

Daily



# Current Affairs

JANUARY 10

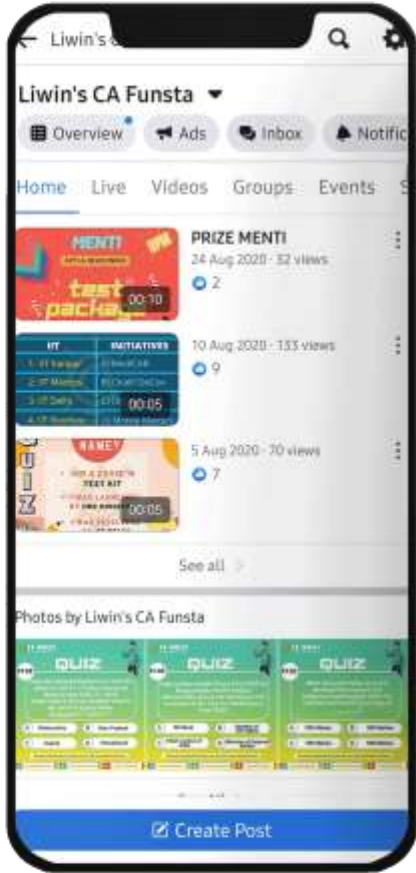
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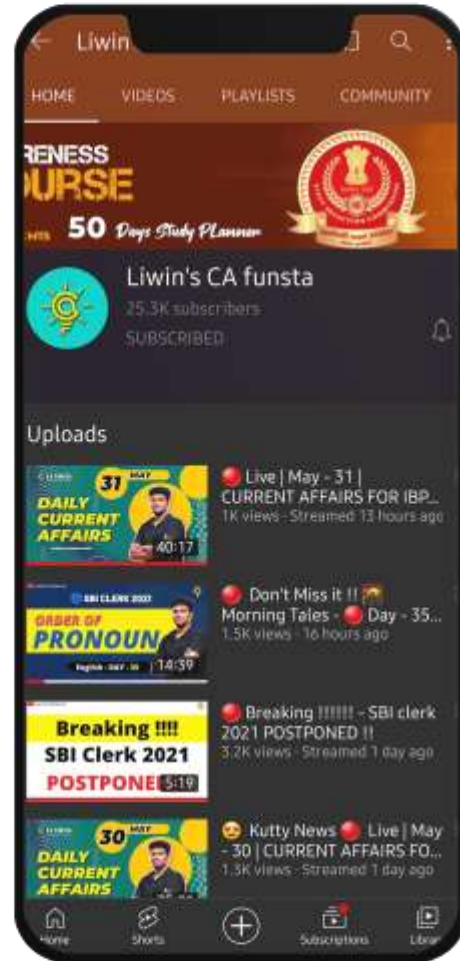
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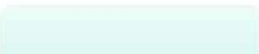


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# Important Days



➤ **When is World Hindi Day celebrated annually to promote the Hindi language?**

- A) January 14
- B) September 14
- C) January 10
- D) February 10
- E) December 10

**Answer**  
**C) January 10**



# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Celebration of World Hindi Day 2025
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** Global





# Important Days



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose:**
  - Celebrated to promote Hindi as a global language and highlight its cultural significance.
  - Distinct from Hindi Diwas, which honors the adoption of Hindi as an official language of India on September 14, 1949.
- **Theme for 2025:**
  - “A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride” emphasizing the role of Hindi in fostering global unity and cultural exchange.



# Important Days



## History of World Hindi Day:

- **1949:** Hindi was first spoken at the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
- **1975:** **The First World Hindi Conference** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- **2006:** Former Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh** declared **January 10** as **World Hindi Day** to commemorate the global recognition of Hindi.



# Important Days



## Significance:

- **Global Recognition:**
  - Encourages linguistic diversity and celebrates Hindi as the third most spoken language worldwide after Mandarin and English.
- **Cultural Pride:**
  - Highlights Hindi's contribution to literature, cultural preservation, and communication.
  - Promotes its integration in international forums as a tool for global interaction.



# Important Days



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas)
Date	January 10, 2025
Theme (2025)	“A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride”
First Observed	2006 (Declared by PM Manmohan Singh)
Significance	Promote Hindi as a global language and foster cultural pride
History	Hindi first spoken at UNGA in 1949; First World Hindi Conference held in 1975
Global Reach	Third most spoken language globally with over 600 million speakers
Celebrations	Organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) with cultural programs and seminars





# OBITUARY



➤ **What was H. Lakshmanan's key contribution to the TVS Group during his career?**

- A) Establishing TVS Credit
- B) Negotiating global joint ventures and resolving labor disputes
- C) Founding the TVS Group's Padi manufacturing unit
- D) Transforming TVS Motor into a car manufacturer
- E) Introducing AI-based systems in TVS operations



**Answer**

**B) Negotiating global joint ventures and resolving labor disputes**



# OBITUARY



## Event and Context

- **H. Lakshmanan**, former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton (now TVS Holdings Ltd), passed away at the age of 91 due to age-related ailments.
- A towering figure in the **TVS Group**, he dedicated nearly seven decades of service, starting as a **typist** at the age of 20 and rising to become a trusted advisor to the Srinivasan family.



