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**MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS  
EBOOK  
DECEMBER 2025**

**YOUR GUIDE TO  
MOST IMPORTANT  
CURRENT AFFAIRS  
AND EVENTS OF THE  
MONTH.**

**IAS | BANKING | SSC | NDA/CDS | AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

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# Iran Launches Three Satellites with Russian Soyuz Rockets: Check Here

Iran managed to position its domestically-made satellites into low orbit on the Soyuz rocket fired by Russia on December 28, 2025, clearly showing the deepening Iran-Russia cooperation in space despite overall Iranian sanctions imposed by the West. This is yet another area where space technology is becoming the core area for Iran-Russia cooperation.

## **What was launched and why it matters?**

The three satellites, namely Zafar-2, Paya, and Kowsar, or the second-generation satellite, are according to Iranian authorities, remote sensing and Earth observation satellites. Their purpose is for civilian use, crop observation, natural resource management, and environmental observation. And this is general to Tehran's aim to develop and use space for peaceful purposes while simultaneously developing dual-use technology.

Iran's authorities have repeatedly emphasized that Iran's satellites are Iranian-made, and Iran has partnered with Russia to access the infrastructure and know-how necessary to place them into orbit. Iran relies on external assistance to launch satellites into orbit while Iran's domestic manufacturing continues.

## **The Partners and the Technology**

There has been cooperation in space matters with Russia since 2022, where Russia is launched to provide Iranian satellites with launch services at the time when launch services for Iranian satellites are restricted internationally. According to analysts, Iran manages to follow its path in developing its space program.

The Iranian ambassador to Russia described this partnership as vast and diversified, with Russia at the forefront of satellite technology and launch facilities. This partnership is used as an enabler for Iran's space and aerospace plans.

### **Geography, Timing, and Context**

The missions were conducted from Russia's Far East launch facilities, showing how geopolitics influences the choice of launch sites for key space missions. The missions took place towards the end of December 2025, and this fits the trend for Iran to increase its space activities through international partnerships as its homegrown capabilities develop.

The dual-use nature of space technology has raised concerns for the West, as "the satellite launch capability could contribute to the development of ballistic missiles." Iran, however, denies any connection between its program and the above accusations, maintaining that it is strictly for peaceful purposes only. This creates an issue of contention for the security of the region for the West and its allies against Iran.

The December 28, 2025, Soyuz launch is a significant event in the Iranian space program and Iran-Russia cooperation in space, but it also resonates with the wider debate surrounding the use and implications for the security domain. The considerations and discussions regarding the implications, either civilian or dual use, are essential and continue to influence the international community and international policies.

# NASA Scrambles to Recover MAVEN: Long-Term Mars Orbiter Goes Silent After 10 Years in Space

NASA's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft is a long-term Mars orbiter that has been active for more than 10 years and has not communicated since early December 2025. The lack of communication concerns engineers regarding the spacecraft's health, and its ability to communicate with future Mars surface missions. Engineers are currently trying to establish a channel of communication with MAVEN using the Deep Space Network. There are currently other Mars orbiters that are still sending and receiving data.

## **MAVEN's Mission Overview**

- MAVEN; it is an acronym for Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution
- MAVEN was launched in November 2013 from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- MAVEN entered a stable orbit around Mars in September 2014. This date was significant for Mars exploration since it coincided with the launch of India's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM); both orbiters entered their orbits in September 2014.
- MAVEN was intended to operate for a duration of 2 years, but has continued operating for more than 10 years and will continue to do so until 2025.

## **MAVEN's Scientific Objectives**

- MAVEN investigates the upper atmosphere of Mars, as well as its ionosphere, to understand how and why its atmosphere was lost.
- To accomplish its mission, MAVEN measures solar winds, gaseous particles, ions, magnetic field interactions and other parameters.
- MAVEN will also provide insight into how Mars changed from an Earth-like planet with a warm, wet atmosphere to its current arid condition; specifically, it is focused on determining the rate of

hydrogen and oxygen loss to the atmosphere from Mars, as this information has important implications for habitability.

- Signal Failure: There is no communication upon return; the Deep Space Network (DSN) did not pick up any expected signals.
- Partial Recovery: There was a small piece of tracking data on 6 December that indicated movement with an unexpected rotation and possibly changing orbits.

### **Current Status - December 2025**

NASA has confirmed that MAVEN is currently unresponsive, but troubleshooting is being done to find a definitive reason – it is suspected to be a result of a problem with attitude control, issues with power delivery, or from a gradual decrease in orbit.

### **Critical for Mars Relay**

- As well as performing science operations on Mars, MAVEN is one of the primary tools through which data can be sent back to Earth.
- Sending information received on the ground from Earth and rovers (Curiosity/Perseverance) back to Earth.
- Approximately twenty percent of what the Mars rovers send to Earth comes from MAVEN.

### **Contingency Measures in Place**

- MAVEN could be backed up by the following orbiters:
  - Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.
  - Mars Odyssey (oldest currently active orbiters).
  - Mars Trace Gas Orbiter and Mars Express (European Space Agency).
- No expectation of interference to normal rover operations and activities due to backup operational support.

# Current Affairs 24 Dec 2025: Youngest Player to Score a Century in Men's List A Cricket

Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are very important from an exam point of view and will be helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to National Consumer Day 2025, 'Anjdeep' and Vaibhav Suryavanshi, etc.

Who has become the youngest player to score a century in men's List A cricket- Vaibhav Suryavanshi

With which institution has the Indian Army signed an MoU for collaboration on AI-based and software-driven defense solutions- NSUT

The indigenously designed and built anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft 'Anjdeep' was built by- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata

Which medal did the Indian pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty win in the BWF World Tour Finals 2025 in Hangzhou, China recently- Bronze medal

In which country did External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently inaugurate a 120-foot double carriageway Bailey bridge- Sri Lanka

INSV Kondinya will travel from Porbandar, Gujarat, to which location during its maiden sea voyage- Muscat, Oman

National Consumer Day is celebrated every year on- 24 December

Who won the gold medal in the 10 meter air rifle men's final at the National Shooting Championship Competitions- Kiran Ankush Jadhav

National Farmers' Day is celebrated on what date- 23 December

[PM Awas Yojana Gramin](#)

# Antariksh Prayogshala: IN-SPACe invites proposals to establish Antariksh Prayogshala (Space labs) academic institutions India

'Antariksh Prayogshala' is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at creating state-of-the-art space laboratories within Indian academic institutions. These labs are designed to strengthen the country's space technology ecosystem by providing hands-on training to students pursuing space tech courses in academic institutes spread across the country. This initiative is intended to enable meaningful industry–academia collaboration and support India's long-term vision of becoming a leading global space economy.

## Key Points about Antariksaj Prayogshala (Space Labs):

1. It is introduced by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
2. It is a first-of-its-kind initiative with the objective of creating state-of-the-art space laboratories within academic institutions across the country.
3. Antariksaj Prayogshala will offer hands-on training to students pursuing space technology courses in academic institutions to bridge the gap between theory and industry requirements spread across India.
4. It is intended to foster industry-academia collaboration and support India's long-term vision of becoming a leading global space economy.
5. One lab is proposed in each zone to ensure balanced regional representation. These labs will also be available to NGEs for utilisation in that zone.
6. The scheme will be implemented in a phased manner; up to seven academic institutions will be selected in different zones to ensure

balanced regional representation across the country.

7. The financial support will be provided by IN-SPACe up to 75% of the total project cost with a maximum cap of 5 crore rupees linked to each institution, released on a milestone-linked basis.

## **What is the selection process for institutions?**

The selection process will be carried out in two stages. IN-SPACe has outlined a rigorous, multi-stage selection process:

1. Screening: Institutions will be screened based on specific criteria, outlined in the request for proposal (RPF), which includes existing infrastructure, faculty expertise in STEM/space tech, and a proven track record in research and development.
2. Shortlisted applicants will then be evaluated and ranked by an Empowered Committee (EC), following which final selections will be made on a zone-wise basis, based on the institution's ability to contribute to India's "NewSpace" vision and their readiness to manage the laboratory's advancement.

## **What is IN-SPACe?**

Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is a single-window, independent, nodal agency that functions as an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS). It is formed following the space sector reforms to enable and facilitate the participation of private players and democratise the Indian space sector; its primary objectives include:

- IN-SPACe is responsible for promoting, enabling, authorising and supervising various space activities of non-governmental entities (private sector), including building launch vehicles & satellites and providing space-based services
- It shares space infrastructure and premises under the control of DOS/ISRO and establishes new space infrastructure and facilities.
- It acts as an interface between ISRO and Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) and assesses how to utilise India's space resources better and increase space-based activities.

- It assesses needs and demands of private players, including educational and research institutions, and infrastructure to accommodate these requirements in consultation with ISRO.

The Antariksh Prayogshala initiative of IN-SPACE will ensure the workforce of tomorrow is equipped to handle the complexities of satellite manufacturing, launch vehicle technology, and other space-based applications in the Indian space system.

# India and New Zealand Free Trade Agreement

India and New Zealand signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) after the nine-month negotiations started in March 2025. Both prime ministers described it as comprehensive, balanced and forward-looking agreement. The FTA would act as a catalyst for higher trade, investment, innovation and people-to-people connections between the two countries, which will benefit exporters, MSMEs, farmers, students, manufacturers and professionals.

