

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 19 December 2025

### Goa Liberation Day 2025

- Goa Liberation Day 2025 is observed on 19 December across the state of Goa with pride and patriotic fervour. This day commemorates the historic liberation of Goa from over 450 years of Portuguese colonial rule in 1961.
- Goa Liberation Day holds immense national importance.
- It symbolizes the final end of European colonialism in India and reaffirms India's commitment to territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- The liberation demonstrated India's resolve to protect its people and complete national unification.
- The day also honors the sacrifices of soldiers and freedom fighters.
- During Operation Vijay 22 Indian soldiers and around 30 Portuguese soldiers lost their lives.
- Their sacrifice is remembered as a contribution to India's unity and freedom.
- Goa, located on India's southwestern coast, was under Portuguese control since 1510.
- Even after India achieved independence on 15 August 1947, Goa, Daman, and Diu continued to remain Portuguese territories.
- India initially pursued a peaceful and diplomatic approach to secure Goa's integration, but Portugal refused to negotiate, claiming Goa as an overseas province rather than a colony.
- **Operation Vijay and Liberation of Goa**
- The turning point came in December 1961, after Portuguese forces fired upon Indian fishermen and attempted to take Indian villagers hostage.

- Following this provocation, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, on the advice of Defense Minister V. K. Krishna Menon, authorised military action.
- Operation Vijay was launched on 18 December 1961, involving nearly 30,000 Indian troops, supported by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- The operation lasted less than 48 hours, and on 19 December 1961, Goa was officially liberated, ending 451 years of Portuguese rule.
- **After Liberation**
- Following liberation, Goa was administered as a Union Territory, along with Daman and Diu.
- Major General Kunhiraman Palat Candeth was appointed as the first Lieutenant Governor, entrusted with overseeing the transition and administration.
- Goa later achieved full statehood on 30 May 1987, becoming India's 25th state, while Daman and Diu remained a Union Territory.
- This marked Goa's full constitutional integration into the Indian Union.



## PM Modi Receives Oman's Highest Honour

- Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred Oman's highest national honour which is The First Class of the Order of Oman, marking yet another milestone in India's diplomatic outreach.

- With this recognition, PM Modi has now received 29 top foreign state honours, reflecting India's rising stature and his personal global influence. The award was presented during PM Modi's visit to Muscat, the final leg of his three-nation foreign tour.
- The Order of Oman is the highest civilian honour of the Sultanate of Oman.
- It has previously been awarded to globally respected leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Máxima, Emperor Akihito of Japan, and King Abdullah of Jordan.
- PM Modi's inclusion in this distinguished list underscores the strength and maturity of India–Oman bilateral relations.

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# 29 GLOBAL HONOURS

— Celebrated by 140 Crore Indians —

## INDIA'S UNSTOPPABLE GLOBAL ASCENT

### OMAN

PM Modi Conferred with Oman's National Honour  
***The First Class of the Order of Oman***

- Ethiopia's** Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia
- Namibia's** The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis
- Brazil's** Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross
- Trinidad & Tobago's** the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- Ghana's** The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana
- Cyprus's** the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III
- Sri Lanka's** The Mitra Vibhushana
- Mauritius'** The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star & Key of the Indian Ocean
- Kuwait's** The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer
- Guyana's** The Order Of Excellence
- Barbados's** The Order of Freedom
- Nigeria's** Grand Commander of the Order
- Dominica's** Dominica Award of Honour
- Russia's** Order of St. Andrew the Apostle
- Greece's** Grand Cross of the Order of Honour
- France's** Grand Cross of the Legion
- Egypt's** Order of the Nile
- Republic of Palau's** honour Ebaki Award
- Papua New Guinea's** the Order of Logohu
- Fiji's** Companion of the Order of Fiji
- Bhutan's** Order of the Druk Gyalpo
- US Government's** Legion of Merit
- Bahrain's** King Hamad Order of the Renaissance
- Maldives'** the Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin
- United Arab Emirates'** Order of Zayed Award
- Palestine's** the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award
- Afghanistan's** the State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan
- Saudi Arabia's** Order of King Abdulaziz

## India–Oman CEPA Signed

- India and Oman have signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), marking a major milestone in India's economic engagement with the Gulf region. Also reinforcing its strategy of forging high-quality trade agreements with non-competing economies.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, underscoring its strategic and political significance.
- Unprecedented Market Access for Indian Goods
- Zero-duty access on 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines
- Covers 99.38% of India's exports by value
- Immediate tariff elimination on 97.96% of tariff lines
- Key Beneficiary Sectors,
  - Textiles, leather, footwear
  - Gems & Jewellery, Engineering products
  - Plastics, furniture, Agricultural products
  - Pharmaceuticals & medical devices
  - Automobiles
- India offers tariff liberalisation on 77.79% of tariff lines
- Covers 94.81% of imports from Oman by value
- **Strategic Significance**
  - Strengthens India's economic footprint in the Gulf region
  - Supports India's strategy of signing FTAs with non-competing developed economies
  - Enhances employment, exports, and supply chain resilience
  - Positions Oman as a strategic hub for India's access to Middle East and Africa



- Reinforces India's commitment to inclusive growth, while safeguarding sensitive domestic sectors

# INDIA-OMAN SIGN CEPA



First FTA for Oman in Nearly 20 Years

## IMPACT

Enhance market access

Promote investments

Deepen economic engagement with the Gulf

### India's Expanding FTA Network



UK

2025



EFTA

2024



Australia

2022



UAE

2022



Mauritius

2021



**BOOSTING  
TRADE FLOWS**  
AND GLOBAL MARKET ACCESS

## Viksit Bharat G RAM G Bill Passed in Lok Sabha

- On 18 December 2025, the Lok Sabha passed the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, amid protests, chaos, and just eight hours of parliamentary debate. The Bill aims to reform rural employment and livelihood schemes, effectively replacing provisions under MGNREGA.

