

# December Monthly Current Affairs



International  
Affairs

National  
Affairs

Business

Awards

Important  
Days

Sports

Banking

Ranking

Obituary

Sports



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**Current Affairs**

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## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **NATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Theme</b>
December 06	Mahaparinirvan Diwas	
December 07	76th Armed Forces Flag Day	
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	
December 17	Pensioners Day	
December 18	12th National Minority Rights Day/Minorities Day	Promoting Diversity and Protecting Rights
December 20	61st Raising Day of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	
December 23	National Farmer's Day or Kisan Diwas	Empowering 'Annadatas' for a Prosperous Nation
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day/Bharatiya Grahak Diwas/National Consumer Day	"Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice"
December 25	Good Governance Day, also known as 'Sushasan Diwas' in Hindi	India's Path to a Viksit Bharat: Empowering Citizens through Good Governance and Digitalisation
December 28	Foundation day of Indian National Congress (INC)	

**INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
December 01	World AIDS Day	"Take the rights path: My health, my right!"
December 02	United Nations (UN's) International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	
December 03	United Nations (UN's) International Day of Persons with Disabilities	
December 04	United Nations (UN)'s International Day of Banks	
December 05	UN's International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development/International Volunteer Day	
	United Nations (UN's) World Soil Day	Caring for soils: measure, monitor, manage
December 07	United Nations (UN) International Civil Aviation Day	"Safe Skies. Sustainable Future: Together for the next 80 years".
December 09	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime	
	United Nations (UN)'s International Anti- Corruption Day (IACD)	"Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity".

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
December 10	United Nations (UN)'s Human Rights Day/International or World Human Rights Day	"Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now".
December 11	United Nations (UN)'s International Mountain Day	Mountain solutions for a sustainable future-innovation, adaptation, and youth
	77th United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Day	"Listen to the Future".
December 16	53rd Vijay Diwas/Victory Day (Bijoy Dibos) is annually observed across India and Bangladesh	
December 18	24th United Nations (UN)'s International Migrants Day	"Honouring the Contributions of Migrants and Respecting Their Rights".
December 20	United Nations (UN)'s International Human Solidarity Day	
December 21	United Nations (UN) observed the 1st-ever World Meditation Day	
December 27	United Nations (UN)'s 5th International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	

## **SPORTS**

### **Cricket**

- Asian Cricket Council (ACC) U-19 Men's Asia Cup 2024 - Bangladesh defeated India by 59 runs in the 11th Asian Cricket Council U19 Men's Asia Cup Final in Dubai.
- ICC Players of the Month for November 2024 - ICC Men's Player of the Month: Haris Rauf (Pakistan). ICC Women's Player of the Month: Danni Wyatt-Hodge (England).
- Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi has made history by becoming the youngest bowler to take 100 wickets in all three formats of the game
- Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim announced his retirement from international cricket
- Jasprit Bumrah became India's highest wicket-taker in Test cricket in Australia, surpassing Kapil Dev's tally of 51 wickets
- Ravichandran Ashwin, India's premier off-spinner announced his retirement from International cricket ending a remarkable 14 year career
- Nat Sciver-Brunt set a record for the fastest Test century by a woman, while Maia Bouchier marked her Test debut with a century
- India's wicket keeper-batter Richa Ghosh etched her name in history by smashing the joint-fastest fifty in women's T20Is
- Anmolpreet Singh scoring the 3rd-fastest List A century in just 35 balls
- The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 schedule has been announced - To mark the 9th edition of this prestigious cricket tournament, featuring the top eight ranked One Day International (ODI) teams.
- Sachin Tendulkar accepts a prestigious Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC)'s membership

### **Football**

- India's Pavan Kampelli has secured a bronze medal in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games held in Bangkok
- FIFA has officially announced the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 Men's Football World Cups -Spain, Portugal, and Morocco will jointly host the 2030 tournament, with additional matches in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay to commemorate the centenary of the competition.

### **Hockey**

- Men's Junior Asia Cup 2024 - The Indian hockey team defeated Pakistan by 5-3 in the final to win the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 held in Muscat, Oman.
- India's National Broadcaster, Doordarshan announced as official broadcast partner for Hockey India League 2024-25

- The 8th edition of the Women's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 -Indian women's hockey team defeats China 3-2 in penalty shootout in the final of the Women's Junior Asia Cup.

### Shooting

- India has been selected to host the 2025 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun events

### Chess

- 9-year-old Aarit Kapil becomes youngest Indian to beat a chess Grandmaster
- Koneru Humpy won her 2nd women's title at the World Rapid and Blitz Championship held in New York

### Grandprix

#### Formula 1 (F1) Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Lando Norris (McLaren) (25 points)	United Kingdom
2	Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) (18 points)	Spain
3	Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) (15 points)	Monaco

### Events

- The 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship 2024 -Japan clinched their second-ever championship title by defeating South Korea in the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship.
- The 17th edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2024-Mumbai defeated Madhya Pradesh by 5 wickets to win the 17th edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2024 held at the Mangalam Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- Delhi will host the Para Athletics World Championships in 2025-The event is set to be held between September 26 and October 5 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which will also host the World Para Athletics Grand Prix from March 11-13.
- Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh won Western India Slam 2024 squash; clinches 9th PSA Challenger title of the year-Anahat Singh won the Western India Slam 2024 Women's Singles crown at the Cricket Club of India courts in Mumbai.
- Senior National Men's Handball Championship-Kerala won their first-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship title by defeating Chandigarh 34-31 in the final.



