



Current Affairs Supplement

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National

Kaamyaa Karthikeyan Becomes the Youngest Female in World to Scale Highest Peaks in all 7 Continents

Kaamyaa Karthikeyan, a 17-year old student from Navy Children School (NCS) in Mumbai (Maharashtra), scripted history by becoming the world's youngest female to scale the 7 highest peaks across seven continents.

- She achieved this remarkable significant milestone after she successfully climbed **Mount Vinson Massif** (4,892 metres, m) in Antarctica along with her father Commander S. Karthikeyan on December 24 2024.
- In 2021, she was conferred with the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar, India's highest national honour for young achievers.



TN CM Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin unveils India's 1st glass bridge at Kanniyakumari

Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN), **Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin**, inaugurated India's 1st bowstring arch glass bridge which connects the 133-foot Thiruvalluvar Statue and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in **Kanniyakumari, TN**.

- The bridge was inaugurated as part of the **Silver Jubilee** (25th year) celebration of the Thiruvalluvar Statue's installation.
- He further declared that the Thiruvalluvar Statue will now be referred to as the '**Statue of Wisdom**'.

The Chief Minister, **Stalin**, inaugurated



About India's 1st bowstring arch glass bridge:

i. Measuring **77 meters** in length and **10 meters** in width, the bridge has been constructed using advanced technology to withstand corrosion and the force of strong sea winds.

ii. Built by the TN government at a cost of **Rs. 37 crore**, the bridge aims to save tourists' time by eliminating the need for a ferry ride between the two monuments.

- Currently, the Poompuhar Shipping Corporation operates a ferry service from the Kanyakumari boat jetty to the Vivekananda Memorial, and then to the Thiruvalluvar Statue.

iii. The glass bridge is expected to become a major new attraction in Kanyakumari, which draws thousands of visitors daily to witness its famous sunrise and sunset.

About the Thiruvalluvar Statue:

i. Saint-poet Thiruvalluvar, believed to have lived 2,000 years ago, authored 1,330 couplets known as the Thirukkural.

ii. The 133-foot-tall, 7,000-tonne weight statue, located on a rock in the sea off the Kanyakumari coast, was unveiled by former TN CM M. Karunanidhi on January 1, 2000.

- It was designed by the renowned sculptor **V. Ganapati Sthapati**.
- The 133-foot height of the statue represents the 133 chapters of the Thirukkural.

ISRO Successfully Launches PSLV-C60 SpaDeX Mission for Space Docking Experiment

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C60 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). The mission, named Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), aims to demonstrate the ability to dock two small spacecraft, SDX01 and SDX02, in space.



- The success of this mission will make India the **4th country** in the world with space docking technology after Russia (the former USSR), the United States of America (USA) and China.
- The PSLV-C60 mission was ISRO's **99th launch** and will undergo various operations leading up to the final docking by **January 7, 2025**.
- PSLV rocket becomes the 1st vehicle to be integrated up to the 4th stage at the PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) established at the SDSC.

Key Objectives of the Mission:

i. Spacecraft Docking and Undocking: The primary goal is to successfully dock two spacecraft in space – SDX01 (the Chaser) and SDX02 (the Target). The process will involve controlled rendezvous, bringing the spacecraft from a distance of 20 km to just 3 meters (ms) before docking.

- The docking will be conducted using precision-controlled maneuvers coordinated by ISRO's ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network) in Bengaluru (Karnataka).

Former Indian Wicket-Keeper Syed Kirmani Releases His Autobiography in Karnataka

Legendary former Indian Cricketer and wicket-keeper **Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani**, an One Day International (ODI) World Cup winner with India in 1983, released his autobiography titled "Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards".

- The book was launched on his 75th birthday at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru (Karnataka) and was published by **Penguin Play**.

- The book was authored over a span of 5 years by Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani and was co-authored by **Debashish Sengupta** and **Dakshesh Pathak**.

i. The book explores the personal glimpses of his life, his cricket journey of both on and off the field and an intense anecdotes from his career bringing the audiences a look into the world of **80s cricket**.

ii. The event witnessed the presence of legendary cricketers, EAS Prasanna, Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, VVS Laxman and Infosys founder Narayana Murthy along with Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister (DYCM) D. K. Shivakumar.

Chhattisgarh: India's 1st State to Integrate Forest Ecosystems into Green GDP

Chhattisgarh has become the first state in India to introduce an innovative plan that connects the ecosystem services of its forest with the Green Gross Domestic Product (**Green GDP**).

- The initiative aims to directly link the environmental contributions of forests like clean air, water conservation, biodiversity and the state's economic progress.
- It aligns with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Developed India 2047'.
- Chhattisgarh, where forests cover **44%** of the land, relies on its rich natural resources to support the livelihoods of millions.



Key Points:

i. Forests play a dual role in Chhattisgarh's economy and environment, significantly boosting the rural economy through products like tendu leaves, lac, honey, and medicinal plants, while also helping combat climate change by acting as carbon sinks.

ii. The action plan seeks to balance economic growth with environmental conservation to protect the ecosystem for future generations.

iii. By linking these benefits to Green GDP, Chhattisgarh aims to improve budget planning and promote policies for sustainable development.

iv. It recognizes the key benefits of forests, like climate regulation, soil enrichment, water purification, and carbon absorption, and incorporates these into the state's economic planning.

v. Scientists will evaluate the essential ecosystem services of forests to estimate their economic value accurately. This involves

Clean Air: The amount of Carbon-di-oxide (CO₂) absorbed by trees and converted into oxygen will be quantified, and its market value will be included in the Green GDP.

About Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP):

i. Green GDP is a metric for measuring economic growth that takes into account the environmental costs of economic activities.

ii. **Green GDP Calculation:** When calculating Green GDP, the environmental and social costs

associated with economic development are taken into account.

Green GDP = GDP – Environmental Costs – Social Costs

‘How India scaled Mt G20: The inside story of the G20 Presidency’ authored by Amitabh Kant

The book titled ‘**How India scaled Mt G20: The inside story of the G20 Presidency**’ written by **Amitabh Kant** was released. This book was published by Rupa Publications India.

- The book explores India’s pivotal role in hosting and shaping the Group of Twenty (G20) during its presidency (December 1, 2022 and ended on November 30, 2023).
- i. The book highlights India’s initiatives to address pressing global challenges, such as economic disparities, climate change, and technological innovation.
- ii. Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa of India, served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, the Government of India (GoI).

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Z-Morh Tunnel in J&K

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Z-Morh Tunnel** in Sonamarg, located in the Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

- The tunnel, also known as the **Sonamarg Tunnel**, enhances connectivity to the Ladakh region, which has defence and tourism value.

Key People:

Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister (CM) Omar Abdullah were also present at the event.

About Z-Morh Tunnel :

i. The two lane, bi-directional Z-Morh Tunnel, measuring **6.5 kilometer** (km) long and **10 metres** (m) **wide** was built between Gagangir and Sonmarg on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway (NH).

- It was built at a cost of **Rs.2,700 crore** using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) in view of the fragile Himalayan Geology.
- ii. It includes the main tunnel (10.8 m long), parallel escape tunnel (wide 7.5 km), D-shaped ventilation tunnel (8.3 m), 2 major culverts of 110 m and 270 m length, and one small culvert of 30 m long.
- iii. It is located at an altitude of **8,650 feet** above sea level which facilitates all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche route.
- iv. The tunnel is designed for the flow of 1,000 vehicles an hour at an approved maximum speed of **80 km** per hour (km/h) enabling uninterrupted travel even during winter months.

- The western portal of the tunnel (towards Srinagar) is located in the village Rezan just after Gagangir and the eastern portal (towards Sonamarg) is located at village Shetkari.
- iv. The foundation stone for the Z-Morh tunnel was laid in 2012.

Points to Note:

- i. The longest road tunnel in India – ‘**Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Tunnel**’, also known as the ‘Chenani-Nashri Tunnel’ measuring 9.28 km located in J&K.
- ii. The shortest road tunnel in India – ‘**Bhanwar Tonk Tunnel**’ measuring 1,024 m located in Chhattisgarh.

28th CSPOC to be hosted in India in 2026

The 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) is set to be hosted in New Delhi (Delhi), India in 2026. The announcement was made by **Om Birla**, Speaker of Lok Sabha on January 10, 2025 at the CSPOC Standing Committee Meeting held in Guernsey.

- CSPOC aims to focus on the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media in parliamentary operations for enhancing cooperation among member countries.
 - These cutting-edge technologies are used to provide regional language translations for Members of Parliament (MPs) and make available parliamentary papers in different languages.
- i. India has emerged as the world’s 5th-largest economy and the 3rd-largest startup ecosystem, undergoing transformative growth in sectors such as agriculture, fintech, AI, and research and innovation.
 - ii. India’s selection as the host for the 28th CSPOC showcases its rich cultural heritage, rooted in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, “the whole world is one family.”
- Note:** India had hosted the CSPOC in 1970-71, 1986, and 2010.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board with Palle Ganga Reddy as chairman

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), launched the National Turmeric Board (NTB) in New Delhi, Delhi with an aim to boost the turmeric industry in India.

- **Palle Ganga Reddy** has been appointed as its first Chairperson. The headquarters of the Board has been set up at **Nizamabad, Telangana**.
- i. The NTB will function under the Department of Commerce (DoC), MoC&I. The board will include representatives from Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy); Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoCF), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F); Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) and Department of Commerce, MoC&I.
 - ii. It will provide leadership, coordinate with other Government Departments/Agencies for the growth and development of the Turmeric sector in the country.

Startup India Marks 9 Years: 1.59 Lakh Startups Recognised and 16.6 Lakh Jobs Created

Startup India, a transformative initiative of Government of India (GoI) that started in 2016, has successfully completed **9 years**. The initiative aimed to foster innovation and boost the growth of startups across the country. GoI has designated January 16 as **National Startup Day** to celebrate the nation’s stride in promoting a robust and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

- With **over 1.59 lakh** startups (from 500 in 2016) recognised by DPIIT (as of January 15, 2025), India has firmly positioned itself as the world's **3rd** largest startup ecosystem.
 - Startup India initiative is being implemented by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (**MoC&I**).
- iii.** Startup Policy Forum (**SPF**), with the support of **DPIIT** and **Startup India**, launched two flagship initiatives namely, 'Startup Baithak' and 'Startup Baatchet' to celebrate National Startup Day 2025.
- The event was held from January 15 to January 16, 2025 at iconic Group-20 (G20) Summit room in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (Delhi).

VP Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective"

In January 2025, the Vice-President (VP) of India, **Jagdeep Dhankhar** launched the book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective" in New Delhi (Delhi). The book was authored by **Dr. KS Chauhan**, Senior Advocate, at VP's Enclave, New Delhi (Delhi).

- i.** The book consists of two volumes and was published by Mohan Law House (MLH) Publishing Private Limited.
- ii.** The book explains about the functions of Parliament, its special rights, and its important role in holding the government accountable, especially in shaping the India's democracy.

