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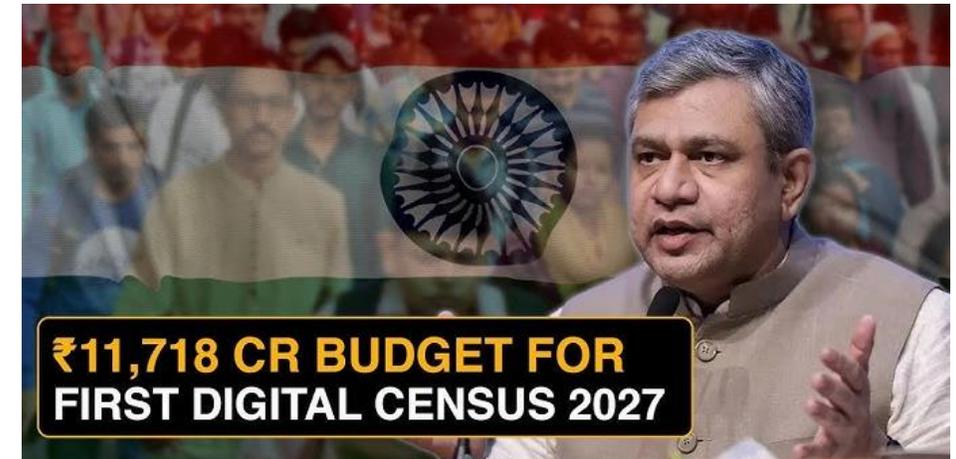
Appointment of Special Roll Observers to Oversee the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

- Special Roll Observers appointed by the Election Commission to oversee the SIR process.
- Special Roll Observers (SROs) have been appointed by the Election Commission to oversee the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls.
- The observers have been deputed to eight states—West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.
- Their deployment has already been initiated, and they are expected to visit the assigned states for two days every week.
- The presence of observers will continue until the publication of the final Electoral Rolls in February 2026.
- The revision exercise is being supervised to ensure that it is conducted in a smooth and transparent manner.
- Meetings with political parties at both State and district levels will be held by the Special Roll Observers.
- Concerns and feedback related to the SIR process will be heard and addressed during these interactions.
- The core objective is to ensure that no eligible elector is excluded and no ineligible person is included in the Electoral Rolls.



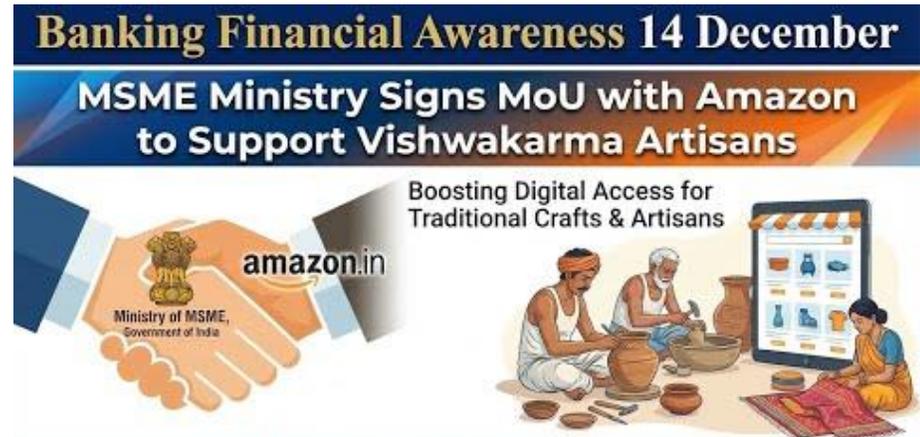
A budget of ₹11,718 crore has been approved by the Union Cabinet for conducting Census 2027.

- On 12 December, the decision was announced by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi.
- Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases—Phase I and Phase II.
- It has been stated that Census 2027 will be the 16th Census overall and the 8th since Independence.
- India's Census has been described as the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world.
- Caste enumeration has been included as part of Census 2027.
- Census 2027 will be conducted digitally for the first time.
- Data collection will be carried out using mobile applications available on both Android and iOS platforms.
- Around 30 lakh field functionaries will be engaged to carry out the Census exercise.
- The process will involve visiting every household for houselisting, housing census and population enumeration across the country.