# OBITUARY



## Key Contributions and Achievements

### 1. Strategic Vision and Leadership

- Played a pivotal role in transforming TVS Motor from a moped maker into a global two-wheeler manufacturing powerhouse.
- Mentored Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor, during challenging transitions.



# OBITUARY



## Key Contributions and Achievements

### 2. Global Partnerships and Negotiations

- Instrumental in forging joint ventures with global leaders:
  - **Dunlop:** Wheels.
  - **Clayton:** Air brakes.
  - **Girling:** Brakes India.
  - **Lucas:** Lucas-TVS.
- Key negotiator for high-stakes agreements like the Suzuki joint venture and the BMW licensing agreement.





# OBITUARY



## Key Contributions and Achievements

### 3. Labor Relations and HR Excellence

- Resolved major labor disputes in Chennai during the 1970s and in Hosur in the late 1980s.
- Ensured harmonious relations between management and workers, fostering a productive environment.

### 4. Establishing Manufacturing Excellence

- Pioneered the establishment of the Padi manufacturing unit in the 1960s, a cornerstone of TVS operations.



# OBITUARY



## Key Contributions and Achievements

### 5. Mentorship and Legacy

- Described as the “Chanakya” of the TVS industrial empire for his strategic foresight.
- Known for his integrity and management excellence, Lakshmanan’s influence extended across multiple generations of the Srinivasan family.



# OBITUARY



## Recognition and Tributes

- **Venu Srinivasan** called him his “**Rock of Gibraltar**” and credited Lakshmanan for TVS’s enduring success.
- Union leaders, including INTUC’s **R. Kuppusamy**, referred to him as **the “Bhishma Pitamaha”** of TVS for his role in uplifting workers and resolving conflicts.



# OBITUARY



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Name	H. Lakshmanan
Role	Former Executive Director of Sundaram-Clayton (now TVS Holdings Ltd)
Career Start	Joined TVS at age 20 as a typist
Key Contributions	Negotiated joint ventures, resolved labor disputes, established the Padi unit
Notable Ventures	Dunlop (wheels), Clayton (air brakes), Girling (Brakes India), Lucas (Lucas-TVS)
Tributes	- Chanakya of TVS (Venu Srinivasan) - Bhishma Pitamaha of labor relations (R. Kuppusamy)
Legacy	Strategic vision, mentorship, integrity, and loyalty
Passed Away	January 10, 2025, at the age of 91





➤ What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2025?

- A) 80<sup>th</sup>
- B) 85<sup>th</sup>
- C) 90<sup>th</sup>
- D) 71<sup>st</sup>
- E) 100<sup>th</sup>

**Answer**  
**B) 85<sup>th</sup>**



# RANKING



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** India's Ranking in Henley Passport Index 2025
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** New Delhi



## Mandates and Objectives:

- India ranks **85<sup>th</sup>** in the **Henley Passport Index 2025**, a drop from **80<sup>th</sup>** in 2024.
- **Henley Passport Index:**
  - Published by **Henley & Partners**, based on **IATA** data, assessing global passport power and mobility.
  - Considers visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 199 passports and 227 destinations.



## Global Rankings in 2025:

- **Top Position:** Singapore (Visa-free access to 195 destinations).
- **Second Position:** Japan (193 destinations).
- **India's Neighboring Countries' Ranks:**
  - **China:** 60th
  - **Bhutan:** 90th
  - **Sri Lanka:** 96th
  - **Pakistan:** 103rd
  - **Afghanistan:** 106th (worst globally).





# RANKING



## India's Historical Rankings:

- **Best Performance:** 71<sup>st</sup> in 2006.
- **Worst Performance:** 90<sup>th</sup> in 2021.



# RANKING



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	India ranks 85th in Henley Passport Index 2025
Date	January 10, 2025
Top Country	Singapore
India's 2025 Rank	85th
India's 2024 Rank	80th
Best Rank (2006)	71st
Worst Rank (2021)	90th
Neighbor Rankings	China: 60th, Bhutan: 90th, Sri Lanka: 96th, Pakistan: 103rd, Afghanistan: 106th
Purpose of Index	Evaluate passport mobility and global access.



➤ **Which Act allows banks to sell mortgaged properties due to loan repayment failures?**

- A) Real Estate Regulation Act, 2016
- B) Indian Contract Act, 1872
- C) Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002
- D) Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- E) Companies Act, 2013



**Answer**

**C) Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Introduction of e-Khata Module by BBMP
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** Bengaluru, Karnataka



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)** introduced an **e-khata application module** to address challenges faced by banks in selling mortgaged properties.
- Banks sell mortgaged properties under the **SARFAESI Act, 2002**, in cases of loan repayment failure.
- The government made e-khata mandatory for all land transactions and deed registrations from **October 1, 2024**.



## Features of e-Khata:

### 1. Digitised Property Records:

- Combines data from khata certificates, khata extracts, and new property details like photos, GPS coordinates, and unique property IDs.

### 2. Streamlined Sale Process:

- Banks can now apply for e-khata through the BBMP's e-AASTHI website for the sale of mortgaged properties.