Amitav Ghosh's new book, "Wild Fictions" addressing climate change & societal issues

A new book named '**Wild Fictions**' authored by **Amitav Ghosh** was published by the Fourth Estate India at the 41st Dr CD Deshmukh Memorial Lecture at the India International Centre (**IIC**) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book explores climate change, societal issues, and political instability in "time of monsters" addressing urgent global crises like biodiversity loss, climate change, and emerging diseases.
- i.** He is the author of several acclaimed works of fiction and non-fiction including The Shadow Lines, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, the Ibis Trilogy (comprising the novels Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke and Flood of Fire), Gun Island, The Great Derangement, The Nutmeg's Curse, Jungle Nama and The Living Mountain.
 - ii.** In 2019 he was the 1st English-language writer to receive the 'Jnanpith Award', India's highest literary honour for his writings on the planetary crisis and climate change.

Overview of Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam's visit to India from January 14 to 18, 2025

Singapore President **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, visited India from **January 14 to 18, 2025**, marking his 1st bilateral state visit to India. He was accompanied by Chee Hong Tat, Minister for Transport and 2nd Minister for Finance of Singapore; and Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development of Singapore.

- During the visit, he held discussions with President Droupadi Murmu focused on elevating bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and establishing a unique Ministerial Roundtable mechanism.

MoC&I: India becomes World's 7th Largest Coffee Producing Country; Exports Soar to USD 1.29 Billion in FY24

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I), **India** became the world's **7th** largest coffee producing country with exports reaching **USD 1.29 billion** in Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24), from USD 719.42 million recorded in FY21.

- The Ministry further revealed that India exported over 9,300 tonnes of coffee in the 1st half of January 2025, with top buyers including Italy, Belgium and Russia.
- ii. As per MoC&I, domestic consumption of coffee has increased from 84,000 tonnes (in 2012) to **91,000 tonnes (in 2023)**.
- iii. India's coffee is primarily grown in the ecologically rich Western and Eastern Ghats. **Karnataka** topped in terms of coffee production, contributing 2,48,020 Metric Tonnes (MT) in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu (TN).

Note: Top 5 coffee producing countries: Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, and Ethiopia.

About Coffee Board of India (CBoI):

Chairman- M.J. Dinesh

Headquarters -Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established-

1942

Empowering India's Daughters: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Completed 10 Years

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (**BBBP**) scheme, a flagship initiative led by the Government of India (GoI) which aims to protect, educate, and empower the girl child in India, has completed **10 years** of successful implementation.

- The scheme was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.
- i. It is a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) with 100% funding by the Central Government in all the districts of the country under Sambal vertical of Mission Shakti.
- ii. Initially, It was a collaborative effort of MoWCD (Ministry of Women and Child Development) with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and Ministry of Education (MoE);
- Later, MWCD collaborated with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA), to expand the scope of BBBP.
- iii. On January 22 2025, Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, MoH&FW and Union Minister Annpurna Devi, MoWCD jointly inaugurated the 10 years anniversary celebration of BBBP at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.
- iv. Following an oath-taking ceremony, a compendium of BBBP practices, Mission Vatsalya portal, Mission Shakti portal, and mobile application (app) of Mission Shakti were also launched at the event.

Sarla Aviation Unveiled India's 1st Air Taxi Prototype 'Shunya', Expected to be launched by 2028

Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based aerospace startup company, **Sarla Aviation Private**

Limited unveiled **India's 1st** electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi prototype, 'Shunya', at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- For the initial phase, the company aims to launch the electric air taxi in Bengaluru by 2028 to become the 1st to introduce urban air transport in India.

Key Points:

- The company further plans to gradually extend the electric air taxis services to cities like: Mumbai (Maharashtra), Delhi (Delhi), Pune (Maharashtra) and other major Indian cities.
- Sarla Aviation also plans to introduce a free air ambulance service, to address the urgent medical transportation requirements in urban areas.
- The company is expected to offer air taxi services at prices competitive with existing premium taxi services.
- Sarla Aviation also announced plans to launch a free air ambulance service to address urgent medical needs in urban areas.

Dr. Arvind Panagariya Launched NITI Aayog's Inaugural FHI 2025 ; Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Goa Top 3 Performing States

Dr. Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of 16th Finance Commission (FC) launched the inaugural issue of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog's report titled 'Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025 for the Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23)' in New Delhi, Delhi.

- As per the report, **Odisha** has outperformed all other states with cumulative score of **67.8** out of 100, followed by Chhattisgarh (55.2) and Goa (53.6).
- The report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the fiscal health of **18** major Indian states that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), demography, total expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.
 - The report ranked states based on 5 key sub-indices such as: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.

About National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established in- 2015

Uttarakhand, 1st State to Implement Uniform Civil Code

Uttarakhand has become the 1st state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which came into effect on **27 January 2025**. Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the **UCC portal** and issued a notification marking the adoption of the civil code at an event in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- The UCC aims to unify personal laws related to marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance, ensuring equality for all citizens, excluding those from Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Background:

- On February 7, 2024, the Legislative Assembly of the state of Uttarakhand passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.
- On March 13, the bill was granted assent by President Droupadi Murmu to establish a



uniform and equal set of rules on personal status law, including marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance, that applies to all citizens of the state irrespective of religion.

76th Republic Day of India- 26 January 2025

India celebrated its **76th Republic Day** (R-day) on **26 January 2025** with great patriotism. The Republic Day parades and events took place at **Kartavya Path** (formerly known as Rajpath) in New Delhi, Delhi. Republic Day **commemorates** the **adoption** of the **Constitution of India**, which came into effect on 26 January 1950, making India a sovereign, democratic, and republic nation.

- **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, unfurled the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem and a 21-gun salute using 105-millimeter (mm) Light Field Guns, an indigenously made weapon.

Theme of the Republic Day 2025:

The 76th Republic Day celebrations, themed '**Swarnim Bharat: VirasataurVikas**,' (Golden India: Heritage and Development) highlighted India's military strength, cultural heritage, and development.

About the Chief Guest:

The President of Indonesia, **Prabowo Subianto**, was the Chief Guest for the 76th Republic Day celebrations, marking him as the fourth Indonesian leader to be invited for this honor.

About the 76th Republic Day Parade: The ceremony began with a visit from Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi. The **parade was led** by Lieutenant (Lt.) General Bhavnish Kumar, General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area.

i. Group Captain Alok Ahlawat led the Mi-17 1V helicopters from the 129 Helicopter Unit, which showered flower petals in the Dhvaj Formation

ii. A highlight of the parade was a **148-member all-women marching contingent** from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

iii. A 160-member marching contingent and a 190-member band contingent **from Indonesia** participated in the Republic Day parade for the first time.

ISRO Completes 100th Mission, GSLV-F15 Successfully Launched from Sriharikota, AP

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched **GSLV-F15/NVS-02** mission, carrying the **NVS-02 satellite**, from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). With the successful launch of this mission, ISRO completed its **100th** launch from Sriharikota spaceport.

- This mission marks the **17th** flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and **11th** flight with indigenous cryogenic stage.
- It is also the 8th operational flight of GSLV with an indigenous cryogenic stage.
- Since 1979, ISRO has conducted 99 launches with Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) carrying out 62 launches, followed by GSLV (16), Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)(7), Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) (4), among others.

- i. The GSLV-F15 rocket is equipped with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage has successfully placed the NVS-02 satellite into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- ii. NVS-02 is **2nd** out of the 5 second-generation Navigational Satellite (NVS) series (NVS-01/02/03/04/05), which are designed to augment Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) base layer constellation with improved features for ensuring the continuity of services.

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):

It is one of the six largest space agencies in the world.

Chairman- V Narayanan

Headquarters- Bengaluru, Karnataka

Established- 1969

Tata Steel Limited, India's 1st company to Develop Hydrogen Transport Pipes

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Tata Steel Limited (TSL), formerly known as Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), became **India's 1st Steel company** to demonstrate the capability to develop steel pipes for hydrogen (H₂) transportation, marking a significant step toward supporting India's National Hydrogen Mission (NHM).

- The company successfully developed hydrogen-compliant **API X65 ERW** steel pipes, which are crucial for the transport of **100%** pure gaseous hydrogen under high pressure (100 bar).

Note: API X65 ERW steel, is also called ISO 3183 L450 pipe, manufactured according to the American Petroleum Institute (API) 5L standard, specifically designated as "Grade X65" and produced using the Electric Resistance Welding (ERW) process.

Development and Testing Process:

- i. The pipes were processed at Tata Steel's **Khopoli plant**, Mumbai (Maharashtra) utilizing steel and was manufactured at Tata Steel's **Kalinganagar plant**, Odisha.
- ii. The technology development, including the design and manufacture of **hot-rolled steel** and pipe production, was carried out entirely in-house by TSL.

Points to Note:

- i. This development supports India's NHM, which aims to produce **5 million metric tonnes** (MMT) of green hydrogen annually by **2030**, with the potential to increase to 10 MMT for export.
- ii. The demand for hydrogen-compliant steel pipes will begin in **2026-27**, with an estimated total requirement of 350 kiloton (KT) over the next 5-7 years.

About Tata Steel Limited (TSL):

In 2024, TSL became the 1st Indian steel company to produce **hot-rolled steel** for the transportation of gaseous hydrogen.

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)–Thachath Viswanath Narendran

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established– 1907

International

China Unveils World's Fastest High-Speed Train 'CR450'

China introduced its next-generation world's high-speed train, the CR450, setting a new record with a top test speed of **450 kilometer/hour**(km/h), surpassing the previous High Speed Rail (HSR) CR400 Fuxing, which reached 350 km/h.

- It was developed by China Railway Group Limited (**CREC**), the CR450 prototype underwent tests in China, showcasing advanced technology and engineering.
- The project ,initiated in 2021, aims to enhance safety, energy efficiency, and passenger comfort.

i.Key features of the CR450 include streamlined design that reduces energy consumption by **20%**.The prototypes, designated CR450AF and CR450BF, utilize advanced technologies such as water-cooled, permanent magnet traction systems, and high-stability bogie systems.

ii.The CR450 provides a superior travel experience with increased cabin space, noise reduction and adjustable storage for bikes and wheelchairs.

NASA Unveiled New Mars Design "Mars Chopper" Successor of Ingenuity Helicopter

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) has unveiled the design of new mars drone named "**Mars Chopper**" for advanced exploration of planet Mars.

- It is a successor of the '**Ingenuity helicopter**' that roamed over the surface of Mars for over 3 years after landing on its surface alongside the Perseverance Rover in 2020.

Note:

i.Ingenuity Helicopter, a small helicopter which weighs 1.8 kilogram (kg).

ii.It was initially designed to perform up to 5 experimental test flights over 30 days but operated for almost 3 years performing 72 flights and flying 30 times farther than planned.

About Mars Chopper:

i.It is produced by the Southern California (the United States of America, USA)-based Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in partnership with the California-based Ames Research Center(ARC).

ii.It is a drone-like vehicle that is about the size of an Support Utility Vehicle (**SUV**) with 6 rotors. Each rotor has 6 blades, which are smaller in size compared to blades of Ingenuity but allows for increased lift.



Indonesia Joins BRICS as 10th Full Member

Brazil, serving as the BRICS chair for 2025, announced that Indonesia, world's fourth-most populous nation, has become a **10th full member** of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) alliance.

- The inclusion of Indonesia aligns with Brazil's **theme** for its presidency: "Enhancing Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance."

Background:

In 2024, BRICS countries agreed to admit Indonesia as a member. This decision followed the guidelines set during the 2023 BRICS meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa (SA).

- The expansion shows the group's focus on strengthening ties with emerging economies.