### Others

- Kaamya Karthikeyan has made history by becoming the youngest female in the world to conquer the Seven Summits

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- RBI's 5th Bi-Monthly of the FY25 for December 2024

Category	Percentage
Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

- The RBI has reduced the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks by 50 basis points in two equal tranches of 25 bps each to 4.0% of their deposits
- The RBI has increased the transaction limit for offline digital payments via UPI Lite- The per-transaction UPI Lite ceiling has been raised from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000, while the total wallet capacity for UPI Lite has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000.
- RBI to constitute a committee to develop ethical AI framework for financial services
- The RBI has permitted small finance banks to offer pre-sanctioned credit lines via the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)
- RBI will introduce podcasts to its communication toolkit, as announced by Governor Shaktikanta Das-For wider distribution of information that is of interest to the public.
- RBI leads Global Gold purchases with Record Reserves Surge
- RBI Increases Collateral-Free Agricultural Loan Limit from ₹1.6 to ₹2 Lakh-To support the agricultural sector and address rising input costs, the RBI has announced an increase in the limit for collateral-free agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.47.30 lakh on IndusInd Bank and Manappuram Finance Limited



- RBI has constituted an 8 member committee to develop a framework for responsible and ethical enablement of artificial intelligence (FREE-AI) in the financial sector
- RBI allows Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPIs) holders to have UPI transactions through mobile app of third-party UPI apps
- India's current account deficit (CAD) for Q2 FY 2024-25 moderated to \$11.2 billion (1.2% of GDP) from \$11.3 billion (1.3% of GDP) a year ago
- RBI has asked banks, which are direct members/sub-members of the RTGS and NEFT System, to offer the beneficiary bank account name look-up facility by April 1, 2025

### Public Sector Banks

#### State Bank of India (SBI)

- SBI Mutual Fund launched Quant fund based on four factors-SBI Mutual Fund launched one of its kind active Quant fund based on 4 factors including momentum, value, quality and growth.

#### Canara Bank

- RBI approves Canara Bank's stake divestment in asset management and insurance units
- .Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) + Canara Bank-To promote the adoption of rooftop solar systems under the PM Surya Ghar Scheme.

#### Bank of Baroda

- Bank of Baroda (BoB) unveiled two new loans schemes targeting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)
- BOBCARD, a wholly owned subsidiary of BoB launched the unique women-centric 'TIARA credit card'-It is designed to support, empower, and celebrate the financial independence of women.

### Private Sector Banks

#### ICICI Bank

- ICICI Bank + Times Internet + Visa -To introduce a 'Times Black ICICI Bank Credit Card', a new offering aimed at high-net-worth individuals.

#### Karnataka Bank

- Karnataka Bank launched 'Retail Assets Centre' (RAC) in Bengaluru

### Insurance News

- Max Life Insurance has rebranded as Axis Max Life Insurance following regulatory approval

### Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- Government of India (GoI) and the ADB signed a significant USD 50 million loan agreement-To enhance water security and climate resilience in Meghalaya, as aligned with the Meghalaya State Water Policy (MSWP) 2019 will integrate climate adaptation strategies into water resource management.
- ADB approved a USD 350 million Policy Based Loan (PBL) to aid India in strengthening and modernizing the country's logistics sector
- ADB lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth projection for FY25 by 50 basis points to 6.5% from its previous estimate of 7%
- ADB approved a \$500 million loan to support India's economic growth by promoting environmentally sustainable infrastructure
- ADB provide \$500 million for rooftop solar systems that will help the Indian government expand energy access using renewable energy
- Government of India (GoI) + Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a USD 350 million policy-based loan agreement-This agreement was signed under the second sub programme of Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) programme to improve and modernize India's logistics sector.

### World Bank

- World Bank has approved a USD 188.28 million loan to Maharashtra-To boost its economy, particularly in underdeveloped districts of the state.

### Others

- Deutsche Bank AG, India announced that it has provided a loan of 91 million euros (Rs.813 crore) to SMFG India Credit Company Ltd (SMICC)-The loan is compliant with Deutsche Bank's Sustainable Finance framework criteria.
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry + Flipkart signed a MoU - enhance the growth of tech startups across India with access to critical industry reports, government research and fast tracked patent applications, enabling them to seize timely opportunities.
- Public sector banks record net profit of ₹85,520 crore in first half FY 2024-25, a robust 26% growth compared to ₹67,850 crore during the last FY 2023-24
- The government has decided to infuse Rs.500 crore capital in Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)-To strengthen its financial health ahead of the company's restructuring.
- GST Council Implements "Track and Trace Mechanism"
- Public sector banks reported a 25% rise in net profit in H1 2024-25, aided by improved asset quality, reduced NPAs (3.12% in Sep 2024)

- DBS Bank India has launched the 'DBS Study Abroad Total Assist' program-For non-resident Indians (NRIs) and high net-worth individuals (HNIs) to help them navigate the challenges of overseas education. This programme is tailored to support DBS Treasures customers.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **IIT News**

- IIT Ropar hosted the Sheet Metal Forming (SMF) 2024 conference
- IIT Ropar's iHub AWaDH unveiled Cost-Effective Bluetooth Low Energy Gateway with Advanced Data Security
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has successfully completed a 410-meter-long Hyperloop test track

