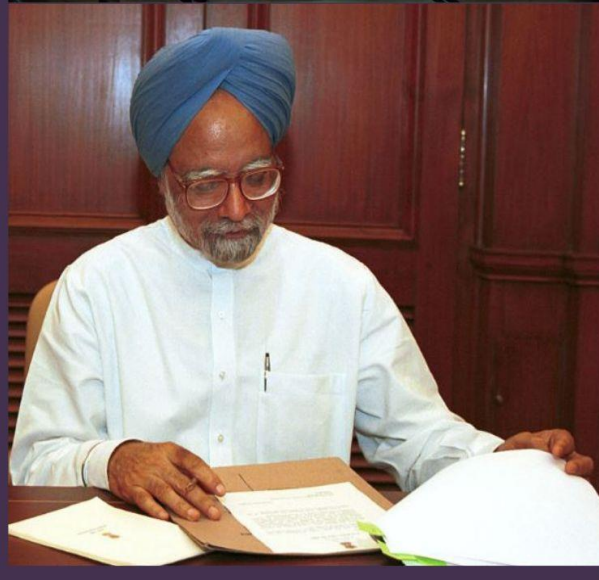


GK Now

Monthly Current Affairs

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Monthly Current Affairs (1 to 30 December 2024)

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ART AND CULTURE



Online art courses

[Bosnia's "Balkan Blues" Earns UNESCO Recognition and Inclusion in National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)
30/12/2024

UNESCO Recognition: Bosnia's traditional love song, **Sevdalinka**, often referred to as the **Balkan Blues**, was recognized by UNESCO and included in its National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage on **December 27, 2024**.

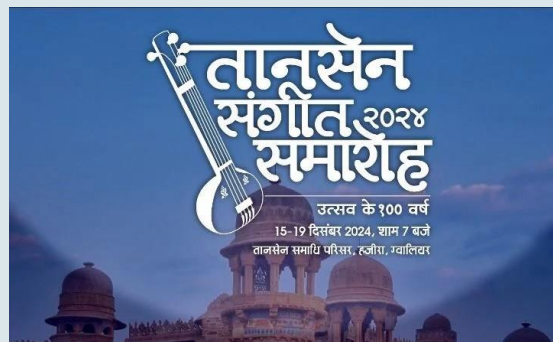
Historical Significance: Sevdalinka dates back to the **16th century** and is a blend of South Slavic oral poetry and Ottoman Empire music.

Best headphones deals

Cultural Preservation: Musicians like **Enes Salman** and **Damir Imamovic** have been instrumental in keeping the tradition alive and promoting it globally.

Modern Interpretations: Younger musicians have reinterpreted Sevdalinka, bringing it to global audiences and ensuring its continued relevance.

Custodians of Tradition: Ethnomusicologists like **Zanin Berbic** play a crucial role in preserving and promoting Sevdalinka through performances and education.



[Pt. Swapan Choudhary Receives National Tansen Award 2023](#)
20/12/2024

The National Tansen Award and Raja Mansingh Tomar Award were given on **18 December 2024** during the **Tansen Festival** in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

National Tansen Award:

Recipient: Pt. **Swapan Choudhary**, a renowned tabla player from Kolkata, was honored with the **National Tansen Samman** for the year **2023**.

Prize: The award includes an **honarium of five lakh rupees**, a **citation plaque**, and a **shawl-shripal**.

Significance: This award is the highest national music award in the field of Indian classical music, established by the Madhya Pradesh government.

Raja Mansingh Tomar Award:

Recipient: **Sanand Nyas**, an institution from Indore, was honored with the **Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman** for the year **2023**.

Institution's Contribution: Sanand Nyas has been active in the fields of **classical music, drama, and cultural festivals** in Indore for the last **35 years**.



Gadhimai Mahotsav: World's Largest Animal Sacrifice Festival

17/12/2024

The Gadhimai Mahotsav, held every five years at the Gadhimai Temple in Nepal's Madhesh Province, is the world's largest animal sacrifice festival. Gadhimai Mahotsav, started on December 2 and concluded on December 15, 2024. Despite decades of criticism from animal rights activists and court bans in India and Nepal, the 2023-24 festival saw a record footfall of 2.5 crore people. The festival's central rituals involve sacrificing animals like buffaloes, goats, and birds, preceded by a shamanic offering of five forest animals. Devotees believe the sacrifices fulfill wishes, often related to patriarchal traditions, such as blessings for male offspring.

Efforts to curb the practice have included court rulings restricting animal transport and banning public sacrifices, but enforcement is weak, and sacrifices now occur behind closed doors. Meat from sacrificed animals is auctioned and often exported, adding economic value. The festival generates significant revenue through tourism and local commerce, creating a financial incentive for its continuation. Political reluctance to intervene stems from the fear of offending religious sentiments, leaving NGOs and civil society

groups struggling to balance opposition with respect for cultural traditions.



Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passed away at the age of 73 in the United States

16/12/2024

Legendary tabla maestro **Zakir Hussain** passed away at the age of **73** in the **United States** on **15 December 2024** due to blood-pressure-related complications. Born on **March 9, 1951**, in **Mumbai**, he was the eldest son of tabla legend **Allah Rakha**.

With a career spanning six decades, Zakir Hussain won **five Grammy Awards**, including three at the **66th Grammy Awards** in 2024. He acted in films such as **'Saaz'** and **'Heat and Dust'**, with his latest film **'Monkey Man'** released in 2024. His groundbreaking 1973 collaboration with **John McLaughlin, L Shankar**, and **T.H. 'Vikku' Vinayakram** fused Indian classical music with jazz, creating a new genre.

Zakir Hussain received numerous prestigious honors, including the **Padma Shri** in 1988, the **Padma Bhushan** in 2002, and the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2023.



[Hornbill Festival in Kisama Heritage Village, Nagaland from December 1 to December 10.](#)

06/12/2024

The **Hornbill Festival**, also known as the **Festival of Festivals**, is an annual celebration held in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland from **December 1 to December 10**. Organized by the Government of Nagaland, the festival showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Naga tribes and aims to promote inter-ethnic interaction and unity.

The festival takes place at the **Kisama Heritage Village**, located about 12 km from Kohima. It features a vibrant array of cultural displays, including traditional Naga dances, music, crafts, sports, food fairs, and religious ceremonies. Visitors can experience the unique customs, folklore, and traditions of the Naga people, making it a truly immersive cultural experience.

Key highlights of the Hornbill Festival include:

Traditional Naga Morungs: Exhibitions showcasing the traditional houses and cultural artifacts of the Naga tribes.

Cultural Performances: Colorful dances, songs, and music performances by various Naga tribes.

Crafts and Art: Display and sale of traditional Naga crafts, wood carvings, paintings, and sculptures.

Food Fairs: A variety of Naga cuisine, including traditional dishes and delicacies.

Sports and Games: Traditional Naga sports such as archery, wrestling, and indigenous games.

Music Festival: The Hornbill Music Festival, featuring performances by renowned artists from across India and abroad.

The Hornbill Festival is a celebration of Naga culture and heritage, providing a platform for the diverse ethnic groups of Nagaland to come together and share their traditions with visitors from around the world.



[Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from 6 to 8 December 2024](#)

06/12/2024

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 6 December 2024**. The three-day festival celebrates the culture, crafts, and tourism of the **eight North Eastern states**—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—collectively known as **Ashtalakshmi**.

The event will feature:

250+ artisans showcasing handicrafts, handlooms, and agri-horti products, including **34 GI-tagged items**.

A **Fashion Show, Design Conclave, and Buyer-Seller Meet** to promote collaborations and economic growth.

A **Rural Haat Bazaar** with products from **320 farmers and artisans**.

The Mahotsav aims to boost economic development in the North East, creating opportunities for artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.



Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025

04/12/2024

The **Maha Kumbh 2025** is set to be a grand and spiritually significant event, taking place in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh** from **January 13 to February 26, 2025**. This festival, held once every 12 years, is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, attracting millions of devotees and tourists from across the globe.

The Maha Kumbh is rooted in Hindu mythology and is celebrated at four sacred locations: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. The event commemorates the mythological churning of the ocean (Samudra Manthan) and the subsequent quest for the nectar of immortality. Pilgrims believe that taking a dip in the holy waters during the Kumbh Mela cleanses them of their sins and brings them closer to salvation.

Key highlights of the Maha Kumbh 2025 include:

Royal Baths (Shahi Snan): These are special bathing dates when religious leaders and devotees take a dip in the holy waters. Important dates include **Makar Sankranti (January 14)**, **Mauni Amavasya (January 29)**, **Basant Panchami (February 3)**, **Maghi Purnima (February 12)**, and **Mahashivratri (February 26)**.

Cultural Events: The festival features vibrant cultural activities such as traditional

processions (Peshwai), spiritual discourses, yoga sessions, and devotional music performances.

Infrastructure and Facilities: The Uttar Pradesh government has made extensive preparations, including the creation of a new district for the duration of the Maha Kumbh, improved infrastructure, and world-class accommodation facilities.

AWARDS AND HONORS



President Murmu Awards Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 Exceptional Children

27/12/2024

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** on **17 children** in New Delhi on **26 December 2024**.

Categories: The children were recognized for their achievements in **Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment**.

Awards: Each awardee received a **medal, a certificate, and a citation booklet**.

States and UTs: The awardees hailed from **14 states and union territories**.

Veer Bal Diwas Tribute: President Murmu paid homage to the bravery and sacrifice of the Sahibzadas on Veer Bal Diwas, honoring the younger sons of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh.

Prime Minister's Interaction: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the awardees.



PM Modi Honoured with Kuwait's Highest Civilian Award, "The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer"

23/12/2024

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded **Kuwait's highest civilian honor, The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer**, by **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah**, the Amir of Kuwait, during his state visit on **22nd December 2024**.

Significance: The award symbolizes the enduring partnership between **India and Kuwait**.

Bilateral Talks: PM Modi held talks with the Amir, focusing on strengthening **India-Kuwait relations**, which have now been elevated to a **Strategic Partnership**.

Historical Context: This is the **first visit** by an Indian Prime Minister to Kuwait in **43 years**.



Easterine Kire Wins Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 for 'Spirit Nights' in English Category

20/12/2024

Easterine Kire: Noted author from Nagaland, Easterine Kire, has been selected for

the **Sahitya Akademi Award 2024** in the **English language category**.

Award for Spirit Nights: Kire's novel, **Spirit Nights**, published by Simon and Schuster India, won the award in the **English language category**. The novel is inspired by a story from the Chang Naga tribe of Nagaland.

Annual Sahitya Akademi Awards: The awards were announced in **21 languages** on 18 December 2024.

Other Awardees from the North East:

Sameer Tanti: Awarded for **Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane** in the Assamese language.

Haobam Satyabati Devi: Awarded for **Mainu Bora Nungshi Sheirol** in the Manipuri language under the Poetry category.

Aron Raja: Awarded for **Swrni Thakhai** in the Bodo language under the Novel category.