An MoU signed between the MSME Ministry and Amazon to support PM Vishwakarma Artisans.

- A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Ministry of MSME and Amazon Seller Services Private Ltd.
- The agreement has been aimed at strengthening market access for artisans registered under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.
- The MoU was signed by the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME) and Amazon at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Artisans will be enabled to access online markets, enhance product visibility and expand their customer base.
- Launched on 17th September 2023, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme provides holistic support, including skill training, modern tools, credit access and market linkage.
- Traditional trades such as carpentry, pottery, metalsmithing, tailoring, toy making and basket making are covered under the partnership.
- Onboarding of eligible Vishwakarma artisans onto Amazon's marketplace will be facilitated by Amazon.
- Necessary approvals and registrations will be supported by the Ministry of MSME as per existing norms.
- Handmade products will receive greater visibility through Amazon's Karigar initiative.
- The collaboration supports the goals of Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat by empowering grassroots artisans through digital commerce.



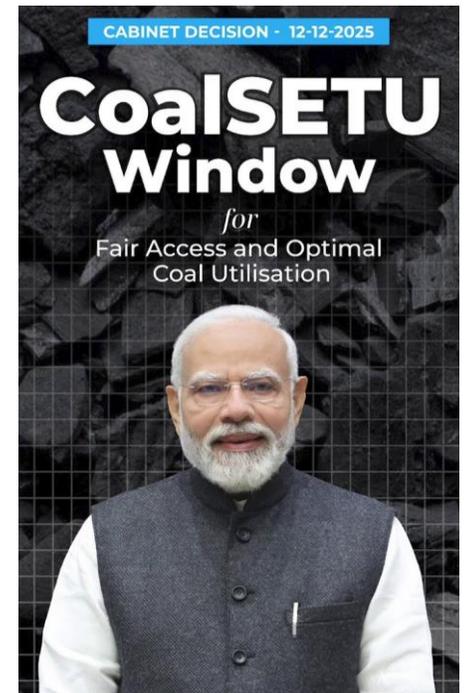
The higher MSP for copra approved by the cabinet for 2026 season.

- On 12 December, an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2026 season has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi.
- The MSP for Fair Average Quality milling copra has been fixed at ₹12,027 per quintal.
- The MSP for ball copra has been fixed at ₹12,500 per quintal.
- The revised MSPs align with the policy of fixing MSP at least 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production.
- An increase of ₹445 per quintal for milling copra and ₹400 per quintal for ball copra has been recorded over the previous season.
- Since 2014, the MSPs for both categories have more than doubled, from ₹5,250 and ₹5,500 per quintal to ₹12,027 and ₹12,500.
- This represents an increase of 129% and 127%, respectively.
- Expansion of copra cultivation is likely to be encouraged to meet domestic and international demand.
- The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) will continue as the central nodal agencies for procurement under the Price Support Scheme.

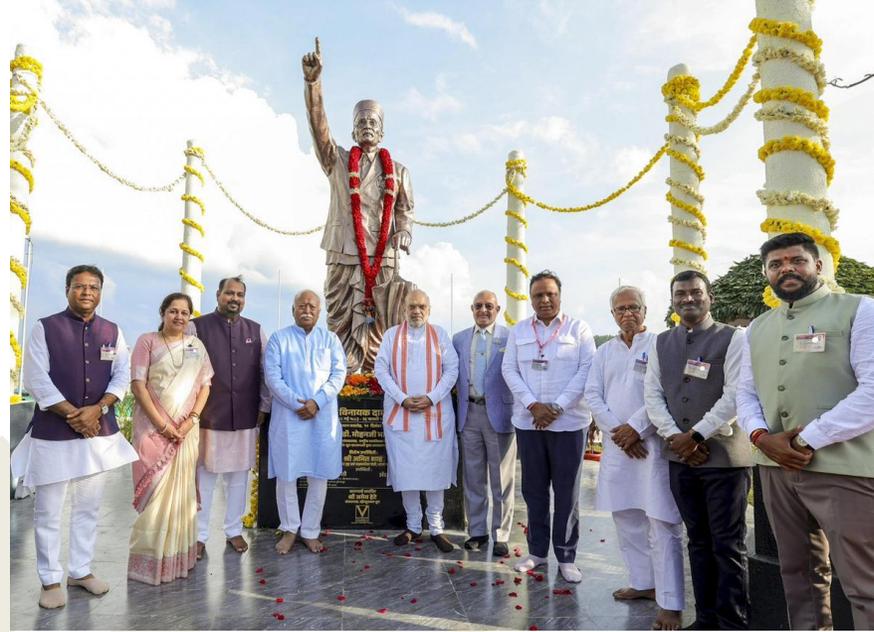


Cabinet Approves CoalSETU Policy to Ensure Fair Access and Optimal Utilisation of Coal