### **Space News**

- The US Army's Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office + the US Navy Strategic Systems Programs conducted the highly anticipated test
- Two space startups, namd India's InspeCity and Japan's Orbital Lasers, are partnering to explore using lasers on satellites to clear space debris
- China has introduced the CR450, the world's fastest high-speed train prototype

### **India in Science & Technology**

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission
- India's Aditya L1 and European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 will collaborate on advanced solar observations in 2025
- India is set to establish its own space station, the Bharat Antariksha Station, by 2035 and land an astronaut on the Moon by 2040
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF)-To set up India's first diabetes biobank, a repository of population-based biological samples aimed at supporting scientific research.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) + European Space Agency (ESA) signed an agreement-To collaborate on activities related to astronaut training, mission implementation, and research experiments in space.
- ISRO launched the SpaDeX mission using the PSLV-C60 rocket-Launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh, the PSLV-C60 rocket carried two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), to low-Earth orbit.
- India is set to join quantum satellite race for a hack-proof communication network

- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) + National Quantum Mission (NQM)-Initiated India's first Undergraduate Minor Program in Quantum Technologies.

### **Environment & Energy**

- Coal India arm Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has rolled out 'CHARAK' "Community Health: A Responsive Action for Koylanchal"

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **China**

- China approved world's largest, one trillion yuan (\$137-billion) dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet close to the Indian border

### **Israel**

- The Israeli cabinet gave unanimous approval to PM Benjamin's NIS 40 million (\$11 million) plan to double the population in the Golan Heights-Strengthening the Golan Heights is strengthening the State of Israel.

### **Kuwait**

- India and Kuwait signed a MoU to establish Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)- The MoU was signed by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya at the level of foreign ministers.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official 2-day visit to Kuwait

### **Russia**

- India signed a significant USD 4 billion defence agreement with Russia to acquire an advanced long-range early warning radar system
- Russia plans visa-free entry for Indians from 2025, joining 62 countries
- Russia has declared a federal-level emergency after oil pollution along Black Sea coast

### **Saudi Arabia**

- India, Saudi Arabia exploring joint ventures in defence sector

### **Switzerland**

- Switzerland suspends Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Clause in Tax Treaty with India over Nestle ruling



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### United Kingdom (UK)

- The UK has officially become the 1st European country to join the CPTPP, an important trade bloc in the Indo-Pacific region
- After Australia, two UK universities plan international campuses in Gujarat's GIFT City

### Summit/Event

- Rubbercon 2024 will take place in Kochi
- The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated in Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024) organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)
- The 10th International Forest Fair, held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- The 24th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) hosted by Thailand virtually
- World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025-Several Union Ministers, CMs to join world leaders in Davos for WEF meet.
- India will host the inaugural World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from February 5-9, 2024

### Exercise

- The inaugural edition of Exercise CINBAX commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra
- The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise 'Harimau Shakti' held at Bentong Camp in Pahang district, Malaysia
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) + France Air and Space Force (FASF) + United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAEAF)-Jointly conducted a trilateral air combat exercise 'Desert Knight 2024' over the Arabian Sea to enhance their defence cooperation, synergy and interoperability among the air forces of the three countries.
- The 11th Edition of annual bilateral maritime Exercise Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX-24) held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

### Others

- UNGA declares December 21 as World Meditation Day
- India assumed the Chairmanship for the first time of 68th session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)
- OpenAI has finally launched Sora Turbo
- Moldova has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing the ISA Framework Agreement

## **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **President Draupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar News**

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Inaugurates Geological Survey of India (GSI) Geoscience Museum in Gwalior

### **Prime Minister; Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister : Shri Narendra Modi (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh)**

- PM Modi inaugurated the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana', an initiative of LIC in Panipat, Haryana
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 45th PRAGATI meeting

### **Ministry News**

#### **Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh)**

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for 05 capital acquisition proposals amounting to over Rs.21,772 crore
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh will pay an official visit to the Russian Federation
- Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth Rs.7,628.70 crore with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)-To supply 100 additional K9 VAJRA-T self-propelled tracked artillery guns, each with a 155 millimetre (mm)/52 calibre for the Indian Army.
- Defence secretary launched Rashtraparv website, mobile app on the occasion of 'Good Governance Day'
- Association of NPS Intermediaries (ANI) launched to strengthen pension planning in India
- India reached a major milestone in its defence sector, with defence exports soaring to Rs.21,083 crore (USD 2.63 billion) In the fiscal FY 2023-24
- Indian Army achieves 88% atmanirbharta in ammunition

#### **Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Cooperation:**

#### **Shri Amit Shah (Gandhinagar, Gujarat)**

- Amit Shah unveils 11-ft tall statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- Amit Shah chaired a review meeting of Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) in New Delhi

#### **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways:**

#### **Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari (Nagpur, Maharashtra)**

- Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur





**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers:**

**Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda (Rajya Sabha- Gujarat)**

- Prakash launched the intensified 100-day Tuberculosis (TB) elimination campaign to accelerate the fight against TB in Panchkula, Haryana

**Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs:**

**Smt Nirmala Sitharaman (Rajya Sabha- Karnataka)**

- The Indian government has raised ₹8,625 crore through minority stake sale disinvestments in the 2024-25 financial year,

**Ministry of External Affairs: Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar (Rajya Sabha- Gujarat)**

- A MoU was renewed for 5-years between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts-For the continued accessibility of passport services through the Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs).

**Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development: Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh)**

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan participated in the Saras Food Festival organised at Connaught Place, New Delhi

**Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of Power: Shri Manohar Lal Khattar (Karnal, Haryana)**

- MoHUA has launched a new scheme, an extension of the Smart Cities Mission, with an allocation of Rs.8,000 crore to develop 8 new smart cities

**Minister of Heavy Industries; Minister of Steel:**

**Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy (Mandya, Karnataka)**

- Kumaraswamy unveiled the Taxonomy of Green Steel for India during an event held at Vigyan Bhavan

**Minister of Education: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan (Sambalpur, Odisha)**

- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the PMeVIDYA DTH 24x7 Channel No. 31 for Indian Sign Language (ISL)

**Minister of Panchayati Raj; Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh (Munger, Bihar)**

- Sagar Parikrama Yatra Programme
- Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways:  
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal (Dibrugarh, Assam)
- Sonowal launched the 'Jalvahak' scheme to induce the cargo movement via inland waterways

**Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment: Dr. Virendra Kumar (Tikamgarh,MP)**

- The 22nd Divya Kala Mela inaugurated by Union Minister Virendra Kumar at India Gate, New Delhi



**Minister of Civil Aviation: Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu (Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh)**

- Kinjarapu launched 'UDAN Yatri Cafe' and 'Centenary Postal Special Cover'
- Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Minister of New and Renewable Energy: Shri Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad, Karnataka)**
- The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, is developing the National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap)-To integrate State Legal Metrology Departments and their portals into a unified National System.
  - Pralhad Joshi launched 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) portal
  - Pralhad Josh inaugurated and launched several pro-Consumer initiatives during the National Consumer Day 2024

**Minister of Textiles: Shri Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar)**

- The Ministry of Textiles in India is set to host the 3rd edition of the Viraasat Sari Festival at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi
- The Ministry of Textiles + Synthetic & Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA)- Jointly launched the Climate Smart Agro-Textile Demonstration Center in Navsari, Gujarat.

**Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha-Odisha)**

- Lok Sabha passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 Amid Disruptions, with Ashwini Vaishnaw addressing concerns over potential privatisation

**Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Shri Bhupender Yadav (Alwar, Rajasthan)**

- Bhupender Yadav has announced the notification of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh as India's 57th Tiger Reserve
- MoS for Forest, Environment and Climate Change Kirti Vardhan Singh launched 'Nano Bubble Technology'-For cleaning and purifying water of National Zoological Park, Delhi to promote the health of aquatic animals.
- Yadav delivered India's Formal Statement at the CoP16 of UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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**Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jodhpur, Rajasthan)**

- Tourism Ministry approved 40 Projects worth Rs.3295.76 crore for the development of lesser-known Tourism sites in 23 States
- The 2nd Edition of Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam held at the Tummalapalli Kshetranya Kalakshetra Auditorium in Vijayawada
- Ministry of Culture organizes 14th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsavs (RSMs) in Rajasthan (Bikaner) through its Zonal Cultural Centres
- The Ministry of Tourism launched the PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive) Scheme in 2014-15
- A total of 76 projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Tourism Ministry with an allocation of ₹5,287.90 crore

**Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs: Shri Kiren Rijju (Arunachal West)**

- NMDFC + Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) signed a MoU-To promote entrepreneurship among minorities and marginalized communities.

**Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar, Gujarat)**

- MoS for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Khadse unveiled the Mascot, Logo, Anthem, Jersey, Torch and Tagline for the 38th National Games

**Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh (Udhampur, J&K)**

- India to triple atomic power capacity by 2031
- INCOIS has developed a newer version of its own Search and Rescue Aid Tool (SARAT)
- Jitendra Singh unveiled Kisan Kavach, Bharat's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit
- Jitendra Singh launched the 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative

**Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayush; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Shri Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao (Buldhana, Maharashtra)**

- India promotes AYUSH Systems Globally with new chairs in 5 countries

### State News

#### Andhra Pradesh

- The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department (APFD) + Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited (APFDC) + Bharti Institute of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business (ISB)-They entered into a strategic collaboration for forest management and community livelihoods in Andhra Pradesh.
- Andhra Pradesh + Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has launched three transformative programmes-To drive energy efficiency, environmental sustainability, and economic empowerment across the state.
- The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated the AP Urjaveer Scheme to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability

#### Arunachal Pradesh

- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu unveiled the new logo of the 4th Edition of the Eaglenest Bird Festival

#### Assam

- India conducted the 1st-ever Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) Tagging in Assam
- 
- NTPC plans to set up nuclear power project in Bihar, as part of its strategy to diversify its energy portfolio

#### Gujarat

- Masali, a village in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, has become India's first border solar village
- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched the SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource) platform

#### Karnataka

- Uber has launched a pilot program called 'Moto Women' in Bengaluru to improve safety and inclusivity in urban mobility

#### Kerala

- The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) + Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC)-To boost the coastal infrastructure and marine development efforts.

#### Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh Named "Go-To Global Destination for 2025" by Wall Street Journal (WSJ)

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the Ken-Betwa river-linking project in Madhya Pradesh's Khajuraho
- IndiGo's CSR initiative, IndiGoReach has introduced the Zero Waste Airport Project at Indore Airport

#### **Maharashtra**

- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$42 million loan-To provide coastal and riverbank protection to increase resilience of local communities and natural ecosystems in the state of Maharashtra.