About BRICS:

BRIC was established as a formal group in 2006 with its original members: Brazil, Russia, India, and China, headquartered in **Shanghai, China**.

i. In 2009, the first BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

ii. In 2010, the group evolved from BRIC to BRICS with the inclusion of **South Africa**.

iii. In 2024, BRICS expanded by adding four new members: **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran** and the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**). With Indonesia's inclusion in 2025, the group now has **10 members**.

Points to Note:

i. The 16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan, Russia, under Russia's chairmanship in 2024.

ii. The 17th BRICS Summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July 2025.

Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Reclaimed Title of World's Most Powerful Passport; India Ranked 85th

London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based Henley & Partners released the annual edition of **Henley Passport Index 2025**. As per the index, **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to **195** out of **227 destinations** worldwide, followed by **Japan** which secured 2nd rank with visa-free access to 193 destinations.

- India's rank dropped from 80th spot (in 2024) to **85th spot (in 2025)** on the list, with visa-free access to only 57 destinations of the world, down from 62 visa-free destinations in 2024.

ii. As per the index, several member states of the European Union (EU):

France, Germany, Italy and Spain witnessed a decline in their ranking from 2nd position (in 2024) to 3rd spot (in 2025).



- These EU countries are ranked along with Finland and South Korea, with access to 192 destinations with no prior visa required.
- ii. The index was originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin, compares 199 passports and 227 travel destinations annually for the last 19 years. Countries are ranked based on visa-free entry to citizens holding that country's passport.

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin Launched 'New Glenn Rocket' on First Test Flight

Blue Origin Enterprises, L.P., the American space technology company headquartered in Washington, the United States of America (USA), founded by Amazon's Executive Chairman **Jeff Bezos**, successfully launched its reusable '**New Glenn(NG) rocket**' on a first test flight, from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, the USA. The rocket was named after John Glenn who was the first American to orbit Earth.



- The mission named **NG-1**, included a first-stage booster landing in the Atlantic Ocean, while the rocket's second stage continues towards orbit
- The 320-foot (98-meter(m)) rocket sent a prototype satellite into orbit, designed to deploy satellites into their correct orbits.

About New Glenn Rocket:

i. The mission aimed to demonstrate the rocket's capabilities by placing the Blue Ring Pathfinder test satellite into orbit and landing the rocket's booster onto a drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean.

- The rocket is built to haul spacecraft and eventually astronauts to orbit and also the Moon.
- ii. The first-stage booster couldn't land on a barge in the Atlantic, but the company emphasized that the main mission was successful.
- iii. For this test, the satellite was planned to stay inside the second stage while orbiting Earth. The mission was expected to last six hours, after which the second stage would be placed in a safe orbit to avoid creating space debris, following NASA's guidelines.

QS World Future Skills Index 2025: USA topped; India ranked 25th

London(the United Kingdom, UK-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released its first 'World Future Skills Index 2025'. India secured 25th position globally earning a score of 76.6, which classifies it as a "future skills contender."

- India secured the **2nd** position globally, behind the United States of America (USA) in the '**Future of Work**' category indicating its strong readiness for technology-driven roles and industries of the future, especially in digital skills, artificial intelligence (AI), and green technologies.
- The **USA** leads the rankings with a score of **97.6**, followed by the UK (97.1), Germany (94.6), Australia (93.3), and Canada (91.0) in the top 5 positions, categorized as "future skills pioneers."

Overall Ranking:

| Rank | Country | Score |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | USA | 97.6 |
| 2 | UK | 97.1 |
| 3 | Germany | 94.6 |
| 4 | Australia | 93.3 |
| 5 | Canada | 91.0 |
| 25 | India | 76.6 |

Nigeria Joined BRICS as the 9th Partner Country

The government of Brazil, which holds the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) bloc presidency in 2025, announced that **Nigeria**, the world's 6th largest population and Africa's largest country, has officially joined BRICS as the **9th** Partner Country,

- Other Partner countries of BRICS bloc are: Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan.

About BRICS:

i. BRIC, as a formal grouping, initiated following the meeting of the leaders of Russia, India, and China held in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2006.

ii. The grouping was formalized during the 1st meeting of foreign ministers of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) countries held on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, the United States of America (USA) in 2006.

- The 1st BRIC Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia in 2009.

iii. BRIC group was renamed as BRICS after South Africa was accepted as full member of BRIC in 2010.

iv. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the chairmanship of Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, in Kazan (Russia) from October 22 to 24, 2024.

- Theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security".

New Member Countries of BRICS Bloc:

i. In January 2024, countries namely Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) officially joined BRICS bloc.

ii. In January 2025, **Indonesia** formally became the full member of the BRICS bloc. With this, it has become the 1st SouthEast (SE) Asian country to join this bloc.

About Nigeria:

Capital-

Abuja

President- Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu

Currency- Nigeria Naira (NGN)

USA Removed BARC, IGCAR and IREL From Restrictive Entity List

The United States of America (USA)'s Bureau of Industry & Security (**BIS**) has **removed 3** prominent Indian nuclear entities from its restrictive Entity List. This move aims to strengthen bilateral ties between India and USA and also focus on promoting advanced energy cooperation.

- The entities removed from the USA entity list are: Trombay, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Bhabha Atomic Research Center (**BARC**), Department of Atomic Energy(DAE); Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **IREL (India) Limited**(formerly Indian Rare Earths Ltd); and Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu, TN)-based Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (**IGCAR**).
- The updated listing also includes modifications to one existing entry of India.

Note: The USA has imposed restrictions on more than 200 Indian entities following India conducted nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan in 1998.

About US Entity List:

- i. The list is prepared by USA's BIS which publishes the names of certain foreign persons, including businesses, research organisations that are subject to specific license requirements for the export, re-export and/or transfer (in-country) of specified items.
- ii. The persons whose names are included on the list are subject to individual licensing requirements and policies.
- iii. The entities on the list indicate that the USA government suspected them engaging in activities contrary to US national security or foreign policy interests.

Brand Finance Global 500 2025: Apple Tops Global Rankings; TATA Most Valuable Indian Brand

According to the **19th Global 500 2025 report** published by **Brand Finance**, **Apple** has retained its position as the world's most **valuable** brand, with a brand value of USD 574.5 billion (bn). **Tata Group** (USD 28.6 bn) is the most valuable **Indian** brand for the 15th consecutive holding **60th** spot in the list.

- In Global rank, Apple is followed by **Microsoft** (USD 461.1 bn) on the **2nd**, and **Google** (USD 413 bn) on **3rd** respectively.
- **WeChat** (95.2) has been ranked as the world's **strongest** brand for the 2nd consecutive year followed by **Nike** (94.7) on the **2nd** spot and **Google** (94.3) on the **3rd** position.
- **United States of America (USA)** has the greatest number of brands (193) in the list followed by China and Germany on the 2nd and 3rd place, with 69 and 27 brands respectively. **India got 8th place** in the list with the number of brands 15.
- **HCL Technologies** (HCLTech) has emerged as world's **fastest**-growing IT services brand in 2025, while **Infosys** has achieved the highest compound annual growth rate among IT services brands over the past 5 years (at 18.2%).

- The 'e&', telecommunications brand has become the **fastest**-growing brand in the world in 2025 with an eight-fold increase in brand value to USD 15.3 billion.
- According to the Brand Finance Global 500 2025 report, the top five Indian brands are Tata Group, Infosys, HDFC Group, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), and Reliance Group.

Top 5 Globally Valuable Brands:

| Rank | Brand | Country | Valuation (in billion) |
|------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Apple | United States of America (USA) | USD 574.5 |
| 2 | Microsoft | USA | USD 461.1 |
| 3 | Google | USA | USD 413.0 |
| 4 | Amazon | USA | USD 356.4 |
| 5 | Walmart | USA | USD 137.2 |

About Brand Finance Global 500 report:

- It is the annual study held every year since **2007** that provides information about the world's top 500 most valuable and strongest global brands.
- It operates in over 25 countries and conducts more than **6,000** brand valuations and publishes over **100** reports which rank brands across all sectors and countries.

GFP 2025 Military Strength Ranking: USA Tops, India Secures 4th Position

According to the 2025 Military Strength Ranking by the **Global Firepower Index (GFP)**, India has secured 4th place as most powerful military in the world. The United States of America (USA) leads the ranking, followed by Russia in second place and China in third. Note: These top four military powers—USA, Russia, China, and India—have consistently held their ranks since 2006.

About the Global Military Ranking:

The GFP 2025 evaluates the military capabilities of **145** countries based on more than **60** factors.

- The factors include troop strength, military hardware, economic stability, geographic positioning across land, sea air and access to natural resources.
- The ranking assigns a Power Index (**PwrIndx**) score, where a score of **0.0000** is considered **perfect**. The system also accounts for smaller, technologically advanced nations,

allowing them to compete with larger but less developed countries.

Key Points:

- i. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), based in Stockholm, Sweden, global military spending reached a record **USD 2.4 trillion** in 2023.
- ii. According to Global Firepower Analysis (GFA) for defence allocation in 2025, the USA allocates the highest budget to its military, amounting to USD 895 billion. It is followed by China with a defense budget of USD 296 billion, Russia at USD 126 billion.
- iii. **India's** defence allocation amounted to **USD 75 billion for the year 2025.**

Top 5 on 2025 Military Strength Ranking:

| Rank | Country | PwrIndx |
|----------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | United States of America (USA) | 0.0744 |
| 2 | Russia | 0.0788 |
| 3 | China | 0.0788 |
| 4 | India | 0.1184 |
| 5 | South Korea | 0.1656 |

Points to be Noted:

- i. The top **ten** countries in the 2025 Military Strength Ranking **include** the United Kingdom (UK-6th), France (7th), Japan (8th), Turkey (9th), and Italy (10th). Pakistan dropped in the rankings, moving **from** 9th to **12th** place in global military spending.
- ii. At the bottom of the list, **Bhutan** is ranked **145th** with a PwrIndx score of 6.3934. It is preceded by Benin with a score of 4.3156, the Central African Republic with 4.2347, Somalia with 4.2037, and Kosovo with 4.9141.

Wetland City Accreditation: Indore & Udaipur became India's first Ramsar wetland cities

In January 2025, an independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of the Ramsar Convention, announced the list of 31 newly accredited Wetland Cities, during its 64th meeting held in Gland, Switzerland. Among the newly accredited cities, **Indore** (Madhya Pradesh, MP) and **Udaipur** (Rajasthan) became the **first two Indian** cities to receive the international accreditation as 'Wetland Cities' under Ramsar Convention.

- With this, the **total number** of accredited Wetland Cities has reached **74**.

i. This accreditation was granted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the Ramsar Convention.

- It is valid for 6 years to promote the conservation and sustainable use of urban wetlands, ensuring ecological and socio-economic benefits for local populations.

ii. In December 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI), **nominated** three Indian cities: Indore, Udaipur, and Bhopal (MP).

55th Annual Meeting of WEF held in Switzerland from January 20– 24, 2025: Part II

The **55th** Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF 2025) was held, with the theme “**Collaboration for the Intelligent Age**”, from January 20 to 24, 2025 in Davos-Klosters, **Switzerland**.

i. The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (**C4IR**) **India**, liaison office of WEF in India, launched its 6-year **Impact journey report** during the WEF Annual meeting 2025.

ii. During the meeting, the **WEF**, in collaboration with New York City (the United States of America, USA) based McKinsey Health Institute (MHI), released a report titled ‘Blueprint to Close the Women’s Health Gap: How to Improve Lives and Economies for All’ that highlights the global health condition of women and the need to close the health gap.

iii. The **Telangana** government secured an investment of **Rs 1,78,950 crore**, which will create 49,550 jobs, on the sidelines of the WEF 2025 in Switzerland.