- The CoalSETU policy has been approved by the Cabinet to ensure fair access and optimal utilisation of the resource.
- The CoalSETU policy creates a new window for the auction of coal linkages for various industrial uses and exports.
- The Policy for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient & Transparent Utilisation (CoalSETU) was approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 12 December 2025.
- The policy adds a separate window named 'CoalSETU' in the NRS (Non-Regulated Sector) Linkage Auction Policy of 2016.
- Any domestic buyer requiring coal can take part in the linkage auction regardless of the end use.
- The purpose of coal linkage obtained as part of this window will be own consumption, export of coal or any other purpose, which includes coal washing.
- Coal obtained under CoalSETU cannot be resold within the country.
- Coal linkage holders can export up to 50 percent of their allotted coal.



Amit Shah Pays Tribute to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, highlighting his role in laying the foundations of cultural nationalism.
- He addressed a commemorative event held in Sri Vijayapuram in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The event marked 115 years of Savarkar’s poetry collection “Sagara Prana Talamalla”.
- Amit Shah referred to the unveiling of Savarkar’s statue, linking it to his immense suffering in the Cellular Jail.
- The statue was unveiled by Amit Shah along with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

- It is installed at Veer Savarkar Inspiration Park in Beodnabad, South Andaman district.
- The park commemorates Savarkar's imprisonment at Kala Pani in 1911.
- Amit Shah also paid homage to other freedom fighters, including Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, and recalled the Indian National Army's role in liberating parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar:

- He was born in the Nashik district of Maharashtra on 28 May 1883.
- Savarkar was a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, and writer and was known for coining the term 'Hindutva.'
- He was sentenced to 50 years in jail in 1911 for revolting against the Morley-Minto reforms.
- He was part of the Hindu Mahasabha. He wrote the famous book 'The Indian War of Independence 1857.'

President Murmu's Visit to Senapati District, Manipur

- President Droupadi Murmu visited Senapati district of Manipur on 12 December.
- She inaugurated six developmental projects and laid the foundation stone for five additional projects in the district.
- The inaugurated projects include a ₹25 crore model residential school, two upgraded Primary Health Centres worth ₹10 crore, and two Bailey bridges costing ₹11 crore.
- The President interacted with internally displaced persons living in relief camps.
- She also met leaders of the Maram tribe, the only tribe in Manipur classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- The inauguration and foundation-laying ceremony was held at the Multipurpose Hall in Senapati district.
- During the event, a short documentary on the Maram tribe under the PM JANMAN initiative was screened, highlighting efforts to uplift tribal communities.



A MoU has been signed between the Department of Posts and BSE on 12 December 2025 in New Delhi.

- The MoU has been signed to expand access to mutual fund investments across India.
- The initiative aligns with the Budget 2025–26 announcement.
- The announcement emphasised on using India Post's network to drive economic activity in rural and semi-urban areas.
- As part of the partnership, India Post will act as a distributor of mutual fund products.
- The aim of the partnership is to bring investment opportunities closer to citizens in rural, semi-urban, and underserved regions.
- As part of agreement, postal employees will get training and certification as mutual fund distributors
- With this, they will be able to provide investor services and facilitate mutual fund transactions through the BSE StAR MF platform.
- The validity of MoU is for three years from 12 December 2025 to 11 December 2028. Also, it includes a provision for renewal.
- BSE will support the onboarding of trained postal staff through the generation of Employee Unique Identification Numbers.
- They will also be assisted by BSE in obtaining mandatory NISM (National Institute of Securities Markets) Mutual Fund Distributor certification.
- The collaboration will increase mutual fund penetration in Tier-2, Tier-3, and rural regions.



National Energy Conservation Day 2025 was observed on December 14 across India.