Award Ceremony: The awardees will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize of one lakh rupees. The ceremony will be held on **8th March 2025** in **Delhi**.



Hindi writer Suryabala awarded the 34th Vyas Samman 2024 for novel Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary

13/12/2024

Noted Hindi writer Suryabala has been awarded the 34th **Vyas Samman 2024** for her novel *Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary*,

published in 2018. The award, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991, honors outstanding Hindi literary works published in the last 10 years. It includes a ₹4 lakh cash prize, a citation, and a plaque. The selection was made by a committee chaired by eminent litterateur Prof. Ramji Tiwari.

Suryabala, born in Varanasi in 1943, holds an MA and a PhD in Hindi literature from Kashi Vishwavidyalaya. Over her decades-long career, she has written over 50 books, including novels, biographies, and children's literature, with many adapted into TV series. Her works often focus on social issues.

Buy bestselling books online

Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary explores the struggles of Indian youth migrating to America, addressing cultural conflicts, spiritual alienation, and disconnection from their roots. The novel is an authentic reflection of the challenges faced by overseas Indians, blending personal experiences and cultural insights.



[President Droupadi Murmu Presents National Panchayat Awards 2024](#)

12/12/2024

On December 11, 2024, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Panchayat Awards 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The event honored 45 exceptional Panchayats for their outstanding contributions to sustainable and inclusive development in rural India.

The awards recognized the efforts of these Panchayats in areas such as poverty

alleviation, health, water conservation, sanitation, and climate sustainability. The President emphasized the importance of village development and empowerment in making India a developed nation. She congratulated the winners and expressed confidence that this recognition would inspire other Panchayats to adopt best practices for inclusive growth.

The National Panchayat Awards, revamped in 2022 to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), celebrated the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in driving grassroots development. The awards were presented across various categories, including the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar and the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar.

The event was attended by Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, and other dignitaries. A booklet titled "Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats" was also unveiled, documenting the innovative practices implemented by the award-winning Panchayats.



[Payal Kapadia: First Indian Nominee for Best Director at Golden Globes Awards](#)

10/12/2024

Filmmaker **Payal Kapadia** has made history as the first Indian director nominated for **Best Director (Motion Picture)** at the **82nd Golden Globe Awards** for her film *All We Imagine As Light*. The film has also been nominated

for **Best Motion Picture – (Non-English Language)**.

An **Indo-French co-production**, the film stars **Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha, and Hridhu Haroon**, portraying the struggles of two women during a transformative trip to a beach town. It previously won the **Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival**, becoming the first Indian film in the competition section in 30 years.

The film has also earned accolades like **Best International Film** at the **New York Film Critics Circle** and **Best International Feature** at the **Gotham Awards 2024**.

The Golden Globe nominees for Best Director include renowned filmmakers like Jacques Audiard (*Emilia Perez*) and Sean Baker (*Anora*). The 82nd Golden Globe Awards will be held on **January 6, 2025**.



Saule Biluvaite's Film 'Toxic' Wins Golden Peacock Award at 55th IFFI 2024

29/11/2024

The closing ceremony of 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024, was held on 28 November in Panaji, Goa. Saule Biluvaite's *Toxic* won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award, receiving a ₹40 lakh cash prize, a trophy, and a certificate.

Clement Faveau won Best Actor Male, while Vesta Matulyte and Leva Repuikaite shared the Best Actor Female award for their performances in *Toxic*.

In the Indian section, Navjot Bandiwadekar was honored as Best Debut Director for *Gharat Ganpati*, and *Lampan* received the Best Web Series OTT award. Vikrant Massey was celebrated as the Indian Film Personality of the Year.

The ceremony featured cultural performances by Mame Khan and Amaal Malik and was attended by dignitaries like Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant, I&B Secretary Sanjay Jaju, and Bollywood icons such as Madhur Bhandarkar, Rashmika Mandanna, and Jayaprada.

ECONOMY



India becomes 3rd largest exporter of smartphones globally

18/12/2024

India has become the **3rd largest exporter of smartphones globally**, climbing from the 23rd rank in 2019. In November 2024, the country's smartphone exports surpassed **₹20,000 crore** in a single month, representing a **92% increase** compared to November 2023 (₹10,634 crore).

This milestone exceeds the expectations set under the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**, which aimed to export 70-75% of production value in FY 2024-25. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw celebrated this achievement, calling it a "Making Bharat Story."



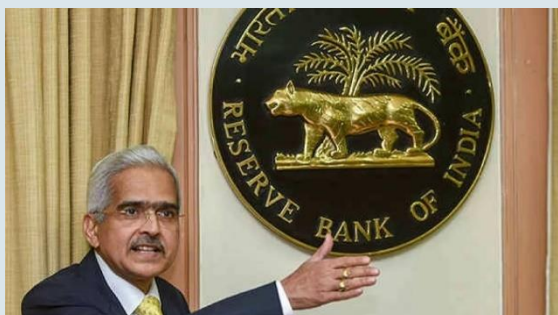
Sanjay Malhotra appointed new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

10/12/2024

Sanjay Malhotra, the current Revenue Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, has been appointed as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). His tenure will begin on December 11, 2024, and last for three years.

A 1990-batch IAS officer from the Rajasthan cadre, Malhotra is an Engineering graduate from IIT Kanpur and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Princeton University. He has held various key positions across sectors such as finance, taxation, power, information technology, and mines. As Revenue Secretary, he has been pivotal in formulating tax policies.

Malhotra succeeds Shaktikanta Das, who has completed a successful six-year term as the RBI Governor. Das, recognized for his leadership during critical times, will conclude his term on December 10, 2024.



RBI keeps repo rate unchanged; Cuts Cash Reserve Ratio by 50 basis points to 4%;

07/12/2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its December monetary policy meeting, decided by a 4:2 majority to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the 11th consecutive time since February 2023. The SDF rate remains at 6.25%, and the MSF rate and Bank Rate at 6.75%. The RBI also reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4%, releasing ₹1.16 lakh crore to ease liquidity stress.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the commitment to price stability amid inflationary pressures and revised the FY25 inflation forecast to 4.8% from 4.5%. The MPC retained its neutral stance, focusing on aligning inflation with the target while supporting growth. The policy meeting was held on December 4-6, 2024.



RBI Raises UPI Lite Wallet Limit to ₹5,000 and Offline Transaction Limit to ₹1,000

06/12/2024

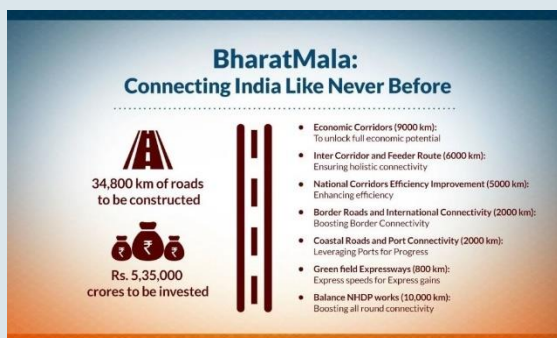
On **4 December 2024**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** increased the **UPI Lite wallet limit** from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 and raised the **offline transaction limit** from ₹500 to ₹1,000 per transaction. These changes are effective immediately, aiming to enhance convenience and security for digital payments.

Under the new guidelines, UPI Lite allows transactions of up to ₹1,000 per payment, with a total wallet cap of ₹5,000. Previously, the offline framework permitted a maximum of ₹500 per transaction and a wallet limit of ₹2,000. This update aligns with the RBI's efforts to promote **digital transactions** and provide a more inclusive payment experience.

The changes are implemented under **Sections 18 and 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**. The announcement builds on an earlier update by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das** in October 2024, highlighting the growing significance of UPI in India's economy.

In October 2024, UPI achieved a record-breaking **16.58 billion financial transactions in a single month**, reflecting its pivotal role in revolutionizing India's payment ecosystem since its launch in 2016 by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES



Bharatmala Project: A Roadmap to Efficient Connectivity

14/12/2024

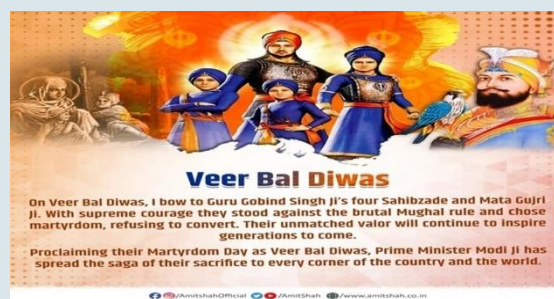
The **Bharatmala Project** (Pariyojana), launched in **2015**, is a large-scale infrastructure initiative by the Indian government aiming to enhance the efficiency of freight and passenger movement. The project focuses on developing a comprehensive network of highways, aiming to connect **550 district headquarters** with 4-lane highways and move **80% of freight traffic** to National Highways.

Key components include the development of **economic corridors, inter-corridors and feeder routes**, and **greenfield expressways**. The project also emphasizes **border and international connectivity roads, coastal and**

port connectivity, and national corridor efficiency improvement.

Implementation involves the creation of **multimodal logistics parks**, the use of **technology and scientific planning**, and a phased approach, with the first phase expected to be completed by **2022**. The project aims to generate significant employment opportunities, improve regional connectivity, and boost economic growth, aligning with initiatives such as **Make in India** and **Digital India**.

IMPORTANT DAYS



Veer Baal Diwas, December 26: Commemorating Sacrifice and Celebrating Youth Achievements

26/12/2024

Veer Baal Diwas is observed annually on **December 26**.

Purpose: The day honors the bravery and sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons, **Baba Zorawar Singh** and **Baba Fateh Singh**.

Historical Significance: In 1704, the Sahibzadas were captured and pressured to renounce their Sikh faith. They refused and were martyred by being bricked alive at Sirhind, Punjab.

Declaration: Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared December 26 as Veer Baal Diwas in **2022** to commemorate their sacrifice.

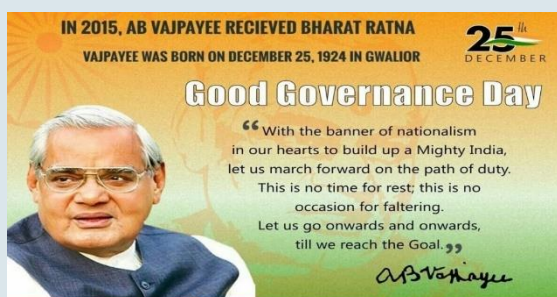
2024 Celebrations: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the event at **Bharat**

Mandapam, New Delhi, and launch the **Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan** to enhance nutritional outcomes across India.

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar: President Droupadi Murmu will confer the award on **17 children** for exceptional achievements in **seven categories** in New Delhi. The children hail from **14 states and UTs**.

Categories: Art and culture, bravery, innovation, science and technology, social service, sports, and the environment.

Awards: Each awardee will receive a medal, certificate, and citation booklet.



Good Governance Day on December 25th
25/12/2024

Good Governance Day is observed annually on **December 25th** in India to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**. Instituted in 2014 by the Narendra Modi government, this day aims to promote **transparency, accountability, and efficiency** in public administration.