Defence

18th Edition of India-Nepal Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran' commences in Nepal

The **18th edition** of the Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran' commences in Saljhandi, Nepal. The exercise was scheduled to take place from 31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025.

- The exercise aims to strengthen India-Nepal defence cooperation and enhance the professional skills of the IA and NA personnel.

Note: The **17th** Edition of 'Surya Kiran', was conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India from 24th November to 7th December 2023.

Key Points:

- The annual bilateral military exercise is alternatively hosted by the Indian Army(IA) and the Nepali Army.(NA).
- The exercise focuses on joint operations, particularly in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations on mountains and also emphasises Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief(HADR), in alignment with the United Nations Charter(UNC).
- The exercise follows successful visits by General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of IA to Nepal, and the visit by General Ashok Raj Sigdel, COAS of NA to India.

Participants:

- The IA contingent is being led by a Battalion from the **11th Gorkha Rifles**.
 - A contingent of **334 personnel** from the 11th Gorkha Rifles Regiment of the IA will represent **India**.
 - The 11th Gorkha Rifles holds historical significance as the **1st regiment** raised post-independence in 1947.
- The NA contingent represented by the **Srijung Battalion**.

India-Nepal Defence Relations:

- India and Nepal share a deep defence relationship, with **Nepali Gorkhas** serving in the IA.
- The prominent traditions between the two countries was the mutual conferment of the **Honorary General rank**.
 - General Upendra Dwivedi**, COAS of IA, was awarded the Honorary General rank of the NA by the President of Nepal **Ramchandra Paudel** in Kathmandu, Nepal.
 - Similarly, the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the Honorary General rank of the IA for **General Ashok Raj Sigdel**, COAS of the NA in New Delhi (Delhi), India.

About Nepal:

Prime Minister(PM)– KP Sharma Oli

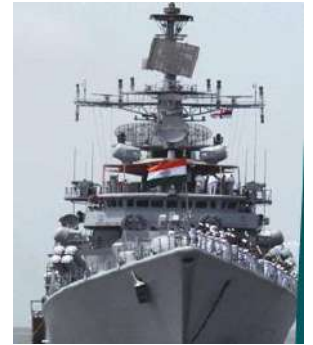
President- Ram Chandra Poudel



Indian Navy Participates in 5th Edition of La Perouse 25 Multinational Naval Exercise

The Indian Navy (IN), along with eight Indo-Pacific nations, is participating in the **5th edition of the La Perouse 25** multinational naval exercise.

- The exercise is being conducted in the strategic maritime straits of **Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok**, which serve as crucial routes for global maritime trade between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.
- This eight-day exercise, organized by the French Carrier Strike Group (CSG), began on **January 16, 2025, and will continue until January 24, 2025.**

**About the exercise La Perouse 25:**

The exercise aims to prepare navies for real-world challenges, enhancing their collective response capabilities.

Participants:

- The exercise involves naval forces from nine nations: **India, Australia, Canada**, the United States of America (USA), **France, Indonesia, Malaysia**, the United Kingdom (UK), and **Singapore.**
- The Indian Navy participated with its destroyer Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mumbai while other nations have deployed various advanced vessels.

Key Points:

- A highlight of the exercise is the use **IORIS** (Indian Ocean Regional Information Sharing) system.
- During the exercise, all **navies trained in the use of IORIS**, a system designed for communication and coordination, enabling the effective exchange of information and documents to collectively manage maritime crises.
- The exercise **focused** on enhancing interoperability through training in ship inspections for illicit activities while emphasizing the protection of key trade routes from accidents, illegal activities, and natural disasters.

Note: The **4th edition** of the La Perouse exercise was held in 2023 and involved seven nations, taking place in the Bay of Bengal.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Sanjiv Ranjan Appointed as Secretary General of IORA

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that Senior Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **Sanjiv Ranjan** has been appointed as the **Secretary General** of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (**IORA**) Secretariat in Ebene, Mauritius. He succeeds **Salman Al-Farisi** of **Indonesia**.

- His term will last for **three years** with effect from January 1 2025, until his superannuation on January 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier.
- Prior to this, he served as the Officer on Special Duty in the MEA.

About Sanjiv Ranjan:

i. Sanjiv Ranjan joined the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1993 and has since established a distinguished diplomacy career, focusing on multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

ii. From 1995 to 2009, he held several diplomatic roles in Indian embassies in Madrid and Lima and at the Permanent Mission of India in New York, the United States of America (USA).

iii. He served as India's Ambassador to Argentina (2016-2019), with additional accreditation to Uruguay and Paraguay, and later as Ambassador to Colombia (2019-2022), with accreditation to Ecuador.

About Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

i. Founded in **1997**, IORA is an inter-governmental organization dedicated to promoting regional economic cooperation across the Indian Ocean.

ii. IORA comprises 23 member states: India, Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, France, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

iii. It includes 12 dialogue partners: China, Egypt, the European Union, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, South Korea, the UK, and the USA.

iv. In 2015, IORA was granted observer status at both the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the African Union.

Secretary-General – Sanjiv Ranjan

Headquarters – Ebene, Mauritius

Chair – Sri Lanka

Note: **India** will take over the chairmanship from Sri Lanka for the **2025-2027** term.

Vitul Kumar appointed as DG of CRPF

The Government of India(GoI) appointed **Vitul Kumar**, a 1993-batch Indian Police Service(IPS) officer, as an **additional charge** as Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (**CRPF**) upon the superannuation of incumbent DG of CRPF, **Anish Dayal Singh**.

- The appointment order was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). He will hold the position until regular appointment or until further orders, issued by the MHA.
- The senior IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) cadre, is currently serving as the Special DG of the CRPF.



About Vitul Kumar:

- Vitul Kumar, IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh(UP) cadre, has held various positions within the CRPF.
- In 2009, he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspector General (**DIG**).
- He was further promoted to IG in 2012, and to Additional Director General (**ADG**) in 2018.
- In September 2024, he was appointed as the ‘Special DG of the CRPF’, a position he will hold until his retirement on **August 31, 2028**.

About Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):

The CRPF, initially established as the ‘Crown Representatives Police’ on July 27, 1939, assumed its current name when the CRPF Act was passed on December 28, 1949.

- The force has since evolved into a substantial and diverse organization with a Directorate, four Zonal Headquarters, 21 Administrative Sectors, 2 Operational Sectors, 39 Administrative Ranges, 17 Operational Ranges, 43 Group Centres & 22 Training Institutions.

Director-General (**DG**)- Vitul Kumar

Headquarters- New Delhi (Delhi)

Established– 1939

Bhuvnesh Kumar appointed as CEO of UIDAI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**)appointed **Bhuvnesh Kumar**,additional Secretary of the MeitY, as the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Unique Identification Authority of India (**UIDAI**) with effect from January 2, 2025.

- He replaced **Amit Agrawal** who was appointed as the Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) in December 2024.

About Bhuvnesh Kumar:

- Bhuvnesh Kumar**, a 1995-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Uttar

Pradesh (UP) cadre, began his administrative service in 1993 and has held pivotal positions both in UP and at the Central Government.

ii. In UP, he served as the **Principal Secretary** in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

iii. He served as Secretary in charge of Sports and Youth Welfare, Planning, and Vocational Education, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS).

iv. He also served as the Secretary of Finance, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Secretary of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), MoMSME, Secretary of Technical Education and Divisional Commissioner Department of Land Revenue in the Government of UP.

About Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI):

The UIDAI was initially set up in 2009, as an attached office under the aegis of the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog).

- The UIDAI was established as a statutory authority in 2016 by the Government of India (GoI) under the MeitY, following the provisions of the Aadhaar Act 2016.
- It is mandated to assign a 12-digit unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Bhuvnesh Kumar

Headquarters- New Delhi (Delhi)

ACC Appoints Faiz Ahmed Kidwai as DG of DGCA

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai**, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cadre, as the Director General (DG) of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), as part of senior level bureaucratic reshuffle.

i. **Ashutosh Agnihotri**, a 1999-batch IAS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been appointed as the chairman and Managing Director (MD) of New Delhi (Delhi) based Food Corporation of India (FCI).

ii. **Akash Tripathi**, a 1998-batch IAS officer of the MP cadre has been appointed as the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power (MoP).

iii. **Kamal Kishore Soan**, a 1998-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre has been appointed as the Additional Secretary & Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) under the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).

Former shot putter Bahadur Singh Sagoo Appointed as President of AFI

Former Indian athlete and Asian Games Gold Medalist **Bahadur Singh Sagoo** was appointed as the **President** of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) for a period of four years, during the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the AFI in Chandigarh, Punjab.

- He will replace **Adille Sumariwalla**, who served as the AFI president for three consecutive terms from 2012.
- **Stanely Jones** from Telangana was appointed as the new treasurer and former middle-distance runner **Jyotirmoyee Sikdar** as the joint secretary of the AFI.

i. He is a one-time Asian Games gold medalist and a two-time national champion in shot put.

ii. He won the gold medal at the **2002 Asian Games** in Busan, South Korea with a throw of 19.03 meters. He also represented India at the Olympics in 2000 and 2004.

iii. In 2004, his career-best throw of 20.40 meters(m) was recorded at the Koncha-Zaspa Sinitskoha Memorial in Kyiv, Ukraine.

iv. In 2006, he was honoured with the **Padma Shri**, the fourth-highest civilian honour for his contributions to sports.

Note: AFI was established in **1946** in New Delhi, Delhi. It is the national governing body for the sport of athletics in India and is responsible for organising competitions across India.

V Narayanan appointed as 11th Chairman of ISRO

The Government of India (GoI) appointed **V Narayanan** as the **11th chairman** of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and **Secretary** of the Department of Space (DoS). His tenure starts on January 14, 2025, for a period of **2 years** by replacing incumbent **Sreedhara Panicker Somanath**.



- The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) and was notified by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P).
- Currently V Narayanan serves as the **Director** of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala, Kerala.
- He will also be the Chairman of the Space Commission, playing a key role in India's development of the cryogenic engine.

Anju Bobby George chaired Athletes Commission: Neeraj Chopra included among 9 athletes

Long-jump great **Anju Bobby George** was named Chairperson of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI)'s **Athletes Commission**. Two-time Olympic medallist and javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** is one of the members in the Athletes Commission.

- This commission features India's **nine-athletes** with six women athletes and three men athletes.

Key Points:

i. The commission includes six women athletes: **Anju Bobby George**, a 2003 World Championships bronze medal winner and also a senior vice president in the AFI; runner **Jyotirmoyee Sikdar**; discus thrower **Krishna Poonia**; hurdler **MD Valsamma**; steeplechaser **Sudha Singh**; and runner **Sunita Rani**.

ii. Three men athletes including **Neeraj Chopra**, 3000m steeplechaser **Avinash Sable** and

newly-elected AFI president **Bahadur Singh Sagoo**, a shot put gold medal winner at 2002 Asian Games.

