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National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2025 Presented by the President of India

- ✓ The National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2025 presented by the President of India.
- ✓ On 3 December, the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for 2025 were presented in New Delhi by President Droupadi Murmu on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.
- ✓ It was emphasised by the President that Divyangjan deserve full equality and must be included as equal partners in the nation's progress.
- ✓ The theme for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025, "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress," was underlined as a reflection of this forward-looking vision.
- ✓ It was noted by the President that India is shifting from a welfare-based approach to a rights-based, dignity-centred system for persons with disabilities.



- ✓ The use of the respectful term “Divyangjan” since 2015 was recalled as a step taken to honour and recognise the strength of persons with disabilities.
- ✓ The government’s efforts to expand national-level institutions in areas like sign-language research, mental health rehabilitation, and sports training were highlighted as part of the empowerment ecosystem.
- ✓ Millions of Divyangjan have been provided Unique Disability ID cards to facilitate access to various specialised benefits and services.

DRDO Successfully Conducts High-Speed Rocket-Sledge Test of Fighter Aircraft Escape System

- ✓ A high-speed rocket-sledge test of a fighter aircraft escape system successfully conducted by DRDO.
- ✓ On 2 December, a high-speed rocket-sledge test of a fighter aircraft escape system was successfully carried out by DRDO at a controlled velocity.
- ✓ With this advanced dynamic test, India was placed among the select nations possessing in-house capability for testing high-performance escape systems.
- ✓ The test was undertaken jointly with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at the Rail Track Rocket Sledge facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh.
- ✓ It was explained that dynamic ejection tests are far more complex than static assessments like Net tests or Zero-Zero tests, and are used to evaluate the performance of ejection seats and canopy-severance systems.



- ✓ A dual-sledge setup carrying the LCA aircraft forebody was propelled to a precisely regulated velocity through phased ignition of multiple solid rocket motors.
- ✓ Canopy fragilisation patterns, ejection sequencing and recovery mechanisms were simulated using an instrumented Anthropomorphic Test Dummy, designed to mimic real pilot responses.
- ✓ Critical loads, accelerations and forces experienced during an actual ejection were recorded to assess pilot safety during high-speed escape situations.
- ✓ The entire ejection sequence was captured using onboard cameras and ground-based imaging systems for thorough analysis and validation.

The 18th **Plenary of the Global Forum on Tax Transparency** was inaugurated by the Finance Minister

- ✓ On 2 November, the 18th plenary meeting of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes was inaugurated in New Delhi by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ The plenary is being hosted by India from 2nd to 5th December 2025 under the theme “Tax Transparency: Delivering a Shared Vision Through International Cooperation.”
- ✓ The Global Forum, with 172 member jurisdictions including all G20 nations, is recognised as the primary body for implementing global tax transparency standards such as Exchange of Information on Request (EOIR) and Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information (AEOI).



- ✓ In her address, the Finance Minister stated that the global financial environment has shifted from secrecy toward transparency, now seen as essential for fairness and responsible governance.
- ✓ She highlighted that voluntary tax compliance in India has increased due to simplification, clarity and trust-based governance mechanisms.
- ✓ The Minister emphasised that technology and AI are being utilised for analysing financial information, while warning that innovation should still follow established procedures.

The first woman vice chancellor appointed by Nagpur University in its 102-year history

- ✓ Nagpur University entered a historic milestone with the appointment of Manali Makarand Kshirsagar as its first woman Vice Chancellor since the institution was founded in 1923.
- ✓ Dr Manali Makarand Kshirsagar has been appointed as the 25th Vice Chancellor of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University.
- ✓ The announcement was made by Maharashtra Governor and Chancellor Acharya Devvrat regarding her selection for the top post.
- ✓ Dr Kshirsagar, aged 54, is an alumna of Nagpur University and currently serves as director-technical and adviser at Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering.
- ✓ She holds a PhD in computer science along with an MBA in finance and marketing.
- ✓ The governor's order specifies that her tenure will extend for a period of five years.
- ✓ The appointment has been viewed as both symbolic and strategically important for the institution's future direction.



Navy Day: 04 December

- ✓ Navy Day is celebrated on 4 December every year.
- ✓ The day recognises the achievements and role of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ On this day in 1971, Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar during Operation Trident.
- ✓ India celebrated Navy Day 2025 with a Operational Demonstration at Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ✓ The event showed the Navy's operational platforms.



Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been approved by Lok Sabha

- ✓ The Bill allows major increases in excise duties and cess on tobacco products.
- ✓ These changes aim to maintain tax incidence after the compensation cess period ends.
- ✓ The Finance Minister clarified that the measure restores earlier excise powers rather than imposing a new tax.
- ✓ She noted that compensation cess rates have not changed since 2017.
- ✓ She stated that cigarettes currently face a total tax incidence of about 53% of retail price.
- ✓ She added that the revived excise revenue will still be shared with states through 41% tax devolution.
- ✓ The Minister said the government has consistently promoted crop diversification away from tobacco.
- ✓ Over 112,000 acres have shifted from tobacco cultivation to other crops between 2018 and 2021-22.
- ✓ The Bill raises cigarette excise slabs to Rs. 2,700- Rs.11,000 per thousand sticks, far above the earlier Rs. 200-Rs. 735 range.



- ✓ The duty on chewing tobacco increases from 25% to 100 %.
- ✓ The duty on hookah tobacco increases from 25% to 40%.
- ✓ The duty on smoking mixtures increases from 60% to 325%.
- ✓ The legislation aims to curb tobacco use by making harmful products significantly more expensive.