Significance

Good Governance Day highlights the importance of ethical leadership and responsible governance. It serves as a reminder for both leaders and citizens to uphold high standards of governance to ensure sustainable development and public welfare.

Celebrations

The day is marked by various initiatives and activities, including:

Awareness Campaigns: Programs focusing on digital transformation, participatory democracy, and responsive public services.

Educational Activities: Schools, colleges, and government organizations host debates, speeches, and workshops to encourage youth participation in nation-building.

Inspirational Messages: Quotes by Atal Bihari Vajpayee are shared to inspire ethical governance and public service.



National Consumer Day: December 24
24/12/2024

National Consumer Day is observed annually on **December 24**. The day aims to raise awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities.

Historical Significance: The day commemorates the enactment of the **Consumer Protection Act 1986**, which received presidential assent on December 24, 1986.

Consumer Rights: The act grants consumers the right to be protected, informed, heard, and to seek redressal against unfair trade practices.

2024 Theme: The theme for National Consumer Day 2024 is **“Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice”**.

Key Initiatives: Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launched several initiatives, including the **Jago Grahak Jago App**, **Jagriti App**, and **Jagriti Dashboard** to protect consumers from deceptive online practices.

World Meditation Day 21 December



First-ever World Meditation Day on Dec 21, 2024

21/12/2024

World Meditation Day is observed on **December 21st** each year.

UN Recognition: The United Nations General Assembly designated December 21st as World Meditation Day in 2024.

Purpose: The day aims to raise awareness about the benefits of meditation for mental and physical health.

Global Event: The first World Meditation Day was celebrated with a global event at the UN Headquarters in New York, led by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Theme: The theme for the inaugural event was **“Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony”**.

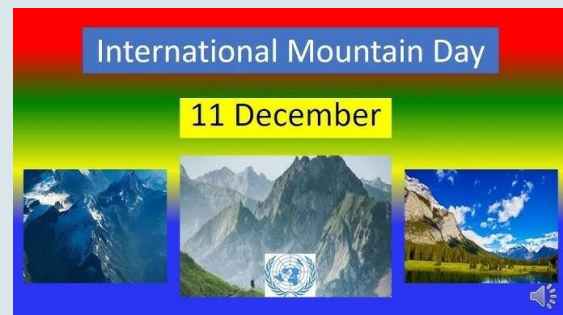
Benefits: Meditation is known to reduce stress, improve focus, enhance emotional balance, and promote overall well-being.

Historical Roots: Meditation has ancient roots in religious, yogic, and secular traditions across various cultures.

Modern Practice: Today, meditation is practiced worldwide and is recognized as a tool for personal well-being and mental health.

WHO Support: The World Health Organization acknowledges the significant benefits of meditation, particularly mindfulness meditation.

Collective Well-being: Beyond individual benefits, meditation fosters empathy, collaboration, and a sense of shared purpose.

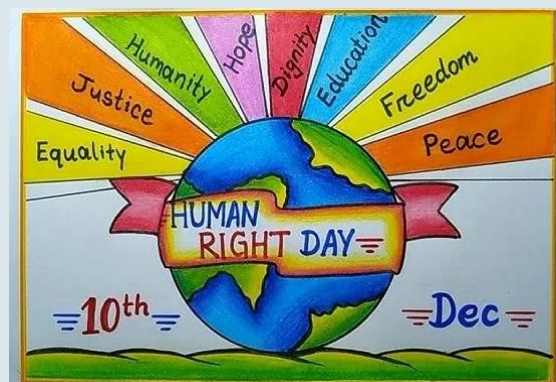


International Mountain Day observed annually on December 11th

12/12/2024

International Mountain Day is observed annually on **December 11th** to raise awareness about the significance of mountains and the challenges they face. This year, the theme is **“Mountain Solutions: Innovation, Adaptation, and Youth for a Sustainable Future”**, highlighting the crucial role of innovative solutions, adaptive practices, and youth involvement in ensuring a sustainable future for mountain environments and communities.

Mountains cover **27% of the Earth’s land surface** and provide essential resources, such as fresh water, biodiversity, and climate regulation. However, they are threatened by climate change, deforestation, and overexploitation.



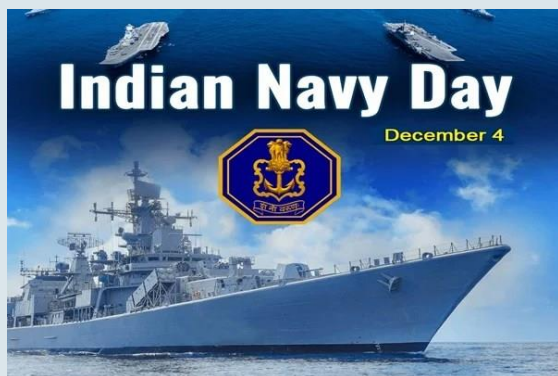
Human Rights Day is observed annually on December 10th

11/12/2024

Human Rights Day is observed annually on **December 10th** to commemorate the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. This day serves as a reminder of the fundamental rights and freedoms that every individual is entitled to, regardless of nationality, race, gender, religion, or any other status.

The UDHR, a landmark document in human rights history, outlines a broad range of rights and freedoms that form the foundation of international human rights standards. It includes rights such as the right to life, liberty, and security of person; freedom from torture and slavery; the right to a fair trial; freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; and the right to education, among others.

Human Rights Day is a day to reflect on the progress made in upholding these rights and to recognize the ongoing challenges that still exist.



[Navy Day 2024: December 4th](#)

04/12/2024

Navy Day 2024 is celebrated on **December 4th** to honor the bravery and commitment of naval forces. This year, the event will be held in **Puri, Odisha**, with President Droupadi Murmu as the chief guest.

The theme for Navy Day 2024 is **“Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation”**, highlighting the Indian Navy’s

focus on self-reliance and cutting-edge technology.

The day commemorates the success of **Operation Trident**, a significant naval mission during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. On December 4, 1971, the Indian Navy launched a surprise attack on Karachi, crippling Pakistan’s key port and asserting India’s naval prowess.



[International Day of Persons with Disabilities \(IDPD\): December 3rd](#)

04/12/2024

The **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** is observed annually on **December 3rd** to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development. This day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and to advocate for their full and equal participation in social, economic, political, and cultural life.

Established by the United Nations in 1992, IDPD focuses on various themes each year, addressing different aspects of disability inclusion. The themes often highlight issues such as accessibility, inclusion, employment, education, and empowerment of people with disabilities.

Key objectives of IDPD include:

Raising Awareness: Highlighting the barriers that people with disabilities face and promoting solutions to overcome them.

Promoting Rights: Advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities as enshrined in international law, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Encouraging Inclusion: Promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, including education, employment, and community activities.

Celebrating Achievements: Recognizing the contributions and achievements of people with disabilities in various fields.

Border Security Force (BSF) Raising Day:
December 1
02/12/2024

The **Border Security Force (BSF)** celebrated its **60th Raising Day** on **December 1, 2024**. This day marks the anniversary of the force's formation in 1965.

History and Facts about the BSF

Formation: The BSF was established on **December 1, 1965**, in the wake of the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965. The need for a specialized force to guard India's borders became evident after Pakistan attacked Sardar Post, Char Bet, and Beria Bet in Kutch.

First Director General: K F Rustamji, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, was the first Director General and founding father of the BSF.

Motto: The BSF's motto is "**Jeevan Paryant Kartavya**", which translates to "**Duty Unto Death**".

Role: The BSF is responsible for guarding India's land borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh. It is the world's largest border security force, with a sanctioned strength of **270,000 personnel**.

Capabilities: The BSF has grown from 25 battalions in 1965 to **193 battalions** today, including an air wing, water wing, artillery regiment, and specialized units.

Operations: Apart from border guarding, the BSF also engages in counter-insurgency operations, anti-Naxal operations, and internal security duties. They have been involved in various operations, including the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 and the Kargil War.

INTERNATIONAL



Azerbaijan Airline Crash in Kazakhstan
28/12/2024

On December 25, 2024, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight, **J2-8243**, crashed near Aktau, Kazakhstan, resulting in the tragic loss of **38 lives** and leaving **29 survivors**. The Embraer 190 aircraft was en route from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Grozny, Russia, when it encountered severe turbulence and loud bangs, leading to a catastrophic crash.

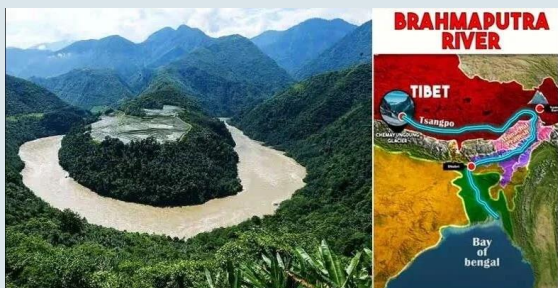
Key Details:

Flight Path: The plane was diverted from its original route due to heavy fog in Grozny and attempted an emergency landing in Aktau.

Survivor Accounts: Passengers reported hearing multiple loud bangs and experiencing a loss of cabin pressure before the crash.

Investigation: Authorities from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia have launched investigations to determine the cause of the crash. Initial speculations suggest possible **external interference**, with some sources indicating that Russian air defenses might have mistakenly shot down the aircraft.

Casualties: The crash claimed 38 lives, including both pilots, and left many survivors with serious injuries.



[China Approves World's Largest Dam on the Brahmaputra River](#)

28/12/2024

China has recently approved the construction of the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River, located in Tibet near the Indian border. This ambitious project, estimated to cost around \$137 billion, has raised significant concerns in India and Bangladesh.

Key Details:

Location: The dam will be built at a significant gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra River makes a U-turn before flowing into Arunachal Pradesh and subsequently into Bangladesh.

Scale: The project is expected to exceed one trillion yuan (\$137 billion), surpassing even China's Three Gorges Dam, currently the world's largest.

Purpose: The primary aim is to develop clean energy and respond to climate change and extreme hydrological disasters. The hydropower facility is estimated to generate over 300 billion kWh of electricity annually, enough to supply energy to approximately 300 million people for a year.

Concerns: India and Bangladesh have expressed apprehensions about potential impacts on water flow and regional stability. There are fears that China could control the

water flow and release large amounts of water during conflicts.

Safety Measures: China has assured that extensive geological studies and advanced technology have been employed to ensure the project's safety and minimize ecological impact. The dam will also incorporate measures for disaster prevention and relief.

International Reactions:

India's Response: India has raised concerns about the potential impact on water flow and the ability of China to control water during hostilities. India is also constructing its own dam on the Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

China's Assurance: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning has stated that the project will not negatively affect the lower reaches and that China will continue to maintain communication with countries at the lower reaches through existing channels.



[Kristrun Frostadottir Becomes Iceland's Youngest Prime Minister](#)

24/12/2024

Iceland's new government, led by Prime Minister **Kristrun Frostadottir** of the Social Democratic Alliance (SDA), took office on **21 December 2024**.

