

Weekly One Liners 22nd to 28th of December 2025

National Affairs

- **PM Modi WB-Assam Visit (Dec 20–21, 2025):** PM Narendra Modi visited West Bengal and Assam to inaugurate, dedicate and lay foundation stones of multiple infrastructure projects.
- Key focus areas included highways, airport infrastructure, fertiliser production and regional economic development.
- **Guwahati Nature-Themed Airport Terminal:** PM Modi inaugurated India's first nature-themed airport terminal at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati.
- The 1.4 lakh sq.m terminal is inspired by Assam's biodiversity such as bamboo and orchids.
- **Statue of Gopinath Bordoloi Unveiled:** PM Modi unveiled an 80-foot statue of Assam's first Chief Minister Gopinath Bordoloi in Guwahati.
- The statue honours his contribution to Assam's integration and constitutional development.
- **Ammonia-Urea Fertiliser Project, Assam:** PM Modi laid the foundation stone of ₹10,600 crore Ammonia-Urea Fertiliser Project at Namrup, Dibrugarh.
- The project will boost urea production, reduce imports, create jobs and support Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **SHANTI Bill, 2025 Gets Presidential Assent:** President Droupadi Murmu granted assent to the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025.
- The Act allows private sector participation in nuclear power and permits FDI up to 49%.
- **Fit India Sundays on Cycle Anniversary:** Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya led the 1st anniversary celebrations of "Fit India Sundays on Cycle" at Rock Beach, Puducherry.
- The event also saw the launch of Fit India Mobile App Carbon Credit Incentivization.
- **Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 Toolkit Released:** Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar released the toolkit for the 10th Swachh Survekshan in Bhopal.
- The theme is "Swachata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath".
- **Bureau of Port Security Approved:** Union Minister Amit Shah convened a high-level meeting for the creation of the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS).
- The body aims to strengthen security of ports, vessels and coastal infrastructure.
- **India Achieves 20% Ethanol Blending:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in November 2025.
- The target was achieved ahead of the original 2030 deadline under the EBP Programme.
- **NCW Launches SHAKTI Scholars Fellowship:** National Commission for Women launched 'SHAKTI Scholars: NCW Young Research Fellowship'.
- The initiative promotes policy-oriented research on women-centric issues.
- **New Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025:** Government notified new P&NG Rules introducing a single petroleum lease system.
- The rules aim to attract investment and simplify oil and gas operations.
- **CBDT Launches NUDGE Campaign:** CBDT launched the Non-Intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable (NUDGE) campaign for AY 2025-26.
- The initiative promotes voluntary tax compliance through data analytics.
- **Delhi Metro Phase-V(A) Expansion Approved:** Union Cabinet approved three new Delhi Metro corridors spanning 16.076 km at a cost of ₹12,014.91 crore.
- The expansion includes 13 stations and will push the network beyond 400 km.
- **Subansiri Lower HEP Unit-2 Commissioned:** Commercial operations of 250 MW Unit-2 of the 2,000 MW Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project were inaugurated.
- The NHPC project is located on the Assam–Arunachal Pradesh border.
- **MYAS Comprehensive Internship Policy Launched:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports launched a new internship policy with 452 internships annually.
- Each intern will receive a stipend of ₹20,000 per month.
- **India's First PPP-Model Medical Colleges:** Foundation stones were laid for India's first PPP-model medical colleges in Dhar and Betul, Madhya Pradesh.
- The colleges will be linked to district hospitals to improve healthcare access.
- **Aravalli Hills Redefinition Controversy:** Supreme Court approved a 100-metre local relief benchmark for Aravalli Hills protection.
- Environmentalists raised concerns over mining and real-estate expansion.
- **Gujarat Declared Tiger State:** NTCA officially declared Gujarat as India's newest Tiger State after 33 years of conservation efforts.
- The move strengthens biodiversity protection alongside the state's Asiatic lion population.
- **Ancient Stone Labyrinth Discovered:** Archaeologists discovered a 2,000-year-old circular stone labyrinth in Boramani, Solapur.
- The structure with 15 concentric rings indicates Indo-Roman influence.