### 3. Transparency and Security:

- Records are integrated with blockchain and linked with the Kaveri database to prevent misuse.





## Important Terms Explained:

- **SARFAESI Act, 2002:**
  - Allows financial institutions to recover non-performing assets (NPAs) without court intervention by selling mortgaged properties.
- **e-Khata:**
  - A digitised version of property records enabling smoother transactions and enhanced verification.
- **BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike):**
  - The governing body responsible for civic administration in Bengaluru.



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of e-khata module by BBMP for property transactions and sales
Date	January 10, 2025
Location	Bengaluru, Karnataka
Legislation Involved	SARFAESI Act, 2002
Key Feature	Digitised property records for streamlined and transparent transactions
Purpose	To help banks sell mortgaged properties following mandatory e-khata implementation.



➤ **What is the cost of the insurance plan for Mahakumbh Mela 2025 for domestic flight travelers?**

- A) ₹50
- B) ₹99
- C) ₹59
- D) ₹199
- E) ₹120

**Answer**  
**B) ₹99**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of Insurance for Mahakumbh Mela 2025 by PhonePe and ICICI Lombard
- **Date:** January 13 – February 26, 2025
- **Location:** Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh



## Mandates and Objectives:

- PhonePe, in partnership with ICICI Lombard, launched **specialized insurance plans** to provide coverage for devotees traveling to **the Mahakumbh Mela 2025**, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.
- The aim is to **ensure a safe and worry-free pilgrimage experience** for attendees.



## Key Features of the Insurance Plans:

### 1. Pricing:

- ₹59 for bus/train travelers.
- ₹99 for domestic flight travelers.

### 2. Coverage Period:

- From January 13 to February 26, 2025.





## Key Features of the Insurance Plans:

### 3. Coverage Details:

- **Hospitalization:** Up to ₹50,000.
- **Outpatient Department (OPD) Treatment:** Up to ₹1,500.
- **Personal Accident Cover:** Up to ₹1 lakh (Death, Permanent Total/Partial Disability).
- **Trip Cancellation:** Up to ₹5,000.
- **Repatriation of Remains:** Up to ₹10,000.
- **Loss of Checked-in Baggage:** Up to ₹5,000 (Domestic flight travelers).
- **Missed Connecting Flight:** Up to ₹5,000 (Domestic flight travelers).



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of insurance for Mahakumbh Mela 2025
Organized By	PhonePe and ICICI Lombard General Insurance
Pricing	₹59 (bus/train travelers), ₹99 (domestic flight travelers)
Coverage Period	January 13 to February 26, 2025
Coverage Details	Hospitalization, OPD, personal accidents, trip cancellations, baggage loss, missed flights
Availability	PhonePe app under the "Insurance" section
Mahakumbh Location	Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh



➤ What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in 2025 according to the UN's "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025" report?

- A) 6.8%
- B) 5.9%
- C) 6.6%
- D) 7.2%
- E) 6.7%

**Answer**  
**C) 6.6%**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** UN's "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025" Report
- **Date of Release:** January 9, 2025
- **Location:** United Nations



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **India's Projected GDP Growth:**
  - **2025:** 6.6%
  - **2026:** 6.7%
- The report attributes India's growth to strong private consumption, infrastructure investment, and expanding manufacturing and services sectors.



## Key Highlights:

### 1. South Asia Growth:

- Expected at 5.7% in 2025, driven by India's robust performance and recoveries in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

### 2. Inflation:

- India's inflation is projected to decrease to 4.3% in 2025, within the RBI's medium-term target range of 2–6%.





## Key Highlights:

### 3. Sectoral Contributions:

- **Infrastructure Investment:** Significant public spending on connectivity, sanitation, and water supply.
- **Exports:** Growth in pharmaceuticals, electronics, and services.

### 4. Agriculture:

- Favorable monsoons in 2024 boosted agricultural output expectations for 2025.



## Challenges and Risks:

- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Potential escalation of conflicts.
- **External Demand:** Slower global demand may affect exports.
- **Climate Hazards:** Increased vulnerability to extreme weather events.
- **Global Context:**
  - Global GDP growth projected at **2.8%**, reflecting subdued international economic conditions.



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	UN's "World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025" Report
India's 2025 GDP Growth	6.6%
India's 2026 GDP Growth	6.7%
South Asia's Growth (2025)	5.7%, led by India
Inflation Projection (2025)	4.3%, within RBI's target range
Global Growth (2025)	2.8%
Key Growth Drivers	Private consumption, infrastructure investment, manufacturing, and exports
Risks	Geopolitical tensions, climate hazards, external demand slowdown



➤ What is the GDP growth projection for India in FY2025-26 according to the Bank of Baroda?

- A) 6.4%
- B) 6.6%
- C) 6.8%
- D) 7.0%
- E) 7.2%

**Answer**  
**C) 6.8%**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** GDP Growth Projections for FY2025-26 by Bank of Baroda
- **Date:** January 8, 2025
- **Source:** Bank of Baroda Report



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Projected GDP Growth:**
  - **Bank of Baroda:** 6.8% for FY2025-26.
  - **United Nations:** 6.6% for FY2025-26 as per the “World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025” report.
- **Key Drivers:**
  - **High-Frequency Indicators:** Increased GST collections, rising services PMI, and air passenger traffic.
  - **Agricultural Sector:** Higher rabi crop sowing boosting output.
  - **Private Consumption and Investment:** Major contributors to the economy's expansion.