India-Russia 22nd Defence Cooperation Meeting Held in New Delhi

- ✓ 22nd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation ministerial meeting held in New Delhi.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov jointly co-chaired the meeting.
- ✓ During the meeting, two leaders reviewed relations between the two countries in the field of defence.
- ✓ They also exchanged views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- ✓ During his visit, Belousov will visit the National War Memorial.
- ✓ He will place a wreath to honour Indian soldiers who died in the line of duty.
- ✓ Two leaders met in June 2025 in Qingdao, China. Moscow reaffirmed its commitment to timely S-400 deliveries.
- ✓ The S-400 system is officially designated 'Sudarshan Chakra', on the name of the mythological weapon of Lord Vishnu.
- ✓ In October 2025, 5th Meeting of the Working Group on Military Cooperation of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi.



100-Day Campaign to End Child Marriage Launched in India

- ✓ A 100-day intensive awareness campaign for a Child Marriage Free Bharat launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ✓ The launch programme included a National Pledge to End Child Marriage.
- ✓ It also included the screening of a special film on stories of change from across the country.
- ✓ The campaign marks one year of the Bal Vivah Mukat Bharat initiative.
- ✓ The campaign will continue from November 27, 2025 to March 8, 2026.
- ✓ It aims to mobilise citizens, institutions and community leaders to make the nationwide movement against child marriage stronger.
- ✓ Ministry had launched Bal Vivah Mukat Bharat campaign on 27 November 2024. It completed one year on 27 November 2025.
- ✓ A 100-day intensive awareness campaign has three phases.



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- ✓ The first phase will focus on activities in schools, colleges and universities.
- ✓ These activities will include debates, essays, interactive discussions and pledge-taking sessions.
- ✓ The second phase will involve religious leaders, community influencers and marriage service providers.
- ✓ The third phase will encourage Gram Panchayats and municipal wards to pass formal resolutions, declaring their jurisdictions free from child marriage.

International Cheetah Day: 04 December

- ✓ International Cheetah Day is celebrated each year on 04 December since 2010.
- ✓ To mark this day, Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav will release 3 cheetahs currently in enclosures at Kuno National Park into the wild.
- ✓ The number of cheetahs in India is 32. Out of these, 21 are India-born cubs.
- ✓ Dr Lauri Marker is famous as the creator of International Cheetah Day.
- ✓ Dr Marker is the founder and executive director of Cheetah Conservation Fund.
- ✓ Cheetah Conservation Fund is the NGO that is helping the Indian government with Project Cheetah.
- ✓ Dr Marker chose 4 December in memory of Khayam, a Cheetah she raised as a cub at Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon during 1970s.
- ✓ Project Cheetah was launched in September 2022. The initiative aims to reintroduce the cheetah in India.
- ✓ Total 20 cheetahs were brought into Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Eight were brought from Namibia in September 2022 and 12 were brought from South Africa in February 2023.



World Soil Day 2025: 5 December

- ✓ Every year on 5 December, World Soil Day is observed.
- ✓ The main aim of this day is to spread awareness about the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems.
- ✓ “Healthy soils for healthy cities” is the theme of World Soil Day 2025.
- ✓ The theme focuses on the role of soil in cities and the challenges posed by soil sealing and urbanization.
- ✓ With two-thirds of the world’s population expected to live in cities by 2050, soil is the foundation for sustainable and robust cities.
- ✓ The first official World Soil Day was celebrated in 2014.
- ✓ In 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 5 December as World Soil Day.
- ✓ It is observed to bring attention to the importance of healthy soil and to advocate the sustainable management of soil resources.
- ✓ More than 95% of food is produced from soil and water. Soil is home to approximately 59% of Earth’s species.



RBI Retains SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2025 List with Unchanged Bucketing Structure

- ✓ **RBI** has retained **SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank** as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** for **2025**, keeping them in the same bucketing structure as the previous year.
- ✓ The additional CET1 requirement is set at 0.80% for SBI, 0.40% for HDFC Bank, and 0.20% for ICICI Bank, which will be over and above the Capital Conservation Buffer.
- ✓ Under the D-SIB framework, RBI publicly discloses the names of systemically important banks (since 2015) and places them in buckets based on their Systemic Importance Scores (SIS).
- ✓ Foreign banks operating in India that are classified as G-SIBs must maintain an additional CET1 surcharge proportionate to their India Risk-Weighted Assets (RWAs), as prescribed by their home regulator



Air Marshal Tejbir Singh Assumes Charge as Director General (Inspection & Safety) at Air Headquarters

- ✓ **Air Marshal Tejbir Singh** assumed charge as **Director General (Inspection & Safety)** at **Air Headquarters**, succeeding **Air Marshal Makarand Bhaskar Ranade**, who retired on 30 November 2025.
- ✓ With a 37-year distinguished career, he has served in key roles including Air Attaché to Bangladesh, Senior Directing Staff (Air) at NDC, and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Operations-Transport & Helicopters); he is also an alumnus of the Royal College of Defence Studies, UK.
- ✓ He has been honoured with prestigious awards such as the Vayu Sena Medal (2010) and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2018) in recognition of his exceptional service to the Indian Air Force.



Recent Appointments in Defence Sector

- ✓ **Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)** - Vishvajit Sahay
- ✓ **40th Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy** - Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar
- ✓ **DG of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)** - Lieutenant General Virendra Vats (replace Gurbirpal Singh)
- ✓ **Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** - Praveen Kumar (replace Rahul Rasgotra)
- ✓ **Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - Praveer Ranjan (replace Rajwinder Singh Bhatti)