States in the News

- **Bihar Approves Saat Nishchay-3 (2025–2030):** Bihar Cabinet chaired by CM Nitish Kumar approved 'Saat Nishchay-3' to promote development with justice and achieve developed-state status.
- It builds on Saat Nishchay-1 and 2, which focused on infrastructure, women empowerment, youth welfare, and service delivery.
- **UP Presents Supplementary Budget FY26:** UP Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented supplementary demands worth ₹24,496.97 crore in the State Assembly.
- This raises UP's FY26 budget to ₹8.33 lakh crore, accounting for 3.03% of the original budget.
- **Hansi Declared Haryana's 23rd District:** Haryana government officially notified Hansi as the state's 23rd district, carved out of Hisar district.
- The notification was approved by Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh to enhance administrative decentralisation.
- **CoE and VR Mine Simulator at IIT Dhanbad:** Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated a Centre of Excellence under NCMM and India's first Virtual Reality Mine Simulator at IIT-Dhanbad.
- The CoE will support research in critical minerals with global collaborations including Cambridge University.
- **GAIL-Chhattisgarh MoU for Fertiliser Plant:** GAIL (India) Limited signed a non-binding MoU with the Chhattisgarh government for a greenfield gas-based fertiliser plant.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of CM Vishnu Deo Sai to boost fertiliser self-reliance.
- **PESA Mahotsav Celebrated in Andhra Pradesh:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised 'PESA Mahotsav: Utsav Lok Sanskriti Ka' in Visakhapatnam.
- The event marked the enactment of the PESA Act, 1996, with PESA Day observed on 24 December.
- **Tamil Nadu Otter Conservation Programme:** Tamil Nadu government launched a special conservation initiative in the Cauvery river basin to protect otters.
- Otters are key indicators of healthy freshwater ecosystems.

- **Chillai Kalan Begins in Kashmir:** Kashmir's harshest 40-day winter period, Chillai Kalan, began on December 21, 2025.
- It brings extreme cold, heavy snowfall, and frozen water bodies affecting daily life.
- **Madhya Pradesh Adopts Rolling Budget:** Madhya Pradesh became India's first state to adopt a three-year rolling budget system with annual reviews.
- The move improves fiscal planning, transparency, and long-term budgeting.
- **Rashtra Prerna Sthal Inaugurated in Lucknow:** Rashtra Prerna Sthal, a memorial dedicated to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was inaugurated in Lucknow.
- It aims to inspire youth with democratic values and national ideals.
- **Gujarat Rooftop Solar Milestone:** Gujarat achieved 1,879 MW rooftop solar capacity, completing 50% of its PM Surya Ghar target.
- The achievement was supported by ₹3,778 crore in government subsidies.
- **Raisin Research Centre in Sangli:** Maharashtra announced the establishment of a raisin research centre in Sangli district.
- The centre will improve grape quality, processing techniques, and export potential.
- **NH Projects in West Bengal:** PM Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for two National Highway projects worth ₹3,200 crore at Ranaghat, Nadia district, WB.
- The projects improve road connectivity between Kolkata and Siliguri, boosting trade and logistics.

International Affairs

- **QUAD Conducts First Field Training Exercise (FTX):** QUAD partners India, USA, Australia and Japan conducted their 1st Field Training Exercise from December 8–12, 2025, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.
- The exercise operationalised the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) to strengthen HADR logistics interoperability.
- **India to Assume BRICS Presidency:** Brazil formally handed over the rotating BRICS presidency to India during the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting in Brasília.
- India will officially assume the BRICS chairmanship from January 1, 2026.
- **EAM Jaishankar Visits Sri Lanka:** External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka as PM Modi's Special Envoy after Cyclone Ditwah.
- The visit was conducted under 'Operation Sagar Bandhu', reinforcing India's Neighbourhood First Policy.
- **Russia Plans Nuclear Power Plant on Moon:** Russia announced plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by 2036 to support its lunar missions.



