

Daily Current Affairs

03 February 2025

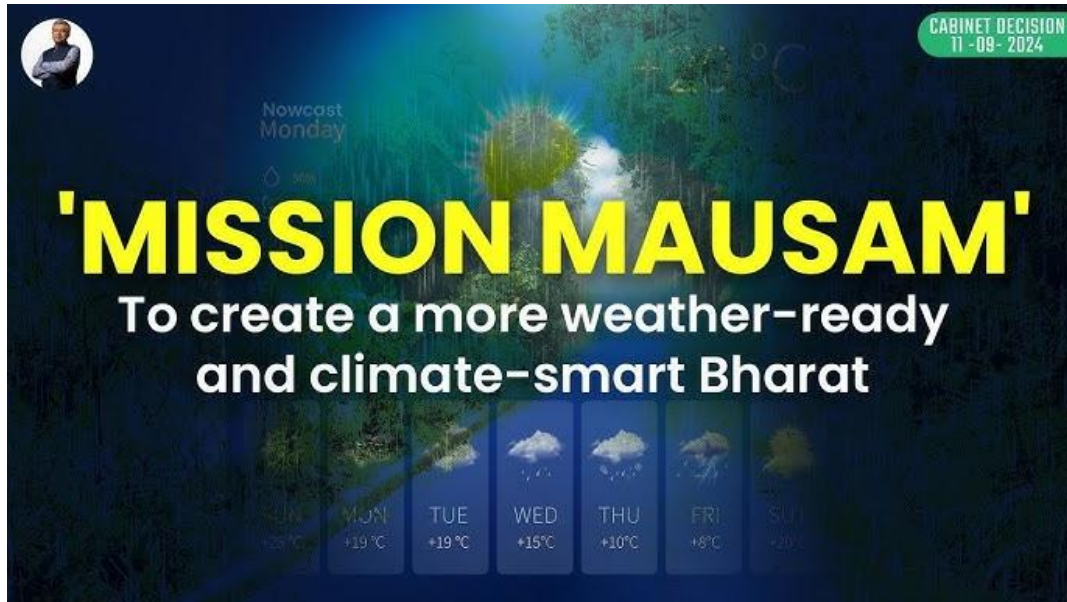
Samudrayaan Mission

- India's ambitious mission to send **scientists to explore the depths of the ocean** in specially-designed submersible **Samudrayaan** got a **boost** with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman **allocating Rs 600 crore for the Deep Ocean Mission**.
- The mission involves mapping **deep ocean floors and developing technologies** like a manned submersible with **6000 m water-depth rating**. It also involves exploration of deep-sea mining for sustainable utilisation of deep-sea bioresources and **developing engineering designs for offshore** thermal energy-driven desalination plants.



- India plans to send a **manned-submersible, developed by** the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), up to a depth of 500 metres in the ocean later this year, and gradually explore **the seabed at the depth of 6,000** meters next year.
- The finance minister also **allocated 1,329 crore for Mission Mausam**, an Earth Sciences Ministry initiative to improve weather forecasting capabilities. The

Ministry of Earth Sciences, which is steering the Deep Ocean Mission, got an allocation of around **3,650 crore rupees in the Union Budget**.



M23 Rebels Seize Goma

- At least **773 people** have been killed in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) largest city of Goma and its vicinity in a week, amid fighting with Rwanda-backed **M23 rebels**.
- Authorities said, the rebels captured the city in an escalation of a decade-long conflict. **M23 rebel group**, or **March 23 Movement**, is an insurgency movement that originated in **April 2012** after some **300 soldiers** of the National Army of the DRC (FARDC) mutinied.



- This rebel group is operating primarily in the eastern parts of the DRC, mostly in North Kivu province. **M23 refers to the March 23, 2009, peace accord** signed between the Congolese government and the **National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP)**, which is a rebel group that transformed later into M23.
- The **M23 rebels have been blamed for receiving military** and logistical assistance from neighboring states, namely, Rwanda and Uganda, a thing both states reject. The existence of such foreign assistance has meant that the outfit can sustain its activities and go on to seriously threaten the security of the area.



ISRO's NVS-02 Satellite Faces Setback

- ISRO's attempts to place the **NVS-02 satellite in the desired orbit** suffered a setback after the thrusters on board the spacecraft failed to fire, the space agency.
- The NVS-02 satellite, which was crucial for India's space-based navigation system, was **launched on January 29 on board the GSLV-Mk 2 rocket** which was ISRO's 100th launch from the spaceport at Shriharikota.
- The satellite is orbiting the Earth in an **elliptical Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)** which is **not suitable for the navigation system**. ISRO said, the satellite systems are **healthy and the satellite is currently** in elliptical orbit.