Youngest Prime Minister: Frostadottir, born in 1988, is Iceland's youngest prime minister. She was elected to parliament in 2021 and became SDA leader in 2022.

Three-Party Coalition: The coalition includes the **SDA, the Liberal Reform Party (LRP), and the People's Party (PP)**. The SDA and LRP each hold four ministerial portfolios, while the PP has three.

First Meeting: The new cabinet held its first formal meeting at the presidential residence, Bessastadir, with President **Halla Tomasdottir** in attendance.

Cabinet Priorities: Frostadottir outlined priorities of stabilising Iceland's economy by reducing interest rates, enforcing stricter public finance controls, and fostering value creation.

Election Victory: The SDA emerged as the biggest winner in Iceland's parliamentary election held on **November 30**.



[Russian President Putin ready to compromise on Ukraine war](#)

21/12/2024

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** is ready to compromise over Ukraine in possible talks with US President-elect **Donald Trump** to end the war.

No Conditions for Talks: Putin has no conditions for talks with Ukrainian authorities and is willing to negotiate with anyone, including Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**.

Legitimate Authorities: Any deal must be signed by Ukraine's legitimate authorities, recognized by the Kremlin as the Ukrainian parliament.

Russia's Position: Putin dismissed claims that Russia is in a weak position and asserted that

the country has grown stronger since the 2022 conflict.

Rejection of Temporary Truce: Putin rejected the idea of a temporary truce with Kyiv, stating that only a lasting peace deal would be acceptable.

Open to Talks with Trump: Putin is open to meeting with Trump but noted that he has not spoken to him for years.

Trump's Promise: Trump has promised to end the conflict swiftly but has not outlined his approach.



[Sri Lanka to offer visa-free travel to Indian nationals from Jan 2025](#)

18/12/2024

From January 2025, Indians will be among nationals from **39 countries** eligible for **free visas to travel to Sri Lanka**, as announced by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister **Vijitha Herath** during an interaction organized by the India Foundation in New Delhi. A parliamentary gazette notification will formalize this policy in January. The minister expressed hope that India would reciprocate by offering free visas to Sri Lankan nationals.

Highlighting the strong bilateral ties, he noted that **India is the largest source of tourists to Sri Lanka**. The announcement came during a three-day state visit (15-17 December) by Sri Lankan President **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** and his delegation.



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz Loses Vote of Confidence: Understanding Germany's Federal Election System

17/12/2024

On December 16, 2024, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a vote of confidence, triggering a snap election set for February 23, 2025. Germany's new hybrid electoral system combines single-member constituencies with proportional representation, fixing the Bundestag at 630 seats (down from 735). If a party wins more constituency seats than its proportional vote share, some seats will remain vacant, starting with the narrowest-margin victories.

The system retains the 5% national vote threshold for parliamentary entry, with a rule allowing parties to bypass this if they win at least three constituency seats. This mechanism has helped smaller parties like the Left in the past. Current polls predict a highly unpredictable election, with major parties like CDU/CSU leading (34%) but facing competition from the far-right AfD (17%), and smaller parties like the Free Democrats and Left struggling to meet thresholds.

Friedrich Merz of the CDU is a frontrunner to become chancellor, likely needing a coalition due to the fragmented political landscape. The far-right AfD is unlikely to form part of any coalition, as mainstream parties view it as undemocratic.



Britain Joins the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)

17/12/2024

On **December 15, 2024**, Britain officially became the **first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**, becoming the **12th member** of this significant trade bloc. This move marks a major milestone in Britain's post-Brexit trade strategy, aiming to strengthen its global trade links and deepen ties with the Indo-Pacific region.

Key Points

Strategic Expansion: By joining the CPTPP, Britain aims to expand its trade horizons and diversify its economic partnerships.

Economic Benefits: The UK government estimates that the pact could boost the economy by **£2 billion (\$2.5 billion) annually** in the long run.

Trade Opportunities: Membership provides British businesses with lower tariffs and fewer barriers when trading with CPTPP member countries, including **Japan, Australia, Canada, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam**.

Influence and Growth: Britain's accession allows it to influence the future development of the CPTPP, including decisions on potential new members like China and Taiwan.



[Romania and Bulgaria to join EU's Schengen area on January 1, 2025](#)

13/12/2024

On December 12, 2024, EU interior ministers announced that **Romania and Bulgaria** will fully join the border-free Schengen Area starting January 1, 2025. This decision marks the end of a long journey for both countries, which have been EU members since 2007.

The Schengen Area currently comprises 29 countries, including 25 EU member states and four non-EU countries. Joining the Schengen Area means that Romania and Bulgaria will no longer have border controls with other Schengen countries, allowing for free movement of people, goods, and services.

The decision to allow full membership came after Austria lifted its long-standing veto, which was based on concerns about migration and border management. Both Romania and Bulgaria have made significant progress in addressing these issues, leading to their acceptance into the Schengen Area.



[Mohamed al-Bashir appointed as caretaker Prime Minister of Syria](#)

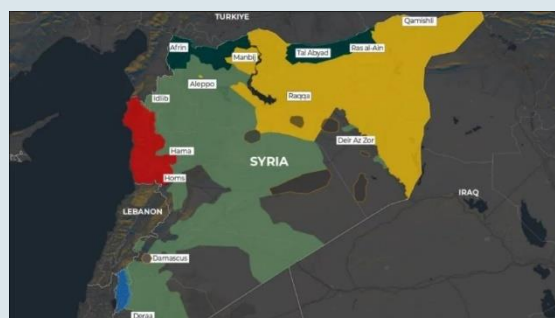
11/12/2024

Mohamed al-Bashir has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria on 10

December 2024. This appointment, effective until March 1, 2025, marks a significant step in Syria's transition. Al-Bashir, a prominent rebel leader and former head of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham-led Syrian Salvation Government in Idlib, played a crucial role in the recent offensive that led to President Bashar al-Assad's fall.

Born in 1986 in the Jabal Zawiya region of Idlib, al-Bashir holds a degree in electrical and electronic engineering from the University of Aleppo and has studied Sharia and law. He joined the revolutionaries in 2021 and has held various key positions, including the Minister of Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

As caretaker Prime Minister, al-Bashir has pledged to ensure a smooth transition of power and work towards Syria's stability and reconstruction. The international community is closely monitoring the situation, hoping for a peaceful and stable future for the country.



[Syrian Rebel Forces Claim Control of Damascus, President Assad Flees](#)

09/12/2024

On December 8, 2024, Syrian rebel forces claimed control of Damascus after a week-long offensive that faced no resistance from government troops, signaling a dramatic shift in Syria's political landscape. President Bashar al-Assad, who ruled for 24 years, reportedly fled the country to an undisclosed location. Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali expressed willingness to ensure a peaceful transition of power to the rebels.

The opposition, led by Hadi al-Bahra, announced plans to collaborate with international partners, including Arab and European countries and the UN, to shape Syria's future. Key developments included the rebels' capture of Homs, the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Damascus International Airport, and the release of prisoners from Saydnaya military prison. Clashes between rebel and regime forces had escalated since November 27, 2024.



[India to Chair 68th Session of UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the first time](#)

07/12/2024

India has been appointed to chair the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), with Shambhu Kumaran, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, assuming the chairmanship on December 6, 2024. This marks the first time India has chaired this UN body, which is responsible for monitoring global drug trends, supporting balanced policies, and overseeing international drug conventions.

India's leadership reflects its growing global influence and commitment to addressing international challenges through multilateral platforms. As Chair, India will prioritize representing the Global South's interests and fostering dialogue on drug policy issues while continuing the CND's ongoing work.



[Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah becomes Namibia's first female President](#)

05/12/2024

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the ruling SWAPO party has won Namibia's eighth presidential election, becoming the country's first female president with over 57% of the votes. Her closest rival, Panduleni Itula, received 26%.

At 72, Nandi-Ndaitwah, currently vice president, is a seasoned leader in Namibian politics since independence in 1990, with significant domestic and international recognition. SWAPO also secured a majority in the National Assembly, winning 51 out of 96 seats.



[World Maritime Technology Conference \(WMTTC\) 2024 from December 4 to 6, 2024, in Chennai](#)

03/12/2024

The **World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTTC) 2024** will be held from **December 4 to 6, 2024**, at The Leela Palace, Chennai, India. Organized by the **Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chennai Branch**, this prestigious event occurs every three years and

is returning to India after 15 years. It will bring together over **300 delegates** from **21 member organizations across 17 countries**, including participants from the US, UK, Germany, Spain, and Asia-Pacific countries.

The conference will focus on **futuristic developments and current challenges** in the maritime industry, featuring renowned speakers and panelists discussing the future of the global maritime sector. **Shyam Jagannathan**, Director General of Shipping, will be the Guest of Honour. The event underscores Chennai's prominence as a major maritime hub and promises to foster international collaboration and innovation.

[Kash Patel Nominated as next Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#)

02/12/2024

US President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Kash Patel as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Patel, a seasoned lawyer and investigator, played key roles during Trump's first term, serving as Chief of Staff at the Department of Defense and in other senior positions. If confirmed by the Senate, Patel will become the first Indian-American and South Asian to lead the FBI.

Trump praised Patel's dedication to justice, his efforts to combat crime and trafficking, and his pivotal role in exposing the "Russia Hoax." Patel's nomination highlights the growing influence of the Indian-American community in US politics, following figures like Nikki Haley, who served as Trump's UN Ambassador, and Kamala Harris, the current Vice President

NATIONAL



[Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran Between Indian and Nepal Armies from December 31, 2024, to January 13, 2025](#)

30/12/2024

Exercise Surya Kiran is a significant joint military exercise between the armies of **India and Nepal**. The 18th edition of this annual training event is scheduled to be held in **Saljhandi, Nepal** from **December 31, 2024, to January 13, 2025**.

An Indian Army contingent of 334 personnel has departed to participate in the 18th edition of the Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran.

Objectives: The exercise aims to enhance interoperability in:

Jungle warfare

Counter-terrorism operations in mountains

Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief under the United Nations Charter

Focus Areas: Additional areas of focus include:

Enhancing operational preparedness

Aviation aspects

Medical training

Environment conservation

Significance: The Defense Ministry emphasized that the exercise signifies the strong bonds of friendship, trust, and common cultural linkages between India and Nepal.



Kaamya Karthikeyan, 17-year-old become the youngest female in the world to scale the highest peaks on each of the seven continents

30/12/2024

Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old from Navy Children School in Mumbai, becomes the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.

Seven Summits Conquered: She has climbed Africa's Mt Kilimanjaro, Europe's Mt Elbrus, Australia's Mt Kosciuszko, South America's Mt Aconcagua, North America's Mt Denali, Asia's Mt Everest, and Antarctica's Mt Vinson.