- The project, involving Roscosmos and Lavochkin Association, will power a joint Russia-China lunar research station.
- **Elon Musk Becomes \$700 Billion Individual:** Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk became the world's first individual to reach a \$700 billion net worth.
- The milestone was driven by growth in technology, space and AI investments.
- **Pearl Harbor Survivor Ira Schab Passes Away:** Ira "Ike" Schab, a survivor of the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, died at the age of 105.
- He symbolised wartime resilience and the legacy of World War II veterans.
- **India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement:** India and New Zealand concluded comprehensive FTA negotiations covering agriculture, dairy, IT and education.
- The agreement supports India's trade diversification strategy and bilateral economic ties.
- **Oman Launches Polymer Currency:** Oman announced the launch of its first polymer one-rial banknote for circulation from January 2026.
- The move aims to enhance durability, security and currency modernization.
- **India Announces \$450 Million Sri Lanka Relief Package:** India announced a \$450 million humanitarian aid package for Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah.
- The assistance includes food, medicines and infrastructure support under the Neighbourhood First Policy.
- **World's Busiest Airport Ranking 2025:** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport retained its position as the world's busiest airport.
- The ranking reflects strong post-pandemic recovery in global aviation.
- **World's Best Food Cities 2025-26:** Global culinary rankings highlighted several Asian and European cities as top food destinations.
- The list promotes culinary tourism and urban cultural branding.
- **Top Billionaires' Wealth Gains 2025:** Forbes reported that technology, AI and energy sectors dominated global wealth creation in 2025.
- The trend highlights innovation-driven economic growth.
- **Armenia Unveils COP17 Logo:** Armenia unveiled a butterfly-themed logo for COP17 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The logo symbolises biodiversity conservation and ecological balance.
- **Japan to Restart Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant:** Japan announced plans to restart the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant.
- The move aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence, cut emissions and improve energy security.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India-Netherlands Maritime Heritage MoU:** Government of India signed an MoU with the Netherlands to strengthen cooperation on maritime heritage.
- The MoU supports the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat under the Sagarmala Programme.
- **IOL-Safran Defence Collaboration:** India Optel Limited signed an agreement with Safran Electronics & Defense, France for local production of advanced defence systems.
- The partnership covers SIGMA 30N Inertial Navigation System and CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight under Make in India.
- **Indian Army-NSUT MoU:** Indian Army signed an MoU with Netaji Subhas University of Technology to develop AI-based military software solutions.
- The collaboration focuses on modern warfare applications and indigenous defence innovation.
- **IDRBT-IIIT Hyderabad MoU:** IDRBT and IIIT-Hyderabad signed an MoU to collaborate in academics, research, training and technology development.
- The partnership aims to strengthen banking technology, cybersecurity and digital finance research.
- **JNCASR-CrisprBits Lol:** JNCASR signed a Letter of Intent with CrisprBits Pvt Ltd to establish a Centre of Excellence for CRISPR Innovation and Translation.
- It marks one of India's first major PPP initiatives in gene-editing research.
- **DRDO-Rashtriya Raksha University MoU:** DRDO signed an MoU with Rashtriya Raksha University to enhance cooperation in defence and internal security.
- The agreement strengthens academic-defence collaboration in strategic technologies.
- **MoSJE MoUs under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan:** Department of Social Justice & Empowerment signed MoUs with Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Dhanwantari Ashram and University of Patanjali.
- The partnerships aim to promote substance-abuse awareness, prevention and wellness through yoga and community outreach.
- **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan Overview:** NMBA was launched on 15 August 2020 to create a drug-free India through awareness, treatment and community involvement.
- As of December 2025, MoUs have been signed with eight spiritual organisations nationwide.

Books and Authors

- **'Salman Khan: The Sultan of Bollywood' Released:** HarperCollins India released the biography of actor Salman Khan written by journalist Mohar Basu ahead of his 60th birthday.
- The book highlights his mass appeal, enduring stardom, rare photographs and fan stories. **About Author Mohar Basu:** Mohar Basu is an award-winning entertainment journalist and Chief Correspondent at Middy.

- She earlier authored 'Shah Rukh Khan' (2024) and featured in the Indian Achievers Club '40 under 40' list.
- **Book on Atal Bihari Vajpayee Released:** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released the book 'Sanatan Sanskriti Ki Atal Drishti' in New Delhi.
- Authored by Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani, it honours former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **Urjit Patel Releases New Book:** Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel released his book titled 'The Great Sanctions Hack'.
- The book, published by Rupa Publications India, focuses on global economic sanctions.
- **Book on Modi-Era Economy Released:** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan released 'Economic Empowerment of Bharat in the Modi Era'.
- The book is authored by MP Professor Dr. Sikander Kumar.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **RBI Approves Risk-Based Deposit Insurance Framework:** RBI's Central Board approved a risk-based deposit insurance premium system, replacing the flat-rate model under DICGC.
- The decision was taken at the 620th RBI Board meeting chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra in Hyderabad.
- **Deposit Insurance Key Change:** Under the new framework, banks with stronger capital and asset quality will pay lower insurance premiums.
- Currently, banks pay a flat premium of 12 paise per ₹100 of assessable deposits under the DICGC Act, 1961.
- **PNB MetLife Launches DigiProtect Term Plan:** PNB MetLife, in partnership with PolicyBazaar, launched 'DigiProtect Term Plan' for salaried individuals.
- The digital plan offers premium pause, exit benefits, accelerated claim payouts and up to 21% first-year discount.
- **HCLTech Partners with ASN Bank:** HCLTech signed a multi-year IT modernization partnership with Netherlands-based ASN Bank.
- The deal supports ASN Bank's 'Simplify and Grow' strategy through IT consolidation and automation.
- **Protean Acquires Stake in NSDL Payments Bank:** Protean eGov Technologies approved acquisition of a 4.95% stake in NSDL Payments Bank for ₹30.2 crore.
- The transaction will be completed via equity subscription within 60 days.
- **MUFG Invests in Shriram Finance:** Japan's MUFG Bank agreed to invest ₹39,618 crore in Shriram Finance through preferential equity issuance.
- It marks the largest-ever FDI in India's financial services sector.
- **PFRDA Notifies NPS Amendment Regulations 2025:** PFRDA notified amended NPS exit and withdrawal rules for non-government subscribers.