## Key Highlights of the India and New Zealand Free Trade Agreement:

The Agreement stands out as one of India's fastest-concluded FTAs, aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

### Zero-duty market access:

- Zero duty market access on 100% of India's exports. India has offered tariff liberalisation in 70% of lines, covering 95% of New Zealand-India bilateral trade.
- Duty-free inputs for India's manufacturing sector: wooden logs, coking coal, and waste and scraps of metals.
- High note for all Indian exports, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, leather, engineering goods, and Agricultural products

### Best market access and services:

- New Zealand offered the best market access and services to India, covering 118 service sectors, including computer-related services, professional services, telecommunication services, construction services, etc.
- Most-Favoured Nation Commitment in about 139 sub-sectors.

### Student Mobility:

- Boosts student mobility through post-study work visas and professional pathways in New Zealand, with no numerical caps.
- Students can convert global learning to global experience with post-study work rights of up to 3 years for STEM bachelor's and master's

graduates and up to 4 years for doctoral scholars.

**Employment Quota:**

- A dedicated quota of Temporary Employment Entry visas for 5,000 professionals and 1,000 Work and Holiday Visas.

**Investment:**

- Zealand has committed to facilitate investments of USD 20 billion into India over the next 15 years, thereby supporting manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation and employment under India's Make in India vision.

**Agricultural Productivity Partnership:**

- Establishes Agricultural Productivity Partnerships through Centres of Excellence for Apples, Kiwifruit, and Honey to boost productivity and farmer incomes.
- Productivity cooperation is paired with restricted market access for apples, kiwifruit and honey linked to quotas and minimum import prices, aligning knowledge transfer with safeguards for domestic producers.
- To ensure protection for farmers and the domestic industry, market access excludes dairy products, coffee, caseins, onions, sugar, spices, edible oils, and rubber.

**Boost to Pharma and Medical Devices:**

- Faster regulatory access by enabling acceptance of GMP and GCP, including approvals by the US FDA, EMA, UK MHRA, and other comparable regulators to reduce duplicative inspections, lower compliance costs, and expedite product approvals, thereby facilitating the growth of India's pharmaceutical and medical device exports to New Zealand.

**Extension on Geographical Indications:**

- Law to facilitate the registration of India's wines, spirits and 'other goods', a benefit that was accorded to the EU by New Zealand – to be completed under defined timelines.

**Cooperation with AYUSH:**

- The FTA promotes India's AYUSH systems internationally, encourages medical value travel, and positions India as a global wellness hub.

- FTA includes provisions to address non-tariff barriers through enhanced regulatory cooperation, transparency, streamlined customs, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade disciplines.
- All systemic facilitations and fast-track mechanisms for imports that serve as inputs for our manufactured exports ensure that tariff concessions translate into effective and meaningful market access.

**Also Read: [Which countries are known as the E3 countries?](#)**

## **Significance of the Free Trade Agreement:**

- The FTA establishes a high-quality economic partnership that promotes employment, facilitates skill mobility, drives trade and investment-led growth and enhances MSME participation to strengthen long-term economic resilience.
- Elimination of tariffs on 100% of its tariff lines provides duty-free access for all Indian exports and enhances the competitiveness of India's labour-intensive sectors.
- India has secured commitments across a wide range of high-value sectors, including IT and IT-enabled services, opening substantial new opportunities for Indian service suppliers and high-skill employment.
- Establishment of dedicated Agri-Technology Action Plans on productivity enhancement, technology, research collaboration, quality improvement and value-chain development, to strengthen domestic capabilities and support income growth for Indian farmers.
- Strengthens investment partnership between two countries by supporting manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation and employment under India's Make in India vision.
- Facilitating the growth of India's pharmaceutical and medical device exports to New Zealand through faster regulatory access to reduce duplicative inspections and lower compliance costs.

India and New Zealand have signed a comprehensive, balanced, and forward-looking Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which represents a significant economic and strategic milestone in India's involvement with the Indo-Pacific region. It is a new-generation trade pact which is based

on a people-centred, job-driven strategic partnership for Viksit Bharat 2047.

**[Also Read: Aravali Range: Uniform Definition of Aravali Hills Explained Here as per Supreme Court](#)**

# Smriti Mandhana Becomes First Indian Woman to Cross 4,000 T20I Runs

Smriti Mandhana became the first Indian woman cricketer to achieve 4,000 runs in WT20Is, thus cementing her reputation as one of the most reliable and destructive batters in the women's game. The milestone was achieved during the first WT20I against Sri Lanka in Visakhapatnam.

## Important Turning Point in Women's T20 cricket

Mandhana joined that elite list previously comprising New Zealand legend Suzie Bates alone, becoming the first Indian woman and only the second woman worldwide to reach over 4,000 T20I runs.

The achievement consolidates her position as one of the all-time greats in women's T20 cricket and shows India's growing dominance in the game. The

## Fastest T20I Runs to 4,000

Among the most incredible things about this record is the pace at which Mandhana achieved it:

- In terms of deliveries faced, she became the quickest woman to score 4,000 T20I runs, taking just 3,227 balls.
- Suzie Bates required 3,675 balls for the same milestone, which indicates Mandhana's higher strike efficiency and more aggressive scoring rate.
- This stat reflects her signature style of attacking, strong strokeplay, and the ability to keep the scoreboard moving without sacrificing stability.

## The Sri Lanka Match: Record-Breaking Knock

- It came in the first T20I against Sri Lanka at Visakhapatnam, which marked Mandhana's first international outing since India's ODI World Cup win last month.
- While chasing 122, Mandhana scored 25 runs off 25 balls to open the innings. Though the stay was not too long, it was enough to take

it past the 4,000-run mark in WT20Is.

- Although she was removed in the ninth over, the milestone had already been reached and teammates, commentators, and supporters applauded.

### **The Platform-Setting Bowling Performance**

The Indian bowlers had restricted Sri Lanka to 121 for 6 earlier in the match. Sri Lanka's top scorer, Vishmi Gunaratne, scored 39, but India took control after star batsman Chamari Athapaththu was dismissed cheaply. The chase was kept manageable, and the conditions were created for Mandhana's moment by India's debutant Vaishnavi Sharma, who impressed with a calm and disciplined performance, first up, supported by an economical spell from Deepti Sharma.

# India's LVM-3 to Launch BlueBird-6 Satellite on December 24, Boosting Global Commercial Space Ambitions

India is preparing to undertake an ambitious commercial space launch task on December 24, as its workhorse launch vehicle, LVM-3, is scheduled to launch the BlueBird Block-2 (BlueBird-6) satellite into low Earth orbit. The launch is yet another example of India emerging as a serious contender in the global launch market when it comes to launching commercial satellites. The launch is managed through India's NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for an American company called AST SpaceMobile.

## Initialization and Mission Plan Layout

- Mission title: LVM3-M6 / BlueBird Block-2
- Launch Date: December 24 (delayed from mid-December following readiness tests)
- Launch window : 8.54 am IST
- Launch Site : Second Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota
- Target Orbit: Low Earth Orbit (LEO), ranging between 160 km and 2,000 km above the earth.
- Objective: Launch the large BlueBird satellite into LEO as part of the increasing global constellation that will provide direct-to-device broadband connectivity.

## The Role of NSIL and the Workhorse of LVM

NSIL is the commercial wing of ISRO and its primary responsibility is securing and meeting foreign launch contracts. This includes the commercial satellite and launch services, as well as mission integration for foreign clients.

LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) remains the heavy-lift launch vehicle of the Indian space program, having a capacity of carrying more than 8

tons into LEO and 4 tons into GTO orbit. LVM-3 already has experience in carrying out national missions (such as the Chandrayaan-3) and is now used more and more in carrying out commercial heavy satellites. The first commercial launch in 2022 marked the first time the Indian space program could place satellites over 5 tons into orbit, adding a new customer base in the global launch services industry.

### **BlueBird Satellite: Features and Capabilities**

- Developer: AST SpaceMobile (USA).
- Type: BlueBird Block2 / BlueBird6 satellite.
- Mass: Approx. 6,500 kg, making it one of the heaviest commercial satellites launched by India so far.
- Constellation Role:
  - Part of a planned LEO constellation to deliver direct-to-smartphone cellular broadband globally.
  - Aims to connect standard mobile phones without specialised ground hardware, using space-based cell towers.

### **Key Technical Highlights**

- Phased array antenna area: Nearly 2,400 square feet, making it the largest commercial array deployed in low Earth orbit
- Phased array technology: Facilitates beam steering without the need for physical movement. Steers the beam towards different areas or users for targeting.

Onboard processing will enable high bandwidth processing for fast, low-latency connectivity, acting like a 'cell tower in space' that will function along with current mobile connectivity systems

### **Importance for the Indian Strategy**

- Global launch credibility: Its success with launching a high-value US commercial satellite using the LVM-3 launch vehicle helps build the global credibility of India as a reliable partner for carrying out heavy missions.
- Economies of potential: Adds strength in the global commercial launch market, a multi-billion-dollar opportunity for LEO broadband constellations. Enhances the portfolio of NSIL and ISRO's commercial earnings.
- Technological confidence: "The GSLV Mark III mission

demonstrates the technological confidence of India's space programme by qualifying the nation's capacity to manage large and complex space missions with high precision and accuracy, marking a decisive shift from a space technology user to a major space technology supplier

# Current Affairs One-Liners 19 Dec 2025: Which Country Won the FIFA Arab Cup 2025?

Current Affairs One-Liners: 19 Dec 2025 Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are very important from an examination point of view and will help boost your preparation. Today's key highlights include topics related to Airtel India's MD & CEO and the FIFA Arab Cup 2025.