## Key Growth Highlights:

### 1. Economic Resilience:

- The Indian economy shows resilience through improved economic activity and festive demand.

### 2. Inflation and Monetary Policy:

- Inflation projected at 4.3% for FY2025-26, within the RBI's target range of 2–6%.
- Anticipated rate cut by RBI in February 2025 to support growth.

### 3. Nominal GDP Growth:

- Estimated at 10.5% for FY2025-26.





## Risks Identified:

- **Global Headwinds:** Rising oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and protectionist trade policies.
- **Domestic Concerns:** Dependence on the Union Budget, corporate performance, and RBI's monetary policy.



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	GDP Growth Projections for FY2025-26
Bank of Baroda Projection	6.8%
UN Projection	6.6%
Key Drivers	GST collections, services PMI, air traffic, rabi crop sowing, private consumption, investment
Inflation	Projected at 4.3% for FY2025-26
Nominal GDP Growth	Estimated at 10.5%
Global Risks	Geopolitical tensions, protectionist policies, oil prices
Domestic Concerns	Union Budget, RBI's monetary policy, corporate performance



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who is the newly elected president of Lebanon, ending a two-year presidential deadlock?**

- A) Suleiman Frangieh
- B) Jihad Azour
- C) Michel Aoun
- D) Joseph Aoun
- E) Elias al-Baysari

**Answer**  
**D) Joseph Aoun**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Lebanon Elects General Joseph Aoun as President
- **Date:** January 9, 2025
- **Location:** Beirut, Lebanon



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Joseph Aoun**, commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces, was elected president, ending a **two-year political vacuum** following the expiration of Michel Aoun's term in **October 2022**.
- The election was held during Lebanon's ongoing **economic crisis** and after a **ceasefire agreement** between Israel and Hezbollah.
- Aoun secured **99 out of 128 votes** in the second round of parliamentary voting.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Key Highlights of Joseph Aoun's Presidency:

- **International Support:** Backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia, Aoun is viewed as a stabilizing figure amid Lebanon's fragmented politics.
- **Reform Goals:**
  - Combat corruption.
  - Reform the judicial system.
  - Consolidate state control over weapons (alluding to Hezbollah's arms).
  - Rebuild areas destroyed during the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Key Highlights of Joseph Aoun's Presidency:

- **Challenges Ahead:**
  - Address Lebanon's economic crisis marked by hyperinflation and poverty.
  - Implement the ceasefire agreement and secure international reconstruction aid.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Ceasefire Agreement:**
  - Ended a 14-month conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.
  - Included stipulations for Israeli withdrawal from parts of southern Lebanon.
- **Sectarian Power-Sharing System:**
  - Lebanon's president must always be a Maronite Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the speaker of parliament a Shiite Muslim.





# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Election of Joseph Aoun as Lebanon's President
Date	January 9, 2025
Location	Beirut, Lebanon
Vacancy Duration	October 2022 to January 2025 (2+ years)
Key Votes	99 out of 128 votes in the second round of voting
Challenges Ahead	Economic recovery, ceasefire implementation, and political stability
Significance	Marks the end of a prolonged political stalemate and start of critical reforms.



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the International Event Ambassador for the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025?**

- A) Hayle Lemi
- B) Abersh Minsewo
- C) Srinu Bugatha
- D) Mo Farah
- E) Eliud Kipchoge

**Answer**  
**D) Mo Farah**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Mo Farah as International Ambassador for Tata Mumbai Marathon 2025
- **Date:** January 19, 2025
- **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, India



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Mo Farah**, a four-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time world champion in long-distance running, will serve as **the International Event Ambassador** for the **20th edition** of the Tata Mumbai Marathon.
- Farah will flag off the marathon from the **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus**.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Highlights of Mo Farah's Legacy:

- **Olympic Golds:** 5,000m and 10,000m titles at **London 2012** and **Rio 2016**.
- **World Championship Golds:** Retained 5,000m and 10,000m titles in **2013 (Moscow)** and **2015 (Beijing)**.
- **Road Running Success:** Winner of the **2018 Chicago Marathon**.
- Known for his "quadruple-double" feat – retaining both Olympic and World titles in 5,000m and 10,000m.



# APPOINTMENTS



## About the Tata Mumbai Marathon:

- Established as one of **Asia's premier marathon events** and celebrates its **20<sup>th</sup> edition** in 2025.
- **Features various categories:**
  - **Full Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K Run, Wheelchair Race, and Senior Citizens' Run.**
- **Participation:** Over 60,000 runners expected across all categories.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Appointment of Mo Farah as International Ambassador for Tata Mumbai Marathon
Date	January 19, 2025
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Flagged Off By	Mo Farah
Significance	Celebrates the 20th edition of the Tata Mumbai Marathon
Participation	60,000 runners expected across various race categories
Farah's Legacy	Four Olympic and six World Championship gold medals in long-distance events