- Key changes include removal of 5-year lock-in, higher lump-sum withdrawal up to 80%, and increased maximum age to 85 years.
- **Canara Bank Launches 'Canara ai1Pe' UPI App:** Canara Bank launched 'Canara ai1Pe', a unified UPI app for fast and secure digital payments.
- The app supports UPI Autopay, delegate access, expense insights and works across banks.
- **Paytm Expands Globally:** Paytm approved setting up wholly owned subsidiaries in Indonesia and Luxembourg via Paytm Cloud Technologies.
- It also restructured its UAE arm by inducting a strategic investor.
- **ROHM-Tata Electronics Semiconductor Partnership:** Japan's ROHM partnered with Tata Electronics to manufacture power semiconductors in India.
- The collaboration aligns with Make in India and targets automotive, AI, defence and IoT sectors.
- **Canara HSBC Life-ESFB Bancassurance Deal:** Canara HSBC Life partnered with Equitas Small Finance Bank to distribute life insurance products.
- The alliance supports IRDAI's vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.
- **Axis Bank Launches Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans:** Axis Bank introduced a digital, unsecured loan product for MSMEs.
- Loans range from ₹2 lakh to ₹20 lakh with repayment through daily instalments linked to cash flows.
- **PayNearby Secures TPAP Licence:** Fintech firm PayNearby received TPAP licence from NPCI and launched 'PayNearby Saathi' app.
- The app enables UPI payments, banking services, investments and multilingual access via BHASHINI.
- **CCI Approves Blackstone-Federal Bank Deal:** CCI approved Blackstone's proposal to acquire warrants of Federal Bank via Asia II Topco XIII.
- Post-conversion, Blackstone will hold 9.99% stake in Federal Bank.
- **RBI Postpones CTS Phase-II:** RBI postponed implementation of Phase-II of CTSR under Cheque Truncation System beyond January 3, 2026.
- Phase-I will continue with revised presentation and confirmation timings.
- **IRFC Refinances DFCCIL World Bank Loan:** IRFC refinanced ₹9,821 crore World Bank loan taken by DFCCIL through a rupee-denominated loan.
- The move reduces foreign exchange risk for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project.
- **Goldman Sachs GDP Growth Projection:** Goldman Sachs projected India's GDP growth at 6.7% in 2026 and 6.8% in 2027.
- Growth is driven by strong domestic demand and sustained infrastructure spending.

- **IIFL Finance Appoints New Chairman:** IIFL Finance appointed former RBI Deputy Governor B.P. Kanungo as Chairman.
- The move strengthens corporate governance and regulatory oversight.
- **Auroville Foundation National Importance Proposal:** A parliamentary panel recommended Institution of National Importance status for Auroville Foundation.
- Auroville was founded in 1968 in Tamil Nadu based on Sri Aurobindo's philosophy.
- **India-Netherlands Maritime Heritage Cooperation:** India and Netherlands strengthened cooperation on maritime heritage at Lothal, Gujarat.
- The collaboration supports museum design, conservation and cultural diplomacy.
- **RBI Announces ₹2.90 Lakh Crore Liquidity Infusion:** RBI infused ₹2.90 lakh crore liquidity through open market operations.
- The move supports credit growth while maintaining an accommodative policy stance.
- **SEBI Approves NHAI InVIT:** SEBI approved NHAI's Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust as a public InVIT.
- It enables retail investors to invest in highway infrastructure assets.

Appointments/Resignations

- **BP Kanungo Appointed IIFL Finance Chairman:** IIFL Finance Limited appointed former RBI Deputy Governor Bibhu Prasad (B.P.) Kanungo as its non-executive Chairman.
- He will lead board-level strategy, strengthen governance standards and safeguard shareholder interests.
- **Saleem Ahmad Takes Charge as RVNL CMD:** Saleem Ahmad assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited on 23 December 2025.
- The Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Railways will be led by him till April 30, 2029 or until further orders.
- **Professional Background of Saleem Ahmad:** Saleem Ahmad brings over 30 years of experience in civil engineering and large infrastructure projects.
- He succeeded Sukhmal Chand Jain, who served as interim CMD following Pradeep Gaur's retirement.