1. Recently, which country won the FIFA Arab Cup 2025? – Morocco
2. Recently, the second edition of Sujal Gram Samvad was organized in New Delhi by which ministry? – Ministry of Jal Shakti
3. Recently, where was Jammu & Kashmir's first Generation Z Post Office inaugurated? – AIIMS Vijaypur
4. In India, direct tax collection increased by 8% and reached how many lakh crore rupees by December 17? – 17.05 lakh crore
5. Recently, the AI-enabled voice-to-text meeting tool 'Sabhasaar' was launched by which ministry? – Ministry of Panchayati Raj
6. Recently, who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Airtel India? – Shashwat Sharma
7. Recently, who won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025? – Jharkhand

[eShram Card 2026](#)

# Republic Day 2026: Join MY Bharat National Competitions and Win a Chance to Watch the Republic Day Parade

As India prepares to commemorate its 77th Republic Day in 2026, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, is inviting citizens from across the nation to participate in a vibrant series of national online contests and activities through the MY Bharat Republic Day portal. The government is fostering a spirit of Jan Bhagidari (People's Participation) in programmes like essay writing, painting, and slogan and signature competitions.

Republic Day is not merely a national celebration; it is a tribute to the day when our Constitution came into force, which shaped India into the world's largest democracy with its values. The initiatives aim to create interest, encourage innovation, and increase our collective appreciation for India's timeless legacy and incredible journey.

## RDC-26: Themes and Categories for RDC-2026

The Indian government has organised three flagship contests on the themes of Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat through creativity and nationalistic enthusiasm. Participants may enter the following categories:

- **Essay Writing:** "Swatantrata Ka Mantra – Vande Mataram"
- **Painting & Sketching:** "Samridhhi Ka Mantra – Atmanirbhar Bharat"
- **Vande Mataram Singing:** Digitally upload a 2-minute video performance of India's national song.

[Also read: Oscars 2026: India's film 'Homebound' is shortlisted for Oscars 2026](#)

## Prizes and Rewards: Win a Chance to Watch the Republic Day Parade

Participating in the MY Bharat Republic Day 2026 events offers more than just certificates. The government has announced prestigious rewards for the winners:

**Vande Mataram – The Mantra of Freedom | Essay Competition (15 Dec 2025 - 31 Dec 2025)**

- Cash prize of 10,000 each for the Top Three Winners
- 27 Consolation Prizes of 5,000 each

**Painting Competition - Republic Day 2026 (15 Dec 2025 - 31 Dec 2025)**

- Cash prize of 10,000 each for the Top Three Winners
- 27 Consolation Prizes of 5,000 each

**Vande Mataram Singing Competition - Republic Day 2026 (15 Dec 2025 - 31 Dec 2025)**

- Cash prize of 10,000 each for the Top Three Winners

**Eligibility and Important Dates for Registration:**

- **Registration Start Date:** December 15, 2025
- **Last Date to Apply:** December 31, 2025
- **Eligibility:** Open to all Indian citizens (age-specific categories may apply; check the portal for details).
- **Format:** Hindi and English

**How to Register on the MY Bharat Portal: Step-by-Step Guide**

To participate in the Republic Day 2026 celebrations, follow these steps:

- Visit the official website: [mybharat.gov.in](https://mybharat.gov.in)
- Click on the "Register/Login" button to create your MY Bharat ID
- Navigate to the "Mega Events" or "Republic Day 2026" section
- Select your preferred competition (painting, essay, and singing)
- Upload your entry and submit the form before December 31st.

The Republic Day 2026 portal on MY Bharat invites youth to connect with the national narrative. By awarding creativity with a seat on Kartavya Path, the government ensures that tomorrow's leaders are thoroughly steeped in today's Indian ideals. This is an excellent opportunity for students and artists to contribute to the "Mantra of Prosperity" while having their work noticed on a national scale.

[Also Read: MGNREGA vs VB-G RAM G Bill: Major changes you all need to know](#)

# Current Affairs 18 Dec 2025: Oman Honours PM Modi With Top Civilian Award

Here are today's Current Affairs one-liners presented in a new format. These updates are extremely important from an exam perspective and will help strengthen your preparation. Today's key highlights include veteran sculptor Ram Sutar and Oman's highest civilian honour.

India recently signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with which country? – Oman

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently honoured with the highest civilian award of which Gulf country? – Oman

The film "Homebound" has been shortlisted in which category at the Oscars 2026? – Best International Feature Film

What is the name of the joint military exercise conducted recently between India and the United Arab Emirates? – Desert Cyclone-II

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently honoured with the highest civilian award of which country? – Ethiopia

Which veteran sculptor, who designed the Statue of Unity, recently passed away? – Ram Sutar

Which city is set to become the 23rd district of Haryana? – Hansi

[People we've lost in 2025](#)

# Only BS6, CNG, and EVs Allowed: Delhi Shuts Borders to High-Emission Vehicles Amid Toxic Smog

With the air in Delhi refusing to budge from the severe range for days, the government has rolled out some of its toughest vehicle restrictions yet. From Thursday, December 18, only BS6-compliant cars, CNG vehicles, and electric vehicles can operate in Delhi and pass into the city from outside. BS3 petrol and BS4 diesel vehicles from outside Delhi are thus effectively barred-under GRAP Stage IV.

## **Key move: Ban BS3 and BS4 Vehicles**

Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa had issued an order saying that from December 18, only BS6-compliant vehicles could enter Delhi. That means BS3 and BS4 vehicles registered outside the city were not allowed to come in.

While in stage IV, BS3 petrol and BS4 diesel vehicles are banned in Delhi-NCR from movement unless it is providing essential or emergency services-ambulances, fire, police, etc.

It includes all private cars and a majority of commercial transports entering Delhi, thus tightening the reins compared to previous restrictions.

## **No Petrol or Diesel without PUC (Pollution-under-control Certificate)**

Fuel pumps in Delhi have been instructed to deny fuel to any vehicle which doesn't possess a valid PUC certificate.

From the same Thursday, vehicles without valid PUC will be denied refueling, thereby compulsorily making the owners renew the emission checks before using their vehicles.

It targets high-emission, poorly maintained vehicles that worsen smog

but can continue to operate because of lax enforcement.

### **Why Stage IV GRAP Was Triggered?**

Delhi-NCR has been reeling under persistent toxic smog, poor visibility, and health advisories during the past several days with the Air Quality Index crossing 400 at various places and, until now, edging close to the "Severe Plus" mark above 450.

On India's AQI scale,

- 101–200: Moderate
- 201–300: Poor
- 301–400: Very Poor
- >400: Severe

The Commission for Air Quality Management consequently activated GRAP Stage IV, the most stringent level, devised for AQI near or above 450 across the NCR.

### **Which Vehicles Are Allowed and Which Are Restricted?**

Restricted Under GRAP Stage IV

- BS3 petrol vehicles: banned across Delhi-NCR, except in case of essential/emergency services.
- BS4 diesel vehicles: completely banned in Delhi-NCR, except for essential/emergency services.
- The private vehicles in these categories are not allowed to enter Delhi, along with many commercial ones.

### **Allowed Under GRAP Stage IV?**

- BS6-compliant vehicles-petrol and diesel: The operation of these vehicles will be allowed and can enter Delhi.

Only CNG and electric vehicles: without any restriction. Commercial vehicles running on LNG, CNG or electricity, as well as BS6 diesel commercial vehicles, can enter.

### **Significance and Implications**

This move accelerates the shift toward cleaner fleets-BS6, CNG, EVs-in response to recurring winter smog episodes. It also heralds more stringent enforcement of PUC norms, making emission compliance the

eligibility not merely for legality but even for access to basic fuel. What this will mean for commuters and transporters is that: - Inconvenience to the owners of BS3/BS4 vehicles which are older, particularly from outside Delhi. Greater use of public transport, CNG fleets, and pooling, at least until Stage IV is in effect.

# Oscars 2026: India's film 'Homebound' is shortlisted for Oscars 2026

The Indian film 'Homebound' will have a global presence at the 98th Academy Awards in 2026, which is a source of great pride for Indian cinema. The film Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan and starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor, was shortlisted in the Best International Feature Film category and emerged as the frontrunner, demonstrating the depth and diversity of Indian storytelling on the global stage.

## Key Highlights of 'Homebound' Oscar Shortlist

- **Category:** Best International Feature Film
- **Producer & Executive Producer:** Karan Johar & Martin Scorsese
- **Director:** Neeraj Ghaywan
- **Main lead:** Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa and Janhvi Kapoor
- **Film Context:** A poignant narrative exploring themes of identity, migration, and the concept of 'root' in today's modern era.
- **Selection Process:** The film was initially chosen by the Film Federation of India (FFI) as the country's official entry, then passed the Academy's rigorous preliminary voting round.

## The Heart of the Story: A 9-Minute Standing Ovation at Cannes

Long before the Oscar celebrations, 'Homebound' had already captivated hearts across the world. During its world premiere at the 78th Cannes Film Festival in May 2025, the picture garnered a 9-minute standing ovation in the Un Certain Regard section.