- This day is observed to raise awareness about the great value of energy conservation.
- National Energy Conservation Day is being celebrated on December 14 since 1991.
- President Droupadi Murmu was the chief guest of the event held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on December 14, 2025.
- President felicitated the winners of the National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 and National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation 2025.
- On the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day, Bureau of Energy Efficiency felicitates industrial units, institutions, and establishments with Energy Conservation Awards to recognize and encourage their efforts in lowering energy consumption.
- The National Energy Conservation Awards have 28 subsectors under 7 broad categories.
- Social Media Influencers and Digital Content Creators is the new category introduced this year to recognize role of influencers in spreading awareness on energy conservation.
- National Painting Competition on Energy Conservation is being organised by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, under the guidance of the Ministry of Power, since 2005.
- The competition has three levels: school, state/UT, and national.
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency was established on March 1, 2002, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001



First Meeting of the National Makhana Board Held; ₹476 Crore Development Scheme Launched

- The first meeting of the National Makhana Board held and a scheme worth ₹476 crore was launched.
- On 12 December, the first meeting of the National Makhana Board has been held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The meeting was chaired by Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Implementation of both the National Makhana Board and the Central Sector Scheme was initiated through this meeting.
- Annual Action Plans submitted by States and research institutions were reviewed and approved.
- The Board meeting emphasized that SAU Sabour and CAU Samastipur, Bihar will be required to supply seeds this year and next year to meet the states' seed needs.



- The State Agricultural University, Central Agricultural University, Bihar and NRC Makhana Darbhanga will train trainers from different states on cutting-edge technological aspects of the Makhana value chain to facilitate Makhana cultivation in traditional and non-traditional areas.
- The Board also stressed the need for research, technology development, infrastructure creation, improved cultivation methods, value addition, branding, market linkage, and export preparation.
- The central government has established the National Makhana Board, fulfilling its announcement in the Union Budget 2025-26.
- The Prime Minister officially launched the Board in Bihar on September 15, 2025.
- To support this initiative, the government has approved a Central Sector Scheme for Development of Makhana with an outlay of ₹476.03 crore for the period 2025-26 to 2030-31.
- The scheme focuses on research and innovation, quality seed production, farmer capacity building, improved harvesting and post-harvest practices, value addition, branding and marketing, export promotion, and quality control.

Mizoram Declared the Ginger Capital of India by NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog has declared Mizoram as the Ginger Capital of India, acknowledging its superior quality and expanding production of ginger.
- The state government is actively promoting ginger cultivation, value addition, and processing to strengthen farmers' income. Major steps include large-scale procurement and financial disbursement to support growers
- New ginger processing units and upcoming promotional events are planned to boost the ginger-based industry and market linkages even further

Mizoram Agricultural Board Extended Thanks To Niti Aayog For Declaring The State The Ginger Capital Of India



Col Prateek Roy of Indian Army Receives Prestigious Geddes Gavel Award at Australian Defence College



- **Col Prateek Roy of the Indian Army** was awarded the **Geddes Gavel Award** upon completing the Defence Strategic and Studies Course at the Australian Defence College, recognizing his outstanding performance.
- The award honors the student who demonstrates exceptional understanding of regional relationships, decision-making, and superior knowledge across political, diplomatic, military, cultural, and economic domains.
- The Indian High Commission in Canberra shared the achievement, highlighting it as a prestigious recognition of India's military leadership and strategic expertise.

Raveena Tandon Named PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year

- Raveena Tandon was named PETA India's 2025 Person of the Year for her commitment to a meat-free lifestyle, wildlife protection, and advocacy for community animals.
- Promoted empathy for all living beings, highlighting her compassionate efforts to protect animals and raise awareness about humane treatment
- Collaborated with PETA India earlier this year to donate a life-sized mechanical elephant to Karnataka's Thousand Pillars Jain Temple, supporting its decision not to use live elephants.
- Joins a prestigious list of past PETA India awardees, including Virat Kohli, Dia Mirza, Alia Bhatt, John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, and many other Bollywood stars and notable personalities

About PETA & PETA India:

- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)
- **Founded:** 1980
- **Founders:** Ingrid Newkirk and Alex Pacheco
- **Headquarters:** Norfolk, Virginia, USA
- **Motto:** "Animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way."

