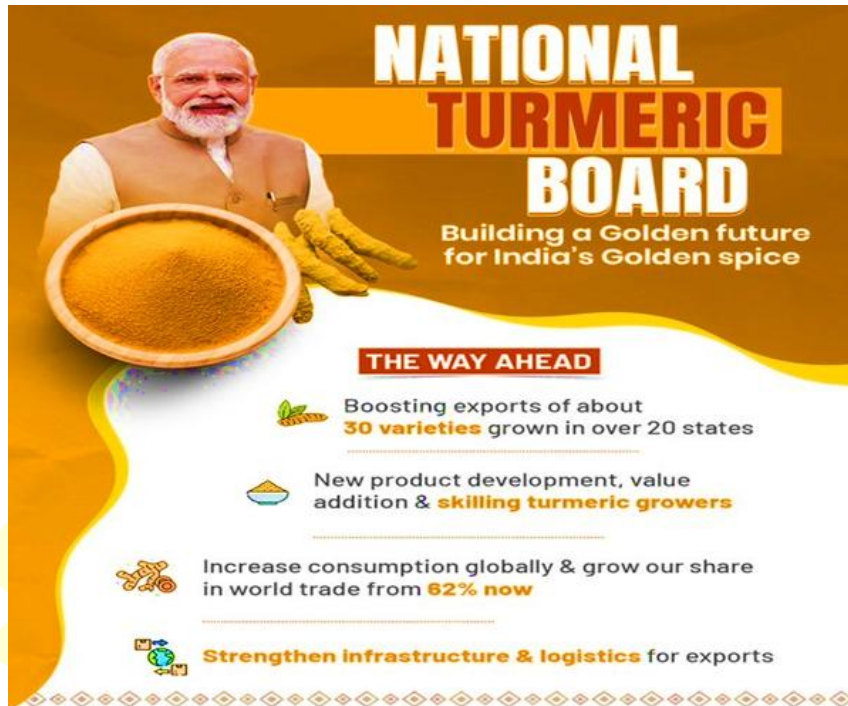
- The government's **flagship initiative Startup India has completed** nine years 16 January . The scheme is intended to **catalyse startup culture** and build a strong and **inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship** in the country.
- India has bloomed into the **world's third-largest startup ecosystem**, which raised more than **\$158 Bn+ funding between 2014 and 2024**. As per government estimates, **India is home to more than 1.59 Lakh Department** for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-recognised startups that have created **17 Lakh+ jobs in the country.**



- These startups encompass more than **56 sectors, including IT services, healthcare and life sciences**, education, agriculture, construction, among others. However, what is fascinating is that the startup fever has not remained within the walls of India's biggest cities but has percolated to smaller towns as well.
- As per DPIIT data, **more than half (51%) of the DPIIT-registered startups in India are from non-metro cities**. "More and more startups coming from non-metro cities is a promising sign of India's entrepreneurial potential. Cities like Jaipur, Indore, Coimbatore, Vadodara, and Surat offer cost-effective talent and opportunities for startups to grow.
- Meanwhile, government-led incubator programs like **T-Hub in Telangana** provide significant support to startups, unlocking trillions of dollars in value and reshaping India's entrepreneurial landscape," said Murali Bukkapatnam, chair of non-profit TiE's global 2025 board of trustees. India is also third in the world in terms of the number of unicorns.
- As per the DPIIT, the **number of billion-dollar valuation companies in India** have soared **13X in the past decade to 118 in 2024 from a mere eight in 2015**. These unicorns are cumulatively **valued north of \$354 Bn**, showing the might of the new-age tech ventures that have emerged from India in the past decade.

## National Turmeric Board

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the establishment of the **National Turmeric Board**. In a social media post, the Prime Minister called the establishment of the board a matter of immense joy, particularly for the country's hard-working turmeric farmers.



- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, inaugurated the **National Turmeric Board in New Delhi**, appointing **Shri Palle Ganga Reddy** as its first Chairperson. The Board's headquarters is established in **Nizamabad, Telangana**, a prominent turmeric-producing region. He underscored that this board will ensure better opportunities for innovation, global promotion, and value addition in turmeric production.
- The Prime Minister added that it will strengthen the supply chains, benefiting both farmers and consumers alike.
- **India stands as the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric**, accounting for **over 70% of global production**. In the 2023-24 period, the country cultivated turmeric over **3.05 lakh hectares**, yielding **10.74 lakh tonnes**. **With more than 30 varieties grown**, India's share in world turmeric trade exceeds 62%, **exporting 1.62 lakh tonnes** valued at \$226.5 million during 2023-24.

## IMD's 150th Foundation Day

- On January 14, 2025, during the **150th Foundation Day celebrations of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the **'IMD Vision-2047'** document.
- This strategic roadmap outlines ambitious goals to enhance India's meteorological capabilities by 2047, coinciding with the nation's centenary of independence.



- **Zero Disaster Deaths:** The vision document sets a target of eliminating fatalities due to severe weather events by 2047. This objective emphasizes the importance of accurate and timely weather forecasts to enable effective disaster management and early public warnings.
- **Enhanced Forecast Accuracy:** IMD aims to achieve zero-error weather forecasting for up to three days and 90% accuracy for five-day forecasts by 2047. For severe weather predictions extending up to seven days, the target is 80% accuracy, and 70% accuracy for forecasts up to ten days.
- **Comprehensive Weather Detection:** The department plans to attain 100% detection of all types of severe weather events down to the village and household levels. This will involve augmenting meteorological observational systems nationwide, supported by advanced remote-sensing technologies, including improved radars and satellites.



- **Launch of 'Mission Mausam'** In conjunction with the Vision-2047 document, Prime Minister Modi introduced 'Mission Mausam,' an initiative aimed at transforming India into a **'Weather-ready and Climate-smart'** nation. The mission focuses on developing cutting-edge weather surveillance technologies, implementing **high-resolution atmospheric observations**, deploying next-generation radars and satellites, and enhancing high-performance computing systems.

**MISSION MAUSAM**

*Cabinet approves 'Mission Mausam' to create a more weather-ready and climate-smart Bharat with an outlay of Rs.2,000 crore over 2 years*

**BENEFITS**

- ◆ A multi-faceted and transformative initiative to tremendously boost India's weather and climate-related science, research and services
- ◆ Will help better equip stakeholders, including citizens and last-mile users, in tackling extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change
- ◆ Mission focus to include improving observations and understanding for providing highly accurate and timely weather and climate information across temporal and spatial scales
- ◆ Mission to be implemented by 3 institutes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences:
  - India Meteorological Department
  - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
  - National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting



- **Established in 1875, IMD has played a pivotal role in advancing** meteorological science in India. Over the years, the department has significantly improved its forecasting capabilities, contributing to a substantial reduction in casualties from natural disasters. For instance, accurate cyclone warnings have led to a decrease in deaths from **approximately 10,000 in 1999 to zero in recent years.**
- The department has also expanded its technological infrastructure, increasing the number of Doppler Weather Radars from 15 in 2014 to 39 in 2023, thereby enhancing land **area coverage by about 35%. Additionally, the** overall forecast accuracy has improved by 40% between 2014 and 2023.

## Blue Flag Certification

- Kerala's **renowned Kappad beach in Kozhikode and Chal beach in Kannur** have been awarded the prestigious **Blue Flag certification** by the **Denmark-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).**
- This certification recognizes beaches that meet high standards in **environmental protection, safety, and sustainability.** The Blue Flag status enhances Kerala's appeal as a sustainable tourism destination and serves as a global benchmark for eco-friendly tourism practices.



- Both beaches have **implemented eco-friendly initiatives and maintain hygienic, safe environments** for tourists, setting a model for responsible tourism (RT).
- **Blue Flag is an international eco-label awarded** to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating operators as a mark of their environmental excellence.

Awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**, based in Denmark.

- **Established in 1985 to promote sustainable coastal development** globally. 33 stringent criteria are evaluated, grouped **into four categories**, Environmental Education and Information, Bathing Water Quality, Environmental Management, Conservation and Safety Services.