## What is the 'Homebound' story?

The Homebound tells the story of two childhood friends striving to pass the national police exam, a career path that could bring them dignity and stability. Highlights the individual's journey across the borders through both physical and emotional means and touches on key issues in India

like casteism. Critics have praised the movie for its cinematic brilliance. Authenticity, authentic dialogue and the universal resonance of its script. Its inclusion in the shortlist for the Academy Awards is seen as a testament to the evolving quality of Indian regional and independent cinema.

[Also Read: Squash World Cup 2025: India becomes the first Asian country to win the Squash World Cup](#)

### **A Timeline for the Oscars in 2026:**

The shortlisting of a movie is only the first step in the "Oscar Race". Here is what happens next:

1. **Nominations Voting:** Members of the Academy will vote to narrow down the shortlist to the final five nominees.
2. **Official Nominations Announcement:** The final list of nominees for the 98th Academy Awards will be revealed on 22 January 2026.
3. **The Ceremony:** The winners will be announced at the grand Oscar ceremony, which is scheduled for 15 March 2026 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

### **India's History at the Oscars:**

India has a storied but challenging relationship with the Academy Awards; while many films, including Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan, made it to the final five, and RRR made history with 'Naatu Naatu', the 'Best International Feature' trophy has eluded them.

'Homebound' possesses the emotional "heft" and technical elegance to finally bridge that gap. The shortlisting of 'Homebound' is not just a victory for the Indian filmmakers but also recognition of the Indian film industry's growing influence in the global creative economy.

[Also Read: VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025: Will it replace MGNREGA? Key Highlights of the Bill](#)

# Current Affairs One-Liners 16 Dec 2025: National Energy Conservation Award 2025

Current Affairs One-Liners: 16 Dec 2025 Here are today's one-liner current affairs presented in a new format. These updates are very important from an exam perspective and will prove helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to 'Project Mahadeva' and the National Energy Conservation Award 2025.

Where will the World Health Organization's second global summit on traditional medicine be organized? - New Delhi

Who has become the most expensive foreign player in IPL history? - Cameron Green

Recently, India and ADB signed a loan agreement draft of more than how many billion dollars for development projects? - 2.2 billion dollars

Which railway station was recently honored with the National Energy Conservation Award 2025? - Miyanaga Railway Station

Recently, approval has been given to establish how many new National Centers of Excellence for skill development? - Five

Which state government has launched 'Project Mahadeva' for football talent? - Maharashtra

India has signed agreements with how many countries to tackle drug trafficking? - 27

[2003 Voter List Uttar Pradesh](#)

# VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025: Will it replace MGNREGA? Key Highlights of the Bill

The central government has passed the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VBG RAM G Bill, 2025) in the Lok Sabha to establish a rural development framework aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 by providing a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment in each financial year to every rural household and adult member who volunteers to undertake unskilled manual work.

## Key Highlights of the VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025:

- The bill guarantees 125 days of wage employment to rural households and focuses on empowerment, growth, and convergence saturation for a prosperous and resilient rural Bharat.
- 'Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans' are to be prepared by the Gram Panchayats on a saturation basis with convergence of schemes, using PM Gati Shakti.
- The integrated 'Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack' is envisioned for rural public works.
- Special focus on water security works, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and special works to mitigate extreme weather events.
- Provisions to facilitate availability of farm labour during peak agricultural seasons.
- Robust transparency and accountability mechanisms, such as weekly public disclosure systems and strengthened social audits.
- A comprehensive governance ecosystem built on digital public infrastructure for efficient and high-integrity implementation.

## What is the full form of VB-G RAM G?

The full form of VB-G RAM G is the ***Vikshit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)***, which will replace the MGNREGA that was initially known as the National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005, and later name of the Act was changed to the ***Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)*** in 2009.

## **What is the MGNREGA Act, 2005?**

The Government of India passed the ***Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005***, in September, 2005. The objective of the Act is to enhance the livelihood security of the people in the rural areas by generating wage employment through works that develop the infrastructure base of that area. The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work

The VB-G RAM G bill shall expand the scale of development interventions, which are expected to create additional employment opportunities for rural households and engage the rural workforce more effectively to support the vision of Viksit Bharat, while empowering them through enhanced livelihood guarantees, and enhance the wage-employment guarantee for rural households from 100 days to 125 days per financial year for anchoring rural asset creation through the enactment of an appropriate act.

Also Read: [VB-G RAM G Bill 2025: Central government introduced new bill to replace the MGNREG Act, 2005](#)

# What is Vijay Diwas, and why is it celebrated on 16 December?

Vijay Diwas is observed on 16 December every year in India, marking India's armed forces' victory over Pakistan in 1971. This Vijay Diwas, we remember and celebrate the unparalleled bravery, sacrifice, and determination of our Armed Forces in the 1971 Bangladesh war.

## Why do we celebrate 16 December as Vijay Diwas?

The word 'Vijay' means victory, which symbolises India's triumph and national pride. It is observed on 16 December every year in India, marking India's armed forces' victory over Pakistan in 1971, which led to the surrender of Pakistan's army and the creation of the new country Bangladesh. Honouring the contribution and sacrifices of India's soldiers, we observed the 16 December as Vijay Diwas.

- During the India-Pakistan War of 1971, the war ended after just 13 days, making it one of the shortest wars in modern history.
- Around 93,000 Pakistani soldiers led by General A. A. Khan Niazi laid down their arms in front of the Indian Army. It was one of the largest surrenders ever seen since World War II.

**Note:** India also observes the **Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July** to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil War.

## History: India-Pakistan War, 1971

After the partition of India in 1947, the two sovereign nations India and Pakistan were formed. Pakistan was divided into two parts: West Pakistan and East Pakistan. In the 1950s and 1960s tensions were created between East and West Pakistan, which later led to the 1971 war and the formation of a separate country. The war was initiated by the Bangladesh Liberation Movement in East Pakistan against East Pakistan. The key cause were

- The political tensions and economic discrimination against East

Pakistan by West Pakistan.

- Human rights violations in East Pakistan by the Indian and Pakistani forces.
- Due to the constant struggle between East and West Pakistan, India faced the influx of 10 million refugees in the bordering state of India.
- The war began with the Pakistan Operation Chengiz Khan and launched air strikes on Indian air stations.
- India intervened on 3 December 1971 after air strikes by Pakistan and India declaring war on Pakistan. Under the leadership of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, India responded decisively.

## **Role of Indian Armed Forces:**

- Role of the Indian Armed Forces, which played an important role during the war, like executing a well-coordinated military strategy across land, air, and sea.
- The Indian Air Force achieved air superiority over West Pakistan within days.
- The Indian Navy conducted successful operations like Operation Trident and Operation Python.
- The Eastern Command of the Pakistani military signed the instrument of surrender on 16 December 1971 in Dhaka, marking the formation of East Pakistan as the new country which came to be known as Bangladesh.

## **Significance of Vijay Diwas:**

Vijay Diwas is important for both national and strategic reasons such as

- The war demonstrates India's military capability and leadership to the world.
- Highlights India's commitment to human rights and freedom.
- The significant victory over Pakistan solidified India's position as a regional power in South Asia.
- Established Bangladesh as a sovereign nation.
- The victory demonstrated India's diplomatic skill, especially in securing international support during the Cold War era.

The historical victory of India over Pakistan in the 1971 war is an example of India's unwavering resolve in the face of adversity, a beacon

of India's commitment to global peace, freedom, and justice, and a salute to every soldier, sailor, and air warrior who contributed to this monumental victory and stands as a turning point in India's modern history. Recognising India's victory day as Vijay Diwas on 16 December of every year inspires future generations to uphold the values of patriotism, unity and sacrifice.

# Antarctica: Indian Flag on Mt. Vinson as Kavita Chand Reaches Top

On the 12th of December at 8:30 pm local time, mountaineer Kavita Chand from Uttarakhand made it to the top of Mount Vinson (4,892 m), the highest peak of Antarctica with a remarkable single Indian adventure mark of her Personal Seven Summits Quest. With a destination of one of the most inhospitable and unwelcoming places on Earth, she waved the Indian flag at the summit.

## About Mount Vinson and the Feat

Apart from being the highest point (4,892 m) in the South Pole, Mount Vinson located in the middle of the continent, is not only one of the most isolated but also the most difficult in terms of logistics among the Seven Summits.

The climbers have to endure extreme sub-zero temperatures, gale-force wind, and erratic weather, too. Only a handful of rescues or support operations are possible in the region, so, actually, it becomes the ultimate high-altitude challenge if someone manages to climb the summit safely and successfully.

Kavita Chand's summit success is applauded nationwide, notably at her hometown, Almora district (Uttarakhand), and among the mountaineering community.

## Expedition Route and Team Details

On December 3, Kavita left India and was in Punta Arenas (Chile) on December 4. Punta Arenas is one of the foremost international gateways for Antarctic expeditions.

On December 7, she went to Union Glacier by plane. From there, a ski-equipped plane took her to Vinson Base Camp, which is at an altitude of approximately 2,100 metres.

The lead climber was high-altitude guru Mingma David Sherpa. Indian

mountaineer Bharath Thammineni and his expedition company provided the operational and logistical support for the journey.

Every one of the nine Indian adventurers followed a string of acclimatisation steps before making a final push for the summit.