#### **Manipur**

- Manipur commemorated Nupi Lal Numit 2024

#### **Rajasthan**

- PM Modi inaugurated the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 in Jaipur, Rajasthan

#### **Tamil Nadu**

- Tejas Networks has been selected as the primary broadband equipment supplier for the Tamil Nadu BharatNet Last Mile Connectivity (LMC) project
- Tamil Nadu CM launched Climate Interpretation Park at Kilambakkam in Chennai
- Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin inaugurated India's first glass bridge over the sea
- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched the extension of the Pudhumai Penn scheme to students of government-aided schools

#### **Telangana**

- GMR Hyderabad International Airport (GHIAL) + Young India Skill University signed a MoU-To enhance aviation skill development for the youth of Telangana.

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

- Uttar Pradesh government has declared the Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj as a new district
- Uttar Pradesh is set to lead India in Cow Milk Production
- PM Narendra Modi visits Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 'Atal Yuva Maha Kumbh' in Lucknow
- Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh is set to be an extraordinary blend of spirituality and innovation

#### **Uttarakhand**

- Uttarakhand, known as Devbhoomi, is set to become a global yoga hub with India's first dedicated Yoga Policy

- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented from January 2025

### Union Territory News

#### Delhi

- Arvind Kejriwal announced the roll-out of the Delhi's Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana
- Arvind Kejriwal launched the Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana
- AIIMS Delhi has treated over 30,000 patients under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to date
- Delhi saw 209 days 'good to moderate' air quality days in 2024, highest since 2018

### Union Cabinet News

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the establishment of 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs)
- The CCEA has approved the setting up of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under the civil/defence sector across the country and expansion of existing KV Shivamogga at Shivamogga district in Karnataka
- Union Cabinet approves signing of MoU between GSI and CNR-IRPI, Italy, for Collaboration in Landslide Forecast and Early Warning

### NITI Aayog

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) + Swedish Embassy,+ Nordic partners like Innovation Norway, Innovation Centre Denmark, and Business Finland, successfully concluded SheSTEM 2024
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog + United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) + Citi Foundation-Officially launched the 7th edition of the Youth Co:Lab National Innovation Challenge for 2024-2025.

### Others

- Currently, there are 43 World Heritage Properties in India
- Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan completed 9 Years of Driving Inclusivity and Accessibility on December 03, 2024



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- The PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana is transforming India's energy landscape with a bold vision to supply solar power to 1 crore households by March 2027
- Cooperative Fertiliser major IFFCO has developed another product nano-NPK after nano-urea and nano-DAP at IFFCO's Kandla plant, Gujarat
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) + INSOL India organized an International Conclave focusing on "Insolvency Resolution: Evolution & Global Perspective"
- Google has partnered with National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to launch YouTube channels in 29 Indian languages, including Sign Language to provide free educational content for students in grades 1-12.
- Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme is gearing up for its 3rd phase (FAME-III)
- The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 will take place from January 17-22 across Delhi
- The Ministry of Culture + France Museums Développement to develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as a world-class cultural institution
- PM Modi to distribute 58 lakh property cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme
- The 59th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

- Gross GST revenue collection in November 2024 at Rs.1,82,269 crore
- India's UPI hit a new record in November 2024, with a total of 15.48 billion transactions amounting to Rs.21.55 lakh crore
- Uber rolls out India's 1st water transport service 'Uber Shikara' Service in the scenic Dal Lake in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has secured a strategic deal with Bank of Bhutan to modernize its digital banking infrastructure
- The data on Employment and Unemployment is collected through Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- The CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% share capital of Thyssenkrupp Electrical Steel India Private Limited by Jsquare Electrical Steel Nashik Private Limited (Jsquare)
- The CCI has approved the acquisition of stake in India Business Excellence Fund-IV by product engineering and manufacturing company VVDN Technologies Private Limited





- The CCI has approved the proposal of Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to acquire Leverkusen (Germany)-based petrochemical-producing company Covestro AG (Covestro) for USD 16.4 billion
- The CCI has approved the combined acquisition of certain shareholding in Bagmane Developers Private Limited and Bagmane Rio Private Limited with over USD 1 trillion in Asset Under Management (AUM)
- S&P Global Ratings' 'India Outlook for 2025', India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rate will remain unchanged at 6.8% for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25)
- India's retail inflation eased to 5.48% in November 2024 following an uptick to 6.2% in October 2024
- India's industrial production (IIP) growth slowed to 3.5% year-on-year in October 2024, mainly due to poor performance of mining, power and manufacturing
- Fitch slashes India's GDP forecast to 6.4% for FY25 from earlier estimates of 7%
- CARE Ratings has India's GDP forecast to 6.5% for FY25 GDP from 6.8%
- India's wholesale inflation eased to 1.89% on an annual basis in November 2024 from 2.36% in October 2024, on the back of slower increase in food prices
- Net Direct Tax Collection sees 16.45% growth to Rs.15.82 lakh crore
- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, up from 6.4% in the current fiscal year
- Adani to acquire 85.8% stake in Air Works for Rs.400 crore
- The energy sector's Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) are likely to fuel dividend payouts for the full fiscal of FY25 to exceed budget estimates
- India's GDP growth seen at 6.5% in FY25, FY26: EY report
- The Indian economy is expected to grow nearly 6.5% in the current fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25)
- The 55th GST Council Meeting held in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 4.3% (provisional) in November, 2024 as compared to the Index in November, 2023