- **Decision to grant Blue Flag status is made by an international jury** that includes representatives from, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). **India has 13 Blue Flag beaches**, including Kappad and Chal, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable tourism.

Certified In	Beach Name	State Name
2020	Shivrajpur Beach	Dwarka, Gujarat
2020	Golden Beach	Puri, Odisha
2020	Ghoghla Beach	Diu, Gujarat
2020	Kasarkod Beach	Uttara Kannada, Karnataka
2020	Padubidri Beach	Udupi, Karnataka
2020	Rushikonda Beach	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
2020	Radhanagar Beach	Havelock Island, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
2020	Kovalam Beach	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
2020	Eden Beach	Puducherry
2022	Minicoy Thundi Beach	Lakshadweep
2022	Kadmat Beach	Lakshadweep
2025	Kappad Beach	Kozhikode, Kerala
2025	Chal Beach	Kannur, Kerala

## India Joins UN's Big Data For Official Statistics

- India has joined the **United Nations Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD)**, marking a significant step in the country's growing influence in global statistical frameworks.
- This membership demonstrates India's commitment to leveraging **Big Data and technology for evidence-based policymaking**. The committee focuses on exploring how **Big Data and data science can be utilized to** improve official statistics and track sustainable development goals (SDGs).



- This development aligns with India's efforts to modernize its statistical processes by **integrating non-traditional data sources like satellite imagery, IoT** (Internet of Things), and machine learning for accurate and real-time insights to support governance. India will help shape global standards and best practices in using Big Data for official statistics.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** will play a key role in representing India's initiatives. The Data Innovation Lab and alternate data sources like satellite imagery and machine learning will be showcased as India's contributions.

- **India's Innovations in Big Data for Statistics**

**Data Innovation Lab:** A government initiative to explore new data collection techniques.

**Satellite Imagery & IoT:** Being used to modernize statistical processes and enhance the accuracy of estimates.

**Machine Learning & AI:** Helping to reduce time lags in data collection and provide real-time insights.



The UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD) was created in 2014

- **Big Data is characterized by,**
  - High Volume: Large amounts of data generated every second.
  - High Velocity: Data is produced at an unprecedented speed.
  - Wide Variety: Data comes from various sources in different formats.
- **UN-CEBD Formation**

Established by the **UN Statistical Commission in its 45th session.**  
Created to investigate the benefits and challenges of Big Data for official statistics. Focuses on monitoring and reporting sustainable development goals (SDGs) using Big Data.

## INROAD Project

- **INROAD (Indian Natural Rubber Operations for Assisted Development) project**, launched with a **financial backing of ₹100 crore**, aims to enhance the quality of natural rubber **produced in India's North-East**.
- This initiative focuses on **skill development for rubber growers** and the establishment of model infrastructure, with support from key players in the tyre industry, demonstrating a unique collaboration between agriculture and manufacturing.



- **INROAD is a pioneering initiative in the global tyre industry**, focusing on improving the quality of natural rubber through direct involvement from tyre manufacturers.
- **The project is financially supported by four major companies** – Apollo, Ceat, JK, and MRF. The Rubber Board of India oversees its implementation. In its first four years, the project has **successfully established 1,25,272 hectares** of new natural rubber plantations.
- These plantations span across 94 districts in the North East and parts of West Bengal, marking a significant step towards enhancing local rubber production.
- A core component of the **INROAD project is skill development**. The initiative **provides training to rubber growers through digital platforms**, aiming to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective rubber tapping and processing.



- The focus is on areas critical for improving the quality of rubber. Infrastructure development is equally important in the INROAD project. **Model Smoke Houses and Processing and Grading Centres are being established** to support rubber growers. These facilities are designed specifically for the region's needs, with **smokehouses playing a crucial role in producing high-quality rubber** sheets by drying and curing latex.



- The project also emphasizes the **economic empowerment of women** in rubber cultivation. A model smokehouse has been inaugurated for the **Bhaishkhuli Pragatishil Mohila Samittee**, a cooperative of 65 female rubber growers in Goalpara, Assam.
- This facility will not only **enhance the quality of rubber produced** but also serve as a training and demonstration centre. The **INROAD project aims to continue its efforts in capacity building** and infrastructure development, focusing on

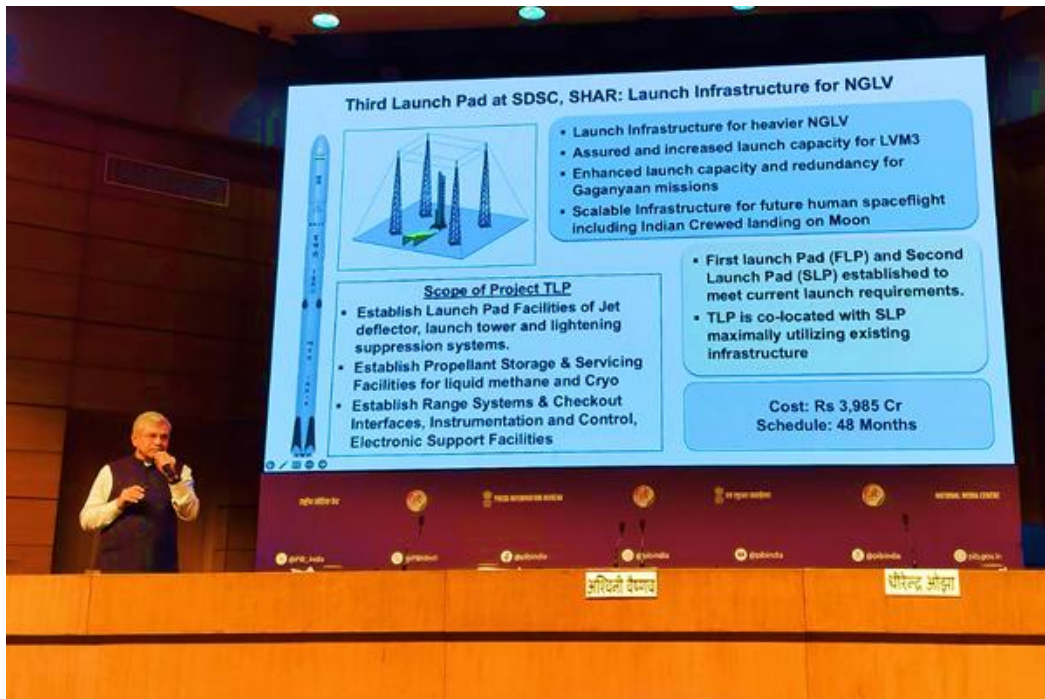
enhancing the quality of natural rubber and empowering local farmers. By encouraging collaboration between the tyre industry and rubber growers, the project seeks to create a sustainable model for rubber cultivation in India.

## 8th Pay Commission

- Government announced the setting up of the **8th Pay Commission** for the Central government employees and pensioners. An announcement in this regard was made by Union Information and Broadcasting **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi**. He was briefing the media about the Cabinet's decision. The Minister said that the term of the **7th Pay Commission is going to end in 2026 and the setting up of the 8th Pay Commission** now will give enough time to receive recommendations of the Pay Panel.



- He said the appointment of the **Chairman and two members of the Commission** will be made soon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the decision on the 8th Pay Commission will improve quality of life and give a boost to consumption. In a social media post, Mr Modi lauded the efforts of all Government employees, who work to build a Viksit Bharat.
- The leaders of Railway Unions have thanked the Central government for the announcement of the constitution of the 8th Central Pay Commission. The decision will benefit more than **45 lakh central government employees and more than 68 lakh pensioners**.
- In another decision, the **Cabinet also approved the establishment of the Third Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre** of ISRO at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at a cost of 3985 Crore rupees.



- The **TLP project** envisages the establishment of the launch infrastructure at Sriharikota for the **Next Generation Launch Vehicles of ISRO** and also to support as standby launch pad for the Second Launch Pad there. It will also enhance the launch capacity for **future Indian human spaceflight missions**. It will boost the Indian Space ecosystem by enabling higher launch frequencies and the national capacity to undertake human spaceflight and space exploration missions.