### **Progress Towards the Seven Summits**

Climbing Mount Vinson by Kavita Chand is the most important step in her Seven Summits challenge of the highest mountains on each continent.

She already has a successful Mount Elbrus climb (the highest peak in Europe) under her belt, and now with the addition of Antarctica, her profile is highly enhanced on a global level.

Kavita said that it was very touching to put the Indian flag on Mount Vinson and take a shot of it. It was also a matter of pride for her nation and she would like it to act as an inspiration for more Indians—working professionals in particular—to take up serious fitness and adventure goals and complete them.

### **Personal Background: From Corporate to Endurance Athlete**

- Age: 40 years, originally from Almora (Uttarakhand) and currently living in Mumbai.
- Career Change: A media professional by profession, she left her corporate career in 2024 to focus full-time on fitness, endurance sports, and mountaineering.

Kavita Chand was the winner of Hyrox Delhi and Mumbai 2025 events in her age category.

She has completed three races out of the Abbott World Marathon Majors Six Star Challenge, which is her multi-disciplinary endurance credential.

# Squash World Cup 2025: India becomes the first Asian country to win the Squash World Cup

India won its first gold medal at the **Squash World Cup 2025** in the men's category by beating Hong Kong 3-0 in the summit clash in Chennai, India; the historical win marked a milestone for India's squash, with India's growing presence in global sports beyond cricket breaking the long-standing dominance of traditional squash powerhouses like England, Australia and Egypt.

India's first Squash World Cup 2025 win improved on her previous best finish, which was a bronze medal at the 2023 edition on the same court.

In this significant win, **Joshna Chinappa** gave India a winning start after she defeated world-ranked 37 Lee Ka Yi 3-1, while India's best-ranked men's squash player at world No. 29, **Abhay Singh**, thrashed 42nd-ranked Alex Lau 3-0 in 19 minutes to give India a 2-0 lead. And **Anahat Singh** went on to wrap up the game in India's favour by defeating Tomato Ho 3-0, creating history by becoming the first Asian country to win the Squash World Cup 2025.

## What is the significance of this historical win for India?

This victory holds huge significance for India, like:

1. India becomes the first Asian country to win the World Team Squash championship title in 2025.
2. Breaking the dominance of countries like England, Australia and Egypt.
3. Improve India's squash profile ahead of the squash debut at the **Los Angeles, US, Olympics 2028**.
4. It will encourage the Indian youth to participate in non-cricket sports and improve India's presence in global sports.

## World Squash Championship 2025: Key Facts

- The World Squash Championship 2025 is organised by the World Squash Federation (WSF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- **Winner – India, Runner-Up – Hong Kong, China**
- Joshna Chinappa bt Ka Yi Lee 3-1: 7-3, 2-7, 7-5, 7-1 (23m) Abhay Singh bt Alex Lau 3-0: 7-1, 7-4, 7-4 (19m) Anahat Singh bt Tomato Ho 3-0: 7-2, 7-2, 7-5 (16m) Velavan Senthilkumar m/w Henry Leung

**Note:** Squash is set to make its historical debut at the Los Angeles Olympics 2028, in the United States.

## What is the World Squash Championship?

The World Squash Championship is considered one of the most prestigious international sports. The squash events, which since the early 1990s have been held annually for both men and women, are organised by the World Squash Federation (WSF). The men's event was first held in 1976 in London, England, and the women's was inaugurated in 1976 in Brisbane, Australia. In this event teams compete in a series of single matches, with both men's and women's players contributing to the overall team result.

India's first gold medal in the World Squash Championships 2025 marks a defining moment in the country's sporting history; by beating Hong Kong, China, 3-0 in the final, it became the first Asian country to win the championship, improving India's presence in global sports and also inspiring the new generation of athletes in India.

# SHANTI Bill 2025: What is the SHANTI Bill & How it Enables Private Participation in India's Nuclear Sector.

The Government of India approved the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHATI) bill, 2025, marking a watershed moment in India's clean energy policy. For the first time the government has proposed regulating private sector participation in nuclear power generation and opening the nuclear energy sector to private participation.

## Why was reform needed?

India's nuclear energy sector has been governed by ***the Atomic Energy Act, 1962***, under which the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) exercised nearly total control over nuclear energy, and private participation was limited to ensure strategic autonomy and safety in a sensitive nuclear sector. It resulted in slow capacity addition, a high capital burden on the government and limited technology diversification.

Nuclear energy is important for India's transition into clean energy and the government target of ***100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047*** and India's climate change commitment of a ***net zero target by 2070***. Currently, India has 25 nuclear reactors with a total installed capacity of about ***8.88 GW***, while 17 reactors are under construction. Currently, India's installed capacity of nuclear capacity is under 8 GWe. Globally, the United States (US) has the highest nuclear capacity of 100 GWe, followed by France (65 GWe) and China (58 GWe).

## What is the SHANTI/Atomic Energy Bill 2025?

The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHATI) bill, 2025, is a comprehensive legislative reform brought to restructure India's nuclear governance. The bill makes a milestone shift from a state-exclusive model to a mixed public-private

framework, which talks about consolidating existing nuclear laws into a single unified statute, enabling private participation under strict government supervision and replacing outdated regulatory provisions.

## Key Features of the SHANTI Bill 2025:

1. **Private Sector Participation:** the Bill opens the nuclear sector to private companies across the value chain and includes nuclear power generation and allied activities under the government supervision in strategic areas.
2. The private payers could take an equity share of up to 49% in upcoming nuclear energy projects and also allow foreign investment (FDI/FPI) of up to 49 per cent.
3. **Legal Framework:** by simplifying the complexity of the multiple laws into a single one, it enhances the regulatory framework, reduces legal ambiguity, brings more transparency and builds investor confidence.
4. **Technological Advancement:** The Bill focuses on the adoption of advanced nuclear technology such as modular designs, exploration of atomic mineral equipment manufacturing and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).
5. **Security Advancement:** The bill aims to align India's nuclear safety standards and compliance mechanisms with global practices to bring transparency and accountability.

### Why does private sector participation matter in the nuclear sector?

The private sector entry into the nuclear energy sector is important for India's transition to the clean energy transition and for reducing India's dependency on fossil fuels and its imports, meeting the India climate commitment of becoming a carbon-neutral country by 2070, and becoming a developed country by 2047. Here, the private sector's role in the nuclear energy sector becomes crucial for the following reasons:

1. **Resource Mobilisation:** Nuclear projects are capital intensive and time-consuming, which requires a constant flow of funds. Private participation expands access to domestic and global capital, reducing fiscal dependency on the government.
2. **Technology Innovation:** Private participation can bring cutting-

edge technologies, reactor designs, new construction techniques and operational efficiencies, and help in industrial decarbonisation.

3. **Energy Security:** A wide range of nuclear ecosystems strengthens supply chains and manufacturing capacity and reduces dependence on fossil fuels, which will provide long-term low-carbon energy security.

### **What are the challenges related to the SHANTI Bill?**

The SHANTI Bill have transformative potential but faces significant challenges such as

- **Safety and liability:** The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, places substantial liability on operators and suppliers, which has deterred private and foreign investment.
- **Security Risks:** The nuclear energy sector involves sensitive technology and material which requires strong safeguards, surveillance and traceability to ensure the security of the country.
- **Prolonged implementation cycles:** Nuclear energy projects have 8-10 year construction timelines, which makes them less attractive without risk sharing or viability-gap funding mechanisms.
- **Public Trust:** Transparent governance and robust safety mechanisms in the nuclear field remain crucial for building public trust.
- **Governance Implications:** The new bill shifts India's governance approach from exclusive state control to market participation in strategic sectors, which raises challenges related to the regulatory framework and accountability of private players and coordination between the civilian and security agencies.

The SHANTI Bill 2025 is a groundbreaking reform in the nuclear sector, which marks a clear break from India's traditional nuclear policy framework by inviting private sector participation in the sector, which combines private innovation with public oversight. It aims to accelerate India's nuclear capacity, strengthen energy security and support India's clean energy transition and will significantly reduce India's fossil fuel dependency.

# What Chandrayaan-3 Found at the Moon's South Pole? Check Here

Chandrayaan-3 has revealed that right above the Moon's south pole lies an unexpectedly thick, energetic layer of electrically charged particles. Direct measurements from instruments on the Vikram lander indicate that the nearsurface ionised gas at Shiv Shakti Point is far more energetic than hitherto believed based on remote sensing, with significant implications for polar missions in the future.

## **Plasma Around the Moon's South Pole**

The Moon does not have a global atmosphere and a global magnetic field like Earth; instead, it is embedded in a plasma sheath created by the solar wind, the radiation of sunlight, and the occasional interaction with Earth's magnetotail. It is bombarded by the stream of solar wind ions and electrons at the dusty surface, where ultraviolet light can knock electrons off from the grains: a tenuous, though very dynamic, plasma layer exists just above the surface.

While this plasma is electrically neutral overall, its charged constituents strongly interact with electromagnetic forces, causing it to behave very differently compared to ordinary gas. Consequentially, it also affects how dust moves, the way the surface charges up, and how signal propagation takes place.

## **RAMBHA-LP: First Direct Measurements at the South Pole**

Central to Chandrayaan-3's revelations is the RAMBHA-LP Langmuir Probe on the Vikram lander at Shiv Shakti Point. Built by the Space Physics Laboratory at VSSC, this instrument is engineered to directly sample the density and temperature of electrons in the near-surface plasma.