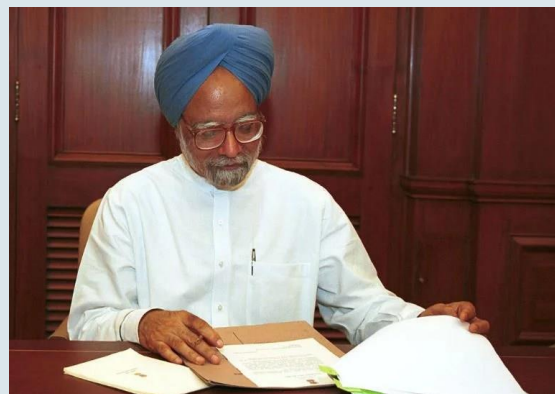
Antarctica Climb: On December 24, 2024, Kaamya and her father, Commander S. Karthikeyan, reached the summit of Mt Vinson in Antarctica at 17:20 hrs Chilean Standard Time, completing the Seven Summits Challenge.

Recognition: The Indian Navy has congratulated both Kaamya and her father for this significant achievement.

Early Trekking Experience: Kaamya began her trekking journey at the age of 7 in Uttarakhand.

Previous Achievements: She was sixteen years old when she scaled Mount Everest.

Awards and Honors: Kaamya has received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar in 2021.



Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh passes away at 92

27/12/2024

Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh passed away on **26 December 2024** at the age of **92** in New Delhi. He had been in poor health for the last few months and was admitted to AIIMS in critical condition. He is survived by his wife **Gursharan Kaur** and three daughters.

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Prime Minister: He served as India's **13th Prime Minister** from **2004 to 2014** in the Congress-led UPA government.

Finance Minister: Appointed Finance Minister in **1991**, introduced reforms like rupee devaluation, tax restructuring, and removal of trade barriers.

RBI Governor: Served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from **September 1982 to January 1985**.

Economic Reforms: Dr. Singh is considered the architect of the **1991 economic reforms** that ushered in economic liberalisation in India.

Early Life: Born on **26 September 1932** in Gah, Punjab (now in Pakistan), he pursued economics at Punjab University, Cambridge University, and Oxford University.

Parliamentary Career: Elected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam in **1991**, served as Leader of the Opposition from **1998 to 2004**, and

became the first Sikh Prime Minister of India in **2004**.

Awards: Honored with several awards, including the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1987 and the **Euro Money Award for Finance Minister** in 1993.

Financial news subscriptions



PM Modi Lays Foundation for Ken-Betwa River Linking Project in Madhya Pradesh

26/12/2024

Foundation Stone Laid: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project** on **25 December 2024** in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

Inaugurations: Modi also inaugurated the **Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project** and performed Bhoomi Pujan of **1,153 Atal Gram Sushasan Bhawans**.

Commemorations: A stamp and coin were released in memory of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his 100th birth anniversary.

Project Cost and Funding: The Ken-Betwa project costs **Rs 44,605 crores**, with 90% funded by the Central Government and 10% by State Governments.

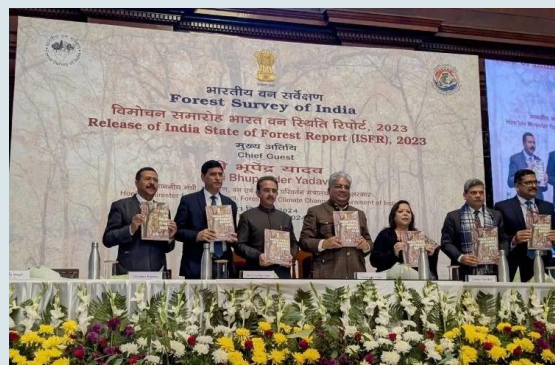
Benefits:

Irrigation: Facilities for more than **8 lakh hectares** in Madhya Pradesh and **2.51 lakh hectares** in Uttar Pradesh.

Drinking Water: Facilities for **44 lakh people** in Madhya Pradesh and **21 lakh people** in Uttar Pradesh.

Power Generation: **103 MW of hydropower** and **27 MW of solar power**.

Economic Impact: Improvement in water levels in Bundelkhand, promotion of industrialization, increased investment, tourism, and employment opportunities.



India State of Forest Report 2023: Forest and Tree Cover at 25.17% of the Country's Geographical Area

23/12/2024

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, released the **India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023)** on **21st December 2024** at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun.

Total Forest and Tree Cover: The total forest and tree cover in India is **827,357 square kilometers**, representing **25.17%** of the country's geographical area.

Forest Cover: **715,343 square kilometers**

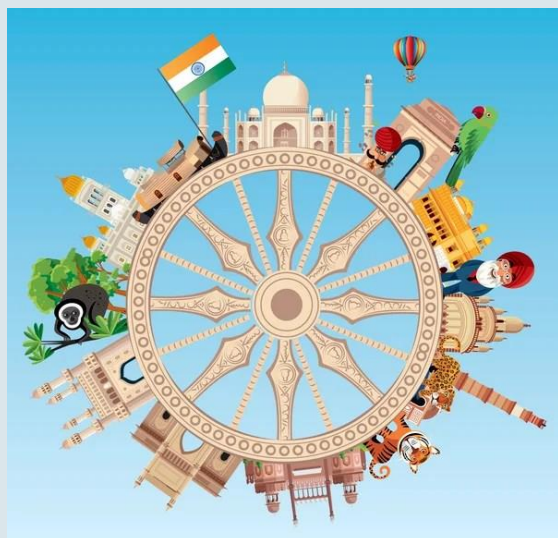
Tree Cover: **112,014 square kilometers**

Growth in Cover: The forest and tree cover has increased by **1,445 square kilometers** since the **2021 assessment**, with **156 square kilometers** added to forest cover and **1,289 square kilometers** to tree cover.

Technology in Forest Management: The Forest Survey of India (FSI) uses **advanced**

technology for **real-time fire alerts** and forest fire services to improve forest management.

Assessment Method: The report is published biennially, using **satellite data** and **field-based surveys** for a comprehensive assessment of forest and tree resources in India.



[India 39th among 119 nations in WEF tourism development index, improves ranking](#)

21/12/2024

India is now ranked **39th among 119 countries** in the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Improvement in Rank: India's rank improved from **54th in 2021** to 39th in 2024. Due to a revision in the WEF's methodology, India's 2021 rank was adjusted to **38th place**.

Government Schemes: The Ministry of Tourism, through schemes like **Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD, and Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development**, provides financial assistance for developing tourism infrastructure.

Medical Value Travel (MVT) Portal: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the **Advantage Healthcare India portal**, a one-stop portal for those seeking medical treatment in India from abroad.

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Affordable Medical Tourism:

President **Droupadi Murmu** highlighted that India is emerging as a major center for affordable medical tourism, with doctors playing a significant role.

Cultural Heritage: India boasts **5,000 years of civilizational history**, **43 World Heritage Sites**, **56 potential World Heritage Sites**, and around **3,500 monuments of national importance**, demonstrating its cultural strength.



[India's First Diabetes Biobank Established in Chennai](#)

19/12/2024

First diabetes biobank in Chennai: India has established its first diabetes biobank in Chennai on **December 17, 2024**.

Collaboration: The biobank is a joint effort between the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and the **Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF)**.

Purpose: The biobank aims to collect, store, and share biological samples to support advanced scientific research on diabetes.

Research Focus: It will facilitate research into the causes, variations, and complications of diabetes, particularly in the Indian population.

Significance: The biobank is expected to contribute to better prevention, diagnosis, and management strategies for diabetes.



National Testing Agency (NTA) to Focus Exclusively on Entrance Exams for Higher Education Institutions from 2025

18/12/2024

Starting in 2025, the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** will exclusively conduct entrance exams for higher education institutions and will no longer hold recruitment exams, as announced by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on December 17, 2024. This decision is part of a broader restructuring effort to improve the NTA's efficiency, credibility, and ability to conduct error-free, technology-driven exams.

The restructuring was guided by a high-level committee led by former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Radhakrishnan. Formed after the NEET-UG paper leak scandal in June 2024, the committee proposed **101 recommendations** to enhance exam fairness and security, including establishing a **Grievance Reporting and Redressal Cell (GRRC)**, strengthening cybersecurity, and using dynamic solutions to secure question papers.

Key reforms include conducting entrance exams like JEE and NEET earlier in the academic year (January/February instead of July), simplifying the admission process under CUET, addressing the commercialization of coaching centers, and focusing on students' mental health and timely result declarations. The NTA will also leverage public testing infrastructure and integrate psychometric research for continuous improvement.

The committee's recommendations come after incidents like the NEET paper leak, which prompted a CBI investigation and widespread criticism of the examination system. To oversee the reforms, Dr. Radhakrishnan will lead a high-power steering committee. These changes aim to create a robust, student-friendly, and secure exam process.



Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS), General Ashok Raj Sigdel honored with the rank of Honorary General of the Indian Army

17/12/2024

Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS), General Ashok Raj Sigdel was honored with the rank of *Honorary General of the Indian Army* by India's President, Droupadi Murmu, on December 16, 2024.

General Sigdel served as the Reviewing Officer at the Indian Military Academy's passing out parade in Dehradun, where Nepali Army Officer Cadet Prabin Pandey was awarded the "*Best Foreign Officer Cadet Award*". Addressing the newly commissioned officers, General Sigdel encouraged them to uphold the Army's values and be exemplary leaders. He also laid a wreath at the IMA War Memorial in honor of fallen soldiers.

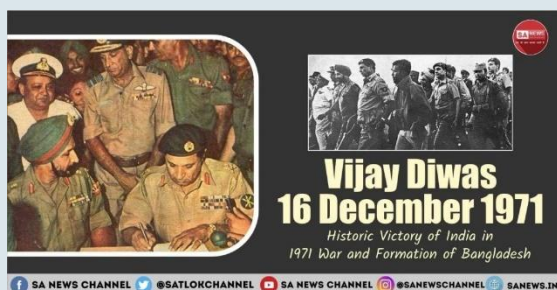
During the visit, General Sigdel held courtesy meetings with key Indian leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, and Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, among others. The visit was at the invitation of General Upendra Dwivedi.



[NHAI to introduce advanced Route Patrolling Vehicles \(RPVs\) "Rajmarg Saathi" to improve highway safety](#)
16/12/2024

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** plans to introduce advanced **Route Patrolling Vehicles (RPVs)** named **Rajmarg Saathi** to improve highway safety. These RPVs will inspect National Highway stretches and respond to emergencies.

The vehicles will feature **AI-enabled dashboard cameras** and **closed cabinets** for efficient emergency response. They are equipped with advanced communication and safety tools to minimize traffic disruptions, enhance road safety, and improve the overall experience for highway users.



[Vijay Diwas: December 16th, Commemorating India's Victory in the 1971 War](#)
16/12/2024

Vijay Diwas, celebrated annually on **December 16th**, marks a significant day in Indian history, commemorating the victory over Pakistan in the **1971 war**. This day is a tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces who played a pivotal role in the liberation of East Pakistan, leading to the creation of Bangladesh.