## Successful Space Docking Of 2 Satellites

- **Indian Space Research Organisation** has achieved a historic milestone today after the successful **space docking of its two satellites** named Chaser and Target under the SpaDex mission.
- After the stupendous success of the indigenously developed Bharatiya Docking System by ISRO, **India has become the fourth country** to use this technology after the **USA, Russia and China**.
- **Docking technology is critical in assembling the space station** and in crewed missions. It provides crucial facilities including in-orbit refueling and assembling heavy infrastructure in microgravity.





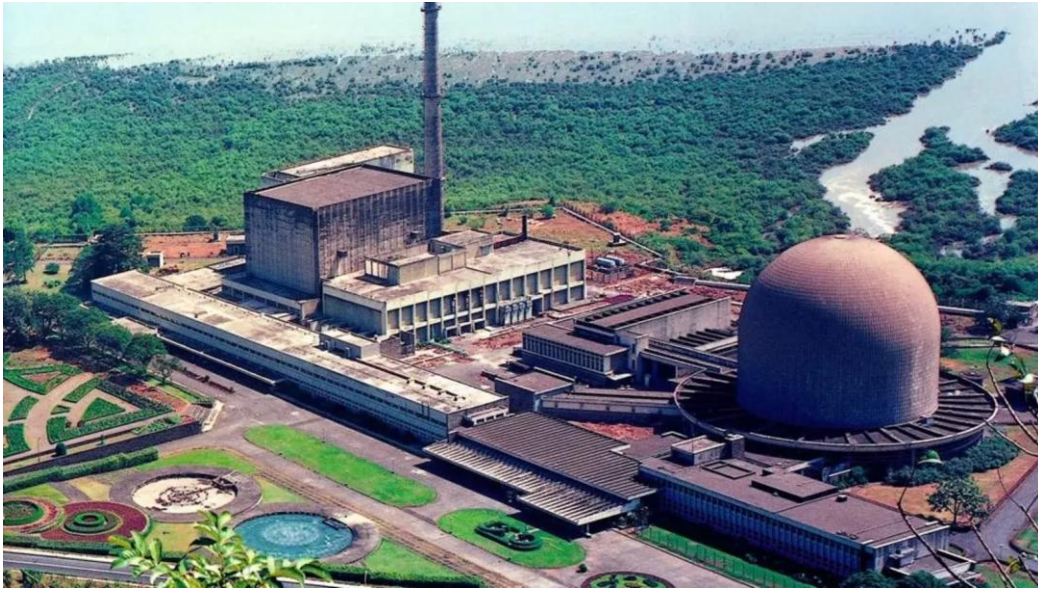
## US Removes 3 Indian Nuclear Entities

- US has lifted sanctions on three Indian entities including Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The other two companies are Indian Rare Earths and Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Center.



- US Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) said that the sanctions, which were imposed during the Cold War era, have been removed to enhance US's foreign

policy goals. It is that this decision will support shared energy security needs and joint efforts in **science and technology between India and US.**



- BIS said, that in recent years, India and US have strengthened their collaboration in peaceful nuclear cooperation and related research activities, benefiting numerous partner countries globally.
- Simultaneously, the **US has added 11 Chinese companies to the Entity List** due to activities deemed contrary to US national security and foreign policy interests. The Entity List is a US government compilation of foreign individuals, companies, and organizations deemed a national security concern.

## Pixxel And Digantara

- India's private space sector, **two Indian start-ups, Pixxel and Digantara,** launched their satellites aboard a SpaceX rocket. These pioneering missions are aimed at addressing pressing global challenges such as agriculture, defence, and space sustainability.
- Pixxel's launch introduces a **constellation of satellites for advanced Earth observation, while Digantara's SCOT satellite focuses on real-time tracking of space objects.**



- Pixxel became the first Indian private company to deploy a constellation of hyperspectral imaging satellites. The “Firefly” satellites provide high-resolution imagery in over 150 spectral bands, offering six times the resolution of standard systems.
- These satellites monitor vegetation health, water quality, atmospheric conditions, and chemical compositions with a 5-meter hyperspectral capability.
- Pixxel plans to expand its constellation with three additional satellites, followed by 18 more. Pixxel’s hyperspectral imaging has transformative potential for agriculture, defence, and climate action.



- Digantara launched SCOT (Space Camera for Object Tracking), the world’s first commercial satellite for tracking space objects as small as 5 cm in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

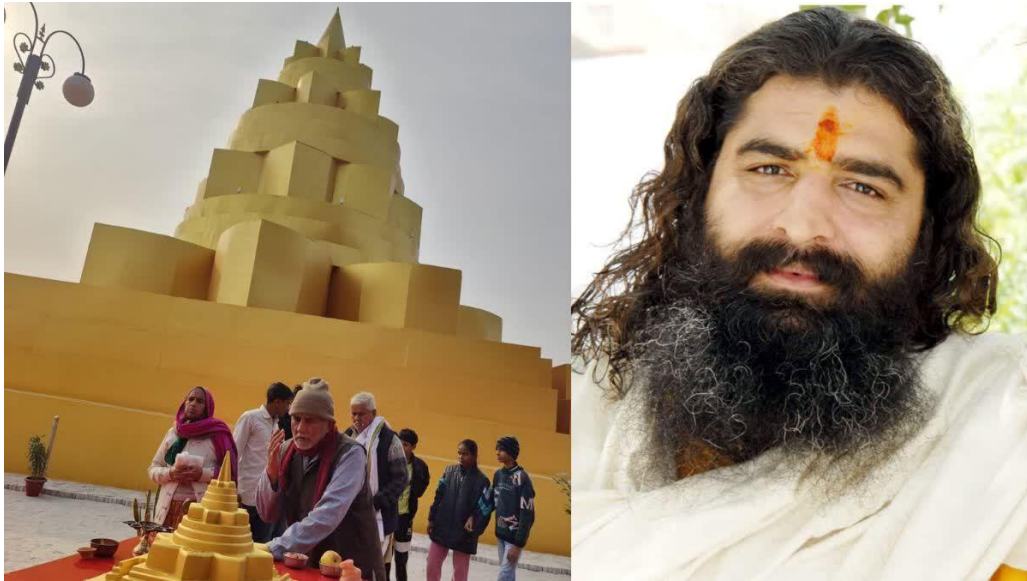
- SCOT's persistent monitoring **capabilities address space congestion** and satellite debris, which traditional sensors often struggle with due to weather and geography limitations.



- SCOT is key for safer, **more sustainable space operations** and is part of Digantara's vision for a hybrid surveillance network.
- These launches showcase India's growing space capabilities and enhance the country's role in the global space ecosystem.
- The advancements have **wide-ranging applications in climate action**, agriculture, defence, and space sustainability.
- Both companies are setting the stage for innovative solutions to Earth and space monitoring challenges.

## World's First Mahamrityunjaya Yantra

- **World's first Mahamrityunjaya Yantra, measuring 52 feet in length, width, and height, has been installed** at Tapovan Ashram in Jhunsi Havelis, Prayagraj—known as the sacred land of Maha Kumbh.
- This monumental Yantra is a spiritual marvel, believed to connect devotees to the higher consciousness of Lord Shiva. The **Mahamrityunjaya Yantra**, often referred to as the **"Victory over Death" Yantra**, is a spiritual tool that: Helps individuals overcome the fear of death, disease, and danger.



- Enhances courage and positivity in devotees. Acts as a divine connector to Lord Shiva's higher energy. **Swami Sahajanand Maharaj**, the visionary behind this initiative, emphasized its scientific design and its potential to transform lives by alleviating pollution, stress, and depression.

