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Supriya Sahu Honoured with UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025

- ✓ Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forests, was awarded the **UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025** for her climate leadership.
- ✓ She was selected by UNEP for her inspiration and decisive action in addressing urgent environmental challenges.
- ✓ Over the past four years, during her tenure as Secretary, she helped establish **Tamil Nadu as a global leader** in climate mitigation, adaptation, and heat resilience.
- ✓ Her initiatives focused on integrating governance with **nature-based solutions** to protect vulnerable communities.
- ✓ These efforts also contributed to the **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**.
- ✓ In her acceptance remarks, she highlighted that while governments play a central role, **real climate action begins with people**.
- ✓ She emphasized that climate action must evolve into a **people's movement** to achieve lasting results.
- ✓ UNEP noted that her use of a **mix of low-tech and high-tech interventions** demonstrated how integrated approaches can safeguard communities while reducing emissions.



On 10 December, the Sujalam Bharat App was launched by the Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil

- ✓ The Sujalam India app is a crucial digital initiative designed to transform rural drinking water governance by putting comprehensive and real-time information into the hands of both citizens and institutions.
- ✓ The app was developed with support from Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) to provide geo-referencing, monitoring, and management tools under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ✓ The initiative was described as a major step toward transparency and community ownership in rural water systems.
- ✓ The Sujalam Bharat platform was emphasised as essential for timely data integration by the DDWS Secretary.
- ✓ BISAG-N detailed the app's technological architecture and how it supports structured digital operations and maintenance of rural water supply schemes.
- ✓ Representatives from all States and Union Territories participated online, reinforcing nationwide commitment to strong water governance.



- ✓ This is a major step towards making the Sujalam Bharat database operational.
- ✓ Every scheme and its service area will be assigned a unique Sujalam Bharat – Sujal Village ID, which will clearly indicate which scheme is providing water to which households.
- ✓ Training and orientation were conducted to guide States/UTs in using the app, geo-referencing assets, and integrating data on the platform.
- ✓ The Sujalam Bharat Database will integrate water sources, designs, asset inventories, supply reliability, water quality, and O&M information into a unified digital view.
- ✓ The digital registry will support long-term sustainability and planning, with PM Gati Shakti GIS integration enabling precise mapping of rural water networks.

MoU Signed Between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and Amazon

- ✓ Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's leading university for the transportation and logistics sector, and Amazon, the world's leading e-commerce company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- ✓ An MoU was signed to promote knowledge sharing and joint curriculum development.
- ✓ The MoU was aimed at enabling joint research activities and data-driven work in the warehousing sector.
- ✓ One of the key elements of the MOU is the creation of an Amazon Chair Professorship at GSV to conduct research in the warehousing sector using a data-driven decision-making framework.
- ✓ The collaboration was described by the Vice Chancellor as crucial for shaping the future of India's logistics sector.
- ✓ GSV, established as a Central University in 2022, operates under the Ministry of Railways and covers all major transportation sectors.
- ✓ The university focuses on railways, highways, maritime, shipping, inland waterways, aviation, and logistics networks.
- ✓ Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology) heads the university as its Chancellor.



Amin Vahdat named Google's Chief Technologist for AI Infrastructure

- ✓ The appointment comes during an intense competition among tech giants to secure computing capacity for AI dominance.
- ✓ The change was described by Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian as establishing AI infrastructure as a major company priority.
- ✓ Capital expenditures were expected to exceed \$90 billion by year-end due to massive AI-related investments.
- ✓ Google is betting on its in-house designed tensor processing units (TPUs) and large-scale infrastructure to stay competitive.
- ✓ Microsoft has expanded investments in data centres and strengthened its partnership with OpenAI.
- ✓ Amazon continues to grow its custom chip offerings for AWS to enhance AI processing capabilities.
- ✓ The industry-wide push highlights how AI requirements are reshaping corporate strategies and technology spending.
- ✓ Sundar Pichai has stressed disciplined expenditure supported by a \$155-billion cloud backlog to drive Google's AI ambitions.



Shivraj Patil passed away at the age of 91 on 12 December 2025

- ✓ He is a senior Congress leader and former Union Home Minister.
- ✓ He served as 10th Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996 and held several Union Cabinet posts.
- ✓ He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Latur seven times. He was India's Home Minister during 2004-2008.
- ✓ He served as the Governor of Punjab during 2010-2015. He was the Administrator of Chandigarh during this period.
- ✓ He held cabinet responsibilities (including the Defence Ministry) under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.



President Droupadi Murmu Launches and Lays Foundation Stones for Projects Worth Rs. 1,387 Crore in Manipur

- ✓ President Murmu launched and laid foundation stone of projects worth about Rs. 1,387 crore in a ceremony held at the City Convention Centre in Imphal.
- ✓ President Murmu is on a two-day visit to Manipur. She arrived in Imphal as part of visit.
- ✓ President inaugurated twelve projects worth around Rs. 207 crore.
- ✓ Additionally, she laid foundation stones for fourteen projects worth around Rs. 1,180 crore.
- ✓ The projects cover areas including health sector, education, road and highways, tribal development, agriculture, electricity, security and administrative sports, infrastructure, drinking water and others.
- ✓ A Moirang Phee textile and a Sagol Kangjei painting was presented to President by Governor of Manipur Ajay Kumar Bhalla.
- ✓ 86th Nupi Lal Day commemorates two women-led movements against the British colonial policies in 1904 and 1939.
- ✓ President Murmu will visit Senapati district and launch more projects and inaugurate completed works.