Historical Context

The Indo-Pak war of 1971 was a result of escalating tensions and humanitarian crises in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The conflict culminated in a decisive victory for India, with the Pakistani military surrendering on December 16, 1971. This historic event saw the largest military surrender since World War II, with over 93,000 Pakistani troops laying down their arms.

Significance

End of Atrocities: The victory brought an end to widespread atrocities committed in East Pakistan.

Creation of Bangladesh: The war resulted in the birth of a new nation, Bangladesh, bringing freedom to millions of people.

Strengthening National Pride: Vijay Diwas is a day of national pride, celebrating the valour and determination of the Indian Armed Forces.



[Indian Light Tank \(ILT\) Successfully Fires at High Altitude](#)
14/12/2024

The Indian Light Tank (ILT) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully firing rounds at various ranges at an altitude exceeding 4,200 meters. The Defence Ministry stated that the ILT, a 25-ton class armoured fighting vehicle, is designed for high-altitude operations to meet the Armed Forces' needs. It has been developed by the Combat Vehicles Research Development Establishment, a DRDO lab in Chennai, based on the Indian Army's provisional requirements.

The ILT's airlift capability was also demonstrated by the Indian Air Force, enabling its rapid deployment in remote and challenging areas inaccessible by road or rail. Following these internal performance trials, the ILT will undergo further evaluations before being presented for user trials.



[Defence Ministry Signs ₹13,500 Crore Deal with HAL for 12 Su-30MKI Fighter Aircraft](#)

14/12/2024

On December 12, 2024, the **Defence Ministry** signed a contract worth **₹13,500 crore** with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the procurement of **12 Su-30MKI aircraft**. This deal is a significant boost to India's defense capabilities and supports the **'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'** initiative, with **62.6% of the aircraft's components** being domestically produced.

The aircraft will be manufactured at HAL's Nashik division, enhancing the operational capability of the Indian Air Force and strengthening the country's defense preparedness. This contract is expected to

stimulate the Indian economy by creating job opportunities and promoting technological advancements in the defense sector.

About Su-30MKI aircraft

The **Su-30MKI** (Sukhoi-30MKI) is a **multirole combat fighter aircraft** jointly developed by Russia's Sukhoi Design Bureau and India's **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the Indian Air Force (IAF). It is a variant of the Sukhoi Su-30, tailored to meet the specific requirements of the IAF.

Key features of the Su-30MKI:

Role: Multirole fighter aircraft, air superiority fighter, and fighter-bomber.

Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

First Flight: July 1, 1997 (Su-30MK); November 2000 (Su-30MKI).

Introduction Date: September 27, 2002.

Primary User: Indian Air Force (IAF).

Number Built: 272 as of March 2020.

Maximum Speed: Mach 1.9.

Range: 3,000 km (unrefueled); 8,000 km with in-flight refueling.

Armament: Equipped with longer-range weapons, including the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.

Avionics: State-of-the-art avionics developed by Russia, India, Israel, France, and South Africa.

Indigenous Content: 62.6% of the aircraft's components are domestically produced.



[Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024](#)

12/12/2024

On December 11, 2024, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the **bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024** at the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida. This four-day event, running from December 11 to 14, showcases cutting-edge innovations in the construction and mining sectors, featuring over 1,000 brands from nearly 100 countries.

The event also includes the **Demtech India 2024** as a collocated show, offering specialized insights and opportunities in demolition technology. The NASSCOM Pavilion will display advancements in construction technology and digital transformation, along with a dedicated Finance Zone to facilitate networking with key financial institutions and investors.

The expo is expected to draw around 75,000 visitors, further reinforcing its status as a premier destination for progress and collaboration in the construction industry.



[Revised Structure of CUET-UG Examination \(2025\)](#)

11/12/2024

From 2025, students will be allowed to appear for any subject in the **Common University Entrance Test-UG (CUET-UG)**, regardless of their Class 12 subjects. The exam will only be conducted in **Computer-Based Test (CBT)** mode and will expand to cover **63 subjects** (up from 37). Students can choose a maximum of **five subjects**, instead of six as earlier.

Key changes:

Uniform duration: All exams will last **60 minutes**.

No optional questions: All questions will now be compulsory.

Streamlined admissions: CUET promotes transparency and reduces dependence on varying cut-offs, making the process more technology-driven.

Introduced in 2022, CUET has evolved to eliminate rigid disciplinary boundaries in higher education, ensuring a fair and standardized admissions process.



[Trial Flights Begin at Noida International Airport, Commercial Launch in April 2025](#)

10/12/2024

The Noida International Airport in Greater Noida marked a significant milestone on **9 December 2024** as its first trial flight landed, receiving a ceremonial water cannon salute. The flight, carrying AAI officials and technical experts, conducted a 15-minute trial before landing on the completed **3,900-metre runway** and later took off after a brief stop. The data collected during this trial will be

analyzed by the DGCA, with trials continuing until **15 December**.

The airport, operated by **Zurich International Airport AG**, is 85% complete, with the **terminal building** and equipment installation nearing finalization. The **Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower** is fully operational, and advanced landing systems (CAT-1 and CAT-3 ILS) have been successfully tested.

The first commercial flight is scheduled for **April 2025**, with the airport expected to handle **65 daily flights** (62 domestic, 2 international, and 1 cargo), serving **12 million passengers annually**. Upon full completion, it will be the **fourth largest airport in Asia**, with a 40-year management contract by Zurich International Airport AG.



[INS Tushil, a multi role stealth guided missile frigate commissioned into Indian Navy in Russia](#)

10/12/2024

On December 9, 2024, **INS Tushil**, a multi-role stealth guided missile frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Russia in the presence of Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh**. The commissioning was hailed as a symbol of India's growing maritime strength and the deep friendship between India and Russia.

The ship, incorporating increasing **Made-in-India** content, represents a collaborative effort between Indian and Russian industries.

The event was also attended by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral **Dinesh K Tripathi**, Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Alexander

Vasilyevich Fomin, Governor of Kaliningrad Alexey Sergeevich Besprozvannykh and other senior officials from the Indian and Russian Governments, Navies, and industries.



[Oxford's Saïd Business School and the Gates Foundation have recognized India's PRAGATI platform](#)

03/12/2024

A recent study by **Oxford's Saïd Business School** and the **Gates Foundation** has recognized the effectiveness of India's **PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)** platform. Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PRAGATI has significantly transformed the delivery of infrastructure projects in India.

The study, titled **"From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress,"** highlights how PRAGATI has driven accountability, facilitated federal and regional collaboration, and accelerated the completion of long-delayed projects worth **\$205 billion**. The platform features a digital dashboard for real-time project monitoring and supports video-conference review meetings chaired by PM Modi.

One of the key findings is that PRAGATI has reduced project delays from decades to mere months, thanks to the direct involvement of top leadership and the use of technology for cross-collaboration and regular accountability reviews. The study also emphasizes that PRAGATI's success can serve as a model for other developing countries looking to

revolutionize their infrastructure development approaches.

Prime Minister Modi expressed his happiness over the recognition, stating that PRAGATI represents a wonderful amalgamation of technology and governance, ensuring projects are completed on time.



[India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti from 2-15 December at Bentong Camp, Malaysia](#)

03/12/2024

The 4th edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise *Harimau Shakti* began on **2 December 2024** at Bentong Camp, Malaysia. The exercise features 78 personnel from the Indian Army's Mahar Regiment and 123 personnel from Malaysia's Royal Malaysian Regiment. Running until **15 December**, the exercise focuses on enhancing joint military capabilities, particularly in counter-insurgency operations in jungle terrain. It aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for conducting joint operations.

POLITY



[‘One Nation, One Election’ bills refers to Joint Parliamentary Committee for wider consultations](#)

18/12/2024

On December 17, 2024, the government referred the **One Nation One Election (ONOE)** bills to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** for wider consultations. Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced in the Lok Sabha that Prime Minister Narendra Modi recommended detailed discussions at every level before proceeding with the bills. This followed the introduction of the **Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024**, and the **Union Territories Law (Amendment) Bill, 2024** by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, which aim to enable simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Opposition leaders objected to the bills, but Meghwal described the opposition as political and reiterated the government's readiness to involve the JPC.

The **JPC** is a temporary parliamentary committee comprising members from both Houses and political parties. It examines specific bills or issues in detail, gathers evidence from experts, and consults stakeholders. Its recommendations are advisory, and the government is not obligated to implement them. The JPC is dissolved after completing its examination.



Union Cabinet Approves 'One Nation, One Election' Bills

13/12/2024

On December 12, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the **'One Nation, One Election' Bills**, a significant step towards implementing simultaneous elections across India. This initiative aims to synchronize the elections for the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, and local bodies, reducing the frequency of elections and the associated costs and disruptions.

The concept of **'One Nation, One Election'** has been a long-standing agenda of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The proposal received a major push with the recommendations of a high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind. The committee suggested amendments to the Constitution to facilitate simultaneous elections in two phases: first, aligning the Lok Sabha and state assembly elections, followed by synchronizing municipal and panchayat elections within 100 days of the national and state polls.

The approved bills include a constitutional amendment to enable simultaneous elections and another bill to amend provisions in laws dealing with Union Territories that have legislative assemblies, such as Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir. The government plans to introduce these bills in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, with the expectation of referring them to a parliamentary committee for further scrutiny and consultations.

Supporters of the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative argue that it will enhance governance efficiency, reduce election-related expenditures, and minimize the disruption caused by frequent imposition of the Model Code of Conduct. However, the proposal has faced criticism from opposition parties, who claim it threatens regional representation and federalism.



Devendra Fadnavis becomes Maharashtra Chief Minister for the Third Time

05/12/2024

Devendra Fadnavis becomes the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the third time on 5 December 2024. He leads the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory in the recent assembly elections.

There are two deputy chief ministers: Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena. The swearing-in ceremony to be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other prominent leaders.

Fadnavis, who has previously served as Chief Minister from 2014 to 2019 and briefly in 2019, was unanimously chosen as the Leader of the BJP Legislative Party.

In the recent Assembly Election Mahayuti alliance secured 235 seats in the 288-member House. The BJP emerged as the single-largest party with 132 seats, followed by Shiv Sena with 57 and NCP with 41 seats.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



PSLV-C60: India's Leap Forward in Space Docking Technology with SpaDeX

31/12/2024

The PSLV-C60 mission was launched on December 30, 2024, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Mission Objective: The primary objective of the mission is to demonstrate in-space docking technology using two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), in a low-Earth circular orbit.

SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment): SpaDeX is a cost-effective technology demonstrator mission aimed at developing and demonstrating the technology needed for rendezvous, docking, and undocking of two small spacecraft.

Significance: This mission is historic as it aims to make India the fourth country globally to master space docking technology. This capability is crucial for future missions like Chandrayaan-4, the Indian space station, and the manned Gaganyaan mission.

Payloads: The PSLV-C60 carried 24 experimental payloads contributed by academia and startups. These payloads include high-resolution imaging, multi-spectral imaging for vegetation studies, and radiation monitoring.