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for Equal and OneMoney?**

- A) Jagdish Capoor
- B) J. Satyanarayana
- C) Justice B.N. Srikrishna
- D) Ajay Prakash Sawhney
- E) Anand Sinha



**Answer**

**C) Justice B.N. Srikrishna**





# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Appointment of Justice B.N. Srikrishna as Advisory Board Chairperson
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** India



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Justice B.N. Srikrishna**, a retired Supreme Court Judge and architect of India's **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act**, has been appointed **Chairman of the Advisory Board** for Equal and its strategic investee, OneMoney.
- This aligns with India's focus on **data privacy and security frameworks** under the evolving DPDP Act.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Advisory Board Composition:

- The Advisory Board includes eminent personalities with expertise in banking, technology, and governance:
  - **Jagdish Capoor:** Former Deputy Governor, RBI.
  - **Rakesh Mohan:** Former Deputy Governor, RBI.
  - **Anand Sinha:** Former Deputy Governor, RBI.
  - **J. Satyanarayana:** Former Chairman, UIDAI.
  - **Ajay Prakash Sawhney:** Former Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT.
  - **P.H. Ravikumar:** Founding CEO, NCDEX.
  - **Anitha Ramachandran:** HR expert and independent director.
  - **Sunil Kulkarni:** Fintech expert and advisor.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Role and Focus Areas:

- **The Advisory Board will guide Equal and OneMoney on:**
  - **Regulatory Compliance:** Adherence to evolving data protection laws.
  - **Ethical Data Practices:** Responsible usage and transparent governance.
  - **Technological Innovation:** Development of secure, consent-driven solutions.
  - **Data Management Frameworks:** Establishing robust systems for identity verification and financial data sharing.



# APPOINTMENTS



## About Equal and OneMoney:

- **Equal:**
  - Founded in **2022** by **Keshav Reddy** and **Rajeev Ranjan**, it integrates **50+ identity databases** and **4,000+ APIs** to offer identity verification services.
  - Clients include **WeWork, L&T, TVS, and Aragen.**
- **OneMoney:**
  - **An RBI-licensed account aggregator** enabling consent-based financial data sharing.
  - Handles **75 million monthly transactions** with over **250 clients.**
  - Received a strategic investment from Equal in **August 2024.**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Justice B.N. Srikrishna appointed Chairperson of Equal's Advisory Board
Date	January 10, 2025
Advisory Board Members	Includes Jagdish Capoor, Rakesh Mohan, Anand Sinha, J. Satyanarayana, Ajay Prakash Sawhney, etc.
Role of Advisory Board	Guide Equal and OneMoney on regulatory compliance, ethical data use, and technology innovation
About Equal	Identity verification firm founded in 2022, serving over 250 clients
About OneMoney	RBI-licensed account aggregator enabling consent-based financial data sharing



# AWARDS



➤ **At which event was the Mining Innovation Award presented to NLC India Limited?**

- A) National Mining Summit
- B) International Conference on Safe and Sustainable Mining Technologies
- C) Global Mining Innovations Expo
- D) Mining Safety Excellence Awards
- E) Sustainable Mining Practices Symposium



**Answer**

**B) International Conference on Safe and Sustainable Mining Technologies**



# AWARDS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** NLC India Limited Receives Mining Innovation Award
- **Date:** January 8, 2025
- **Location:** Bhubaneswar, Odisha





## Mandates and Objectives:

- NLC India Limited (NLCIL) was recognized for maintaining **high standards of operations in mining**.
- The award was presented at **the third international conference on safe and sustainable mining technologies**.
- **T.N. Singh**, Director of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna, presented the award.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **NLC India Limited (NLCIL):**
  - A government-owned company engaged in lignite mining and power generation.
  - Committed to adopting sustainable and innovative mining practices.
- **Mining Innovation Award:**
  - Recognizes organizations that excel in implementing innovative, safe, and sustainable mining technologies.



# AWARDS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Presentation of the Mining Innovation Award to NLC India Limited
Date	January 8, 2025
Location	Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Presented By	T.N. Singh, Director, IIT Patna
Significance	Recognition for sustainable and innovative mining practices



➤ **What is the primary goal of Blue Origin's New Glenn NG-1 mission?**

- A) Transport astronauts to the International Space Station
- B) Test the Blue Ring platform and achieve booster recovery
- C) Deliver satellites to low Earth orbit
- D) Land the New Glenn rocket on the Moon
- E) Deploy a space station module



**Answer**

**B) Test the Blue Ring platform and achieve booster recovery**



## Event and Launch Details

- **Event:** Celebration of World Homeopathy Day.
- **Location:** Globally.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Event:** Inaugural launch of **New Glenn NG-1**, Blue Origin's heavy-lift rocket.
- **Date and Time:** Scheduled for **January 12, 2025**, with a three-hour launch window starting at **1 a.m. EST (0600 UTC)**.
- **Location:** **Launch Complex 36**, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida.



## Mission Objectives

### 1. Primary Goals:

- Validate the **Blue Ring payload platform**, testing its in-orbit communication, telemetry, tracking, and command systems.
- **Booster Recovery:** Attempt to recover the first-stage booster on the Atlantic-based vessel "**Jacklyn**".