**Current Affairs**

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## **RANKING**

### **National Ranking**

- The 12th edition of the India skills Report (ISR) 2025 for employability

#### **Top 5 States for employability:**

Category	Rank	State
Overall Category	1	Maharashtra (84%)
	2	Delhi (78%)
	3	Karnataka (75%)
	4	Andhra Pradesh (72%)
	5	Kerala(71%)
For Men	1	Gujarat
	2	Andhra Pradesh
	3	Kerala
For Women	1	Andhra Pradesh
	2	Kerala
	3	Gujarat

### **International Ranking**

- UNESCO declares West Bengal a Top Heritage Tourism Destination
- 
- India's IndiGo Airlines was ranked among the worst globally in AirHelp's 2024 rankings
- India has overtaken the USA and Canada to become the top target for mobile malware attacks
- The 3rd edition of the QS World University Rankings Sustainability 2025

Rank	Name of the University	Overall Score
1	University of Toronto in Toronto, Canada	100
2	ETH Zurich in Zurich, Switzerland	99.6

3	Lund University in City of Lund, Sweden	98.8
	University of California, Berkeley (UCB) in California, the United States of America (USA)	
5	University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada	98.6
	University College London (UCL) in London, the United Kingdom (UK)	

**Top 5 Indian Universities/Institutes**

171	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi in New Delhi	80.6
202	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur in Kharagpur, West Bengal	78.6
234	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay in Mumbai, Maharashtra	76.1
245	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	75.6
277	Indian Institute of Technology Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu	74

**Bloomberg World's Richest Families 2024 Index**

Rank	Name	Net Worth
1	The Waltons of Walmart (US)	USD 432.4 billion
2	The Al Nahayan Family (UAE)	USD 323.9 billion
3	The Al-Thani Family (Qatar)	USD 172.9 billion
4	The Hermes Family (France)	USD 170.6 billion
5	The Koch Family (US)	USD 148.5 billion
8	The Ambani family (India)	USD 99.6 billion
23	The Mistrays of Shapoorji Pallonji (India)	USD 41.4 billion



### Taste Atlas Reveals 2024-25 Top Food Cities

Rank	City Name-Food
1	Naples (Italy) – Pizza Margherita:
2	Milan, Italy – Risotto alla Milanese
3	Bologna, Italy – Tagliatelle al Ragù
4	Florence, Italy – Bistecca alla Fiorentina
<b>5</b>	<b>Mumbai, India – Vada Pav</b>
6	Rome, Italy – Spaghetti alla Carbonara
7	Paris, France – Crème brûlée
8	Vienna, Austria – Zwiebelrostbraten
9	Turin, Italy – Agnolotti
10	Osaka, Japan – Takoyaki
43	Amritsar, India – Amritsari Kulcha
45	New Delhi, India – Butter Chicken (Murgh Makhani)
50	Hyderabad, India – Hyderabadi Biryani
71	Kolkata, India – Rasgulla
75	Chennai, India – Dosa

- India emerged as the 3rd largest exporter in Smartphone Market
- FIH World Rankings for the Indian Men's Hockey Team as of 2025-The Indian men's hockey team has clinched the 5th spot in the latest FIH world rankings, following a stellar performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024-The report published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.

### 3 Indians in Forbes' 2024 Power Women List

Rank	Name	Position
1	Claudia Sheinbaum	President of Mexico
2	Ursula von der Leyen	President of the European Commission
3	Christine Lagarde	President of the European Central Bank
4	Giorgia Meloni	Prime Minister of Italy
5	Mary Barra	CEO of General Motors
6	Abigail Johnson	CEO of Fidelity Investments
7	Julie Sweet	CEO of Accenture
8	Melinda French Gates	Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
9	Mackenzie Scott	Philanthropist
10	Jane Fraser	CEO of Citigroup
28	Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance Minister of India
81	Roshni Nadar Malhotra	Chairperson of HCL Technologies and CEO of HCL Corporation
82	Kiran Mazumdar Shaw	Founder and Chairperson of Biocon

- Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024-India has jumped 11 spots to rank 49th in the 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI), up from 60th in 2023, with an improved score of 53.63 from 49.93 in 2023.

## **AWARDS**

### **National Awards**

- Inland Waterways Authority of India's Kalughat Intermodal Terminal (IMT) in Bihar has received 5-star SVAGRIHA rating from GRIHA council
- ESIC bags 4 certificates of merit in different categories at Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific event of International Social Security Association
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) bagged the 3rd PSU Transformation Award
- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) won two prestigious awards at the 3rd PSU Transformation Awards 2024
- Veteran filmmaker Shaji N Karun has been selected for the prestigious JC Daniel Award 2023
- National Panchayat Awards 2024-The Hon'ble President of India Droupadi Murmu conferred National Panchayat Awards 2024 upon 45 awardees including 42 Panchayats and 3 Capacity Building Institutes, selected across different categories for their outstanding contributions to sustainable and inclusive development.
- Hindi writer Suryabala won the 34th Vyas Samman 2024