- Bahadur Singh Sagoo was the chairman of the previous Athletes Commission.

iii. Outgoing AFI president Adille Sumariwalla, who served as AFI president for three consecutive terms from 2012, will continue to be a part of the executive council as an ex-officio member as he is a part of the World Athletics Council.

About Athletes Commission:

i. The Athletes Commission seeks to represent the viewpoints and interests of athletes within the Athletics Federation of India's governing bodies.

ii. The eligibility criteria include being a champion at the Asian or Commonwealth Games or at least participating in an Olympics or World Championships.

iii. The tenure of the Athletes Commission is four years; the current members are committed to the 2025–2029 cycle.

Nicolas Maduro Moros Sworn in as President of Venezuela for 3rd consecutive term

Nicolas Maduro Moros was sworn in as the 53rd President of Venezuela for the 3rd consecutive term. The swearing-in ceremony was held at the National Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela.

- He will be serving as the President of Venezuela for a period of **6 years** until 2031.

About Nicolas Maduro:

i. **Nicolás Maduro Moros** is a Venezuelan politician who began his political career in the 1990s as a Member of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (**PSUV**).

ii. In 2006, he served as the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, a position he held until 2013 and gained international recognition for his advocacy of socialist policies.

iii. In 2010, he served as **24th** Vice President (**VP**) of Venezuela under Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías (Former Venezuela President).

iv. In March 2013, he was appointed as interim President (following the death of the former President).

- He won the presidential election and served as the President of Venezuela since April 2013 (6years term).

v. In March 2018, he served as the President for the 2nd consecutive term.

Awards and Honors:

i. In 2015, he received 'the **Order of the Liberator from Bolivia**' Venezuela's highest civilian award, in recognition of his outstanding services to the country.

ii. In 2007, he received the "**Orden Francisco de Miranda**" Venezuela's highest civilian award for his outstanding contributions to the country's progress.

About Venezuela:

Venezuela is a country in South America.

Capital-

Caracas

Currency- Venezuelan Bolívares (VEF)

Justin Trudeau Steps down as PM of Canada

Canadian Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau announced his resignation to step down as Canada's PM and as leader of the **Liberal Party** after facing a stiff internal revolt. He leaves the office once a new ruling party leader is elected.

- Canada's parliament will be suspended until **24 March 2025** when a new leader is chosen.

Key Points:

i. Justin Trudeau, is the leader of the Liberal Party for 11 years and served as PM for 9 years.
ii. In 2007, he won the Liberal Party nomination for the Montréal riding of Papineau. He was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2011, 2015, 2019 and 2021.

- He was elected Leader of the Liberal Party in April 2013.

iii. In 2015, he won a landslide victory in the federal election and became the **second-youngest PM** in Canadian history.

- He was sworn in as 23rd PM on November 4, 2015 and he successfully led the party to re-election in 2019, and again in 2021, securing a third term.

iii. He advocated for progressive issues like combating climate change and addressing historical crimes against Indigenous peoples, but the final years of his presidency have been marked by mounting economic unrest.

Devajit Saikia Elected as Secretary of BCCI

Devajit Saikia, an advocate and a former wicket-keeper batsman from Assam, was announced as the new **Secretary** of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (**BCCI**), succeeding Jay Shah who took over the role of ICC Chairman in December 2024.

- Prabhtej Singh Bhatia, cricket administrator from Chhattisgarh, was also elected as the **Treasurer** of BCCI, succeeding Ashish Shelar who was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Maharashtra.
- Devajit Saikia and Prabhtej Singh Bhatia were appointed without opposition, and neither office required an election, during the BCCI Special General Meeting (SGM) held in Mumbai (Maharashtra).

About Devajit Saikia:

i. Devajit Saikia, a former first-class cricketer, represented Assam during the 1990-91 season. He played four Ranji Trophy matches, scoring 53 runs.

- After retiring from cricket, he became a practising advocate at the Guwahati High Court (HC).

ii. He has significant experience in cricket administration, having served as the Joint Secretary of BCCI and the Secretary of the Assam Cricket Association (**ACA**).

iii. He also served as the Vice-President of the ACA from 2016 to 2019, and as Secretary from 2019-2022.

iv. Currently, he has been serving as the acting interim secretary of the BCCI.

About Prabhtej Singh Bhatia:

i. Prabhtej Singh Bhatia is a young entrepreneur from Chhattisgarh in the liquor industry, is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Simba Beer.

ii. He has served as Apex Council member in BCCI's 2019-2022 tenure. He also served as a councillor for three years.

iii. Bhatia brings his expertise in finance and management to the role of BCCI Treasurer.

PUMA India appoints PV Sindhu as brand ambassador

Global sportswear brand **PUMA India** has officially partnered with two-time Olympic medalist Pusarla Venkata (**PV**) **Sindhu** in a multi-year collaboration as **brand ambassador**. The collaboration is aimed at utilizing the sport's popularity in India.

- This marks official entry of PUMA India into the badminton sector with PV Sindhu being the **first** badminton player to promote the German sportswear giant.
 - i. She is now a part of PUMA's exclusive list of athletes and icons, including cricketers Harmanpreet Kaur and Mohammed Shami, Olympian Sarabjot Singh, Paralympian Avani Lekhara, and international legends like Usain Bolt and Neymar Junior.
 - ii. PV Sindhu is the first Indian to win **five** badminton world championship medals and is victorious across the Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.
- She has been awarded with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna(2016), the Padma Shri(2015), the Padma Bhushan(2020), and the Arjuna Award(2013) for her contributions in the field of sport.

GoI Reconstituted AEC with Ajith Kumar Mohanty as Chairman

The Government of India (GoI) has **reconstituted** the high-powered Atomic Energy Commission (**AEC**) to include new members Cabinet Secretary **T.V. Somanathan** and Expenditure Secretary **Manoj Govil** as ex-officio member of AEC.

- The newly reconstituted AEC also included **Pankaj Mishra**, who took over charge of member (Finance) for AEC in 2024

Members of the Reconstituted AEC:

i. The GoI has decided to retain **Ajith Kumar Mohanty**, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) as the **chairman** of the reconstituted AEC.

ii. AEC has Ajit Kumar Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA) of India; Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister (PM); Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary; and Vivek Bhasin, Director, Trombay, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) as ex-officio members.

iii. **Other members include:** Dr. M.R. Srinivasan, former chairman of AEC; Professor P. Rama Rao, former secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DoS&T), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T); Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Rajiv Gandhi Science & Technology and former chairman of AEC; Dr. Ravi B. Grover, former Principal Advisor of DAE; Dr. K. Kasturirangan, former chairman of Space Commission.

Note: The appointment of other members of AEC is made for each Calendar Year (CY) on the recommendation of the Chairman, AEC and after approval by the PM of India.

About Atomic Energy Commission (AEC):

It was initially established in August 1948 as part of the Department of Scientific Research. The DAE was constituted on 3rd August, 1954 under the direct charge of PM through Presidential Order. Later, GoI introduced a resolution dated March 01, 1958 and established AEC under the administrative control of DAE.

- AEC is mainly responsible for formulating policies related to atomic energy and ensure their implementation through DAE.

Chairman- Ajith Kumar Mohanty

Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra

Gyanendra Pratap Singh Appointed as DG of CRPF

Gyanendra Pratap Singh was appointed Director General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), India's largest paramilitary force, with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He will serve as the CRPF chief until further orders or until his superannuation on November 30, 2027.

- He will take charge from Special DG of the CRPF **Vitul Kumar** who has been holding officiating charge of the force after the retirement of **Anish Dayal Singh** on December 31, 2024.

i. Senior IPS officer **Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal** has also been named as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Border Security Force (BSF).

ii. **Shamsher Singh**, the current DG of the Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), has been appointed as the **ADG of the BSF** for a tenure upto the 31st of March 2026.

About Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):

Director General (DG) – Gyanendra Pratap Singh

Headquarters – New Delhi(Delhi)

Established – 1939

Donald Trump Sworn in as 47th President of the USA, JD Vance Takes Office as Vice President

Donald John Trump took the oath of office as the 47th President of the United States of America (USA) at Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., USA. This marked the beginning of his **second term** in office. He **succeeded Joe Biden** after securing victory in the November 2024 election.

- **James David (JD) Vance** sworn in as the **50th Vice President** of the United States, succeeding Kamala Harris.

About Donald Trump:

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, in New York City, USA. In 2016, Trump won the presidential election in the United States and went on to serve as the 45th President from 2017 to 2021.

Policy Agenda for Second Term:

i. Key actions during President Trump's second term include **issuing** nearly 1,600 **pardons** for those involved in the 2021 USA Capitol riots, **withdrawing** the USA from the **Paris Climate Agreement** and the World Health Organization (WHO), and ending birthright citizenship for children of undocumented immigrants and temporary visa holders.

ii. Additionally, he proposed a **100% tariff on goods** from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries, which could significantly impact India, and a 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico starting February 1.

iii. He also **declared a national emergency** at the southern border with Mexico and reversed 78 executive orders issued by former President Joe Biden.

iv. He imposed **travel bans on certain countries** and repealed several executive orders that supported diversity initiatives and aimed to promote **equality for** the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community.

Appointments of New Chief Justices for Delhi and Bombay High Courts

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya was sworn in as the 33rd Chief Justice (CJ) of the Delhi **High Court** (HC), situated in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The **oath** of office was **administered** by Lieutenant (Lt.) Governor **Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena** at a ceremony held at Raj Niwas, New Delhi attended by Chief Minister (CM) of Delhi, **Atishi Marlana Singh** and senior judicial officials.
 - He **succeeds Justice Vibhu Bakhru**, who served as the Acting Chief Justice prior to his appointment..
- i.** Before his appointment as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya **served** as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- ii.** His appointment brought the court's strength to **38 judges**.

Justice Alok Aradhe was sworn in as the CJ of the Bombay High Court

On the same day, Justice Alok Aradhe was sworn in as the **48th** Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- Justice Aradhe **succeeded** Justice **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya**.
 - The Governor of Maharashtra, **CP Radhakrishnan**, administered the oath of office during the same ceremony held at Raj Bhavan..
- Note:** Both appointments were made following the order of the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, based on the recommendation of the Supreme Court (SC) Collegium.

Alexander Lukashenko Wins 7th Consecutive Term as President of Belarus

In January 2025, Alexander Lukashenko was re-elected as president of Belarus for the **7th** consecutive five-year term. He received 86.8% of the vote in the presidential election.

- The Republic of Belarus was formed in 1991 shortly after declaring itself independent of the Soviet Union. In 1994, Alexander Lukashenko was elected as the first president of Belarus. As of January 2025, he is the **only person** to have served as President of Belarus.
- Belarus, officially called the Republic of Belarus, is a landlocked (without coastal line) country in Eastern Europe. It shares borders with Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia.
- The capital of Belarus is Minsk and its currency is the Belarusian Ruble (BYN). **Roman Alexandrovich Golovchenko** is the Prime Minister (PM) of Belarus.

Belarusian Parliament :-

The Belarusian Parliament is also known as the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus with the total capacity of 174 member, it consists of two chambers:

- The Council of the Republic – the upper house consists of 110 members.
- The House of Representatives – the lower house consists of 64 members.