Defence News

- **INS Sindhughosh Decommissioned:** Indian Navy decommissioned INS Sindhughosh, the lead submarine of Sindhughosh class, after 40 years of service.
- The ceremony was held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, marking fleet modernisation.
- **INS Anjadip Delivered to Indian Navy:** GRSE delivered INS Anjadip, the third ASW Shallow Water Craft, to the Indian Navy at Chennai Port.
- The vessel enhances coastal surveillance and anti-submarine warfare under Make in India.
- **Akash-NG Missile User Trials Completed:** DRDO successfully completed User Evaluation Trials of Akash-New Generation SAM at Chandipur, Odisha.
- The trials assessed operational readiness by Indian Army and Air Force.
- **Samudra Pratap Inducted by Coast Guard:** Indian Coast Guard inducted 'Samudra Pratap', India's first indigenously built Pollution Control Vessel, at Goa Shipyard.
- The vessel strengthens oil spill response and marine environmental protection.
- **India Exports WhAP Vehicles to Morocco:** Tata Advanced Systems delivered the first batch of WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicles to Morocco.
- The deal supports Make in India and defence exports under 'Make for the World'.
- **India Hands Over Quick Impact Projects to Myanmar:** India delivered three Quick Impact Projects focused on education, healthcare and community development.
- The initiative strengthens bilateral ties under the Act East Policy.
- **DRDO-Rashtriya Raksha University MoU:** DRDO signed an MoU with Rashtriya Raksha University to enhance defence and internal security research.
- The partnership promotes academic-defence collaboration and indigenous capability building.
- **Indian Army-NSUT AI Collaboration:** Indian Army partnered with Netaji Subhas University of Technology for AI-based military solutions.
- The collaboration boosts modern warfare capabilities and student-led innovation.
- **BRO Manual Launched:** Defence Minister launched the Border Roads Organisation Manual to streamline strategic road construction.
- The move improves efficiency, transparency and border infrastructure development.
- **INSV Kaundinya Maritime Voyage:** Indian Navy's stitched wooden vessel INSV Kaundinya will sail from Porbandar to Muscat on 29 December 2025.
- The voyage retraces ancient maritime trade routes and showcases naval heritage.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Indian Team Wins NASA Most Inspirational Award:** Chennai-based team *Photonics Odyssey* won NASA's Most Inspirational Award at the International Space Apps Challenge 2025.
- Their satellite-internet concept aims to expand broadband access in remote and underserved regions of India.
- **International Space Apps Challenge 2025:** Launched by NASA in 2012, the global hackathon saw participation from over 114,000 innovators across 167 countries.
- The event encourages solutions using NASA's open data for real-world challenges.
- **Ravi DeeCee Receives French Chevalier Honour:** Ravi DeeCee, MD & CEO of DC Books, was conferred *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres*.
- The honour was presented by French Ambassador Thierry Mathou at the French Embassy in New Delhi.
- **Reason for Ravi DeeCee's French Honour:** DC Books published Malayalam translations of major French authors and promoted cultural exchange.
- Initiatives include Vagamon Writers Residency and Kerala Literature Festival.
- **About Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres:** Established in 1957 by France's Ministry of Culture, it recognises contributions to arts and literature.
- The order has three ranks: Commandeur, Officier and Chevalier.
- **Notable Indian Chevalier Awardees:** Previous Indian recipients include Nandita Das, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan.
- Publishers like Pramod Kapoor and Aditi Maheswari have also been honoured.
- **Jay Shah Wins Transformational Leader Award:** BCCI Secretary Jay Shah received the Transformational Leader of the Year Award.
- The recognition highlights reforms in sports governance and growth of women's cricket.
- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025:** President of India presented Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The award honours scientists for excellence in science, technology and innovation.

Summits and Conferences News

- **2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025:** The 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was held from 17–19 December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Organised by WHO and Ministry of AYUSH, the theme was *"Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being"*.
- **Inauguration of WHO Traditional Medicine Summit:** Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda inaugurated the summit in the presence of MoS Prataprao Jadhav.

- The event witnessed high-level global participation on AYUSH and traditional healthcare systems.
- **AYUSH Bilateral Meetings & India–Cuba MoU:** Ministry of AYUSH held 16 bilateral meetings with countries to boost cooperation in traditional medicine.
- India and Cuba extended an MoU to establish an AYUSH Chair and Panchakarma Centre in Havana.
- **PM Modi Launches AYUSH Digital Initiatives:** PM Narendra Modi launched My AYUSH Integrated Services Portal (MAISP) during the summit.
- He also unveiled Ayush Mark certification and WHO's technical report on Yoga training.
- **UEF–UNSDC MoUs at Trade Summit 2025:** United Economic Forum signed 10 MoUs with the UN Sustainable Development Council.
- The agreements aim to implement UN Sustainable Development Goals across 45 educational institutions.
- **UEF Trade Summit 2025 in Chennai:** The summit was held from December 12–14, 2025 at Chennai Trade Centre.
- It focused on *"Unnatha Thamizhagam–4TN for TN by 2047"* and hosted over 4,000 delegates.
- **COSP-11 of UNCAC Held in Qatar:** The 11th Conference of the State Parties to UNCAC was held from December 15–19, 2025 in Doha.
- The global anti-corruption meet was hosted by Qatar in collaboration with UNODC.
- **Mswipe Receives RBI Payment Aggregator Licence:** Mswipe Technologies received final PA licence from RBI to offer online and offline payment services.
- The licence enables omnichannel and cross-border payment aggregation.
- **South Indian Bank Launches RuPay SIB Paytag:** South Indian Bank launched RuPay SIB Paytag Sticker for contactless payments.
- The NFC-enabled tag allows secure tap-and-pay transactions without a physical card.
- **Features of RuPay SIB Paytag:** The Paytag supports payments up to ₹1 lakh with PIN authentication above ₹5,000.
- It can be used for POS and e-commerce transactions but not for ATM withdrawals.



