

Daily Defence Current Affairs

18 December 2025

Minorities Rights Day in India

- Minorities Rights Day in India 2025, observed on 18 December, serves as a reminder of India's constitutional commitment to equality, justice, and inclusion for all citizens. India is globally known for its unity in diversity, with people belonging to different religions, languages, cultures, and traditions living together.
- Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on 18 December to commemorate the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992).
- The declaration aims to ensure the protection of minority identities and promote their effective participation in public life.
- In India, Minorities Rights Day has been observed since 2013.
- The Constitution of India does not define the term "minority" explicitly.
- However, the Supreme Court, particularly in the TMA Pai Foundation case (2002), clarified that minority status is determined state-wise, not at the national level.
- At present, the Government of India recognises six religious minority communities at the national level: Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis).
- As per the 2011 Census, Muslims form the largest minority group at about 14.2% of the population, followed by Christians and Sikhs.
- Although Jains and Parsis are small in number, they have made significant contributions to India's economic, cultural, and intellectual life.
- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) is a statutory body, established in 1992, to protect and promote the interests of minority communities.

- It consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and five members, all belonging to notified minority communities.



International Migrants Day 2025

- Migration is a defining feature of the modern world. People move across borders in search of employment, safety, education, and better living conditions. In this context International Migrants Day, observed every year on 18 December, holds special importance.
- International Migrants Day 2025 draws attention to the valuable contributions made by migrants to societies and economies across the globe, while also highlighting the growing challenges faced by migrants in an increasingly complex and uncertain global environment.
- The day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 to recognize the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990).



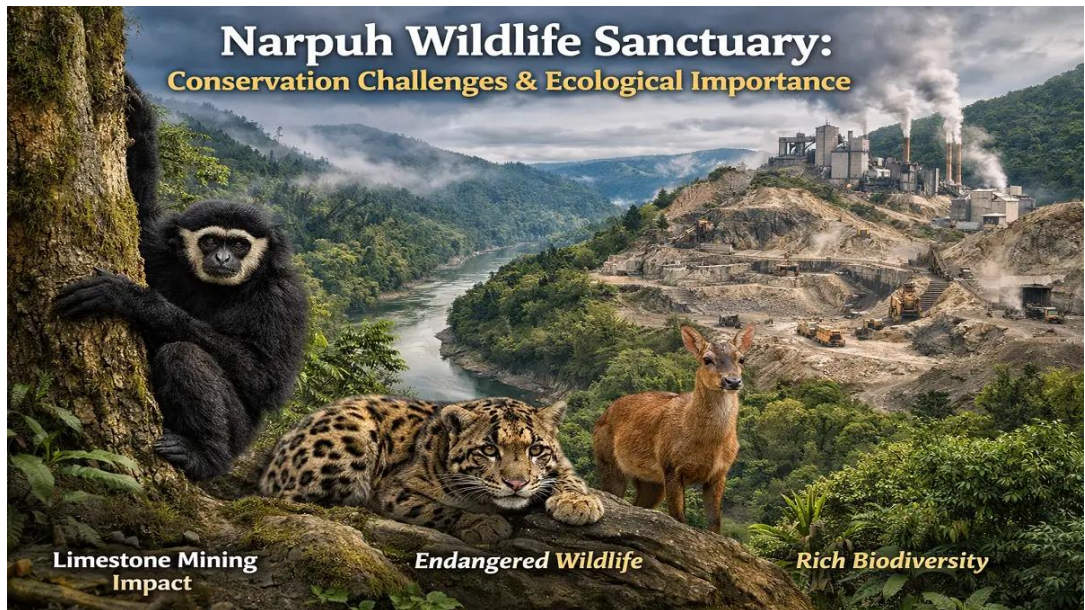
Arabic Language Day

- World Arabic Language Day, celebrated annually on December 18th, commemorates Arabic as a UN official language, highlighting its cultural richness and use by over 400 million people, with celebrations organized by UNESCO and others to promote its importance and digital presence.
- **Origin:** Established by UNESCO in 2010, marking the day in 1973 when Arabic became the UN's sixth official language.
- **Purpose:** To celebrate the Arabic language's role in cultural diversity, literature, science, and bridging civilizations, while also addressing gaps like its limited digital presence.