Honours/ Awards

MYAS announced the National Sports Awards 2024

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) announced the recipients of the **National Sports Awards 2024** which will be conferred on **47** sportspersons, coaches, entities and universities under **6 categories** on 17th January 2025 by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Delhi).

- The awards were recommended by the selection committee headed by Justice (Retd.) **V Ramasubramanian** of the Supreme Court (SC) along with eminent sports persons, sports journalists and sports administrators.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024:

| Name of the Sportsperson | Discipline |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Gukesh D | Chess |
| Harmanpreet Singh | Hockey |
| Praveen Kumar | Para-Athletics |
| Manu Bhaker | Shooting |

About the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS):

Union Minister- Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Constituency- Porbandar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS)– Raksha Nikhil Khadse (Constituency-Raver, Maharashtra)

Overview of 82nd Golden Globes Awards 2025: Jacques Audiard's 'Emilia Perez' bagged 4 awards

The **82nd edition** of Golden Globes Award 2025 was held on **5th January, 2025** at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, United States of America (USA). The Golden Globes Awards are held annually and are presented by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (**HFPA**).

- The 2025 award recognizes excellence in film both American and International and American Television (TV) 2024.
- American comedian and actress **Nikki Glaser** made history at the 2025 award ceremony as the **1st woman** to solo-host the event.

Nominations of 82nd Golden Globes Award:

- i. The nominations of the 82nd Golden Globes Awards under **27 categories** were announced by American comedian & actress, **Mindy Kaling** and American actor, **Morris Chestnut**.
- ii. The event marked the **1st time**, the organization hosted a special ceremony for the recipients of its 2 historic honours of Golden Globes 2025: **‘the Cecil B DeMille Award’** & **‘the Carol Burnett Award’** .
- iii. American actor & 3-time Golden Globes winner **Ted Danson** received the 1st ever **‘Carol Burnett Award 2025’** for his role in Netflix’s ‘A Man on the Inside’.
- iv. American actress & film producer **Viola Davis** was presented with the ‘Cecil B. DeMille Award 2025’ for her powerful performances in ‘Fences’ & ‘The Woman King.’
- v. The film ‘All We Imagine As Light’ directed by Indian filmmaker **Payal Kapadia** featured in double nominations for the categories: Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language) and the Best Director (Motion Picture).

Highlights:

i. **Emilia Perez** (French musical crime comedy) led with 10 nominations, including Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy), Best Director (Jacques Audiard) & Best Actress (Karla Sofia Gascon).

- The film won **4 awards**, including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actress (Zoe Saldana), Best Non-English Feature, and Best Original Song.

ii. **The Brutalist** (A24 film) followed closely with 7 nominations & won **3 awards** including Best Actor (Adrien Brody), Best Director (Brady Corbet) and Best Movie (Drama).

iii. **Shogun** swept all **4 of its categories**, winning Best Series, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor & Best Supporting Actress.

Mumbai’s CSMIA becomes India’s 1st Airport to Receive Level 5 Accreditation from ACI

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) which is operated by Adani Airports Holding Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Group, has become **India’s 1st** and **world’s 3rd airport** to receive the prestigious **Level 5 Accreditation** which is the highest distinction awarded from the Airports Council International (ACI) for exemplary customer experience standards.

- This recognition consolidates CSMIA position as leader in passenger service and operational excellence.

About ACI Level 5 Accreditation:

i. It is the **highest** recognition in the Airport Customer Experience Accreditation Programme.

ii. The accreditation is awarded based on rigorous evolution criteria, including customer feedback, service quality, and airport operations. Thus, creating a 360-degree framework for customer service excellence.

Key Initiatives of CSMIA:

i. CSMIA has established new standards of excellence through its various innovative initiatives in infrastructure, technology, and services like:

- Avio application (app) which was launched in September 2024 by AAHL. It is designed to provide access to real-time data to passengers in seven airports in India including CSMIA.

About Airports Council International (ACI):

It is the association of the world's airports, representing the collective interests of airports worldwide to promote excellence in the aviation industry.

Director General (DG)- Justin Erbacci

Headquarters- Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Established- 1991

Kerala's Kappad and Chal Beaches Earn 'Blue Flag' Certification

Kerala's renowned **Kappad beach** in Kozhikode and **Chal beach** in Kannur respectively received the coveted '**Blue Flag certification**' from the Denmark based non-profit organization 'Foundation for Environmental Education' (FEE).

- This certification is awarded to beaches and marinas that meet **33 criteria**, focusing on environmental education, water quality, safety, services, and waste management.

Key Points:

i. **Kappad Beach** has earned the Blue Flag certification for the **4th consecutive** year. The beach underwent upgrades in 2020, including the installation of **solar-powered lights**, **bio-toilets**, and **disabled-friendly pathways**, to meet the stringent criteria required for certification.

ii. **Chal Beach** also secured the Blue Flag certification, contributing to Kerala's rising profile as a sustainable tourism destination.

Note: The historical significance of Kappad was the site where **Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama** 1st landed in 1498.

About Blue Flag certification:

i. The Blue Flag certification is an eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators that meet stringent environmental and safety standards globally as a mark of excellence.

- The 'Blue Flag' programme was started in 1987, initially in Europe and the certification is awarded annually.
- In 2024, over **5,000 beaches**, marinas, and tourist boats across 51 countries have received a Blue Flag.
- India is now the **4th country** in Asia after South Korea, Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 'blue flag beaches'.

ii. As of November 2024, India has **12 Blue Flag** beaches. The beaches are: Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Daman & Diu), Kasarkod (Karnataka), Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh (AP)), Golden beach (Odisha), Radhanagar (Andaman and Nicobar (A&N)), Kovalam (Tamil Nadu (TN)), Eden (Puducherry), Tarkarli (Maharashtra) and Bangaram (Lakshadweep).

About Kerala:

Chief Minister (CM)- Pinarayi Vijayan

Governor– Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Stadium- Lal Bahadur Shastri stadium, VKN Menon Indoor Stadium

Forbes 2025 Billionaires list: Elon Musk Emerges as the Richest Individual in 2025

According to the **World's Billionaires List 2025** released by **Forbes**, **Elon Musk** secured the top spot with a net worth of **USD 433.9 billion** largely driven by SpaceX's valuation of USD 350 billion.

- Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has secured the 2nd position with USD 239.4 billion while Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg bagged the 3rd spot by surpassing Oracle founder Larry Ellison net worth of USD 211.8 billion.

i. Elon Musk has become the **first** individual in history to cross a net worth of USD 400 billion, mainly due to SpaceX's valuation of **USD 350 billion**.

ii. According to Forbes' World's Billionaires List 2025, the **United States of America (USA)** is on the top with a record **813** billionaires, followed by **China** with **473** and **India** on the 3rd spot with **200** billionaires.

Padma Awards 2025: President approves 139 Padma Awards; List includes 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced the Padma Awards for 2025. The official list released comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.

Eminent Personalities honoured with the Padma Vibhushan:

i. Justice (Retd.) **Jagdish Singh Khehar**, former Chief Justice of India (CJI), **Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy**, founder and chairman of (Hyderabad)Telangana-based AIG Hospitals. Former President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Japan based Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), **Osamu Suzuki** conferred the Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 'trade and industry' category

ii. Other distinguished personalities bestowed with Padma Vibhushan: famous Kathak dancer, Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia from Gujarat; Renowned Malayalam writer and Jnanpith winner **MT Vasudevaan Nair** (Posthumous), from Kerala and **Sharda Sinha** (Posthumous), famous folk singer from Bihar.

Eminent Personalities honoured with Padma Bhushan:

i. Renowned economist **Bibek Debroy** who served as Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) and **Sushil Kumar Modi**, former Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) of Bihar; and **Manohar Joshi**, former CM of Maharashtra (from 1995-1999), were posthumously honoured with award.

ii. Distinguished recipients of Padma Bhushan award include: famous Tamil Actor S. Ajith Kumar, Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous), renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, among others.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA):

Union Minister- Amit Shah (Constituency- Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS)- Nityanand Rai(Constituency- Ujiarpur, Bihar); Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Constituency- Karimnagar, Telangana)

Indian short film 'Anuja' nominated for 97th Academy Awards 2025

The Indian short film 'Anuja', received a nomination in the 'Best Live Action Short Film' category for the 97th Academy Awards 2025.

- The film is backed by Indian actress Priyanka Chopra and producer Guneet Monga as executive producer, with Hollywood star-writer Mindy Kaling as producer.
- This marks Guneet Monga's **third** Oscar nomination, after '*The Elephant Whisperers*' and '*Period: End of Sentence*', both of which won Academy Awards.

i.Written and directed by Adam J. Graves, *Anuja* is about a young girl working in a Delhi garment factory who must make a life-changing choice for her family's future.

ii.This nomination puts *Anuja* among five finalists chosen from an initial pool of 180 qualifying films. It will compete against *A Lien*, *I'm Not a Robot*, *The Last Ranger*, and *The Man Who Would Not Remain Silent*.

iii.The film also won the top honor at the **HollyShorts Film Festival** in 2024.

Note: The 97th Academy Awards 2025, hosted by Conan O'Brien, will take place at Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, United States of America (USA) on March 2, 2025.

Three Indian Women Make It to Forbes 50 Over 50 Global List 2025, with Quarraisha Abdool Karim Ranking First

Forbes, an American global media company has unveiled its first Forbes "50 Over 50" Women Global list 2025 celebrating the achievements of inspiring women from 32 countries and territories across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South and Central America.

- **Quarraisha Abdool Karim**, expert in infectious diseases epidemiology and one of the top researchers on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), is **ranked first**, while **Rafaela Aponte-Diamant** is the co-owner of the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) based in Geneva, Switzerland, **ranked 2nd**.
- The list features three remarkable Indian women: **Urmila Asher**, popularly known as 'Gujju Ben' and the founder of Gujju Ben Na Nasta, ranked 3rd; **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, a billionaire and founder of Biocon India Private Limited limited, ranked 32nd; and **Sheela Patel**, a renowned activist, ranked 37th.

About Forbes:

Chief Operating Officer (CEO)– Sherry Phillips

Headquarters– New Jersey, the United States of America (USA)

Established– 1917

Winners of the 76th Republic Day Parade 2025: Awards and Recognitions

Winners were announced in different categories for the participants of the 76th Republic Day Parade in 2025, with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) winning the **Best Tableau award** in the Ministries/Departments category. The award was given for **their vibrant display** celebrating the "JanjatiyaGauravVarsh" and the 150th birth anniversary of BhagwanBirsaMunda.



- The awards were decided through **two methods**: one by a panel of judges and the other through an online public vote held on the MyGov platform.
- This year, 31 tableaux from 16 states and Union Territories (UTs) and 10 ministries and departments of the Central Government (CG) participated in R-day Parade 2025 at Karvyapath, New Delhi, Delhi.

Highlights:

i. The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Rifles Contingent was awarded the Best Marching Contingent among Services Category by the panel of judges.

ii. Uttar Pradesh (UP) won the **first prize** in the **Best Tableaux category** by the panel of judges for its depiction of Mahakumbh 2025 and Swarnim Bharat: VirasataurVikas. **Guinness World Record for Largest Indian Folk Dance Performance at Republic Day 2025**

The Guinness World Records **recognized the cultural performance titled Jayati Jai MamahBharatam** for setting the record for “**The Largest Indian Folk Variety Dance.**” The performance was curated by the Ministry of Culture, along with SangeetNatakAkademi.