Ranks and Reports

- In **December 2025**, the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** released a comprehensive report titled **"Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations"**, outlining a long-term roadmap to position India as a **global hub for higher education and research by 2047**. The report was released by senior NITI Aayog leadership including **Suman Bery (Vice Chairman)**, **Dr V.K. Paul (Member-Education)**, **Dr Arvind Virmani (Member)** and **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam (CEO)**, with participation from the **Department of Higher Education** and **AICTE**. Prepared in collaboration with **IIT Madras**, the **Association of Indian Universities (AIU)** and **Acumen**, the study focuses on **"internationalisation at home"** in line with **NEP 2020**, drawing inputs from online surveys of **160 higher education institutions across 24 states**, **key informant interviews** with experts from **16 countries**, and a **national workshop at IIT Madras**.
- The report highlights a significant **student mobility imbalance**, noting that in **2024**, for every international student studying in India, **28 Indian students went abroad**, despite a **518% rise in foreign student inflows since 2001**. To address this, the study provides **time-bound projections** for increasing international enrolment using **CAGR-based global benchmarking** and **internationalisation intensity models**, with estimates reaching up to **11 lakh foreign students by 2047**. It presents **22 policy recommendations**, **76 action pathways**, and **125 performance indicators** across five thematic areas—**Strategy & Regulation**, **Finance**, **Branding**, **Communication & Outreach**, and **Curriculum & Culture**. Key proposals include setting up **Bharat Vidya Kosh**, launching **Vishwa Bandhu scholarships and fellowships**, and creating **Bharat ki AAN (Alumni Ambassador Network)** to leverage the Indian diaspora, reinforcing India's ambition to emerge as a leading global destination for higher education and research.

Sports News

- ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup 2025:** The 12th ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup was held in Dubai (UAE) from 12–21 December 2025.
- Pakistan defeated India by 191 runs in the final at ICC Academy Ground.
- Khelo India Tribal Games Logo Launched:** Union Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the logo, theme song and mascot of the first Khelo India Tribal Games.
- The event will be held from 14 February 2026 in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
- Alpine SG Pipers Win Global Chess League 2025:** Alpine SG Pipers won the 3rd Global Chess League by defeating Triveni Continental Kings in Mumbai.

- The tournament was organised by FIDE in partnership with Tech Mahindra.
- Global Chess League 2025 Highlights:** The franchise-based rapid chess league was held from 14–23 December 2025 with a USD 1 million prize pool.
- PBG Alaskan Knights finished third while Alireza Firouzja won Men's Player of the Tournament.
- East Bengal FC Wins SAFF Women's Club Title:** East Bengal FC won the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship.
- The victory strengthened India's dominance in regional women's football.
- Smriti Mandhana Creates T20I History:** Smriti Mandhana became the first Asian woman to score 4,000 runs in T20 Internationals.
- The milestone highlights India's rise in women's cricket.
- Sukhman Singh Wins IGU Amateur Championship:** Sukhman Singh won the 124th Indian Golf Union Amateur Championship.
- The event is one of India's oldest and most prestigious amateur golf tournaments.
- India Tops WADA Doping Violations List:** India topped the WADA doping violations list for the third consecutive year.
- Athletics recorded the highest number of cases, raising concerns over sports ethics.
- Praggnanandhaa Wins Global Chess League Title:** R Praggnanandhaa emerged victorious in the Global Chess League 2025.
- The win highlights India's growing prominence in world chess.
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi Sets Cricket Record:** Fourteen-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi scored a 36-ball century in List-A cricket.
- He became the youngest Indian to score a List-A hundred.
- Bilaspur to Host Khelo India Tribal Games:** Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh will host the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games.
- The initiative promotes inclusion and development of tribal athletes.