Technological Milestones: The mission incorporates several cutting-edge

technologies such as a compact docking mechanism, laser range finders, power transfer technology, and inter-satellite communication systems.

Future Operations: Docking operations are set to begin, with the final docking expected by January 7, 2025. Post-docking, electrical power transfer will be tested before the satellites operate their individual payloads for up to two years.



Smart India Hackathon 2024: A Platform for Technological Innovation

14/12/2024

The **Smart India Hackathon 2024** concluded successfully with multiple teams from across India emerging as winners across various categories. The event was held at multiple nodal centres, including the **National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar**, **G. H. Raisoni College of Engineering, Nagpur**, and **IIT Jammu**, among others.

Key Highlights:

Winners in Mumbai: Teams such as **Team Terabyte (Girijananda Chaudhary University Guwahati)**, **Team Shiledar (Datta Meghe College of Engineering Navi Mumbai)**, and others were recognized for their solutions in problem statements like 'Conversational Image Recognition Chatbot', 'Women Safety Analytics', and 'AI-based solution for traffic management'.

Participation: A total of **34 teams consisting of 204 students** participated at Welingkar Institute in Mumbai, working on problem statements provided by various ministries,

including the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Science and Technology.

NIT Srinagar: Hosted the Grand Finale for the first time, with six teams emerging as top performers from the 51 nodal centers across the country.

Awards in Agriculture: Prizes for agriculture problem statements were bagged by institutions like **Welingkar Institute of Management, Noida Institute of Engineering and Technology, and Yashwant Rao Chavan Engineering** at IIT-Hyderabad.

Other Winners: **NIT Silchar** and **IIIT Nagpur** won prizes for their solutions on oil spills and beach recreation suitability, respectively, at Vardhaman College of Engineering in Hyderabad. **Datta Meghe College of Engineering, IIIT and Management Institute Gwalior**, and others also received accolades for Earth Sciences problem statements.

IIT Jammu: The Grand Finale saw 28 teams tackling critical cybersecurity challenges, with six teams receiving ₹ 1 lakh prizes.

Notable Guests: The closing ceremonies were graced by dignitaries such as Professor Manoj Singh Gaur, Satish Kaul, Sunit Kumar, and Sandeep Sharma.

Conclusion:

The Smart India Hackathon 2024 fostered innovation among young minds, addressing real-world challenges across various sectors. The event highlighted the importance of such initiatives in driving technological advancements and aligning with India's vision of a technologically advanced future.



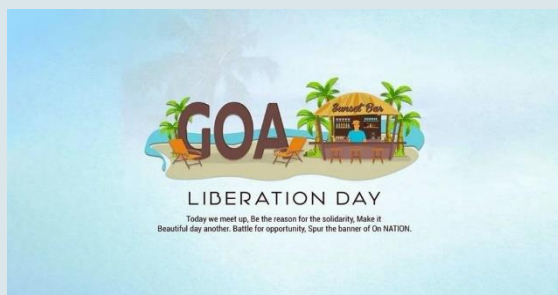
ISRO launches PSLV C-59 carrying ESA's PROBA-3 from Sriharikota

06/12/2024

On **5 December 2024**, ISRO successfully launched the **PSLV C-59** rocket from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, at **16:04 IST**, carrying the **PROBA-3 spacecraft** into a highly elliptical orbit. The mission, a collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA), is managed by **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, ISRO's commercial arm.

The **PROBA-3 mission**, an **in-orbit demonstration**, involves two satellites launched in a stacked configuration to showcase advanced technologies such as **precise satellite positioning, formation flying**, and proximity operations. These satellites, weighing a combined **545 kg**, were placed in orbit 18 minutes after launch and will fly in close formation to study the Sun's **corona** (outer atmosphere).

This launch underscores ISRO's expertise in commercial satellite missions, with PSLV C-59 marking the second ESA satellite launch using an Indian rocket. **States**



Goa Liberation Day – 19 December 2024: Marking 63 Years of Liberation

20/12/2024

Goa celebrated its 63rd Liberation Day on **19 December 2024**, marking independence from Portuguese rule in **1961** after **451 years** of colonial occupation.

Ceremony Honoring Martyrs:

Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** led a ceremony to honor the families of freedom fighters.

Sawant emphasized remembering sacrifices and the harshness of nearly 450 years of Portuguese rule.

‘Operation Vijay’:

Goa’s liberation was achieved through **Operation Vijay**, a 36-hour military campaign by the Indian Armed Forces in December 1961, ending Portuguese control and integrating Goa into the Indian Union.

Historical Context:

While India gained independence in 1947, Goa remained under Portuguese rule until 1961. Inspired by India’s freedom movement, many Goans, including women, joined the fight against colonial rule.

Mohan Ranade’s Contributions:

Mohan Ranade, a prominent freedom fighter, led armed revolts, was imprisoned in 1955, and spent 14 years in prison (6 in solitary confinement).

He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 2001 for his role in Goa’s freedom struggle.

Goa’s Unique Identity:

Liberation allowed Goa to reclaim its place in the Indian Union, while its Portuguese-influenced cultural and religious heritage continues to shape its identity.

Miscellaneous



Madhya Pradesh recognized as one of ‘Go-To Global Destinations for 2025’ by Wall Street Journal

23/12/2024

Recognition: Madhya Pradesh has been named one of the **“Go-To Global Destinations for 2025”** by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Key Features: The accolade recognizes the state’s **rich heritage, unparalleled wildlife,** and **exceptional natural beauty.**

Tourism Official’s Statement: Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, stated that this recognition solidifies Madhya Pradesh’s status as a **world-class travel destination**, offering unique experiences with its UNESCO sites, Tiger Reserves, and vibrant culture.

Highlighted Sites: The recognition emphasizes UNESCO World Heritage sites such as **Khajuraho, Panna,** and **Bandhavgarh,** known for their cultural significance, wildlife, and stunning landscapes.

Monthly Current Affairs MCQs (1 to 31 December 2024)

Q.: What was the primary objective of ISRO's PSLV-C60 mission launched on December 30, 2024?

- a) To launch a manned mission to the Moon
- b) To demonstrate in-space docking technology
- c) To study the effects of space radiation on astronauts
- d) To deploy a new communication satellite

Ans: b) To demonstrate in-space docking technology

The primary objective of the ISRO's PSLV-C60 mission is to demonstrate in-space docking technology using two small spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), in a low-Earth circular orbit.

Q.: The Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Test Cricket is played between India and which country?

- a) England
- b) South Africa
- c) Australia
- d) New Zealand

Show Answer

Answer: c) Australia

On 30 December 2024, In Border-Gavaskar Trophy Cricket, Australia registered a 184 run victory over India on the fifth and final day of the fourth test in Melbourne.

Q.: In which sport did Hemanth Muddappa become the first athlete to win 15 National Titles?

- a) Badminton
- b) Football
- c) Motorcycle Drag Racing
- d) Tennis

Answer: c) Motorcycle Drag Racing

Hemanth Muddappa secured his 15th National Title on **December 29, 2024** at the fourth and final round of the **MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship 2024** at the **Madras International Circuit (MIC)**.

Q.: Who is the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on each of the seven continents?

- A. Arjun Vajpai
- B. Bachendri Pal
- C. Kaamya Karthikeyan
- D. Poorna Malavath

Ans: C. Kaamya Karthikeyan

Kaamya Karthikeyan, a 17-year-old from Navy Children School in Mumbai, becomes the youngest female to scale the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.

Q.: Which Indian chess player won her second women's World Rapid and Blitz Championship in December 2024?

- A. Humpy Koneru
- B. Harika Dronavalli
- C. Tania Sachdev
- D. Bhakti Kulkarni

Ans: A. Humpy Koneru

Winner in World Rapid and Blitz Championship– Women's Category: India's Koneru Humpy won her second women's title by defeating Indonesia's Irene Sukander. Humpy finished the tournament with 8.5 points from 11 rounds.

Q.:What traditional love song from Bosnia has earned UNESCO recognition in December 2024?

- A. Sevdalinka
- B. Fado
- C. Flamenco
- D. Tango

Ans: A. Sevdalinka

Bosnia's traditional love song, **Sevdalinka**, often referred to as the **Balkan Blues**, was recognized by UNESCO and included in its National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage on **December 27, 2024**.

Q.: Exercise Surya Kiran is a joint military exercise between the armies of India and

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bhutan

Ans: b) Nepal

Exercise Surya Kiran is a significant joint military exercise between the armies of **India and Nepal**. The 18th edition of this annual training event is scheduled to be held in **Saljhandi, Nepal** from **December 31, 2024, to January 13, 2025**.

Q.: Where is the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River being constructed?

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Nepal

Ans: A. China

China has recently approved the construction of the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River, located in Tibet near the Indian border.

Q.: Which river is the Brahmaputra known as in Tibet?

- A. Yangtze
- B. Yarlung Zangbo
- C. Yellow River
- D. Mekong

Answer: B. Yarlung Zangbo

Explanation: The Brahmaputra River is known as the **Yarlung Zangbo** in Tibet. The river originates in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, where it is called the Yarlung Zangbo River or simply Zangbo. It flows eastward through Tibet before making a sharp southward turn at the Great Bend, entering India through Arunachal Pradesh, and becoming the Brahmaputra. As it flows further downstream, it eventually enters Bangladesh, where it is known as the Jamuna River.

Q.: Which country's air defenses are speculated to have mistakenly shot down Azerbaijan Airlines flight J2-8243 near Aktau, Kazakhstan, on December 25, 2024?

- A. Azerbaijan
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Russia
- D. Turkey

Ans: C. Russia

Initial speculations suggest possible **external interference**, with some sources indicating that Russian air defenses might have mistakenly shot down the aircraft.

Q.: What role is Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh widely regarded as the architect of?

- a) India's Independence Movement
- b) India's Economic Liberalisation in 1991
- c) The Green Revolution
- d) The Space Program

Ans: b) India's Economic Liberalisation in 1991

Dr. Singh is considered the architect of the **1991 economic reforms** that ushered in economic liberalisation in India.

Q.: Which former Prime Minister of India served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- a) Indira Gandhi
- b) Rajiv Gandhi
- c) Dr. Manmohan Singh
- d) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Ans: c) Dr. Manmohan Singh

He Served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from **September 1982 to January 1985**.

Q.: Which of the following categories were included for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awards?

- (A) Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.
- (B) Bravery, Politics, Science, Literature, and Sports
- (C) Innovation, Art and Culture, Literature, and Mathematics
- (D) Social Service, Environment, Politics, and Agriculture

Answer: (A) Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar** on **17 children** in New Delhi on **26 December 2024**. **Categories:** The children were recognized for their achievements in **Art and Culture, Bravery, Innovation, Science and Technology, Social Service, Sports, and Environment**.

Q.:Where will the 38th National Games be held from January 28, 2025?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Karnataka
- D. Punjab

Ans: B. Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the torch procession of the 38th National Games from Haldwani in Nainital district on December 26, 2024.