### **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024**

Language	Genre	Author Name
Assamese	Pharingbore Bator Kathaa Jane (Poetry)	Sameer Tanti
Bodo	Swrni Thakhwi (Novel)	Aron Raja
English	Spirit Nights (Novel)	Easterine Kire
Gujarati	Bhagwan-ni Vato (Poetry)	Dileep Jhaveri
Hindi	Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar (Poetry)	Gagan Gill
Kannada	Nudigala Alivu (Literary Criticism)	K.V. Narayana
Kashmiri	Psychiatric Ward (Novel)	Sohan Koul
Konkani	Rangtarang (Essays)	Mukesh Thali
Maithili	Prabandh Sangrah (Essays)	Mahendra Malangia
Malayalam	Pingalakeshini (Poetry)	K. Jayakumar
Manipuri	Mainu Bora Nungshi Sheiroi (Poetry)	Haobam Satyabati Devi

Language	Genre	Author Name
Marathi	Vindanche Gadyarop (Criticism)	Sudhir Rasal
Nepali	Chichimira (Short Stories)	Yuva Baral
Odia	Bhuti Bhakti Bibhruti (Essays)	Baishnab Charan Samal
Punjabi	Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihaasnamaa Punjab (Poetry)	Paul Kaur
Rajasthani	Gaon Ar Amma (Poetry)	Mukut Maniraj
Sanskrit	Bhaskaracaritam (Poetry)	Dipak Kumar Sharma
Santali	Seched Sawnta Ren Andha Manm (Play)	Maheswar Soren
Sindhi	Purzo (Short Stories)	Hundraj Balwani
Tamil	Tirunelveli Ezucciyum Vaa. Vuu.ci. Yum 1908 (Research)	A.R. Venkatachalapathy
Telugu	Deepika (Criticism)	Penugonda Lakshminarayana

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar awarded the Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw conferred '69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024'
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) won the Gold Award at the AP State Energy Conservation Awards 2024
- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar on 17 children, in seven categories
- International Awards
- Oxford University Press (OUP) has announced 'brain rot' as the Oxford Word of the Year 2024



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- Nurse Maria Victoria Juan has been honoured with the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024
- India has been awarded the prestigious ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024
- Indian-origin Scottish artist Jasleen Kaur has been awarded the prestigious Turner Prize 2024
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced the winners of the '2024 Champions of the Earth Award'

Category	2024 Laureates	Country
Lifetime Achievement	Madhav Gadgil	India
Policy Leadership	Sonia Guajajara	Brazil
Science and Innovation	Lu Qi	China
Entrepreneurial Vision	Sekem organisation	Egypt
Inspiration and Action	Amy Bowers Cordalis	United States of America
Inspiration and Action	Gabriel Paun	Romania

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced the winners of 2024 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards

Project	Country
<b>Award of Excellence</b>	
Inari-yu Bathhouse Restoration Project	Tokyo, Japan
<b>Award of Distinction</b>	
Gunan Street Historic Block Conservation Project	Yixing, Jiangsu Province, China
Abathsahayeshwarar Temple Conservation Project	Thukkatchi in Tamil Nadu, India
<b>Award of Merit</b>	
Guanyin Hall Teahouse Conservation Project	Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China



Project	Country
Helou Pavilion Conservation Project	Shanghai, China
BJPCI Conservation Project	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
Observatory Tower Conservation Project	Christchurch, New Zealand
<b>Award for New Design Heritage Contexts</b>	
Rabindhorn Building	Bangkok, Thailand
<b>Special Recognition for Sustainable Development</b>	
Gunan Street Historic Block Conservation Project	Yixing, Jiangsu Province, China
Helou Pavilion Conservation Project	Shanghai, China

- Ayodhya Ram Temple won Global Safety Excellence Award
- Best FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) Football Awards ceremony 2024 was held in Doha, Qatar

**Winners of The Best FIFA Football Awards 2024:**

Category	Winner
The Best Men's Player	Vinicius Junior (Brazil)-Real Madrid Club de Fútbol (CF)
The Best Women's Player	Aitana Bonmati(Spain)-Futbol Club (FC) Barcelona
The Best Men's Goalkeeper	Emiliano Martinez(Argentina)-Aston Villa Football Club (FC)
The Best Women's Goalkeeper	Alyssa Michele Naehner(United States of America, USA)- Chicago Red Stars FC
The Best Men's Coach	Carlo Ancelotti(Italy)- Real Madrid CF
The Best Women's Coach	Emma Carol Hayes(USA)-Chelsea FC
Puskas Award	Alejandro Garnacho (Argentina)- Manchester United FC



Category	Winner
FIFA Marta Award	Marta Vieira da Silva(Brazil)- Orlando Pride
FIFA Fan Award	Guilherme Gandra Moura (Portuguese)
FIFA Fair Play Award	Thiago Maia Alencar(Brazil)

- Indian educationist Arun Kapur has conferred the rare 'Dasho' title and Red Scarf by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel
- Chennai-Born Caitlin Sandra Neil Crowned Miss India USA 2024
- PM Modi gets Kuwait's highest honour "The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer"