Schemes and Committees News

- VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 Approved:** President Droupadi Murmu approved the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025.
- The Act replaces MGNREGA and increases employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days.
- Delhi Launches Atal Canteen Scheme:** Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launched the Atal Canteen Scheme to provide nutritious meals at ₹5 per plate at 100 locations.
- The scheme was launched on the 101st birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Science and Technology News

- **ISRO Completes Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute Tests:** ISRO successfully completed qualification tests of drogue parachutes for the Gaganyaan Crew Module.
- The tests were conducted at DRDO's TBRL Rail Track Rocket Sled facility in Chandigarh.
- **Asian Youth Para Games 2025 Held in Dubai:** The 5th Asian Youth Para Games were held from December 7–14, 2025 in Dubai, UAE.
- India ranked 7th with 102 medals, while Uzbekistan topped the tally.
- **Highlights of Asian Youth Para Games 2025:** The Games featured 11 para-sports with participation from 35 countries and over 1,500 athletes.
- A total of 25 records were broken, including 9 world records.
- **BWF World Tour Finals 2025 Conclude in China:** The HSBC BWF World Tour Finals 2025 were held in Hangzhou, China from December 17–21.
- South Korea's An Se-young and France's Christo Popov won women's and men's singles titles respectively.
- **Indian Milestone at BWF World Tour Finals:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won bronze in men's doubles.
- They became the first Indian men's doubles pair to medal at the BWF World Tour Finals.
- **East Bengal FC Wins SAFF Women's Club Championship:** East Bengal FC won the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025 in Kathmandu.
- They defeated Nepal's APF FC 3–0 to become India's first women's club to win an international title.
- **ISRO Launches BlueBird Block-2 Satellite:** ISRO launched the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite aboard LVM3-M6 from Sriharikota.
- The mission was executed under a commercial agreement with AST SpaceMobile via NSIL.
- **James Webb Telescope Discovers New Exoplanet:** The James Webb Space Telescope discovered a rare lemon-shaped exoplanet.
- The finding challenges existing theories of planetary formation.
- **CRISPR Centre of Excellence Announced:** A Letter of Intent was signed to establish a Centre of Excellence for CRISPR research.
- The initiative supports biotechnology innovation and India's bio-economy goals.
- **NASA Loses Contact with MAVEN Orbiter:** NASA lost communication with its MAVEN Mars Orbiter launched in 2013.
- Efforts are ongoing to restore contact with the spacecraft.
- **Indian Railways Deploys AI for Wildlife Safety:** Indian Railways enhanced AI-based surveillance along tracks to prevent wildlife accidents.

- The system uses cameras to detect animal movement in real time.
- **IIT Delhi Launches AILA:** IIT Delhi introduced AILA, an Autonomous AI Lab Assistant.
- The tool supports data analysis, experiment planning and automation in research.
- **Russia Plans Nuclear Plant on Moon:** Russia announced plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by 2036.
- The project aims to support long-term lunar missions and research infrastructure.

Important Days News

- **National Mathematics Day 2025:** Observed on 22 December to commemorate mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's birth anniversary.
- The day highlights the importance of mathematics in scientific and human progress.
- **138th Birth Anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan:** December 22, 2025 marks the 138th birth anniversary of the legendary Indian mathematician.
- The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2025 was awarded to Dr Alexander Smith of Northwestern University, USA.
- **National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas) 2025:** Observed on 23 December to honour farmers and agricultural contributions to India's economy.
- The day marks the 123rd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- **National Consumer Day 2025:** Observed on 24 December to promote awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities.
- The 2025 theme was "Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice".
- **Good Governance Day 2025:** Observed on 25 December to commemorate former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The day marks his 101st birth anniversary and the 12th observance of Good Governance Day.
- **Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) 2025:** Celebrated from 19 to 25 December across India.
- The week promotes transparent, accountable and citizen-centric governance.



- **Veer Bal Diwas Observed:** India observes Veer Bal Diwas to honour Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh.
- The day commemorates their martyrdom in 1705 for upholding faith and courage.
- **Shaheedi Hafta 2025:** Observed from 20 to 27 December to remember the martyrdom of the four Sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- It highlights sacrifice, bravery and resilience in Indian history.
- **Sardar Udham Singh's Birth Anniversary:** India commemorates the 126th birth anniversary of revolutionary Sardar Udham Singh.
- He is remembered for avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- **Christmas Eve 2025:** Observed globally on 24 December with prayers, midnight masses and carols.
- It marks the eve of the birth of Jesus Christ.
- **Christmas Day 2025:** Christmas falls on Thursday, 25 December 2025.

- The festival celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ with worship, feasts and gift-giving worldwide.