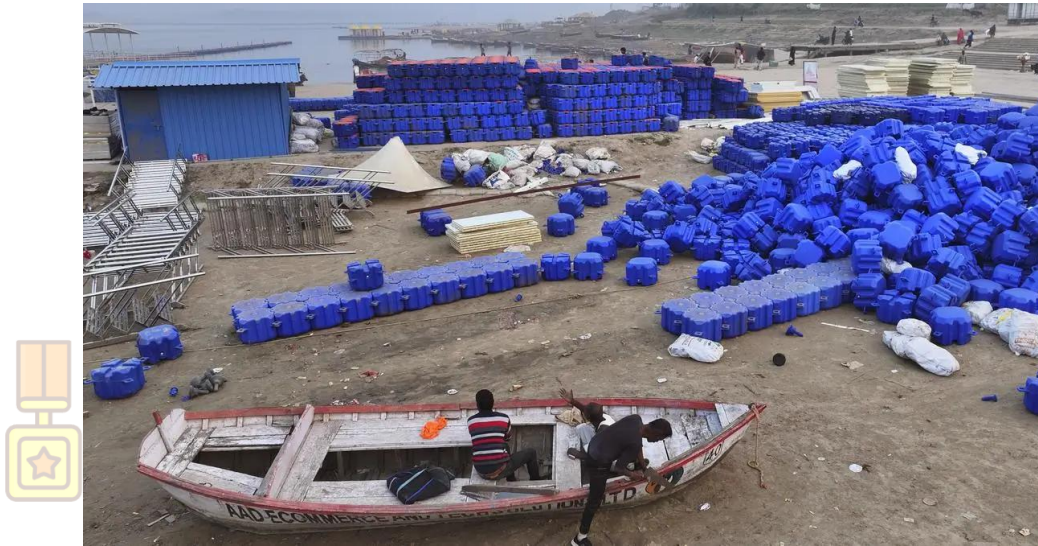


- Creation and Cost: **Built over 52 days at a cost of ₹4 crore**. Represents a perfect square design, with **dimensions of 52x52x52 feet**. A total of **151 Acharyas have been chanting the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra** since Makar Sankranti (January 14, 2025).
- The chanting aims to **consecrate 11,11,111 Panchmukhi Rudrakshas**, which will be distributed free of cost to devotees attending the Maha Kumbh.
- Devotees must register their names and addresses at the ashram to receive a consecrated Rudraksha. Swami Sahajanand announced plans to replicate this

Yantra across 12 Jyotirlingas, starting with: Somnath- Gujarat, Kedarnath – Uttarakhand, Bhimashankar- Maharashtra, Trayambakeshwar- Maharashtra.

## ‘One Plate, One Bag’ Campaign Launched

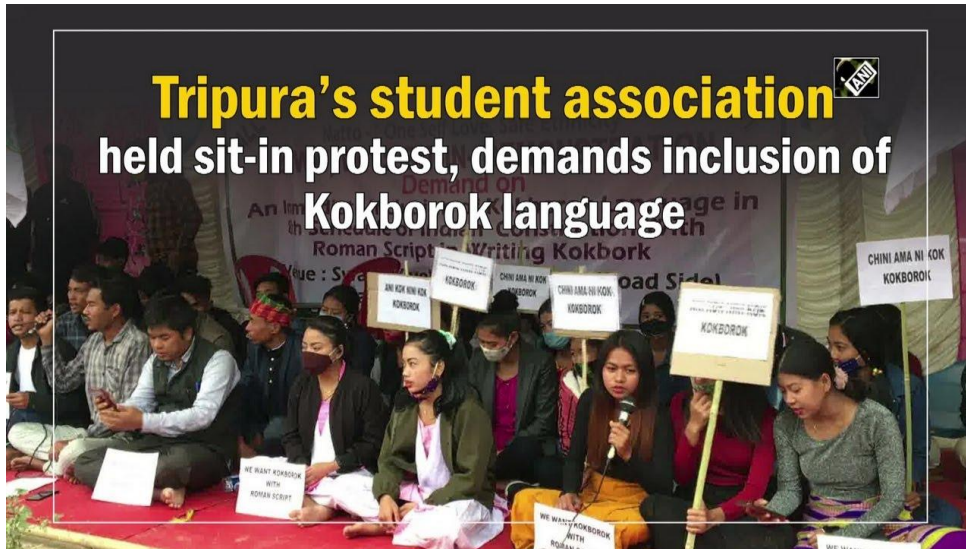
- Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has launched the “**One Plate, One Bag**” campaign at the **Maha Kumbh 2025**. This initiative aims to make **the world’s largest religious congregation** plastic-free by encouraging the use of cloth bags and steel plates and glasses instead of plastic alternatives.



- As part of the initiative, **cloth bags and steel utensils are being distributed** to pilgrims, replacing disposable and plastic items.
- Emphasized the **importance of collective responsibility** in combating the plastic menace and urged people to adopt **eco-friendly alternatives** in their daily lives. “Creating a plastic-free society is a collective effort.”
- By making small changes such as **switching to cloth bags and reusable utensils**, we can significantly contribute to the environment,”.

## Kokborok Language Protests

- **Twipra Student Federation (TSF)** protested in Agartala, Tripura, demanding the adoption of the **Roman script for the Kokborok language**. This movement marks the ongoing struggle for **linguistic recognition and cultural justice** among the Borok people.



## Tripura's student association held sit-in protest, demands inclusion of Kokborok language

- **Kokborok is a Sino-Tibetan language.** It is spoken by the Borok people of Tripura. **Officially recognised in 1979**, it has historical roots dating back to the **1st century AD**.
- The name **Kokborok** combines **“Kok” (verbal)** and **“Borok” (people)**. According to the 2011 Census, approximately **880,537 people** speak Kokborok, accounting for **nearly 24% of Tripura’s population**.
- Kokborok belongs to the **Bodo–Garo branch of the Sino-Tibetan language** family. It is related to Bodo and Dimasa languages and has various dialects, with the Agartala dialect being the official form.

### Kokborok Phrases in English For Daily Use

#### English

#### Kokborok

What is your name?

Nini mung tamo?

My name is Baosring

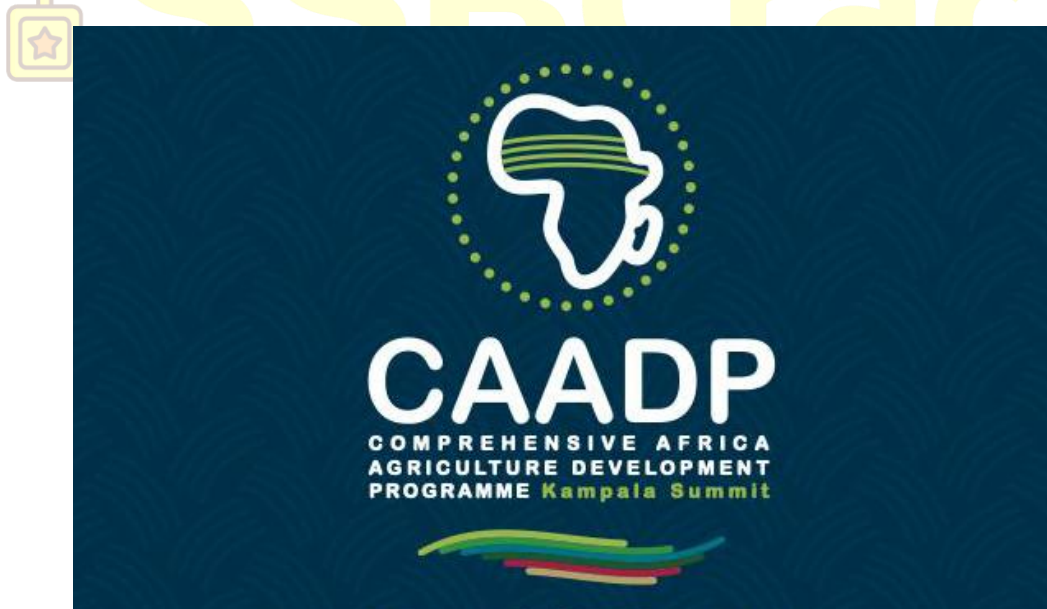
Ani mung Baosring

## Kampala Declaration On Agriculture

- Extraordinary African Union Summit on the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP)** concluded in **Kampala, Uganda**. The summit adopted the **Kampala Declaration, which sets a transformative agenda** for Africa’s agri-food systems **from 2026 to 2035**.