ICC Awards 2024: India’s Bumrah, Smriti ,and Arshdeep Singh Win ICC Men’s Cricketer , Women’s ODI, and Men’s T20I Cricketer of the Year Awards

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Awards 2024, with **3 Indian cricketers** making their mark on the honours list. The ICC Awards 2024 event took place over five days, from January 24 to 28, 2025, highlighting exceptional performances across various categories.

i. India’s **Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah** claimed the top honor ‘Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy’ for Men’s Cricketer of the Year 2024 and the ICC Men’s Test Cricketer of the Year 2024 respectively.

ii. **Smriti Mandhana(India)** was named the Women’s One Day International (ODI) Cricketer of the Year 2024.

iii. **Arshdeep Singh Aulakh(India)** bagged ICC Men’s Twenty20 International (T20I) Cricketer of the Year 2024.

iv. **Amelia Kerr Charlotte(New Zealand)** claimed the top honor “**Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy**” ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year 2024 for her outstanding performances throughout 2024.

v. **Richard Keith Illingworth(England)** received David Shepherd Trophy’ for ICC Umpire of the Year 2024.

About International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards:

The ICC Awards recognize the top cricket performers of the year across all formats. There are 13 different categories in which these prestigious honors are awarded.

Chairman- Jay Shah

Headquarters – Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Founded: 1909 (for the ICC); ICC Awards introduced in 2004.

Sports

Haryana Steelers won the first ever 'PKL Title' with 32-23 Over Patna Pirates

Haryana Steelers (professional kabaddi team based in Haryana) triumphed over **Patna Pirates** (professional kabaddi team based in Bihar) with a **32-23** victory in the final of **Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 11** held at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune, Maharashtra.



- This win marked the first-ever PKL title for the Haryana Steelers.
- The Haryana Steelers were awarded a prize of **Rs 3 crore** for winning the title, while the Patna Pirates received Rs 1.8 crore as runners-up.

i. The team is led by Jaideep Dahiya & Rahul Sethpal and was coached by Manpreet Singh. It is owned by JSW (Jindal South West) Sports, of the JSW Group.

ii. The Iranian player of Haryana Steelers, Mohammadreza Shadlou was awarded the “Most Valuable Player of Season 11” & “Best Defender of Season 11” and the coach of Haryana Steelers Manpreet Singh was named as the “Super Coach of Season 11”.

Denmark's Anders Antonsen won the Inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open 2024

Denmark badminton player **Anders Antonsen** (World no. 2) claimed the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open 2024 title after defeating China's **Hu Zhe'an** in a 2-1 victory (21-18, 11-21, 18-21) in the final match held in Shenzhen, the People's Republic of China.



- Anders Antonsen won the monetary prize of 1.1 million Renminbi (RMB) and the Hu Zhe'an, 1s the runner-up of the tournament received 5,00,000 RMB.
- While, India's ace badminton player ranked at world no. 12, **Lakshya Sen** secured 3rd position at the tournament by defeating Alex Lanier (France), and received the monetary prize of around 36 lakhs.

King Cup International Badminton Open 2024:

i. It is a unique badminton tournament started by two-time Olympic champion Lin Dan (China).

ii. It featured only men's singles event and witnessed the participation of 8 players.

iii. The tournament is officially registered on the Badminton World Federation (BWF) but is categorised as non-world ranking event, means it does not offer ranking points.

About Anders Antonsen:

i. He is a 3-time world championships medallist: silver (2019 and 2021) and Bronze (2023).

About**Lakshya****Sen:**

i. Lakshya Sen, former World Junior No.1 badminton player, has won a gold medal in 2022 Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham, the United Kingdom (UK) and in 2018 Asia Junior Championships in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ii. He reached in the men's singles semi-finals at Paris 2024 Olympics thus, became the 1st Indian ever to reach the semi-finals at Summer Olympic Games.

West Bengal Wins 78th Santosh Trophy Title in Hyderabad

West Bengal (WB) claimed the 78th Santosh Trophy 2024 title by defeating Kerala in the final at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana. This victory marked WB's record **33rd title** win in the history of the tournament.

i. It is a National Football Championship organised by the All India Football Federation. 31 teams participated in the tournament and played in the Group stage.

ii. Robi Hansda, a skilled striker from WB, was a standout player in the tournament. He was honored with two major individual awards: The **Tulsidas Balaram Player of the Match Award** and the **Peter Thangaraj Player of the Tournament Award**, acknowledging his outstanding performance throughout the competition.

Note: The Santosh Trophy 2023 title was won by **Meghalaya**, who defeated Karnataka in the final to claim the championship.

KKFI Unveils Trophies and Mascots for the 1st ever Kho Kho World Cup 2025

The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies and mascots for the **1st-ever** Kho Kho World Cup scheduled from January 13-19, 2025. This event, supported by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), will be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi).

- The tournament will feature 21 men's and 20 women's teams from 24 countries across 6 continents, showcasing global talent.

i. The mascots, '**Tejas**' and '**Tara**', are dynamic gazelles that represent the spirit of the tournament.

- **Tejas**, symbolising brilliance and energy, and **Tara**, representing guidance and aspiration, were depicted in vibrant blue and orange sporting attire adorned with traditional Indian motifs.

Australia beats India 3-1 to win Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years

Australia beats India 3-1 in 5 match test series to win Border-Gavaskar Trophy after 10 years and final test of the Series was held on **5th January 2025** at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Australia.

- The Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 was scheduled from **22nd November 2024 to 7th January 2025** in Australia.
- This marks the first time Australia had won the series over India in the last **10** years since they won at home in **2014-15**.
- India has won **four** consecutive series (**2016-17, 2018-19, 2020-21 and 2022-23**) including two in Australia.

**Key Highlights:**

i. India won the **1st** match series at Perth by **295 runs** but Australia won the 2nd one in Adelaide, by 10 wickets.

- The 3rd match ended in draw in Brisbane but Australia won the 4th test in Melbourne by 184 runs and then the final test in Sydney.

ii. India off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** had announced his **retirement** from international cricket in which he secured a total of **765 wickets** for India across the formats.

iii. Virat Kohli scored his **7th** test century in the Perth Test surpassing **Sachin Tendulkar's** tally of 6 Test centuries in Australia.

New Zealand Cricketer Martin Guptill Retires from International Cricket

New Zealand cricketer 38-year-old **Martin Guptill** announced his retirement from international cricket. He played 367 games for New Zealand in total and scored 13,463 runs in his 14-year international career.

i. He played 198 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 122 Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is), 47 Tests and scored 23 centuries across the three formats and breaking numerous white-ball batting records.

ii. He became the first New Zealand cricketer to score an ODI double-century achieving an unbeaten 237 in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup 2015 quarter-final against the West Indies at Wellington Stadium, New Zealand.

iii. He is the current captain of the Auckland Aces now will continue to play T20 franchise and domestic cricket matches.

Spanish Super Cup: FC Barcelona defeats Real Madrid to win 15th title

Futbol Club (FC) Barcelona, defeated Real Madrid by 5-2 to win the 41st edition of Spanish Super Cup (also known as Supercopa de España) Clasico final held at the King Abdullah Sports City stadium in **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.

- The tournament was held from **8th** January to **12th** January 2025.

- Barcelona has won the Spanish Cup for the **15th** time after this win which is two more than Real Madrid (13).
- i. The Supercopa de Espana 2025 has a prize money pool of **USD 20.7 million**.

- FC Barcelona and Real Madrid will receive USD 6.2 million while Athletic Bilbao will receive around USD 2.1 million and RCD Mallorca will get USD 880,150.
- ii. In addition to the prize money, the champions of the tournament will be rewarded with USD 2.1 million, and the runners-up with USD 1 million.

Note: FC Barcelona won their first Super Cup in **1983–84** – that has been followed by wins in 1991-92, 1992-93, 1994-95, 1996-97, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2013-14, 2016-17, 2018-19, 2022-23 and now 2024-25.

Kho Kho World Cup 2025: India wins both men's and women's team events

The Indian men's and women's teams won the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 titles in their respective finals of the 1st edition of the **Kho Kho World Cup 2025** held from January 13 to 19, 2025 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in **New Delhi**, Delhi.

- The Indian men's Kho Kho team beat Nepal by 54-36 while the women's team defeated the Nepalese team by 78-40 in the finals.
- The Indian men's team was captained by **Pratik Waikar** while the Women's team was captained by **Priyanka Ingle**.

Key Highlights:

i. India men's team remained unbeaten throughout the Kho Kho tournament.

- The team topped the Group A standings with four wins defeating **Sri Lanka** in the **quarter-finals** and **South Africa** in the **semi-finals**.

ii. The Indian women's Kho Kho team also remained undefeated in the tournament.

- They won their three Group A matches and then defeated **Bangladesh** and **South Africa** in the **quarter-finals** and **semi-finals**, respectively.

About Kho Kho World Cup 2025:

i. The Kho Kho World Cup 2025 tournament was organized by the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) and the International Kho Kho Federation (IKKF).

- This inaugural edition of the competition was backed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), and featured 20 men's and 19 women's teams.

ii. The Indian men's team was in Group A with **Nepal**, **Peru**, **Brazil** and **Bhutan** while the women's team was in Group A with the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, **Malaysia** and **Republic of Korea**.

iii. Teams competed in a round-robin format, with the top performers advancing to the knockout rounds and finals.

Note: The second edition of Kho Kho World Cup will take place in Birmingham, England in 2026-27.

About Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI):

President – Sudhansu Mittal

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1955.

Australian Open 2025: Jannik Sinner & Madison Keys Win Men's and Women's Singles Title

i. Jannik Sinner of Italy won the Men's Singles title while Madison Keys of United States of America (USA) won the Women's Singles title at the **Australian Open (AO) 2025** held at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, **Australia**.



- This was the **113th** edition of the Australian Open, the **57th** in the Open Era, and the first major of 2025 and was held from **12th January to 26th January 2025**.

Prize Money:

The total prize money for the tournament was **USD 96.5 million**.

Key Highlights:

i. India's **Prithvi Sekhar** won the **men's singles** title by defeating France's Olivier Grave at the **Australian Open Deaf Championships 2025** in Melbourne.

- This is his **2nd** consecutive title after winning it in **2024**.
- ii. World No. 1 **Jannik Sinner (Italy)** won his **2nd** consecutive Australian Open title after defeating World No. 2 Alexander Zverev (Germany).

- He won 1st major singles title in **Australian Open** in **2024**.

iii. **Madison Keys (USA)** secured her **first-ever** Grand Slam title after defeating defending champion Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus) in the finals.

iv. **Harri Heliövaara (Finland)** and **Henry Patten (Britain)** have won their **2nd** major title at the Australian Open after defeating Italian pair Simone Bolelli and Andrea Pavanetti in the finals.

v. **Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)** and **Taylor Townsend (USA)** won their **2nd** Grand Slam title as a **team** after defeating Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) and Hsieh Su-wei (Taiwan) to the women's doubles titles on the finals.

vi. Australian pair **Olivia Gadecki** and **John Peers** defeated their compatriots John-Patrick Smith and Kimberly Birrell to win the mixed doubles final.

- This was 1st mixed doubles title for Gadecki's while it was 2nd Peers.

About Australian Open:

i. The Australian Open is a tennis tournament organized by **Tennis Australia** annually at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia.