Obituaries News

- **Malayalam Actor Sreenivasan Passes Away:** Renowned Malayalam actor, director, screenwriter and producer Sreenivasan passed away at the age of 69 in Kochi, Kerala.
- He won the National Award in 1998 for Best Film on Other Social Issues.
- **WWII Veteran Ira "Ike" Schab Dies:** Ira "Ike" Schab, a United States World War II veteran, passed away at the age of 105 in Oregon, USA.
- He was a survivor of the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack.
- **Jnanpith Awardee Vinod Kumar Shukla Passes Away:** Eminent Hindi writer and Jnanpith Award winner Vinod Kumar Shukla died at the age of 88 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- He became the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive the Jnanpith Award in 2025.

Static Takeaways

Entity / Topic	Head / Position	Headquarters / Capital	Established / Formation	Additional Important Details
World Health Organization (WHO)	Director-General: Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	Geneva, Switzerland	1948	Specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) for global health
BRICS	—	—	2006 (BRIC), Institutionalized 2009	South Africa joined 2010 ; New members 2024 : Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE; Indonesia joined 2025
International Cricket Council (ICC)	Chairman: Jay Shah	Dubai, UAE	1909	Governing body of international cricket
UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)	President: Jurg Lauber	Geneva, Switzerland	2006	47 Member States
Indian Navy (IN)	Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral D.K. Tripathi	New Delhi	1950	Part of Indian Armed Forces
Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)	President: Majid Rashed (UAE)	Dubai, UAE	2010	Governs para-sports in Asia
Badminton World Federation (BWF)	President: Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1934	Global governing body of badminton
International Basketball Federation (FIBA)	President: Sheikh Saud Ali Al Thani	Mies, Switzerland	1932	Known as Fédération Internationale de Basketball
Assam	CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma ; Governor: Lakshman Prasad Acharya	Capital: Dispur	—	WLS: Laokhowa, Chakrashila, Pobitora, Hollongapar Gibbon
NPCIL	CMD: Bhuwan Chandra Pathak	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1987	Operates nuclear power plants in India
Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MoYAS)	Union Minister: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya ; MoS: Raksha Nikhil Khadse	New Delhi	—	Handles youth & sports development
Ministry of Housing	Union Minister: Manohar Lal	New Delhi	—	Urban development & housing

Entity / Topic	Head / Position	Headquarters / Capital	Established / Formation	Additional Important Details
& Urban Affairs (MoHUA)	Khattar; MoS: Tokhan Sahu			
Netherlands	PM: Dick Schoof	Capital: Amsterdam	—	Currency: Euro (EUR)
India Optel Limited (IOL)	CMD: Tushar Tripathi	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	2021	Defence PSU
Enord Private Limited	CEO: Muhammad Anas	New Delhi	2021	Private technology company
Asian Cricket Council (ACC)	President: Mohsin Naqvi	Dubai, UAE	1983	Promotes cricket in Asia
NITI Aayog	Chairman: PM Narendra Modi	New Delhi	2015	Replaced Planning Commission
PFRDA	Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann	New Delhi	2003 (Statutory 2014)	Regulates pension sector
GRSE Limited	CMD: Commodore P.R. Hari (Retd.)	Kolkata, WB	1884	Defence shipyard PSU
Uttar Pradesh	CM: Yogi Adityanath; Governor: Anandiben Patel	Capital: Lucknow	—	WLS: Ranipur, Chandraprabha
ISRO	Chairman: V. Narayanan	Bengaluru, Karnataka	1969 (INCOSPAR 1962)	India's space agency
DRDO	Chairman: Samir V. Kamat	New Delhi	1958	Defence R&D organization
MOCAF&PD	Union Minister: Pralhad Joshi; MoS: B.L. Verma, Nimuben Bambhaniya	New Delhi	—	Food, consumer affairs
Jharkhand	CM: Hemant Soren; Governor: Santosh Kumar Gangwar	Capital: Ranchi	—	WLS: Hazaribagh, Lawalong
MoPNG	Union Minister: Hardeep Singh Puri; MoS: Suresh Gopi	New Delhi	—	Petroleum & natural gas
CCI	Chairperson: Ravneet Kaur	New Delhi	2003	Competition watchdog
NCT Delhi	CM: Rekha Gupta; LG: Vinai Kumar Saxena	Capital: New Delhi	—	National Capital Territory
Goldman Sachs	Chairman & CEO: David M. Solomon	New York, USA	1869	Global investment bank
Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)	CMD: Brajesh Kumar	Vasco-da-Gama, Goa	1957	Defence PSU
FIDE	President: Arkady Dvorkovich	Lausanne, Switzerland	1924	World chess governing body
Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)	Union Minister: Rajiv Ranjan Singh; MoS: S.P. Singh Baghel	New Delhi	—	Rural governance
Sri Lanka	President: Anura Kumara Disanayake	Capital: Colombo	—	Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)
MoPP&P	Headed by: PM Narendra Modi; MoS: Jitendra Singh	New Delhi	—	Personnel & pensions