- This declaration succeeds the **Malabo Declaration**, marking shift towards a comprehensive **agri-food systems approach** to tackle food security and agricultural productivity challenges across the continent.
- The **CAADP** was launched in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique. It aimed to address low agricultural productivity and food insecurity in Africa. The Maputo Declaration urged Member States to allocate **at least 10% of their national budgets to agriculture**.



- In 2014, the **Malabo Declaration** expanded CAADP's framework. It introduced targets such as eradicating hunger, tripling intra-African trade, and enhancing resilience. However, progress has been slow, with **no Member State meeting** the goal of ending hunger by 2025.





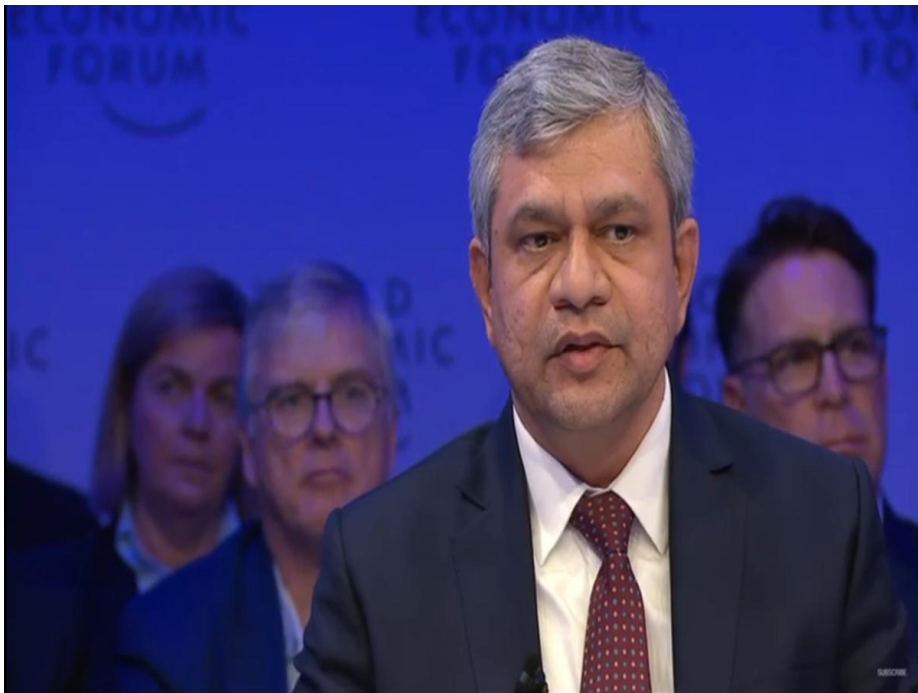
- **As of 2024, 20.4% of Africa’s population experiences hunger.** The continent faces food security issues, **with 58% of people grappling** with food insecurity. Malnutrition and rising obesity rates further complicate the situation.
- **Kampala Declaration signifies a commitment to modernising Africa’s agricultural sectors.** It advocates for climate-smart innovations and technologies to ensure food security for a projected **population of 2.5 billion by 2050.**

## World Economic Forum 2025 In Davos

- **55th World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting** will begin at **Davos in Switzerland.** During the five-day event, **India’s model of inclusive growth** and **digital revolution** will be highlighted.



- The **Indian delegation will be spearheaded by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini** Vaishnaw along with Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu, Food Processing Industries Minister Chirag Paswan and Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary.
- Minister emphasized the global interest in **India's transformative digital journey under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India programme**. He said, the world is keen to understand India's economic policies, digital transformation and the way technology has been democratized to empower citizens across all strata of society.



- **WEF is the International Organization** for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business, cultural and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.
- It is **headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Foundation: Klaus Schwab**, a German professor with a background in mechanical engineering and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard, founded **WEF in 1971, originally known** as the European Management Forum.



## Donald Trump To Take Oath As 47th President Of US

- Donald Trump will take oath as the **47th President of the United States**. The presidential oath will be held in the presence of **United States Chief Justice John Roberts in Washington DC**.
- **JD Vance will be sworn in as US Vice President**. Several foreign leaders are expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony. They include Argentina's President Javier Milei, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa, El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele, former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, and Former Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawieck.



- **External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar** will represent India at the ceremony. The guests will also include Elon Musk of Tesla, Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Mark Zuckerberg of Meta, Tim Cook of Apple and Sam Altman of OpenAI.
- Ahead of his oath, **78-year-old Trump addressed supporters** at a victory rally in Washington DC last night. He told a packed arena that he plans to sign a host of executive orders on the first day of his presidency

## “Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan”

- In a significant initiative to **connect civilians with the valorous** history of India’s armed forces, the government has launched the “**Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan**” app, coinciding with Army Day celebrations in Pune, Maharashtra.



- Developed jointly by the Ministries of Defence, Tourism, and the Indian Army, the app allows civilians to **visit key battlefield locations**, including those of the 1962, 1971, and 1999 wars, and significant conflict zones like Siachen base camp and Galwan valley. This effort aims to transform border regions into tourist hubs, offering citizens a closer connection to India’s military history and its soldiers’ sacrifices.



- **Tourist Locations**

- 1962 War Sites: Rezang-La (Ladakh) and Kibithoo and Bum-La (Arunachal Pradesh).
- 1971 War Zones: Select locations yet to be detailed.
- 1999 Kargil War: Key areas in Kargil, Batalik, and Drass to be accessible for trekkers.
- Siachen Base Camp: The world's highest battlefield.
- Galwan Valley: Site of the 2020 clash.
- Doklam: Scene of the 73-day standoff between India and China in 2017.

## Musi River Heritage Sites

- **World Monuments Fund (WMF)** announced the inclusion of the **Musi River Historic Buildings in Hyderabad** on its **World Monuments** Watch list. This recognition marks the **urgent need for preservation efforts** amid environmental challenges and urban development.
- The initiative coincides with local government plans to **rejuvenate the river and** its heritage structures, aiming to enhance tourism and community engagement. The **WMF's biennial programme** identifies sites worldwide at risk from climate change, conflict, and neglect.



- Recently, the **Musi River Historic Buildings** were spotlighted alongside 24 other sites globally. This initiative aims to advocate for heritage preservation. Key structures along the **Musi River include Telangana High Court, State Central Library, Osmania General Hospital, and British Residency (now Koti Women's College).**
- These landmarks showcase the **city's civic legacy and architectural history.** Hyderabad faces pollution and ecological degradation of the Musi River. The **WMF emphasises that restoring these** historic sites can contribute to environmental conservation and community resilience.
- The **Musi River is a key tributary of the Krishna River** in the Deccan Plateau and flows through Telangana, India. river was historically called Muchukunda. Hyderabad is situated on the **banks of the Musi River.** The river separates the Old City from the newer parts of Hyderabad.



## 1st Astronomical Observatory Of Eastern India

- The **first astronomical observatory of Eastern India** and the **sixth in the country** under the **Department of Science and Technology, Union Ministry of Science**

and Technology has been inaugurated atop the **Panchet Hill in the Garpanchkot area of Purulia district in West Bengal.**

- It is the **sixth such observatory in India after Ladakh, Nainital (Uttarakhand), Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Girbani Hills in Pune, and Kavalur in Tamil Nadu.**
- The observatory set up in Garpanchkot Hills has been named after famous scientist Satyendra Nath Bose. The observatory has been established by the **Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences.**

**1st astronomical  
observatory of  
Eastern India  
inaugurated in  
Bengal**



- The **Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Sidhu Kanu Birsa University, Purulia for running the observatory and sharing resources.
- The Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences was set up by the Department of **Science and Technology, Government of India in 1986 at Kolkata, West Bengal.**



## GI Tag For Virgin Coconut Oil Of Andaman

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, in his 118th episode of “Mann Ki Baat” on January 19, 2025, highlighted the empowerment of women involved in the production of **Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO)** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.