- The government argues that while MGNREGA helped reduce rural distress, it needs restructuring to,
- Support long-term rural productivity
- Align employment with infrastructure creation
- Integrate technology for transparency
- Match India's development goals under Viksit Bharat 2047
- **Objectives of the VB-G RAM G Bill**
- Expand employment opportunities in rural areas
- Shift focus from short-term relief to long-term livelihood assets
- Improve governance through technology
- Integrate rural works with national infrastructure planning
- Ensure better targeting of vulnerable groups
- Focus on durable, climate-resilient assets
- Better integration with national infrastructure planning
- Promotion of livelihood assets like markets and warehouses
- Faster wage payments (weekly cycle)
- Higher penalties (up to ₹10,000) for violations
- Special focus on vulnerable groups such as single women, elderly, disabled persons, and transgender individuals



## Sixth Session of Eighteenth Lok Sabha Concludes

- The Sixth Session of the Eighteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 1 December 2025, concluded today. In this regard, Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Birla informed that 15 sittings were held during the Session. The total sitting hours during the Session was 92 hours and 25 minutes.

- The Productivity of the House was during the Session was 111 percent, informed Shri Birla. 10 Government Bills were introduced and 08 Bills were passed, during the session.
- The bills which were passed are as follows:
  - (i) The Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025;
  - (ii) The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025;
  - (iii) The Health Security and National Security Cess Bill, 2025;
  - (iv) The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2025;
  - (v) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2025;
  - (vi) The Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025;
  - (vii) The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025; and
  - (viii) The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin): VB - G R A M G (विकसित भारत—जी राम जी) Bill, 2025



## Prime Minister Welcomes Passage of SHANTI Bill by Parliament

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has welcomed the passage of the SHANTI Bill by both Houses of Parliament, describing it as a transformational moment for India's technology landscape.

- The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill (SHANTI), 2025**, clearing the way for a major overhaul of India's civil nuclear framework. The Bill was approved by voice vote during the ongoing Winter Session amid a walkout by most opposition members.
- Introduced earlier this week by minister of state for the department of atomic energy Jitendra Singh, the legislation marks a significant policy shift by opening parts of the nuclear energy sector to private participation for the first time.
- The Bill aims to promote the growth of nuclear energy and its applications across a range of sectors, aligning with the country's target of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047.
- The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) will be given statutory status, giving it the power to inspect facilities, investigate incidents, issue binding directions and suspend or cancel operations that fail to meet safety standards.
- **Licensing reforms:** A clear licensing regime will define who can build and operate nuclear facilities, strengthening accountability



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Goa Liberation Day is observed every year on which date?**

- A) 18 December
- B) 19 December
- C) 30 May
- D) 15 August



☒ Answer: B) 19 December

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**2. Goa was liberated from Portuguese colonial rule in which year?**

- A) 1947
- B) 1956
- C) 1961
- D) 1987

☒ Answer: C) 1961

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**3. For approximately how many years was Goa under Portuguese rule?**

- A) 250 years
- B) 350 years
- C) 400 years
- D) Over 450 years

☒ Answer: D) Over 450 years

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**4. Goa attained full statehood on which date?**

- A) 19 December 1961
- B) 26 January 1950
- C) 30 May 1987
- D) 15 August 1987

☒ Answer: C) 30 May 1987

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**5. Goa became which numbered state of India after attaining statehood?**

- A) 23rd
- B) 24th
- C) 25th
- D) 26th

☒ Answer: C) 25th

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**6. After Goa attained statehood, Daman and Diu remained a:**

- A) Separate state
- B) Autonomous region
- C) Union Territory
- D) Protectorate

☒ **Answer: C) Union Territory**

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**7. India signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with which country?**

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) UAE
- C) Oman
- D) Qatar

☒ **Answer: C) Oman**

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**8. Which is the highest national honour of Oman conferred upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi?**

- A) Order of Renaissance
- B) Order of the Rising Sun
- C) The First Class of the Order of Oman
- D) Sultan Qaboos Award

☒ **Answer: C) The First Class of the Order of Oman**

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**9. The SHANTI Bill, 2025 is related to which sector?**

- A) Renewable energy
- B) Atomic energy
- C) Defence manufacturing
- D) Space technology

☒ **Answer: B) Atomic energy**

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**10. India aims to achieve how much nuclear power capacity by 2047 under the SHANTI Bill framework?**

- A) 50 GW
- B) 75 GW
- C) 100 GW
- D) 150 GW

 **Answer: C) 100 GW**



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EXAMS