By placing a biased probe into the surroundings and mapping current voltage characteristics, RAMBHAlp will be able to determine how many electrons are present and how energetic they are. This will provide, for

the first time, in situ data from the lunar south polar surface rather than sole reliance on remote radio-occultation methods.

### **Key Scientific Findings: Dense and Energetic Plasma**

The electron density measured by the Langmuir Probe was approximately 380 to 600 particles per cubic centimeter just above the surface, compared with the very much lower orbit-based radio measurements. Electron kinetic temperatures were around 3,000 to 8,000 Kelvin, which shows that electrons in such a near-vacuum environment are highly energetic.

These results imply that the near-surface plasma in the southern high latitudes of the Moon is thicker and more energetic than expected, signifying the development of stronger interactions among the solar radiation, the solar wind, and the regolith. Such conditions are capable of driving pronounced surface charging, especially in shadowed areas and around equipment, and may cause electrostatic dust lofting.

### **Variations depending on Solar Wind and Earth's Magnetotail**

The data returned by Chandrayaan-3 demonstrate that this plasma is not stationary; it changes with the Moon's orbit around Earth as it moves between full exposure to the Sun and the shielding by Earth's magnetotail. During times when the south-polar region is sunward facing, direct solar wind input increases the density and energy of the charged particles.

As the Moon moves into the magnetotail, streams of terrestrial particles interact with the surface, changing the plasma layer's composition and behavior. The measurements also suggest a contribution from molecular ions, including species such as carbon dioxide and water vapor, hinting at a more complex ionospheric chemistry than previously thought for the polar environment.

### **Implication for Future Lunar Exploration**

These measurements form the necessary baseline data for missions that will be conducted in the years ahead at the south pole, both crewed bases and long-term robotic landers. These dense, energetic plasmas

can interfere with radio communications, radar performance, surface charging of landers and rovers, and even the behavior of fine lunar dust around critical hardware.

This electrically active environment is also useful for the design of better shielding, grounding, and communication systems for polar operations. Scientifically, in-situ data from Chandrayaan-3 increases global knowledge of the plasma and ionospheric processes at the Moon by orders of magnitude and underlines India's important role in the contemporary science of the Moon.

# What is the new Aadhaar app, and how will it protect public data sharing?

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is currently testing a new Aadhaar app that aims to reduce the amount of personal data individuals are required to share during verification processes in public spaces, focus on privacy enhancement and minimise unnecessary data exposure, address the concerns of Aadhaar misuse and offline data leaks and ensure the secure digital identity systems in the country

## What is an Aadhaar number?

An Aadhaar number is a 12-digit unique identification number which is managed by the Unique Identification Authority of India. It is the world's largest digital identity initiative, covering more than 1.3 billion residents of India. Its secure use is critical for welfare policy implementation, financial inclusion, and better digital governance. The Aadhaar number includes:

1. Photograph
2. Date of Birth
3. Address
4. Gender

## Key Issues Faced by Aadhaar Data

Recently, the UIDAI highlighted the issue of misuse of the Aadhaar Offline Data Verification (AODV) and data security risks and privacy safeguards in public debate. In recent years citizens need to share full Aadhaar details, such as address, photograph, and year of birth, even for the minimal verification, which raises many challenges:

## Current challenges include:

1. Sharing the entire Aadhaar data for simple verification
2. Exposure of demographic data in public places/data safety
3. Risk of misuse of Aadhaar offline data
4. Unauthorised storage of demographic files by private entities

## How will the new Aadhaar app address the issue of unnecessary data sharing and security risks?

UIDAI is developing a simplified and privacy-first approach application with the following objectives:

- **Minimum Data Exposure:** The New Aadhaar App will allow users to share only required information like name verification or age eligibility without revealing additional information.
- **Safe Public Verification:** The app will have a specifically designed feature for use in public places like airports, hotels and offices where residents often have to share full Aadhaar copies of theirs.
- **Selective Data Display:** Through the app, users will be able to choose what information gets displayed and what remains hidden.
- **Enhanced QR-Based Verification:** It will rely more on encrypted QR codes that reveal only essential information of the user, not the full Aadhaar data.
- Reducing the opportunities for unauthorized storage by the private entities
- It will eliminate the need to hand over photocopies of digital copies of Aadhaar
- The app will make verification possible without extracting any offline XML file

## Why is this important for digital privacy?

In the rapidly digitalised world, Aadhaar is used across welfare policy delivery, banking, travel, telecom and other private services; the new Aadhaar app provides:

1. **Privacy Design:** The app will give the users only the required data revelation, which aligns with global data protection safeguards.
2. **Limited Public Exposure:** low demographic visibility decreases the risk of identity fraud and data leaks.
3. **Better Compliance with Aadhaar Regulations:** It will support UIDAI's mandate that service providers should not store or misuse sensitive user data.
4. **Build Citizen Trust:** Residents using Aadhaar in public will feel

safe knowing they are controlling their data.

The new Aadhaar app and offline QR verification represent a crucial shift towards a privacy-first digital identity system by enabling selective data display. It will minimise unnecessary exposure of full demographic data in the public sphere, significantly reduce the risk of data misuse and identity theft, and ensure the data protection safeguards in the Aadhaar ecosystem.

# One-Liner Current Affairs 12 Dec 2025: Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2025

Here are today's one-liner current affairs in a new format. These updates are very important from an exam perspective and will be helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2025, Champions of the Earth Award 2025.

1. The central government recently approved how many crores of rupees to conduct the Census 2027 - 11,718.24 crore
2. Which Indian female wrestler recently announced her return from retirement - Vinesh Phogat
3. Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas was recently celebrated in which city - Jaipur
4. Recently, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organized the Indian Language Festival 2025 in which city - New Delhi
5. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has teamed up with whom to strengthen market access for PM Vishwakarma artisans- Amazon
6. The fifth edition of the India-Malaysia joint military exercise "Harimau Shakti-2025" is being held where - Mahajan Field Firing Range (Rajasthan)
7. Who was recently honored with the UN Environment Programme's Champions of the Earth Award 2025 - Ms. Supriya Sahu
8. Recently, the Indian team won which medal in the Junior Men's Hockey World Cup 2025 - Bronze Medal

[Ladki Bahin Yojana eKYC](#)

# Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025: Tribal Language Exhibition and Launch of AI Tool Adi Vaani

The Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 event was conducted in New Delhi as a tribute to India's rich language diversity, as evidenced by the theme 'Many Languages, One Emotion,' based on the birthday of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati. The event, conducted under the guidance of the 'Ministry of Education', included active collaboration with the 'Ministry of Tribal Affairs' as a significant aspect connecting India's languages, particularly 'Tribal languages', lying at the basis of India's unity and culture.

The theme for 2025 involved "Many Languages, One Emotion," which relates to the fact that there are multiple languages spoken in India, but it is bound together by shared ideologies and a national spirit. This event took place on the birthday anniversary of Subramania Bharati, who was a poet and a great Tamil reformer.

Educators, members and students, as well as officials, met for a commitment towards diversity of languages as enshrined within the national Education Policy and associated cultural policies.

## **Tribal Language Exhibition and Publications**

Notable among these was an exhibition stall exclusively curated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, wherein there were publications brought out by Tribal Research Institutes in Jharkhand, Odisha, and Gujarat. The publications included dictionaries, primers, story-books, and research monographs identifying words and narratives associated with tribes, and stories and words associated with oral traditions.

The exhibition brought forward the importance of document work and stressed that document work and written records are critical for preserving endangered languages and helping future generations. It also reflected on the extent of research being conducted at the state level on languages with Tribal Research Institutes.

## **Adi Vaani: AI-Powered Tribal Language Translator**

But perhaps the most impressive and innovative thing that was shown there was a live demonstration of “Adi Vaani,” which is an AI-based translator for India’s Tribal languages, developed with IIT Delhi. It enables the translation of text and speech from and into India’s prominent languages and some Tribal languages, with an interactive learning facility for educational purposes.

Beginning with its first stage, the languages included in its service are Santali, Kui, Bhili, Mundari, Gondi, and Garo languages, with extensions included for more languages depending on community needs and technological readiness. By combining technological capabilities and needs from communities, there exist efforts within Adi Vaani to ensure that languages with low services are revitalized.

Cultural Performances and Unity in Diversity Performing activities conducted by students from various regions made Utsav an engaging event. Students of EMRS Kalsi performed a "dance" and a "nukkad natak" on the theme of ‘tribal culture and awareness.’

A collective performance of “Vande Mataram” as done in 22 Indian languages served as a symbolic focus, blending various tongues into one patriotic voice. The performance embodied the central message conveyed by the festival itself, which captured diversity in languages as something that enhances, as opposed to dividing, national unity.

### **Strengthening India’s Multilingual Heritage**

The Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025 facilitated discussion on the role that education, research, and technology could play together in maintaining India’s multilingual character. The fact that the event involved active participation from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs brought home the understanding that tribal languages were intrinsic to India’s civilization narrative.

Participants and organizers emphasized that it requires an investment in documentations, digital technologies such as Adi Vaani, and cultural activities conducted by students that can sustain and preserve linguistic ecosystems facing pressures due to urbanization and linguistic homogenization. Utsav, thus, conceptualized India’s linguistic diversity

not just as an integral cultural asset but as a 'living resource' that needs to be conserved for posterity.