- This initiative aims to economically **empower tribal communities** through self-help groups (SHGs) and specialized training in marketing and branding. The recent **Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Virgin Coconut Oil from Nicobar** district is a significant milestone in promoting local products on the global stage.
- The Prime Minister expressed his belief that this move would help position Andaman and Nicobar as a leading contributor in the global market

## 10th Anniversary Of ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ Scheme

- Government is celebrating the **10th anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme**, marking a decade of relentless efforts to protect, educate, and empower the girl child.

*Celebrating 10 Years of*  
**BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO**





- Women and Child Development Ministry said the event in New Delhi will witness the **participation of women officers** from the armed forces, paramilitary forces, Delhi police, girl students and Anganwadi workers. The Ministry said the 10th-anniversary celebrations will span from today till 8th March, culminating on International Women's Day.
- Similar events will be organized at state and district levels. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was **launched by the Prime Minister on 22 January 2015** in Panipat, Haryana.
- The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme aims** to help in addressing the issue of the decline in the child sex ratio throughout the country and to encourage related to the empowerment of women.

## Trump Ends Automatic Citizenship

- President Donald Trump Has Signed A Series Of **Executive Actions, Revoking 78 Of Joe Biden's Policies**, Hours After Returning To The White House. Trump Signed An Order Seeking To **End Automatic Birthright Citizenship** For Children Of People Not In The Country Legally, As Well As Those In The Country Legally But Only Temporarily, Such As Tourists, Students, And Those On Work Visas. **Agencies Have Been Given 30 Days To Implement The Order.**



- In One Of The Major Orders, President Trump Directed The **Withdrawal From The World Health Organisation (WHO)**. In His Order, Trump Cited A String Of Reasons For The Withdrawal, Including The Global Health Agency's Mishandling Of The **COVID-19 Pandemic And The Failure To Adopt Urgently Needed**

Reforms. Trump Accused The WHO Of Being **Biased Towards China** In How It Issued Guidance During The Outbreak.

- Mr. Trump Also Signed An Order To Begin The **Process Of Withdrawing From The Paris Climate Agreement**. He Also **Invoked Emergency Powers** To Expand **US Energy Production By Reversing** Climate-related Policies And Facilitating Oil, Gas, And Mining Activities.



- President Trump Also **Officially Ended The Automatic Citizenship** Of Children Born In The U.S. To Non-citizen Parents. It Says For A Child Born In The U.S. To Gain Citizenship, **At Least One Parent Must Be** A U.S. Citizen, A Legal Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder), Or A Member Of The U.S. Military.
- Donald Trump Directed Federal Agencies To **Review Tariffs And Trade Relations With China, Mexico, And Canada**, Hinting At Imposing Tariffs Up To 25 Percent On Mexico And Canada By February 1st.
- Trump Declared A National Emergency At The **U.S.-Mexico Border And Ordered The Deployment Of Troops** To Address What He Called A Disastrous Invasion. Trump Signed An Executive Action That Delayed Enforcement Of The Tiktok Ban For 75 Days. The Law Gives The President Broad Discretion On How To Enforce The **Ban On The Chinese-owned Video App**.



- **On Energy Policy, Trump Declared A National Energy Emergency, Lifting Restrictions** On Mining And Encouraging Fossil Fuel Production. He Said America Would Capitalise On Its Vast Oil And Gas Reserves To Become A Dominant Manufacturing Nation.
- In Other Decisions, He Ended **Work-from-home Policies** For Federal Employees. The Order Requires Employees To Return To In-person Work Full-time, With Exemptions Allowed At The Discretion Of Department Heads. Another Significant Executive Order Aimed To Restore Freedom Of Speech And End Federal Censorship.
- In A Controversial Move, Trump Signed An Order To **Rename The Gulf Of Mexico As The Gulf Of America**. He Also Introduced A **Policy Recognising Only Two Genders—male And Female**—within The United States. Additionally, **Trump Ended The Biden Administration’s Green Policy** On Electric Vehicles, Shifting Focus Back To Traditional Energy Sources.



- **Trump Used His Presidential Powers To Pardon Over 1,500 Individuals Involved In The January 6, 2021, Capitol Riots. He Justified This As Addressing Perceived Injustices By The Previous Administration.**



## Nigeria Joins BRICS Bloc

- **Nigeria was officially admitted as a partner country of the BRICS group, which includes Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa. This move reflects Nigeria's growing influence as Africa's largest economy and its commitment to enhancing international collaboration.**



- **BRICS aims to provide a counterbalance** to Western-led economic forums and promote South-South cooperation. **BRICS was formed in 2009 to represent** emerging economies. Initially comprising Brazil, Russia, and China, South Africa joined in 2010.
- The group focuses on economic cooperation, political dialogue, and reforming global governance. **In 2023, BRICS expanded by inviting** Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE. Nigeria's admission marks it as the ninth partner, joining Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.
- **Nigeria's inclusion is due to its large population** and economic potential. It aims to leverage BRICS for trade, investment, and socio-economic cooperation, aligning with its development objectives.



## Yala Glacier In Nepal

- **Yala Glacier, situated in Nepal's Langtang National Park**, has been a focal point for **glaciological studies** due to its significant retreat over recent decades.
- Recent analyses predict that this glacier may vanish by the 2040s, underscoring the profound impacts of climate change on the Himalayan cryosphere.
- **Between 1974 and 2021**, Yala Glacier retreated by **680 meters**, with a **36%** reduction in its area. Its elevation has declined **from 5,170 meters to 5,750 meters** in 2011.



- Yala Glacier is the **only Himalayan glacier** included in the **Global Glacier Casualty List**, highlighting its critical status. This list, **launched in 2024**, identifies glaciers worldwide that are critically endangered or have already disappeared. Glaciers are vital freshwater sources for millions.



- **The Hindu Kush Himalaya region, dependent on glaciers**, is warming twice as fast as the global average, threatening water security for approximately 240 million people. Rapid glacier melting leads to the formation of unstable glacial lakes. Their potential overflow poses catastrophic flood risks to downstream communities.



## 2025 International Year of Glaciers' Preservation

- The **United Nations** has designated **2025** as the **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation**, emphasizing the importance of glaciers and providing essential hydrological, meteorological, and climate services to those dependent on them.
- Additionally, starting in **2025, March 21 will be observed annually as the World Day for Glaciers**. India has launched the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem and established the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** to monitor glacier-related events and issue GLOF alerts.

## Gujarat To Host 1st Olympic Research Conference

- **India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics** has taken a significant step forward, as officials from the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and experts from diverse fields gather in Gujarat for a pivotal four-day event.
- This meeting, organized in collaboration with the **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, focuses on developing strategies and innovative economic models to build sustainable sports infrastructure, essential for positioning India as a strong contender for hosting the prestigious global event.
- The high-profile event is set to feature **keynote sessions, discussions, and collaborative brainstorming on various critical aspects** of hosting the Olympics. The goal is to create a robust **roadmap for India's Olympic aspirations** while ensuring sustainability, inclusivity, and global competitiveness.
- The conference will provide a platform for key stakeholders, including IOA officials, policymakers, researchers, and industry experts, to share insights and devise actionable plans.



- **“2036 Vision: Pathway to Become an Olympic Host”** – Highlighting India’s journey and readiness to host the Olympics.
- **“Global Best Practices and Comparative Analysis in Olympic City Selection and Urban Legacy”** – Learning from successful Olympic host cities and understanding their urban development strategies.
- **“Financing the Future: Innovative Economic Models for Hosting Olympics in India”** – Exploring sustainable funding mechanisms and investment opportunities.
- **“Greening the Games: Integrating Sustainability into the Indian Olympic Plan”** – Incorporating environmentally friendly practices into planning and execution.
- **“The Road to 2036: Promoting Gender Equity and Inclusion Across Disciplines”** – Ensuring diversity and equal opportunities in sports.

## **“Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas”**

- **160-member marching contingent and 190-member band contingent** from Indonesia took part in the Parade. **Thirty-One tableaux** from various States, Union Territories, and Central Government Ministries and Departments participated, showcasing the theme **“Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas.”** For the first time, a **Tri-services tableau participated** on Kartavya Path, displaying the spirit of jointness and integration.