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **National Appointments**

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Ajay Kumar Bhalla	19th Governor of Manipur	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Ajay Seth, Economic Affairs Secretary	Additional Charge of Revenue Secretary	Sanjay Malhotra
Amitava Chatterjee	MD and CEO of Jammu & Kashmir Bank	Baldev Prakash
Arif Mohammed Khan	30th Governor of Bihar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Bhavesh Jain	MD & CEO of TransUnion CIBIL	Rajesh Kumar
Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President, Ajay Singh	Board Member of the Asian Boxing Body by World Boxing	-
Devajit Saikia	Acting Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)	Jay Shah
Dr. Sandip Shah	Chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration	Prof.Subbanna Ayyappan

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
	Laboratories (NABL)	
General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retired)	29th Governor of Mizoram	Hari Babu Kambhampati
Hari Babu Kambhampati	27th Governor of Odisha	Raghubar Das
Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhwalia	Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court	Justice Rajiv Shakhder
Justice V. Ramasubramanian	Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Justice Arun Kumar Mishra (Interim leadership was hold by the NHRC member Vijaya Bharathi Sayani)
Manish Jain	Executive Director (Whole-Time Director) of YES Bank	-
Manoj Kolhatkar	MD and CEO of Tata AutoComp Systems	-
Namit Joshi, Director, Centrient Pharmaceuticals (Bain Capital company)	Chairman of Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil)	-
Preeti Lobana	Google's Country Manager and Vice President for India	Sanjay Gupta, who recently transitioned to the President of the Asia Pacific region at Google.
Rajat Verma	CEO of DBS Bank India	Surojit Shome
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	23rd Governor of Kerala	Arif Mohammed Khan
Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Deputy MD and Chief Risk Officer (CRO) of the SBI	Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI)	Challa Sreeivasulu Setty
Revenue Secretary Sanjay	26th Governor of the	Shaktikanta Das (2nd

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Malhotra	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	longest serving RBI Governor)
Suresh Vasant Patil and Krishnagopal Ladsaria	CEO and CFO of India Cements Ltd respectively	N Srinivasan (Former CEO)
The 1992-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Bihar cadre, Arunish Chawla	Revenue Secretary of India	Sanjay Malhotra
Vitul Kumar	Officiating Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)	Anish Dayal Singh

#### International Appointments

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Aisake Valu Eke	Prime Minister of Tonga	Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni
Amul extends the tenure of Jayen Mehta	As Managing Director of Amul	-
Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, Jay Shah	Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)	Greg Barclay
Donald Trump nominates Indian American Kash Patel	Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	-
Indian-origin entrepreneur & Musk's aide Sriram Krishnan	Senior Policy Advisor for AI by US President- elect Donald Trump	-
John Dramani Mahama	President of Ghana	Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
Mikheil Kavelashvili	6th President of Georgia	Incumbent President Salome Zourabichvili

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Mohamed al-Bashir	Caretaker Prime Minister of Syria	-
Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo	Prime Minister (PM) of Burkina Faso (West African Country)	Apollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela
The Former Supreme Court Judge of India Justice Madan Lokur	Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC)	-
Veteran Centrist François Bayrou	Prime Minister of France	Michel Barnier

**Brand Ambassadors**

Name	Brand Ambassador
M.S. Dhoni, the legendary cricketer	Brand Ambassador to Eurogrip Tyres
Bollywood star Salman Khan	Brand Ambassador for the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Book Name	Author Name	Published by
“BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life”	The memoir by India’s first female Paralympic medalist, Dr. Deepa Malik	HarperCollins India

**OBITUARY**

- Brigadier Raj Manchanda, also known as the ‘Old Fox’ passed away in Delhi at the age of 80
- Neale Fraser, one of Australia’s most celebrated tennis players and captains, passed away at the age of 91
- Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna, former Chief Minister of Karnataka and former Governor of Maharashtra passed away at the age of 92
- Legendary Gujarati Singer and Composer Purushottam Upadhyay passed away at the age of 90
- Renowned Indian tabla player & Padma Awardee Zakir Hussain Allaraka Qureshi passed away at the age of 73 in California, the USA



- Tulsi Gowda also known as “Tree Goddess” and “Encyclopedia of Forest” by the Halakki tribal community passed away
- Om Prakash Chautala, a 5-time Chief Minister of Haryana, passed away at the age of 89 in Gurugram, Haryana
- Renowned Malayalam writer, filmmaker and Padma Bhushan Awardee MT Vasudevan Nair passed away at the age of 91
- Former Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh passed away at the age of 92
- James Earl Carter Jr.(Jimmy Carter), former President of the USA and the Nobel Laureate passed away at the age of 100 in Georgia, the USA

### **DEFENCE**

- Adani Defence has delivered the second Drishti-10 Starliner surveillance drone to the Indian Navy at Porbandar, Gujarat enhancing the nation’s maritime capabilities
- The United States of America (USA) approved a USD 1.17 billion worth helicopter equipment to Indian Navy
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) handed over the “Jaldoot” Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) to the DRDO
- The 63rd annual conference of Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine Institute (ISAM) was held at Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) in Bengaluru
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 2nd bilateral meeting with Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) in New Delhi
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tushil (F70), the latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia
- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy-The MoU aims at enhancing logistics-related education, research, and training for the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy commissioned the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak (YARD 3026), the 2nd of four Survey Vessel (large) SVL project
- The Indian Army has inaugurated the AI Incubation Centre (IAIIC) in Bengaluru
- The Indian government has formed a high-level committee under Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh
- INS Tushil in London hosts Indian diaspora, local community
- Indian Army inaugurated a statue of 17th-century warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj on the bank of Pangong Tso in Eastern Ladakh



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