# Current Affairs One-Liners 11 Dec 2025: India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel

Here are today's one-liner Current Affairs in a new format. These updates are very important from the examination point of view and will be helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 and the indigenously built Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel.

1. Which app did Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil recently launch -  
Sujalam Bharat App
2. With whom has the Gati Shakti University partnered to promote  
knowledge sharing, joint curriculum development, and research -  
Amazon
3. Which festival has recently been included in UNESCO's  
Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity  
- Deepawali
4. In which city was India's first indigenously built Hydrogen Fuel Cell  
Vessel inaugurated - Varanasi
5. Which city is hosting the Global AI Show 2025 - Abu Dhabi
6. Who has become the first Indian bowler to take at least 100 wickets  
in all three formats: Test, ODI, and T20I - Jasprit Bumrah
7. Which Indian recently won two gold medals at the Asian Youth  
Para Games in Dubai - Abdul Qadir Indori
8. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has increased its  
development rate forecast for India for 2025-26 from 6.5 percent to  
how much - 7.2 percent

## [India's First Hydrogen Train](#)

# EU Climate Change Target: EU agrees to cut GHGs by 90% by 2040 from 1990 level

The EU and the European Parliament amended the EU climate law, which includes the possibility to use high-quality international credits to reach the 90% greenhouse gas emissions target cut by 2040 from 1990 levels with a contribution of up to 5% to meet the EU decarbonisation goals by 2050 and Paris Agreement targets.

## Key Points:

1. The European Union is showing its commitment to the Paris Agreement after the Conference of the Parties 30 (COP30).
2. Introduce the legally binding target of 90% emission reduction of GHGs by 2040.
3. A clear direction towards climate neutrality and commitment to go carbon neutral by 2050.
4. A pragmatic and flexible plan to make the clean transition more competitive
5. Full implementation of the Clean Industrial Deal
6. High-quality international credits to contribute towards 2040 targets, starting in 2036 with a contribution reduction of up to 5% of 1990 EU net emissions by safeguarding Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement.
7. Use of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for domestic permanent emissions removals.
8. Highlighted the importance of fair competitiveness of European industry and economy and the use of clean technology and renewable energy solutions.

The EU news target for emissions highlights its commitment to climate change and agreements such as the Paris Agreement 2015, climate neutrality by 2050 and reducing net GHS emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

## What is carbon neutrality and the EU target

## of zero greenhouse gas emissions?

Carbon neutrality is a concept which means balancing CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) emissions with removal by creating zero net balance. In other words, this means reaching that level where the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> is released into the atmosphere as is removed from the atmosphere (also known as zero carbon footprint).

The European Union aims to be climate neutral by 2050, an economy with net zero greenhouse gas emissions (climate neutrality), which is a legally binding target for member states because it is a part of the European Green Deal. and reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% below 1990 levels.

## How can we achieve carbon neutrality?

There are various ways in which we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, such as:

1. Limiting the GHGs emissions sources by adopting the alternatives like electric vehicles, renewable energy, etc.
2. Saving and protecting the forests and plants to create the carbon sinks.
3. Aligning with the goal of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Sustainable (climate-friendly) policy formation and implementation.

## Know more about the Paris Agreement or COP 15

It is the first legally binding universal international agreement on climate change, adopted by 195 parties at the COP15 of the UNCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in Paris, France, which came into force in November 2016.

### Objective:

1. To limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels
2. To limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
3. 43% decline in GHGs by 43% by 2030

4. Parties will set their own emission reduction targets, known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and must update them every 5 years to show progress.
5. Developed countries provide financial support to developing countries to help them implementation of climate actions

## **What are India's targets for climate change?**

India is an emerging economy where greenhouse gas emissions are set to increase, albeit from a low base, in pursuit of its development and poverty eradication goals.

India's responsibility for global warming thus far has been minimal, and even today its annual per capita emissions are only about one-third of the global average.

- India, at the 26th session of the UNFCCC (COP 26) in November 2021, announced its target to achieve net zero by 2070, known as Panchamrit in recognition of Para 19 of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement.
- India targets to reach a non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW and to meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable sources by 2030 to limit the GHG emissions.
- To reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45% by 2030 as compared to 2005 levels.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Promoting the government initiatives such as National Solar Mission and the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) and climate-friendly technologies

The European Union's new legally binding target to cut net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040 is a decisive commitment that aligns with its 2050 climate neutrality goal. While the transition to climate-friendly technology would be challenging for the industries, the plan needs to ensure the move to a green economy is conducted as a fair and competitive transition for everyone.

# India Gets Its Largest Sports Complex; Which City is it Situated in?

The biggest and most cutting-edge sports complex in India has officially been inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on September 16, 2025. The complex is built in Naranpura, Ahmedabad. The inauguration represents a significant step in India's development into a major global athletic force, supporting the government's goal of making India a leading sports nation by 2047.

## Key Features of the Naranpura Sports Complex

The Naranpura complex, which was built for 825 crore, has following features,

- An aquatic complex that meets international standards
- Modern facilities for sports, both indoors and out
- Athletes' housing facilities and dedicated training facilities

The facility is anticipated to be a candidate for hosting important international competitions like the Commonwealth Games and is designed to satisfy international athletic standards.

"This is not only the largest sports complex in India, but it is also the most modern in the world," Mr. Shah underlined.

**ALSO READ:** [List of Countries with the World's Most Unique and Unusual Flags](#)

## India's Sports Vision for 2047

In his speech, Amit Shah reaffirmed the government's goal of making India a world-class sports nation by 2047, the year the nation will commemorate its 100th anniversary of independence. He expressed hope that Ahmedabad will emerge as the sports hub of Asia, able to produce top athletes and organize important international tournaments.

## Sports Budget 2025

Amit Shah emphasized how India's sports budget has increased

significantly in the past ten years.

**2014: 1,643 crore rupees**

**2025: 5,300 crore rupees**

This almost threefold rise is a result of the government's sustained investments in international exposure, athlete development, and infrastructure. This kind of funding helps fund high-performance training facilities, grassroots sports, and programs like TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) and Khelo India.

**ALSO READ: [List of top 7 Unique Museums in India; Fourth Name will Surprise You!](#)**

### **India's Focus on New Sports Policy**

The inauguration is a component of a larger change in Indian sports policy, which currently places more emphasis on

- Early detection of talent
- Training plans supported by scientific research
- Public-private collaborations in infrastructure, education, and employment assistance for athletes

The new complex will act as a model for other cities and regions wishing to improve their sporting environments.

**ALSO READ: [Who is Known as the Nightingale of India?](#)**

# India and Brunei Formalize Defence Ties with Maiden Joint Working Group Meeting

India and Brunei have held the first meeting of their Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation in New Delhi, signalling the shift to a more structured, institutional framework for their defence relationship. Deepening military ties, enhancing maritime security in the Indo-Pacific, and exploring new vistas in defence technology and industry collaboration were discussed during the meeting.

## Launch of the Joint Working Group

The maiden JWG meeting marked the formal operationalization of a dedicated mechanism to steer India–Brunei defence engagement. Before the discussions began, both sides signed the Terms of Reference, thereby formally establishing the JWG with its scope and working procedures.

The JWG is mandated to regularly review the status of current defence cooperation and identify new avenues for collaboration in order to ensure continuity beyond individual visits or ad hoc dialogues. By institutionalizing the process, India and Brunei thus aim to make their defence partnership more predictable, focused and outcome-oriented.

## Key Focus Areas of Defence Dialogue

Deliberations at the first JWG focused on expanding military-to-military exchanges, including more frequent visits, training programmes and professional interactions between the armed forces of both countries. Both sides discussed scaling up the scope of joint training activities, which could include courses, exercises and capacity-building in areas of mutual interest.

Maritime security emerged as a major priority, with emphasis on safe and secure sea lanes, information sharing, and cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. The delegations also underlined the importance of training, skills development, and

institutional linkages to build long-term interoperability and familiarity between their defence establishments.

### **Defence Industry and Technology Cooperation**

The JWG highlighted the potential for defense industry cooperation in areas like technical alliances, cooperative initiatives, and exposure to Indian defense manufacturing capacity. Poh Kui Choon, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Brunei and co-chair of the JWG, visited the new DPSU Bhawan in New Delhi, which houses all 16 of India's Defense Public Sector Undertakings.

The visit to DPSU Bhawan opened the door for future project or procurement pathway exploration while showcasing India's expanding defense industrial base, innovation environment, and export potential to Bruneian officials. These kinds of interactions aim to link realistic industry-level cooperation with policy-level defense discourse.

# ADB raised India's GDP growth forecast 7.2%, up from 6.5% for FY2026

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) revised India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast for FY2026 to 7.2%, up from 6.5%, stating a consumption boost in the Indian economy followed by recent tax cuts, upgraded after India's six-quarter high GDP growth of 8.2% in the second quarter of FY26.

ADB ups India's growth forecast to 7.2% for FY26, from earlier 6.5%

Read @ANI Story | <https://t.co/WOzSQG1Zqy#ADB #India #IndiaEconomy pic.twitter.com/W4StAGRGdU>

— ANI Digital (@ani\_digital) December 10, 2025

## Key Points:

- ADB revised India's GDP forecast for FY2026 to 7.2%
- Highlighted the strong private consumption in the last quarter
- Shows export increments to the US mostly driven by tariff-exempt sectors like smartphones and pharmaceuticals.
- ADB also revised India's inflation rate to 2.6% from 3.1% previously due to reductions in GST rates and food price deflations which are supported by favourable agricultural growth.
- ADB kept its projection unchanged at 6.5% for FY2027 with 4.2% inflation.