## Mission Objectives

### 2. Certification:

- This mission serves as a certification flight for **the National Security Space Launch (NSSL)** program, essential for competing for U.S. government space missions.

### 3. Secondary Goals:

- Collect critical data to refine the New Glenn rocket for future missions.





## Rocket Specifications and Design

- **Height:** 320 feet, making it one of the largest operational rockets.
- **Engines:** Seven BE-4 engines, powered by liquid natural gas and liquid oxygen.
- **Payload Capacity:**
  - **45 metric tons** to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
  - **13 metric tons** to Geostationary Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- **Reusability:** The first stage is designed for multiple uses, significantly reducing costs.



## Payload Details

- **Blue Ring Pathfinder:**
  - Tests ground systems, core flight operations, and communication capabilities.
  - The payload remains attached to the second stage for a **6-hour mission duration**.



## Significance of the Mission

- Marks **Blue Origin's** transition into the commercial and governmental heavy-lift launch market, positioning it as a competitor to **SpaceX** and **United Launch Alliance (ULA)**.
- Demonstrates the viability of reusable rockets for cost-effective space exploration.



## Challenges and Preparation

- **Booster Recovery:** Landing the booster on its maiden flight is ambitious but follows experience from Blue Origin's **suborbital New Shepard rocket**.
- **Weather Delays:** The launch was rescheduled from January 10 due to high sea states affecting booster recovery efforts.



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Mission Name	New Glenn NG-1
Launch Date	January 12, 2025
Launch Location	Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Florida
Rocket Specifications	Height: 320 feet; Engines: 7 BE-4; Payload Capacity: 45 metric tons (LEO), 13 metric tons (GTO)
Payload	Blue Ring Pathfinder
Mission Goals	Test Blue Ring platform, achieve booster recovery, secure NSSL certification
Key Technology	Reusable first stage, powered by BE-4 engines
Launch Window	1 a.m. EST (0600 UTC), 3-hour window
Significance	First orbital flight for Blue Origin; establishes competitive position in the space sector



➤ **Who is constructing the Bal Thackeray National Memorial?**

- A) Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
- B) Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority
- C) Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority
- D) Maharashtra State Tourism Department
- E) Central Public Works Department

**Answer**

**C) Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Completion of the First Phase of Bal Thackeray National Memorial
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra, at the Mumbai Mayor's official residence in Dadar



## Mandates and Objectives:

- The memorial is dedicated to the life and legacy of **Bal Thackeray**, founder of the Shiv Sena and a prominent political figure.
- Constructed by **the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA)** at a cost of **₹400 crore**.
- **Features:**
  - **Phase 1:** Underground museum with state-of-the-art technology.
  - **Phase 2 (Upcoming):** Displays on Thackeray's life and political journey through interactive technologies like laser shows, augmented reality (AR), and digital mapping.





## Important Terms Explained:

- **Augmented Reality (AR):**
  - A technology that overlays digital content onto the real world, creating immersive experiences.
  - The memorial will use AR for interactive storytelling of Bal Thackeray's legacy.
- **Digital Mapping:**
  - A technique to project visuals onto surfaces, enhancing viewer experience with dynamic imagery.
- **Shiv Sena:**
  - A political party founded by Bal Thackeray in 1966, focusing on the interests of Marathi people.



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Completion of the first phase of the Bal Thackeray National Memorial
Date	January 10, 2025
Location	Mumbai, Maharashtra, at the Mumbai Mayor's official residence in Dadar
Cost	₹400 crore
Key Features	Phase 1 includes an underground museum; Phase 2 to feature AR, digital mapping, and laser shows.
Completion Target	January 2026



➤ What is the revised estimated cost for completing the Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line?

- A) ₹1,160.48 crore
- B) ₹2,000 crore
- C) ₹2,780.78 crore
- D) ₹1,444.17 crore
- E) ₹3,000 crore

**Answer**

**C) ₹2,780.78 crore**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Progress Review of Kothapalli-Manoharabad Railway Line
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** Karimnagar, Telangana



## Mandates and Objectives:

- Union Minister of State for Home **Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar** reviewed railway projects in **Karimnagar Parliamentary constituency**.
- **The Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line** aims to fulfill a long-cherished dream of the people of erstwhile **Karimnagar and Medak districts**.
- Approved by the Central Government in **July 2016**, the 151.36 km railway line faced significant delays due to **land acquisition issues**.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Revised Cost:** ₹2,780.78 crore (up from the initial ₹1,160.48 crore).
- **Completion Target:** By 2027.
- **Funding Agreement:**
  - The State Government is to contribute one-third of the project cost.
  - So far, ₹1,444.17 crore has been spent on the project.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Kothapalli-Manoharabad Railway Line:**
  - A key infrastructure project connecting Kothapalli (Karimnagar) and Manoharabad (Medak).
  - Expected to boost connectivity and economic development in Telangana.
- **Land Acquisition Issues:**
  - Delays in acquiring land for infrastructure projects often increase costs and extend timelines.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Review of Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line progress
Date	January 10, 2025
Location	Karimnagar, Telangana
Project Approved	July 2016
Initial Cost	₹1,160.48 crore
Revised Cost	₹2,780.78 crore
Completion Target	2027
Funds Spent So Far	₹1,444.17 crore
State Government Role	Required to contribute one-third of the project cost





➤ **Which Yojana is the Pravasi Bharatiya Express organized under?**

- A) Bharat Gaurav Yojana
- B) Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana
- C) Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- D) Indian Cultural Heritage Program
- E) Rashtriya Parivahan Yojana



**Answer**

**B) Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana**



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of Pravasi Bharatiya Express
- **Date:** January 9, 2025
- **Location:** Bhubaneswar, Odisha



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **The Pravasi Bharatiya Express**, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is designed to reconnect **the Indian diaspora** with India's cultural and religious heritage.
- Organized under **the Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY)**, it is a fully sponsored tour for **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) aged 45-65 years**.
- The program celebrates **the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to India.