- Alternate mission strategies for utilising the satellite for navigation in an elliptical orbit are being worked out. **After the GSLV rocket placed the satellite** in the GTO, the solar panels on board the satellite were successfully deployed and power generation was nominal. Communication with the ground station has been established, the space agency said.
- The launch on board the **GSLV was successful as all the stages** performed flawlessly and the orbit was achieved with a high degree of precision.

Japan Successfully Launches Navigation Satellite

- Japan's space agency said it successfully **launched a navigation satellite** on its **new flagship H3 rocket**. The satellite was launched as the country seeks to have a more precise **location positioning system of its own**.



- The **H3 rocket carrying the Michibiki 6 satellite** lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Centre on a southwestern Japanese island. Officials said it is expected to reach its targeted geospatial orbit in about two weeks. Japan currently has the **quasi-zenith satellite system, or QZSS**, with four satellites for a regional navigation system that first went into operation in 2018.
- The **Michibiki 6 will be the fifth of its network**.

Tata Steel Masters 2025

- In Chess, **Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa** clinched the prestigious Tata Steel Masters 2025 title in a thrilling showdown, defeating reigning World **Champion D. Gukesh in a nail-biting tiebreaker** at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands.



- This victory makes R. Praggnanandhaa the **first Indian since Viswanathan Anand in 2006 to claim** the prestigious title. The 14-player round-robin event ended dramatically, with both **Gukesh and Pragg tied at 8.5 points after 13 rounds**.
- Gukesh, unbeaten throughout the tournament, lost his final classical game to Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, while Pragg was defeated by Vincent Keymer in a long battle. In the tiebreak, **Gukesh won the first of two blitz games and** needed only a draw in the second to secure the title. However, Pragg staged a stunning comeback, winning both blitz games to clinch the championship.

BRICS Youth Entrepreneurship Meet

- India is set to host the **BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting from March 3 to 7, 2025**, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. This event, **themed “Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth,”** will bring together around 45 youth representatives from BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—to strengthen cooperation in entrepreneurship and innovation.
- The discussions will focus on **building a framework for young entrepreneurs across BRICS countries** and enhancing their participation in global markets. The key objective of this BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting is to foster international cooperation among young entrepreneurs and create new opportunities within BRICS nations.



- **The main goals include:** Establishing the BRICS Youth Council’s Entrepreneurship Working Group as a permanent initiative.
- Aligning entrepreneurship work plans across BRICS nations for better collaboration.
- Identifying new strategies for youth entrepreneurship cooperation.
- Developing innovative engagement formats to boost collaboration within the BRICS framework.
- Connecting youth representatives to global entrepreneurship opportunities.
- By focusing on these objectives, the event aims to create a roadmap for long-term collaboration between BRICS nations in the field of youth entrepreneurship.

The BRICS Youth Council, which was launched at the 2023 Youth Summit in

South Africa, focuses on strengthening youth collaboration in education, innovation, entrepreneurship, health, and volunteerism.

Indian Navy Women Officers Cross Point Nemo

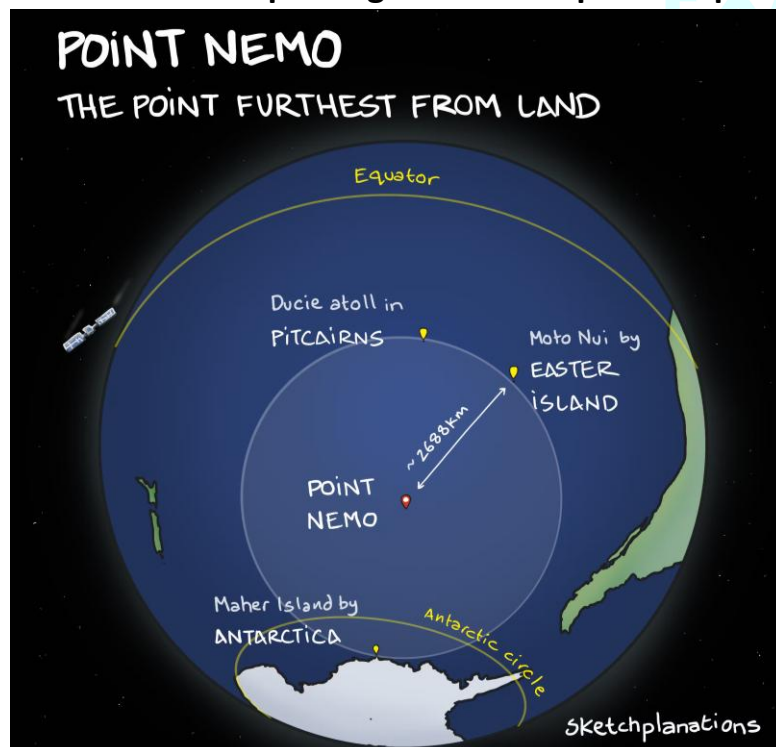
- Two Indian Navy women officers, **Lt. Cdr. Dilna K. and Lt. Cdr. Roopa A., successfully navigated** through **Point Nemo**, the **most remote location** on Earth, during their expedition aboard the sailing vessel **INSV Tarini**.
- This historic journey is part of the **Navika Sagar Parikrama-II initiative**, promoting women's participation in maritime activities.