- **Haryana's tableau showcased the Bhagwad Gita** and the tableau of Uttar Pradesh depicted the ongoing Mahakumbh 2025.
- The event concluded with a **flypast by 47 aircraft**. The flypast witnessed a breath-taking air show by Rafale, Su-30, Jaguar, C-130, Dornier-228 and An-32 aircraft and Apache and Mi-17 helicopters. With Suparna Saikia, Anupam Mishra, Akashvani News, Delhi.



- To **honour their contributions in nation and society building**, special guests from different walks of life were invited as Government's Special guests to witness the event.
- **Ten thousand Special Guests in 34 categories**, including the Sarpanches from villages, Handicraft and Handloom Artisans, SHG members, ASHA and Anganwadi workers, Road Construction Workers were invited as Special Guests.



Goa	Cultural Heritage of Goa
Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand: Cultural Heritage and Adventure Sports
Haryana	Showcasing Bhagwad Gita
Jharkhand	Swarnim Jharkhand: A Legacy of Heritage and Progress
Gujarat	Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas
Andhra Pradesh	Etikoppaka Bommalu- Eco-Friendly Wooden Toys

Punjab	Punjab as the land of knowledge and wisdom
Uttar Pradesh	Mahakumbh 2025 - Swarnim Bharat Virasat aur Vikas
Bihar	Swarnim Bharat: Virasat Aur Vikas (Nalanda Vishwavidyalya)
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh's Glory: Kuno National park- The land of CHEetahs
Tripura	Eternal Reverence: The worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja
Karnataka	Lakkundi: Cradle of Stone craft
West Bengal	The 'Lakshmir Bhandar' & 'Lok Prasar Prakaalpa' - Empowering Lives and Fostering Self-Reliance in Bengal
Chandigarh	Chandigarh: A Harmonious Blend of Heritage, Innovation and Sustainability
Delhi	Quality Education
Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Daman Aviary Bird Park along with Kukri Memorial- a tribute to the valiant sailors of the Indian Navy

## Padma Awards

EXAMS

- President Droupadi Murmu has approved conferment of **139 Padma Awards** for Year 2025. The list comprises seven **Padma Vibhushan**, **19 Padma Bhushan** and **113 Padma Shri Awards**.
- **23 of the awardees are women** and the list also includes **10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI** and **13 Posthumous awardees**. Indian writer **MT Vasudevan Nair**, former chairman of **Suzuki Motor Corporation**, Osamu Suzuki, and singer Sharda Sinha have been awarded the Padma Vibhushan posthumously.



- **Singer Pankaj Udhas and economist Bibek Debroy** have been given the Padma Bhushan posthumously. Hockey player PR Sreejesh has also been conferred with Padma Bhushan. Cricketer R Ashwin and football player IM Vijayan have been awarded with the Padmashree.
- **Padma Vibhushan** is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated all the Padma awardees.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Human Operated Underwater Submersible

- India is gearing up to deploy its **first human-operated underwater submersible** as part of the **Deep Ocean Mission**. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, **Dr. Jitendra Singh** said that the submersible, designed for a depth of **up to 500 meters**, is expected to launch this year, with plans to extend its reach to **6,000 meters by next year**.



- The announcement was made during the second meeting of the Mission **Steering Committee at Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi.**
- The **Deep Ocean Mission aims to explore underwater resources**, improve knowledge of deep-sea ecosystems, and advance India's blue economy. The mission's **objectives include identifying critical minerals**, rare metals, and undiscovered marine biodiversity, which have economic and environmental implications.
- It will also contribute to sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation, providing **long-term benefits to India's scientific community** and economy. Dr. Singh highlighted the parallel **progress of the Deep Ocean Mission** and the Gaganyaan space program, which aims to send humans to space. This alignment **represents India's advancements in both marine and space technology.**



## ISRO Set To Launch Its 100th Satellite

- **India's space agency, ISRO** (Indian Space Research Organisation), is preparing to make history with the **launch of its 100th satellite**. This milestone mission is set to take place on **January 29 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota, **with the GSLV-F15 NVS-02 mission.**
- This achievement marks a significant step for India in space exploration and satellite **technology, reinforcing the country's growing space capabilities.** The upcoming mission will see the launch of the **GSLV-F15, which is equipped with India's Indigenous Cryogenic Stage.**



- The rocket is designed to place the **NVS-02 satellite** into a **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**. The launch will be conducted from the **Second Launch Pad (SLP)** at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, a prominent hub for ISRO's space missions.
- The **GSLV-F15 flight is of special importance** as it is the 17th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and the 11th flight to feature the Indigenous Cryogenic Stage.



- This also marks the **8th operational flight of the GSLV using** this cryogenic stage, which has become one of India's critical achievements in rocket propulsion technology.
- The **NVS-02 satellite is the second** in the NVS series and will augment the NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) system, which is India's regional navigation satellite system.
- **NavIC provides accurate Position, Velocity, and Timing (PVT)** services to users across India and the surrounding region, extending up to 1,500 kilometers beyond India's landmass. The system's primary function is to offer highly precise

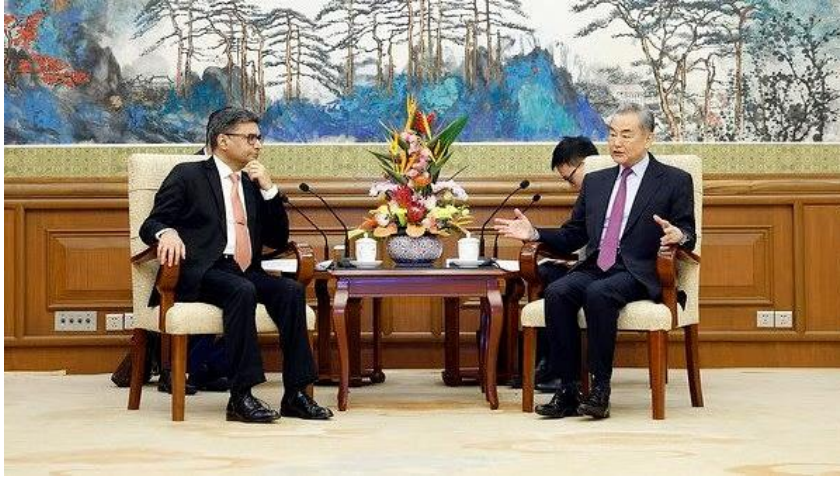
navigation information to users, a key element in both civilian and military applications.



- **The NVS series satellites** (NVS-01, NVS-02, NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05) are designed to enhance and augment the NavIC base layer constellation. The satellites will **improve the continuity of the service and ensure** the long-term availability of accurate navigation data for users.
- ISRO has highlighted the enhanced features of these satellites, aimed at maintaining the **high standards of positioning accuracy**. One of the key technological features of the NVS-02 satellite is its use of a combination of indigenous and procured atomic clocks.
- These **clocks are essential for precise time estimation**, which is a crucial aspect of satellite navigation. The combination of these advanced atomic clocks enables the satellite to offer exceptional accuracy in time and positioning services.

## India, China Agree On Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

- **India and China have agreed on a slew of measures** during the meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism to stabilize and rebuild bilateral ties. The new understandings include the **resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**, the restoration of **direct flights between the two countries** and the sharing of **trans-border river data among others**.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, **who was on a two-day visit to China**, attended the meeting. The External Affairs Ministry said in a statement, that the relevant mechanism will discuss the modalities for resuming the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as per existing agreements.



- The two sides also agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism to discuss the resumption of the **provision of hydrological data** and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers.
- They also agreed to take appropriate measures to further promote and facilitate people-to-people exchanges, including media and think-tank interactions. They agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries.



- The two sides recognize that **2025, being the 75th anniversary of the establishment** of diplomatic relations between India and China, should be utilized to redouble public diplomacy efforts to create better awareness about each other and restore mutual trust and confidence among the public.