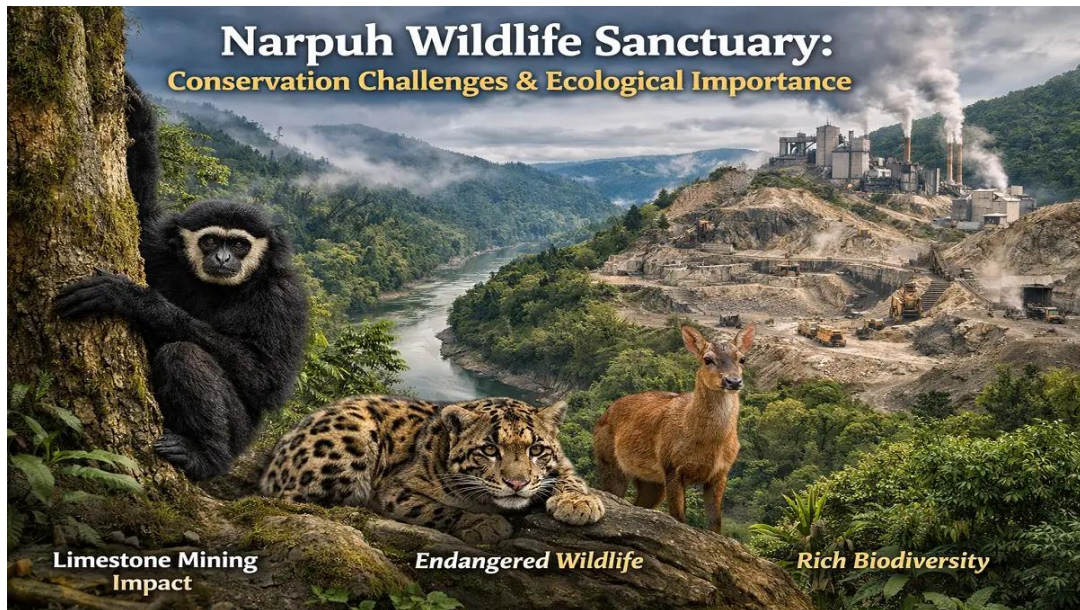
Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary

- Recently, scientists and conservation experts have raised serious concerns about the growing threats to Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary, particularly due to limestone mining activities and nearby cement factories.
- Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the East Jaintia Hills district near Jowai, Meghalaya. It was officially declared a wildlife sanctuary in **2014**, making it the only protected area in the **Jaintia Hills region**.
- The sanctuary holds strategic ecological importance due to its location:
- It is surrounded by Reserve Forests on all sides
- Except for its southwestern boundary, which shares a border with the State of Assam
- This geographical positioning makes Narpuh a crucial ecological corridor between Meghalaya and Assam.



Miyana Railway Station Receives National Energy Conservation Award 2025

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JP Morgan to Set Up Asia's Largest GCC in India

- India continues to attract major global corporations as a preferred destination for high-value business operations. A significant boost to the country's global services ecosystem, American banking giant JP Morgan has announced plans to establish Asia's largest Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Mumbai.
- JP Morgan has steadily increased its presence in India over the years. In the past two years alone, the bank has taken up nearly 1 million sq ft of office space. India has become a preferred location for global banks due to its skilled workforce, cost advantages, and strong digital ecosystem.
- A Global Capability Centre (GCC) is an offshore unit of a multinational company that handles critical functions such as,
 - Information technology and digital services
 - Financial operations and compliance
 - Data analytics and risk management
 - Research, innovation, and support services



Air India Bags Best Domestic Airline Title

- India's national carrier Air India has once again secured the title of Best Domestic Airline at the Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025, marking its second consecutive win.
- Organised by Travel + Leisure India and South Asia
- Completely reader-voted awards, unlike jury-based recognitions
- Votes are cast by passengers and travellers based on actual experiences
- Parameters include,
 - Service quality
 - Comfort
 - Reliability
 - Overall travel experience



Google Launches Its First-Ever Credit Card

- Google has launched its first-ever credit card globally in India, partnering with Axis Bank and leveraging the RuPay network. The card is integrated with Google Pay and can be linked directly to UPI, allowing users to make merchant payments seamlessly using credit.
- The newly launched Google–Axis Bank co-branded credit card operates on the RuPay network, making it compatible with UPI-based merchant payments.
- This is a key differentiator as Visa and Mastercard credit cards cannot be linked to UPI.
- One of the most notable innovations of the card is its instant rewards mechanism.
- Both RuPay and UPI are operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- Their integration enables users to combine the convenience and ubiquity of UPI with the credit facility and rewards of a credit card.
- This RuPay-UPI credit model has been gaining traction in India.