- **Point Nemo**, also known as the **Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility**, holds the distinction of being the farthest point from any landmass on Earth.
- This remote point lies in the **South Pacific Ocean** and is named after Captain Nemo, the sailor from **Jules Verne's famous novel Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea**.
- Situated **approximately 2,688 km from the nearest landmass**, this isolated point is famous for its extreme remoteness, with the **closest human presence often being aboard the International Space Station orbiting above**.



- The nearest land in each direction is:
- To the north lies **Ducie Island**, part of the Pitcairn Islands (British Overseas Territory).
- To the northeast is **Motu Nui**, one of the Easter Islands (Chilean dependency).
- To the south is Maher Island, part of Antarctica.
- Due to its isolation, the waters around Point Nemo have very little marine life, and the region falls within the **South Pacific Gyre**, known for having some of the clearest and least biologically active ocean waters.
- Due to its remoteness and relative lack of marine traffic, Point Nemo has become a popular location for **space agencies to dispose of space junk**.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Has Been Named As The Pilot For Axiom Mission 4

- A. Mohana Singh
- B. Narinder Chatrath
- C. Aruna Kumar Datta
- D. Shubhanshu Shukla

ANSWER: D

2. Point Nemo, Is Located In Which Ocean

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Arctic Ocean
- D. Indian Ocean

ANSWER: B

3. World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day Is Observed On Which Day Every Year

- A. 27 January
- B. 28 January
- C. 29 January
- D. 30 January

ANSWER: D

4. Which Satellite Deployed By Isro's 100th GSLV Rocket Launch On January 29

- A. GSAT-24
- B. RISAT-2B
- C. NVS-02
- D. Cartosat-3

ANSWER: C

5. Which Country Has Developed A Seabed Radar Capable Of Tracking High-altitude Aircraft From Underwater Depths

- A. USA
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. Japan

ANSWER: B

6. Which Indian Institution Ranked 99th In Computer Science In THE World Rankings 2025, Becoming 1st Indian Institution To Enter Global Top 100 For This Subject

- A. IISc Bengaluru
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Madras

ANSWER: A

7. Which City Is The Host Of First Raisina Middle East Conference

- A. Abu Dhabi
- B. Riyadh
- C. Cairo
- D. Beirut

ANSWER: A

8. Household Consumption Expenditure Survey Is Published By Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- C. Ministry of Consumer Affairs
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: B

9. On Which Date Is Indian Newspaper Day Observed Annually

- A. January 29
- B. February 15
- C. March 10
- D. April 5

ANSWER: A

10. Which City Has Been Announced As The Second Capital Of Assam

- A. Dibrugarh
- B. Guwahati
- C. Jorhat
- D. Tezpur

ANSWER: A

11. Which State Approved Sadhbhawana Legacy Cases Resolution Scheme 2025

- A. Himachal Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Punjab
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: A

12. Which State Has Signed A 25-year Power Purchase Agreement With Damodar Valley Corporation For 800 MW

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Haryana

ANSWER:D

13. Who Appointed As Director General Of The Bureau Of Civil Aviation Security

- A. Alok Verma
- B. Rakesh Asthana
- C. Rajesh Nirwan
- D. Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

ANSWER: C

14. In Which Village Is The Annual Nagoba Jatara Festival Celebrated

- A. Keslapur
- B. Medaram
- C. Mulugu
- D. Adilabad

ANSWER: A

15. Which Country Recorded The Highest Passenger Load Factor For Domestic Flights In 2024

- A. United States
- B. India
- C. China
- D. Brazil

ANSWER: B

16. Which City Hosted NITI Aayog's Workshop On Circular Economy

- A. Jaipur
- B. New Delhi
- C. Mumbai
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: A

17. Which State Approved A Cannabis Cultivation Pilot For Agricultural, Medicinal, And Industrial Research In 2025

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Punjab

ANSWER: B

18. Who Received The Vayu Sena Medal For Rescuing The Hijacked Ship Ruen From Somali Pirates

- A. Group Captain Rajesh Verma
- B. Commander Arjun Menon
- C. Captain Vikram Singh
- D. Wing Commander Akshay Saxena

ANSWER: D

19. Name Of The Newly Launched Ai-powered Astrology Feature By AstroSage AI

- A. AstroAI
- B. Jyotish Pro
- C. Kundli AI
- D. Vedic Vision

ANSWER: C

20. The Buran wind blows across

- A. Eastern Asia
- B. Western Europe
- C. Southern Africa
- D. Eastern Australia

ANSWER: A