## Key Features of the Express:

- **Purpose:** To promote cultural exchange and strengthen ties between PIOs and their roots.
- **Government Support:**
  - Covers all travel, food, and accommodation expenses during the tour.
  - Covers 90% of return airfare, with PIOs required to pay only 10%.



## Key Features of the Express:

- **Tour Duration:**
  - 14 nights and 15 days, totaling 17 days, including pre/post-tour stay.
- **Destinations Covered:**
  - Includes Ayodhya, Patna, Gaya, Varanasi, Mahabalipuram, Rameshwaram, Madurai, Cochin, Goa, Ekta Nagar, Ajmer, Pushkar, Agra, and Delhi.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana (PTDY):**
  - A government initiative to provide Indian diaspora members with the opportunity to explore their cultural roots through organized tours.
- **Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs):**
  - Individuals of Indian descent who live outside India but maintain a connection with the country.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express
Date	January 9, 2025
Location	Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Flagged Off By	Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Organized Under	Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana
Duration	14 Nights, 15 Days (17 days including pre/post tour stay)
Target Audience	Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) aged 45-65 years
Government Support	Covers all train expenses and 90% of return airfare
Destinations Covered	Ayodhya, Patna, Gaya, Varanasi, Mahabalipuram, Rameshwaram, Madurai, Cochin, Goa, etc.
Significance	Celebrates the 110th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.



➤ **What is the main objective of the PARTH Yojana?**

- A) To promote entrepreneurship among youth
- B) To provide pre-recruitment training for security services
- C) To offer scholarships for higher education
- D) To establish job placement centers across India
- E) To support rural youth in agricultural development



**Answer**

**B) To provide pre-recruitment training for security services**





## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of PARTH Yojana in Madhya Pradesh
- **Date:** January 10, 2025
- **Location:** Madhya Pradesh (State Level Youth Festival)



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **The PARTH Yojana (Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar)** aims to prepare the state's youth for recruitment into **the Indian Army, Police, and Para-Military forces**.
- Focuses on instilling **patriotism, discipline, and physical and mental preparedness** in participants.



## Key Highlights of the Scheme:

### 1. Training Areas:

- **Physical Efficiency:** Preparation for physical tests.
- **Written Examination:** Focus on general knowledge, mathematics, and English.
- **Personality Development:** Training to enhance mental agility and communication skills.

### 2. Training Centers:

- Operated by District Sports and Youth Welfare Officers at divisional levels.
- Supported by rural youth coordinators and departmental employees.



## Key Highlights of the Scheme:

### 3. Trainers and Experts:

- **Physical Trainers:** Must hold BPED/BPE/NIS Diploma and have state-level athletic experience.
- **Subject Experts:** Engaged part-time from government/semi-government institutions for written exams and personality development.

### 4. Fee Structure:

- Self-financed with a fixed monthly fee determined by the Sports Trainer Welfare Committee.



## Supporting Platform:

- **MPYP Portal (Madhya Pradesh Youth Portal):**
  - Connects youth with skill development programs, career guidance, and employment opportunities.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of PARTH Yojana during State Level Youth Festival
Date	January 10, 2025
Location	Madhya Pradesh
Scheme Name	PARTH Yojana (Police Army Recruitment Training & Hunar)
Objective	Pre-recruitment training for Indian Army, Police, and Para-Military forces
Training Areas	Physical tests, written exams (GK, Math, English), personality development
Supporting Platform	MPYP Portal for skill development, career guidance, and employment opportunities
Eligibility	Physical trainers with BPED/BPE/NIS Diploma; subject experts from government institutions



➤ What is the name of the AI-enabled agricultural platform launched through the partnership between the UP Government and Google Cloud?

- A) AgriConnect
- B) UPONA
- C) DigiAgri
- D) KisanNet
- E) AgriAI

**Answer**  
**B) UPONA**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture (UPONA)
- **Date:** January 9, 2025
- **Location:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **UPONA (Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture):**
  - A digital public infrastructure leveraging Gemini AI and Beacon technology to empower farmers with modern tools, advisory services, and real-time data.
  - Aims to modernize the agricultural ecosystem, digitally empower farmers, and support the state's goal of doubling farmers' income.



## Key Features of UPONA:

### 1. Real-Time Data:

- Provides updates on microclimates, market prices, and weather conditions through weather stations across tehsils.

### 2. One-Stop Solution:

- Offers advisory services, credit access, mechanization support, and market connectivity.

### 3. Open Participation:

- Allows service providers, financial institutions, and government agencies to collaborate and create customized solutions.