- It is chronologically the **first** of the **4** Grand Slam tennis events every year, held before the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.

ii. It was first held in **1905** and is played on **hard courts**.

Odisha Warriors win 1st ever Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025

Odisha Warriors won the **1st ever** 'Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025' by defeating JSW ((Jindal South West) Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana.

- The 'Odisha Warriors' secured 2-1 in the final tournament held at Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

i. **Rutuja Dadaso Pisal** was the Star player of the show for the 'Odisha Warriors' as she scored both the goals for her side in the 20th and 56th minute.

ii. She gave the 'Odisha Warriors' the lead in the 2nd quarter but Penny Squibb (28') equalised for JSW Soorma Hockey Club.

iii. Other Winners:

- Best Goalkeeper – Savita Punia (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Player of the Tournament – Jyoti Rumavat (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Top Scorers of the Tournament – Yibbi Jansen (Odisha Warriors) and Charlotte Englebert (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)
- Upcoming Player of the Tournament: Sonam (JSW Soorma Hockey Club)

Obituary

Veteran nuclear scientist and Padma Awardee Rajagopala Chidambaram Passed away

Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram, a profound nuclear scientist who played an important role in advancing India's nuclear capabilities, passed away at the age of **88** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on November 11, 1936 in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN)**.

- He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1975 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999 for his contributions in the field of Science & Technology.



About Rajagopala Chidambaram:

i. He was a key contributor to India's **first** nuclear test in **1974** and the **Pokhran-II** tests in **1998**, which established the country as a nuclear power.
ii. He had worked at numerous prestigious positions including Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, GoI (2001–2018), director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) (1990-1993), chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, and secretary to the GoI, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) (1993-2000).

- He also worked as a **chairman** of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (**IAEA**) (1994–1995).

iii. He had conducted researches in areas like **high-pressure physics, crystallography**, and materials science that has contributed to modern materials science research in India.
iv. He also had expertise in areas such as energy, healthcare and strategic self-reliance that helped in development of India's science and technology.

Awards & Honours:

i. C.V. Raman Birth Centenary Award of the Indian Science Congress Association(1995), Lokmanya Tilak Award(1998), Veer Savarkar Award(1999), Dadabhai Naoroji Millennium Award(1999), Homi Bhabha Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Nuclear Society(2006), Lifetime Contribution Award in Engineering from the Indian National Academy of Engineering(2009), C. V. Raman Medal from the Indian National Science Academy(2013).
ii. He has received honorary **doctorates** from several universities and was a fellow of some Indian and international science institutes.

Senior Advocate Iqbal M Chagla passed away

Iqbal M Chagla, senior advocate and one of India's leading lawyer, passed away at the age of 85 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on March 7 1939 in Mumbai.

- He was the son of M C Chagla, the **1st permanent** Chief Justice of India (CJI) of the Bombay High Court (BHC), Mumbai from 1948-58.
 - i.** Iqbal Chagla was a distinguished Indian lawyer, known for his exceptional legal acumen, integrity, and leadership.
 - ii.** He began his career as an advocate at the BHC, under the mentorship of Kharshedji Hormasji Bhabha. He was conferred as the Senior Advocate at the age of 39 in 1979.
 - iii.** He served as the President of the Bombay Bar Association (BBA) for 3 times from 1990 to 1999.
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- He also served as a Member of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of India (BBI), as well as the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA), New Delhi (Delhi).

Important Days with theme

World Braille Day 2025 – January 4

The United Nations (UN's) **World Braille Day** is observed annually on **January 4** across the globe to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**, the 19th-century French inventor of the Braille writing system. This day emphasizes the importance of Braille as a means of communication for individuals who are blind or partially sighted.

- January 4 2025 marks the observance of **7th World Braille Day** and the 216th birth anniversary of Louis Braille.

i. The day aims to raise awareness about Braille's significance in promoting education, encouraging independence, and ensuring equality for the visually impaired.

ii. World Braille Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 17, 2018, through the adoption of resolution **A/RES/73/161**.

- The **1st** World Braille Day was observed on January 4, 2019.



Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 – January 9

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD), also known as Non-Resident Indian (NRI) Day, celebrated once in two years on **9th January** is a significant event that honors the contributions of the Overseas Indian community (Indian diaspora) in the development of India.

Background :

The PBD is observed every year on 9th January since **2003** to commemorate the day in **1915** when **Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi**, popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi, returned to India from South Africa to lead the country's freedom struggle.

- Since 2015, under a revised format, PBD Convention has been organised once **every 2 years** with the theme-based PBD Conferences.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention:

The PBD Convention, the flagship event of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was 1st introduced in 2003 by the Government of India (GoI), led by Late Prime Minister (PM) **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. It aims to honor and connect with the

- The **18th** PBD Convention was held for the 1st time in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from **8th to 10th** January 2025.
- The theme of PBD Convention 2025: "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

World Hindi Day 2025 – January 10

World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Diwas is annually observed across the globe on **10 January** to highlight the significance of the Hindi language and its role in connecting people globally.

- The day is observed to honor Hindi's global significance and to showcase its cultural diversity to the world, as well as to promote Hindi as an international language.
- The **theme** of this year is “A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride,” which aims to promote linguistic and global interchange through the use of Hindi.

Note: Hindi Diwas, also known as Hindi Day, is annually observed on **September 14** to commemorate the adoption of Hindi written in Devanagari script as one of the 22 official languages of India.

Background:

i.In 1949, Hindi was first spoken at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, the United States of America(USA).

ii.In a meeting of the Follow up Committee on World Hindi Conference held on June 8, 2005, it was decided to commemorate 10th January as World Hindi Day every year.

iii.In 2006, former Prime Minister (PM) Dr. Manmohan Singh presided over the inaugural celebration of Vishwa Hindi Diwas.

- Since then, January 10 has been observed globally as World Hindi Day.

iv.The **first-ever World Hindi Day** was celebrated on **10 January 2006** to mark the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference in Nagpur, Maharashtra on 10 January 1975.

v.The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) commemorates this day around the world by organising a variety of events and activities through Indian embassies and cultural centres.

Significance of Hindi:

i.The term “Hindi” is derived from the Persian language.

ii.Hindi is an Indo-European language and also a descendant of the Sanskrit language.

iii.Hindi is the third most spoken language in the world, with about 4.46% of the world population. It ranks fourth in the world in terms of the number of native speakers, behind English, Spanish, and Chinese.

National Youth Day 2025 – January 12

National Youth Day, also known as ‘Rashtriya Yuva Divas’ in Hindi and ‘Vivekananda Jayanti’, is observed annually across India on **12th January** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, a Hindu spiritual leader, Philosopher, and social reformer in India, who played a crucial role in shaping modern India.

- 12 January 2025 marks the **162nd birth** anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

i.In 1984, the Government of India (GoI) declared the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day to honour his teachings and ideals.

- The **first-ever** National Youth Day was observed on **12 January 1985**.

ii.On January 11 2025, Union Minister **Mansukh L Mandaviya**, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports(MYAS), inaugurated the ‘Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue’ at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi(Delhi).

77th Indian Army Day – 15 January 2025: Commissioning of Three Major Naval Combatants

Indian Army Day is celebrated every year on 15th January across the globe to honour the courage and dedication of the Indian Army (IA) soldiers.

- It is also known as **Bhartiya Sena Diwas**, the day commemorates the appointment of Field Marshal KM Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949.
- On the occasion of Indian Army Day 2025, Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi commissioned three significant naval combatants—Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Surat**, **INS Nilgiri**, and **INS Vaghsheer**—at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Nepali Army Band participated for the first time in the Parade held in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The Indian Army showcased its Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (MULEs), commonly referred to as robotic dogs.



15th January 2025, marks the observance of the **77th Indian Army Day**.

Parakram Diwas 2025 – January 23

Parakram Diwas, also known as the Day of Valour, is observed annually across India on **23 January** to commemorate the birth anniversary of one of the Indian freedom fighters **Subhash Chandra Bose**, popularly called as Netaji.

- 23 January 2025 marks the 128th birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The **1st ever** Parakram Diwas was celebrated on **23 January 2021** on the 124th birth anniversary of Netaji.
 - The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), based in Hyderabad, Telangana has been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2025** in the institutional category for its outstanding contributions to disaster management.

International Day of Education 2025 – January 24

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Education (IDE)** is annually observed across the globe on **24 January** to celebrate the role of education in peace and development.

- 24 January 2025 marks the **7th** observance of the IDE.
- The 2025 theme of IDE is “**AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation**”.

Background:

i. On 3 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/73/25 proclaiming 24 January of every year as International Day of Education.

- The resolution was co-authored by Nigeria and 58 other UN Member States.
- The 1st ever International Day of Education was celebrated on 24 January **2019**.

National Girl Child Day 2025- January 24

National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is annually observed across India on **24th January** to promote awareness about the rights of a girl child and to promote the importance of their education, health, and nutrition. The day addresses issues like child marriage, discrimination and other challenges faced by girls in Indian society.

- **24th January 2025** marks the observance of **18th NGCD**.
- The theme of the **NGCD 2025** is “Empowering the Future of India”.

Background:

- NGCD was established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD).
- The first ever NGCD was observed on **24th January 2008**.

National Voters’ Day 2025 – January 25

National Voters’ Day (NVD) is observed annually across India on **25th January** commemorating the foundation of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in **1950**. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of voting and to encourage active participation in the electoral process and to promote voter registration, especially among the youth.

- 25th January 2025 marks the observance of the **15th** National Voters’ Day and also marks the celebration of **75 years** of service of ECI.
- The theme of NVD 2025 is “Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure”, a continuation of the 2024 theme.

**Background:**

- The 1st-ever NVD was celebrated in 2011 to mark the foundation day of the ECI.
- The NVD was approved during a Cabinet meeting, with Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister (PM) of India in 2011.

2025 Events:

On January 25th, 2025, the ECI hosted a National event in New Delhi (Delhi) with President **Droupadi Murmu** as the Chief Guest and Union Minister, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Ministry of State (MoS), Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J), as the Guest of Honour.

- An ECI publication “Belief in the Ballot: Human stories shaping India’s 2024 elections” was presented to President Droupadi Murmu, during the event.

About Election Commission of India (ECI):

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) – Rajiv Kumar

Election Commissioner (EC)– Gyanesh Kumar ; Sukhbir Singh Sandhu

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1950

National Tourism Day 2025 – January 25

National Tourism Day is observed annually across India on January 25 to highlight the significance of tourism in India's economy. The day emphasizes the importance of preserving cultural heritage and promoting various tourist destinations across India.

- The theme for National Tourism Day 2025 is “**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**”.
- This theme aligns with India's broader tourism vision, **Maha Kumbh Mela**, one of the world's largest religious gatherings, being held from January 13 to February 26, 2024, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

**Background:**

i. On January 25, 1949, the Government of India (GoI) instituted this day as a National Tourism Day, marking the formation of the Ministry of Tourism (MoT).

ii. The Tourist Traffic Committee established in 1948 initiated the celebration of “National Tourism Day” to promote tourism in India.

Shaheed Divas or Martyrs' Day 2025 – January 30

Martyrs' Day, also known as Sarvodaya Day or Shaheed Diwas, is annually observed across India on January 30 to honour those who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

- This day also marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the ‘Father of the Nation’.
- 30th January 2025 marks the 77th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.