- They will conduct a number of commemorative activities to mark this anniversary. Specific **concerns in the economic and trade areas** were discussed to resolve these issues and promote long-term policy transparency and predictability.
- During his visit, the Foreign Secretary also called on Members of the Politburo of the **Central Committee of the Communist Party of China**, Director of the Office of Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, Liu Jianchao.

## Geo - Tagging Saves Kashmir's Iconic Chinar Trees

- **Kashmir's majestic chinar trees**, long considered a symbol of its cultural and natural heritage, face growing threats from urbanization and infrastructure projects.
- To preserve and monitor these iconic trees, the **Jammu & Kashmir Forest Research Institute (JKFRI)** has launched the '**Digital Tree Aadhar**' initiative, providing each chinar tree with a **unique digital identity**. This ambitious project integrates technology to **protect biodiversity, preserve cultural heritage**, and raise awareness about these remarkable trees.



## Geo-Tagging & QR Technology to Preserve Kashmir's Iconic Chinar Trees.

- Initiative Purpose: To monitor, protect, and manage the health of every chinar tree in Kashmir. Modeled after India's Aadhaar system, every tree is assigned a unique ID Technology Used: Geo-tagging with Geographic Information System (GIS), Quick Response (QR) codes, and metal cards featuring barcodes for public scanning.



- Around 10,000 trees have been metal card-tagged so far. Chinar Census: A systematic survey started in 2021, geo-tagging 28,560 chinar trees to date. Future Expansion: Chinars in Jammu's Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal Valley

will also be included. Top Trees: Recording of the top 20 chinars, including the world's third-largest chinar (girth: 74 ft) in Ganderbal district.



- Significance and Chinars play a key role in absorbing carbon and mitigating climate change.
- Recognized as **part of Kashmir's folklore, literature, religious** practices, and historical landmarks. Introduced to Kashmir by Islamic preachers from Central Asia and Persia over 400 years ago.
- Derived from the Persian **phrase "Che naar ast" meaning "What flame is that?"** – inspired by the crimson red leaves in autumn. A 700-year-old chinar in Budgam district, planted by Sufi saint Syed Qasim Shah, is the oldest recorded tree.
- Planted extensively in **Srinagar's Mughal gardens like Naseem Bagh, Nishat Bagh, and Shalimar Garden** in the 16th century. Chinar trees are revered by both Hindus and Muslims, forming part of settings at shrines like Hazratbal and temples like Kheer Bhawani. Featured in numerous iconic Bollywood films, symbolizing romance and nostalgia.

## Global Wetland Cities Network

- **Indore and Udaipur have achieved a significant milestone** by becoming the first two cities from India to join the global list of accredited **Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.**



- This recognition marks an important step in India's commitment to sustainable **urban development and ecological conservation**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated both cities, highlighting the importance of balancing urban growth with **environmental sustainability**.
- The accreditation reflects the value of wetlands in providing ecological, social, and economic **benefits, making them vital for the sustainable** development of cities. Indore and Udaipur are the first Indian cities to be recognized under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



- Both cities were nominated by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- **Indore: Sirpur Lake, a Ramsar site, is recognized** for its significance as a water bird congregation area and is being developed as a bird sanctuary.

- **Udaipur: Surrounded by five major wetlands**, including Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai, which contribute to the city's culture, identity, and microclimate regulation.

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

### 1. What Record Does Kaamya Karthikeyan Achieve

- A. First Indian to climb Mount Vinson
- B. Youngest female to scale the Seven Summits
- C. Fastest ascent of the Seven Summits
- D. Youngest female to climb Mount Everest

**ANSWER: B**

### 2. Where Was The Statue Of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Unveiled By The Indian Army In December 2024

- A. Siachen Glacier
- B. Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Kargil
- D. Pangong Tso, Ladakh

**ANSWER: D**

### 3. Which Government Department Partnered With Boat To Support Startups

- A. Ministry of Electronics and IT
- B. Department of Science and Technology
- C. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- D. NITI Aayog

**ANSWER: C**

### 4. Sevdalinka Seen In News Falls In Category Of

- A. Theatre
- B. Song
- C. Dance
- D. Literature

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Which Country Launched CR450 Prototype, World's Fastest High-speed Train**

- A. France
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. India

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Which Institute Developed Needle Free Shock Syringes For Painless Injections**

- A. IIT Hyderabad
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Madras

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme Is Associated With Which Sector**

- A. Agriculture
- B. Taxation
- C. Science and Technology
- D. Education

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Project VISTAAR Is Launched By**

- A. IIT DELHI
- B. IIT BOMBAY
- C. IIT MADRAS
- D. IIT ROPAR

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Ramesh Chand Committee Set Up For**

- A. Tax Reforms
- B. WPI Reforms
- C. CPI Reforms
- D. Health Reforms

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State**

- A. Kerala
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Karnataka

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Which Union Ministry Is Associated With The Nutrient-based Subsidy Scheme**

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

**ANSWER: B**

**12. Which State Is The Host Of National SARAS Mela 2025**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerala
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: B**

**13. India's First Coastline-waders Bird Census Has Conducted At Which Place**

- A. Pulicat Lake Bird Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
- B. Marine National Park, Jamnagar
- C. Satpura National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- D. Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Which City Is The Venue Of The 31st National Children's Science Congress**

- A. Bhopal
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Jaipur
- D. Lucknow

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee Functions Under Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
- C. Ministry of Agriculture
- D. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**ANSWER: B**

**16. How Many Railways Division India Have ?**

- A. 67
- B. 68
- C. 69
- D. 70

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Panchayat Se Parliament Programme Focus On**

- A. Women Entrepreneurs
- B. Women Representatives In PRI's
- C. Women SHG's
- D. Women Teachers

**ANSWER: B**

**18. ' Faral Sakhi' Initiative is Started In**

- A. Kerala
- B. Gujarat
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Chattisgarh

**ANSWER: C**

**19. Which Indian State Has Become The First To Incorporate The Green GDP Model Into Its Economic Framework**

- A. Kerala
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Himachal Pradesh

**ANSWER: C**



**20. India's First Organic Fisheries Cluster Is Made In**

- A. Odisha
- B. Sikkim
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: B**

**21. Mount Ibu Seen In News Situated In**

- A. Japan
- B. Indonesia
- C. UK
- D. Vietnam

**ANSWER: B**

**22. Delhi-Meerut Regional RRTS Corridor. What Is The Full Form Of RRTS**

- A. Rapid Rail Transit System
- B. Railway Regional Transport Service
- C. Regional Rapid Transit System
- D. Rapid Regional Transit System

**ANSWER: C**

**23. What Is The Motto Of The Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025**

- A. "Growing Together, Thriving Together"
- B. "गांव बढ़े, तो देश बढ़े" ("If villages grow, the country grows")
- C. "Empower the Villages, Empower the Nation"
- D. "Unity in Diversity"

**ANSWER: B**

**24. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was established in**

- A. 1976
- B. 1977
- C. 1986
- D. 1987

**ANSWER: D**

**25. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Secretary Of The Department Of Space And Chairman Of ISRO**

- A. Dr. Ajay Sood
- B. Dr. Pawan Kumar
- C. Dr. V. Narayanan
- D. Dr. M. S. Ananth

**ANSWER: C**

**26. Who Has Been Elected As New President Of The Athletics Federation Of India**

- A. Adille Sumariwalla
- B. Bahadur Singh Sagoo
- C. P.T. Usha
- D. Vinesh Phogat

**ANSWER: B**

**27. e- Shram Portal Upgraded To Support How Many Scheduled Languages**

- A. 12
- B. 18
- C. 15
- D. 22

**ANSWER: D**

**28. First Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Celebrated In \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. 2001
- B. 2000
- C. 2003
- D. 2005

**ANSWER: C**

**29. Which State Government Has Signed An Mou With Google Cloud (India) To Launch The Open Network For Agriculture**

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

**ANSWER: B**

**30. Who Has Been Elected As The New President Of Lebanon In January, 2025**

- A. Michel Aoun
- B. Najib Mikati
- C. Joseph Aoun
- D. Saad Hariri

**ANSWER: C**