India Launches Its First Indigenously Built Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel in Varanasi

- ✓ India has launched its first indigenously built hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel into commercial service in Varanasi.
- ✓ The vessel's inaugural run was flagged off by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal from Namo Ghat.
- ✓ The vessel has been designed and constructed by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. It is being operated by the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
- ✓ This is the country's first inland vessel powered by hydrogen fuel cells and uses a Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane fuel cell system, which releases only water as its output.
- ✓ The vessel is a 24-metre air-conditioned catamaran, which can accommodate 50 passengers and run for about eight hours on one hydrogen fill.
- ✓ It is equipped with a hybrid system. This system integrates hydrogen fuel cells, batteries and solar power.



- ✓ Its service speed is about 6.5 knots and is certified by the Indian Register of Shipping.
- ✓ The vessel operates with no noise, no smoke and no emissions.
- ✓ Its first commercial journey is a five-kilometre stretch from Namoo Ghat to Lalita Ghat.

Protocol of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation Signed Between India and Italy

- ✓ The protocol of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation has been signed by India and Italy.
- ✓ This lays out a roadmap to make their economic ties more stronger.
- ✓ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani signed the protocol.
- ✓ Goyal said that India and Italy also concluded several industry partnerships across multiple sectors.
- ✓ The India-Italy Business Forum was organised in Mumbai on December 11 during visit of Tajani.
- ✓ Goyal addressed the form and said that this was the third major bilateral business event between two countries in eight months.
- ✓ He added that both countries are working to advance the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.



- ✓ He highlighted ongoing progress under the Italy-India Joint Strategic Action Plan in key areas.
- ✓ These areas include trade, investment, research, innovation and people-to-people ties.
- ✓ Tajani announced that Italy aims to achieve 700 billion euros in exports by 2027. He said that Italy views India as a critical partner.

India–Malaysia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

- ✓ The **third meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism and Combating Transnational Crime** was held in **New Delhi on 10 December 2025**.
- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by **Dr. Vinod Bahade**, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism), Ministry of External Affairs, India, and **Mohd. Azlan bin Razali**, Under Secretary, Malaysia's Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ Both sides **strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations**.
- ✓ India and Malaysia emphasised the need for **stronger international cooperation** to effectively counter global terror threats.
- ✓ They reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation at multilateral platforms including the **United Nations, FATF, APG, and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**.
- ✓ The Malaysian delegation agreed to **visit the National Security Guards (NSG) headquarters on 11 December** to explore bilateral training and capability enhancement.



- ✓ Both countries agreed to **hold the next JWG meeting in Kuala Lumpur**, further strengthening bilateral security cooperation.
- India and Malaysia relations:**
- ✓ India and Malaysia relations go back to 1957. Malaysia hosts second largest People of Indian Origin (PIO) community in the world after US.
 - ✓ Malaysia also hosts third largest Indian diaspora in the world.
 - ✓ India and Malaysia relations were levated to Enhanced Strategic Partnership in November 2015.

India Launches Pilot Project to Test Toyota Mirai Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle

- ✓ **A pilot project to test Toyota's Mirai fuel cell electric vehicle (FCEV) has been launched by India.**
- ✓ Under the project, the vehicle will be tested under real-world Indian conditions.
- ✓ Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi launched the initiative.
- ✓ He called it a key milestone in advancing clean transport solutions.
- ✓ Under the project, Mirai FCEV was handed over to National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) by Toyota Kirloskar Motor.
- ✓ NISE will assess performance of vehicle across different Indian terrains, weather conditions, and traffic environments.
- ✓ Mirai indicates growing collaboration between government, research institutions and industry in promoting fuel cell technologies.
- ✓ Joshi drove the Mirai to Parliament to showcase hydrogen mobility.



- ✓ The second-generation hydrogen fuel-cell vehicle, Mirai, has an estimated range of about 650 km.
- ✓ It can be refuelled in under five minutes. It generates electricity through a reaction between hydrogen and oxygen. It emits only water vapour.

Bank of Baroda Named 'Best Bank in India' at Bank of the Year Awards 2025 by The Banker Magazine

- ✓ **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has been awarded the title of '**Best Bank in India**' at **The Banker magazine's "Bank of the Year Awards 2025 - Asia-Pacific,"** a prestigious Financial Times publication.
- ✓ The recognition highlights BoB's enhanced customer experience through the expansion of its phygital branches, which seamlessly integrate physical and digital banking services.
- ✓ According to The Banker, these phygital branches allow customers to quickly access key services such as obtaining statements, generating income tax payment certificates, and updating nominees for bank accounts.



Andrej Babis Returns to Power as Czech Republic's New Prime Minister

- ✓ **Andrej Babis**, a populist billionaire and former Prime Minister (2017–2021), was sworn in again as the **Prime Minister of the Czech Republic**, after his party's victory in the October parliamentary elections.
- ✓ His new coalition commands 108 out of 200 seats in the Lower House, pushing the four pro-Western parties of former PM Petr Fiala to the Opposition.

Newly Appointed Prime Ministers & Presidents

- ✓ President of Ireland - Catherine Connolly
- ✓ First Female PM of Japan - Sanae Takaichi (from Liberal Democratic Party)
- ✓ Interim PM of Nepal - Sushila Karki (first woman Chief Justice of nation from 2016-2017)
- ✓ President of Guyana - Irfaan Ali
- ✓ PM of France - Sebastien Lecornu