World's Best Airport Title 2025

- Singapore's Changi Airport has once again reaffirmed its global leadership in aviation by being named the World's Best International Airport for 2025. The recognition came at the Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards 2025, where readers from across the world voted Changi as the top airport for overall travel experience, comfort, and facilities.
- The award was announced as part of the 14th edition of Travel + Leisure India's Best Awards, which honours excellence across the travel and hospitality sector.
- Winners are selected through an online reader voting process, making the results a direct reflection of traveller preferences and real-world experiences.



Suresh Goyal Appointed as NCAER Director General

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) which is India's leading economic policy think tank, has announced the appointment of Suresh Goyal as its next Director General. Tenure will be effective from January 5, 2026.
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) is one of India's oldest and most respected independent economic research institutions.
- It conducts policy-oriented research to support government decision-making at both central and state levels.



Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **Param Vir Dirgha** at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 16 December 2025. The inauguration marks a significant step in honouring India's bravest soldiers and preserving the legacy of supreme military valour.
- The Param Vir Dirgha is a dedicated gallery at Rashtrapati Bhavan that showcases the portraits of all **21 Param Vir Chakra awardees**.
- The gallery has been designed to educate visitors about India's national heroes who displayed extraordinary courage and unwavering resolve in the defence of the nation.
- It serves both as a memorial and as a space for public awareness about India's highest traditions of military bravery.
- The corridors where the Param Vir Dirgha has been established earlier displayed portraits of British **Aides-de-Camp (ADCs)** from the colonial period.

- Replacing them with portraits of Indian gallantry awardees symbolises a conscious move away from colonial legacy towards celebrating India's own heroes.



José Antonio Kast Becomes Chile's President

- Chile has witnessed a major political change as voters elected ultra-conservative leader José Antonio Kast as the country's next president. His victory reflects growing public concern over crime, migration, and security, and signals a shift away from the current left-leaning government.
- José Antonio Kast has won Chile's presidential election, defeating leftist candidate Jeannette Jara. He secured 58.16% of the vote, while Jara received 41.84%. Kast will assume office on 11 March 2026.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When is Minorities Rights Day observed in India?

- A) 10 December
- B) 15 December
- C) 18 December
- D) 25 December

Answer: C

2. Since which year has Minorities Rights Day been observed in India?

- A) 2008
- B) 2010
- C) 2013
- D) 2016

Answer: C

3. Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?

- A) Assam
- B) Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Nagaland
- D) Meghalaya

Answer: D

4. In which year was Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary officially declared a wildlife sanctuary?

- A) 2010
- B) 2012
- C) 2014
- D) 2016

Answer: C

5. International Migrants Day is observed every year on:

- A) 16 December
- B) 18 December
- C) 20 December
- D) 25 December

Answer: B

6. Which global banking giant announced plans to set up Asia's largest Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Mumbai?

- A) Goldman Sachs
- B) Citibank
- C) HSBC
- D) JP Morgan

Answer: D

7. Which airline won the Best Domestic Airline award at Travel + Leisure India and South Asia's Best Awards 2025?

- A) IndiGo
- B) Vistara
- C) Akasa Air
- D) Air India

Answer: D

8. Google launched its first-ever credit card globally in India in partnership with:

- A) SBI and Visa
- B) HDFC Bank and MasterCard
- C) ICICI Bank and Visa
- D) Axis Bank and RuPay

Answer: D

9. Who has been appointed as the next Director General of NCAER, effective from January 5, 2026?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
- B) Arvind Subramanian
- C) Bibek Debroy
- D) Suresh Goyal

Answer: D

10. Who was elected as the next President of Chile in the recent elections?

- A) Gabriel Boric
- B) Sebastián Piñera
- C) Michelle Bachelet
- D) José Antonio Kast

Answer: D



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EXAMS