## Significance:

- **India's First State-Level AI Initiative in Agriculture:**
  - First such collaboration to integrate AI into the agricultural sector at a state level.
- **Technological Empowerment:**
  - Combines AI and Beacon technologies to provide personalized insights and actionable information for farmers.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture (UPONA)
Technology Partner	Google Cloud (India)
Key Features	Real-time updates on weather, microclimates, market prices
Benefits for Farmers	Advisory services, access to credit, mechanization support, market connectivity
Significance	India's first AI-driven state-level agricultural initiative
Objective	Digital empowerment of farmers and doubling their income
Launch Date	January 9, 2025



# QUICK RECALL



- **World Hindi Day is celebrated annually on January 10 to promote Hindi globally.**
- **H. Lakshmanan, a stalwart of the TVS Group, leaves behind a legacy of strategic excellence, labor harmony, and transformative leadership.**
- **India ranks 85th in Henley Passport Index 2025, a drop from 80th in 2024.**
- **BBMP introduces e-khata module to help banks sell mortgaged properties under SARFAESI Act.**
- **PhonePe and ICICI Lombard launch Mahakumbh Mela insurance plans starting at ₹59.**
- **UN projects India's GDP growth at 6.6% in 2025, led by private consumption and investment.**
- **Bank of Baroda projects India's GDP growth at 6.8% for FY2025-26, driven by consumption and investment.**
- **Joseph Aoun elected as Lebanon's president after two years of political deadlock.**



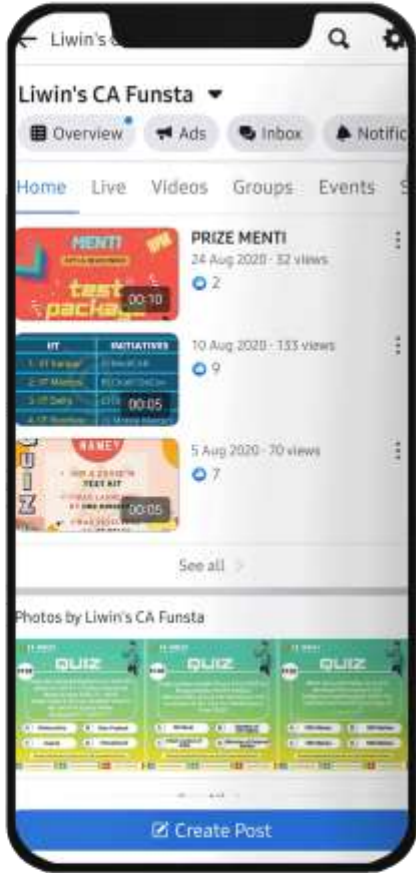
# QUICK RECALL



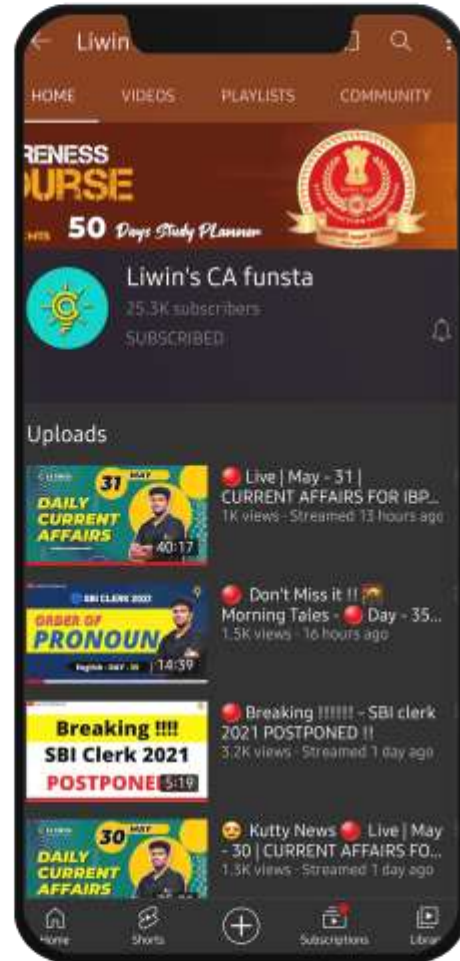
- **Mo Farah appointed International Ambassador for 20th Tata Mumbai Marathon.**
- **Justice B.N. Srikrishna appointed Chairperson of Equal and OneMoney's Advisory Board.**
- **NLC India Limited won the Mining Innovation Award for sustainable mining excellence.**
- **The New Glenn NG-1 mission on January 12, 2025, will test Blue Origin's Blue Ring platform and reusable booster, marking a significant leap in its space exploration ambitions.**
- **Bal Thackeray National Memorial's first phase completed; final project to finish by January 2026.**
- **Kothapalli-Manoharabad railway line to be completed by 2027 at ₹2,780.78 crore.**
- **PM Modi launched Pravasi Bharatiya Express for Indian diaspora under Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana.**
- **PARTH Yojana launched to train MP youth for Indian Army, Police, and Para-Military recruitment.**
- **UP launches UPONA, an AI-driven platform in partnership with Google Cloud, to empower farmers.**



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