## Significance of the Report:

- The report highlights the strong economic development and resilience in the export sectors.
- Positive impact of reductions in Goods and Services Tax (GST), which boost private consumption.
- Also highlights the significant expansion observed in the manufacturing and service sectors of India.
- Favourable agricultural growth which validates India's robust economic growth and positive outlook amid global uncertainties.

## **The revised GDP forecast by the RBI for FY 2026:**

The revised forecast of ADB is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's raised growth projection for financial year 2026. Recently the RBI revised the GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2026 to 7.3% from 6.8% earlier, stating improvement in the manufacturing sector, healthy agricultural growth in the kharif crop production and improved global economic conditions compared to earlier.

## **World Economic Outlook Report of International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

The IMF, in its recent World Economic Outlook report, has projected India's economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, reaffirming its position as one of the fastest-growing emerging markets and developing economies.

- It highlighted strong economic growth in the first quarter of FY26 performance. India will likely exceed China, which is projected to grow at 4.8%.
- The IMF stated that despite trade policy adjustments and global uncertainties, India's domestic demand and resilient growth fundamentals continue to support its economic development.
- However, the IMF marginally lowered its 2026-27 forecast to 6.2%, anticipating a moderation in growth. Global growth is projected at 3.2% in 2025, slowing to 3.1% in 2026.

### **About the Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

ADB is a leading multilateral development bank supporting sustainable, inclusive, and resilient growth across Asia and the Pacific regions, providing quality development solutions to solve the region's complex challenges and supporting projects in developing member countries.

- Established in 19th december 1966
- Its headquarters in Manila, Philippines
- It has 69 members, including 49 regional members from Asia and the Pacific region and 20 non-regional members from North America, Europe and other countries.

- In terms of financial commitments, India holds first rank with 14%, followed by China and Bangladesh, etc.
- ADB's weighting of the voting system is distributed in proportion to members' capital subscriptions; the largest shareholders are Japan (15.6%), the United States (15.6%), China (6.4%), India (6.3%) and Australia (5.8%).

# India Post Goes Gen-Z: Kerala's First Youth-Centric Post Office Opens in Kottayam

India Post launched Kerala's first Gen-Z post office extension counter at CMS College, Kottayam, as a campus-based, youth-centric model to reimagine student engagement with postal and financial services. Conceived around the motto "of the students, by the students, for the students," this facility combines design, technology, sustainability, and community-building features to transform a traditional service point into a vibrant hub of student activity.

## **Gen-Z Post Office Extension: Launch and Concept**

The new Gen-Z post office extension counter in CMS College was inaugurated by Shri. N.R. Giri, Director Postal Services (Kerala Central Region). The centre has been co-created by CMS College students in collaboration with India Post, reflecting student preferences in layout, aesthetics and functionality. This collaborative model aims at making postal services align better with contemporary campus life and expectations of youth.

The counter, located within the college premises, will act as an easy access point for students to avail themselves of various postal, logistics and philatelic services without having to leave the campus. The initiative also underlines India Post's effort to modernise its image and reach out to its younger audience.

## **Youth-Friendly Design and Infrastructure**

The interiors follow a nature-inspired design. From the vertical garden down to the picnic-style seating, the space feels informal and inclusive rather than formal and institutional. Other seating made out of refurbished tyres reinforces eco-friendly practices and creative reuse. Artworks by students and staff decorate the space, celebrating India Post, Kerala culture and Kottayam as the "Land of Letters," along with the college ethos of harmony with nature.

A work-friendly counter ledge with charging points enables students to

plug in laptops and phones while completing postal transactions or working between classes. This setup integrates the post office into the everyday study routines of students rather than treating it as a separate, purely transactional space.

### **Facilities and Services Offered**

The extension counter has a fully equipped Multi-Purpose Counter Machine booking counter that is able to provide a wide range of postal services, from mail booking and parcel handling supported by on-site packaging materials. A dedicated MyStamp printer that allows students and staff to print stamps with their own designs adds an element of fun, interaction, and personalization to philately for campus members.

Besides core services, the centre includes a recreational zone with a bookshelf, board games, and an indoor reading nook for students to relax, spend time, read, or interact with their peers. The balance between leisure and learning elements will position the facility as not only a functional service point but also a lifestyle corner within the college.

### **A New Model of Postal Engagement**

According to the Ministry of Communications, this counter featuring the theme of Generation Z is more than a post office-it is envisioned as a workplace, meeting area, creative space and community space. The design encourages informal meetings, small group collaborations and student-led activities focusing on communication, creativity and community engagement.

This can potentially act as a model for how campus-based and youth-oriented postal facilities can be created elsewhere in India, informing how legacy institutions such as India Post may begin to change in the face of shifting demographics and digital habits. Situating postal services within a modern, student-friendly environment, India Post thus nurtures a new generation of digitally savvy but postally aware users.

# IIT Bombay Launches BharatGen: India's Strategic Push for Indigenous LLMs in 22 Languages

The BharatGen Technology Foundation was launched on November 7, 2025, at the Powai campus of IIT Bombay to develop indigenous LLMs that can cater to over 22 official languages, diverse accents, and scripts with their respective cultural nuances. This will be backed by over Rs 1,293 crore contributed by various government ministries.

Part of the IndiaAI Mission, the effort builds on a sovereign AI ecosystem in order to reduce dependence on foreign models and allow scalable applications for startups and enterprises. BharatGen is, hence, a strategic push toward linguistic inclusivity in AI, fostering innovations in text and speech generations across India's multilingual landscape.

## **Establishment and Objectives**

BharatGen Technology Foundation was formally registered on November 7, 2025, expanding the scope of IIT Bombay from academia to national AI leadership. Its core mission is to create LLMs that process and generate content in more than 22 Indian languages, capturing the regional patterns of communication for authenticity in interactions. By prioritizing sovereignty, the project addresses gaps in global AI tools that often underperform on Indic languages, deploying models for education, healthcare, governance, and commerce.

This foundation forms the hub for collaborative R&D wherein the prototypes are transitioned to production-grade systems aligned with India's digital public infrastructure.

## **Government Funding and Support**

The DST sanctioned Rs 235 crore, while MeitY committed Rs 1,058 crore through the IndiaAI Mission, amounting to significant seed capital for model training and infrastructure. This will facilitate high-compute

resources, dataset curation in Indic languages, and ethical AI safeguards. Backing this ambition only highlights India's credo for self-reliant tech under programs such as Digital India, where BharatGen has emerged as a bedrock of the National AI Strategy.

### **Academic and Industry Collaborations**

BharatGen works through a consortium of premier institutions that pool in expertise on machine learning, linguistics, and natural language processing. Key recent innovation involves releasing "distilled" lightweight model versions, optimized for low-resource devices so as to empower startups, researchers, and SMEs without massive GPU needs. It democratizes access to encourage ecosystem-wide adoption for applications in regional languages, voice assistants, and content tools.

### **Strategic Vision and Impact**

BharatGen aims at a national AI backbone that coalesces with platforms like UPI and Aadhaar, powering culturally sensitive applications from vernacular search engines to AI tutors. It addresses data sparsity in low-resource languages, hence promoting equity, boosting GDP due to AI-driven productivity, and enhancing global competitiveness. This initiative, over the long term, may be able to spawn open-sourced Indic AI datasets, fostering a vibrant developer community, and positioning India as an AI exporter.

# Current Affairs One-Liners 08 Dec 2025: Operation Sagar Bandhu

**Current Affairs One-Liners:** 08 Dec 2025 Here are today's one-liner Current Affairs presented in a new format. These updates are extremely important from the exam point of view and will prove helpful in your preparation. Today's main highlights include topics related to International Civil Aviation Day and Operation Sagar Bandhu.

Which operation was started by the Indian Navy to help cyclone-affected Sri Lanka- Operation Sagar Bandhu

Who will host the prestigious Admiral Cup-2025- Indian Naval Academy

Which is the first Payment Bank to get Small Finance Bank approval- Fino Small Finance Bank

When is International Civil Aviation Day celebrated every year- 07 December

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 125 BRO projects worth how many crores- 5,000 crores

NMDC recently partnered with which IIT for cyber security and AI integration- IIT Kanpur

The government recently issued a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the campus of which university in India- University of New South Wales

[PM Kusum Yojana](#)

# Current Affairs One-Liner 02 Dec 2025: Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 2025

Current Affairs One-Liners: 02 Dec 2025 Presented here are today's current affairs one-liners in a fresh format. These updates are highly important from the exam perspective and will support your preparation. Today's key highlights include Kashi-Tamil Sangamam 2025 and BSF Raising Day.

1. In which category has India been re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council – Category-B
2. Who has recently taken charge as Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition – Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu
3. What rank did India secure at the WorldSkills Asia Competition (WSAC) 2025 – 8th
4. Which initiative was recently launched by Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary – Sportage Meerut
5. Who has won the 46th Honda Prize 2025 – Dr. Kenichi Iga
6. When is BSF Raising Day observed every year – 1 December
7. The fourth edition of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam is being organized in which city – Varanasi

[Ladki Bahin Yojana eKYC](#)