Q.: Which Indian bowler has reached 904 rating points in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings in December 2024, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler?

- a) Anil Kumble
- b) Harbhajan Singh
- c) Jasprit Bumrah
- d) Ravindra Jadeja

Ans: c) Jasprit Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah has reached **904 rating points** in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler, previously held by Ravichandran Ashwin.

Q.: Who has been appointed as the Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance?

- a) Amit Agrawal
- b) Vineet Joshi
- c) Arunish Chawla
- d) Neerja Sekhar

Ans: c) Arunish Chawla

Arunish Chawla: 1992 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer appointed as the **Revenue Secretary** in the Ministry of Finance in December 2024.

Q.: Whose bravery and sacrifice is honored on Veer Baal Diwas annually on December 26?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi's children
- b) Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons
- c) Subhas Chandra Bose's nephews
- d) Jawaharlal Nehru's grandchildren

Ans: b) Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons

Veer Baal Diwas is observed annually on **December 26**. The day honors the bravery and

sacrifice of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's younger sons, **Baba Zorawar Singh** and **Baba Fateh Singh**.

Q.: Which former Prime Minister's 100th birth anniversary was commemorated during the foundation stone laying ceremony of Ken-Betwa River Linking Project?

- a) Jawaharlal Nehru
- b) Indira Gandhi
- c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- d) Rajiv Gandhi

Answer: c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Foundation Stone Laid: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project** on **25 December 2024** in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of **100th birth anniversary** of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Q.: Which country is hosting the ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025?

- a) India
- b) Australia
- c) Pakistan
- d) England

Ans: c) Pakistan

The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 in Cricket will take place from **19th February to 9th March 2025**. Pakistan will host its first global cricket tournament since 1996, alongside the UAE as a neutral venue.

Q.: General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) has been appointed as Governor of which state in December 2024?

- a) Bihar
- b) Mizoram
- c) Manipur
- d) Odisha

Ans : b) Mizoram

General (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.): Designated as the new Governor of **Mizoram** by President of India on **24 December 2024**.

Q. When is Good Governance Day observed annually in India?

- a) December 26
- b) December 25
- c) January 1
- d) October 2

Ans: b) December 25

Good Governance Day is observed annually on **December 25th** in India to honor the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.

Q.: Who won the men's singles title at the 86th Senior National Badminton Championships 2024?

- a) Mithun Manjunath
- b) M. Raghu
- c) Sanskar Saraswat
- d) Ayush Agarwal

Answer: b) M. Raghu

Karnataka's M. Raghu defeated Mithun Manjunath (14-21, 21-14, 24-22), in the final of 86th Senior National Badminton Tournament held in Bengaluru on 24 December 2024.

Q.: Who has been appointed as the Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence by President-elect Donald Trump?

- a) Sundar Pichai
- b) Sriram Krishnan
- c) Satya Nadella
- d) Vinod Khosla

Ans: b) Sriram Krishnan

President-elect **Donald Trump** appointed Indian-American entrepreneur **Sriram Krishnan** as the **Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.

Q.: Where will India's matches in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy be held?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India
- c) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- d) England

Ans: c) United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has designated the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** as the neutral venue for India's matches in the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.

Q.: Who became Iceland's youngest Prime Minister in December 2024?

- a) Katrín Jakobsdóttir
- b) Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson
- c) Krístrun Frostadóttir
- d) Bjarni Benediktsson

Ans: a) Katrín Jakobsdóttir

Iceland's new government, led by Prime Minister **Krístrun Frostadóttir** of the Social

Democratic Alliance (SDA), took office on **21 December 2024**. Frostadottir, born in 1988, is Iceland's youngest prime minister.

Q.: When is National Consumer Day observed annually in India?

- a) December 1
- b) December 24
- c) January 1
- d) October 2

Answer: b) December 24

Q. Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 2024?

- a) Arun Kumar Mishra
- b) Priyank Kanoongo
- c) V. Ramasubramanian
- d) Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi

Ans: c) V. Ramasubramanian

Retired Supreme Court judge **V. Ramasubramanian** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) by President **Droupadi Murmu** on 23 December 2024.

Q.: Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC) in December 2024?

- a) Justice Dipak Misra
- b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- c) Justice Madan B. Lokur
- d) Justice Sharad Bobde

Answer: c) Justice Madan B. Lokur

Former Supreme Court judge Madan B. Lokur has been appointed as the Chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC).

Q.: Which team won the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup 2024?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) India
- d) Pakistan

Answer: c) India

India won the inaugural **Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup** on **22nd December 2024** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, defeating Bangladesh by **41 runs**.

Q.: Which Indian state has been recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the “Go-To Global Destinations for 2025”?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Kerala
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

Answer: c) Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh has been named one of the “Go-To Global Destinations for 2025” by the *Wall Street Journal*.

Q.: What percentage of India’s geographical area is covered by forest and tree cover as per the latest India State of Forest Report 2023?

- a) 20.17%
- b) 25.17%
- c) 30.17%
- d) 35.17%

Answer: b) 25.17%

The total forest and tree cover in India is **827,357 square kilometers**, representing **25.17%** of the country’s geographical area.

Q.: Which highest civilian honor was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Kuwait in December 2024?

- a) Order of Merit
- b) The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer
- c) Order of Kuwait
- d) The Golden Crescent

Answer: b) The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was awarded **Kuwait’s highest civilian honor, The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer**, by **Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah**, the Amir of Kuwait, during his state visit on **22nd December 2024**.

Q.: Which team will India face in the final of the U-19 Women’s Asia Cup 2024?

- a) Nepal
- b) Pakistan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Sri Lanka

Ans: c) Bangladesh

India will face Bangladesh in the final on **22 December 2024**.

Q. What is President Vladimir Putin ready to do regarding Ukraine in possible talks with US President-elect Donald Trump?

- a) Withdraw Russian troops
- b) Compromise to end the war
- c) Impose stricter sanctions
- d) Form a military alliance

Answer: b) Compromise to end the war

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** is ready to compromise over Ukraine in possible talks with US President-elect **Donald Trump** to end the war.

Q. When is World Meditation Day observed?

- a) January 1st
- b) June 21st
- c) December 21st
- d) October 10th

Ans: b) June 21st

World Meditation Day is observed on **December 21st** each year.

Q.: What is India's rank in the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report?

- a) 38th
- b) 39th
- c) 54th
- d) 55th

Ans: b) 39th

India is now ranked **39th among 119 countries** in the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Q.: Who was honored with the National Tansen Samman for the year 2023?

- a) Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia
- b) Ustad Zakir Hussain
- c) Pt. Swapan Choudhary
- d) Amjad Ali Khan

Ans: c) Pt. Swapan Choudhary

Pt. **Swapan Choudhary**, a renowned tabla player from Kolkata, was honored with the **National Tansen Samman** for the year **2023**.

Q.: Which institution was honored with the Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman for the year 2023?

- a) Raga Nyas
- b) Sanand Nyas
- c) Saptak Nyas
- d) Surana Nyas

Ans: b) Sanand Nyas

Recipient: **Sanand Nyas**, an institution from Indore, was honored with the **Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman** for the year **2023**.

Q.: When does Goa celebrate its Liberation Day?

- a) 15 August
- b) 26 January
- c) 19 December
- d) 2 October

Answer: c) 19 December

Goa celebrated its 63rd Liberation Day on **19 December 2024**

Q. How many years of Portuguese rule ended with Goa's liberation in 1961?

- a) 350 years
- b) 451 years
- c) 200 years
- d) 500 years

Answer: b) 451 years

Goa liberated from Portuguese rule in **1961** after **451 years** of colonial occupation.

Q. Which military operation led to Goa's liberation?

- a) Operation Blue Star
- b) Operation Vijay
- c) Operation Meghdoot
- d) Operation Trident

Answer: b) Operation Vijay

Goa's liberation was achieved through **Operation Vijay**, a 36-hour military campaign by the Indian Armed Forces in December 1961, ending Portuguese control and integrating Goa into the Indian Union.

Q.: Who won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 for the English language category?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Jhumpa Lahiri
- c) Easterine Kire
- d) Chetan Bhagat

Answer: c) Easterine Kire

Q.: Where will the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships be held from September 26 to October 5, 2025?

- a) Indira Gandhi Stadium
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium
- c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium
- d) Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium

Answer: b) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

New Delhi will host the **2025 World Para Athletics Championships** at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** from **September 26 to October 5, 2025**.

Q. Who won the Men's Player of the Year award at the FIFA Best Awards 2024?

- A. Lionel Messi
- B. Vinicius Jr.
- C. Rodrigo Hernández Cascante
- D. Neymar

Answer: B. Vinicius Jr.

Men's Player of the Year: In Football Vinicius Jr. (Brazil and Real Madrid) won the FIFA Best Award 2024.

Q.: Who is the only Indian bowler with more Test wickets than Ravichandran Ashwin?

- a) Kapil Dev
- b) Harbhajan Singh
- c) Anil Kumble
- d) Zaheer Khan

Answer: c) Anil Kumble

Indian off spinner Ravichandran Ashwin announced his retirement from international cricket on December 18, 2024. He took 537 wickets in 106 Tests. Only Anil Kumble, with 619 wickets, has dismissed more batters for India.

Q.: Who won both the FIDE World Under-18 Youth Rapid and Blitz titles in 2024?

- a) Alexander Khripachenko
- b) Dmitry Mochalov
- c) Roman Pyrih
- d) Pranav Venkatesh

Ans: d) Pranav Venkatesh

Pranav Venkatesh, an Indian Grandmaster, won both the **FIDE World Under-18 Youth Rapid and Blitz titles** in Slovenia on **17 December 2024**.

Q. Where was India's first diabetes biobank established?

- a) Bengaluru
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Delhi

Ans: c) Chennai

India has established its first diabetes biobank in Chennai on **December 17, 2024**.

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Q. What is the main purpose of the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024?

- A. To amend the Constitution for creating a new Union Territory
- B. To enable simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies
- C. To introduce a new voting system
- D. To increase the number of Lok Sabha seats

Answer: B. To enable simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

On December 17, 2024, the government referred the **One Nation One Election (ONOE)** bills to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** for wider consultations.

Q.: National Testing Agency (NTA) will focus exclusively on which type of examinations from 2025?

- A. Recruitment Examinations
- B. Entrance Examinations for Higher Education Institutions
- C. State Public Service Examinations
- D. Board Examinations

Answer: B. Entrance Examinations for Higher Education Institutions

Starting in 2025, the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** will exclusively conduct entrance exams for higher education institutions and will no longer hold recruitment exams.

Q. What changes were announced regarding the timeline of entrance exams like JEE and NEET starting in 2025?

- A. They will be conducted in July.
- B. They will be conducted in January or February.
- C. They will be conducted biannually in March and September.
- D. The timeline remains unchanged.

Answer: B. They will be conducted in January or February. Entrance exams of JEE and NEET from 2025 will take place earlier in the academic year, moving from the usual July timeline to January or February.

Q. What is India's rank in smartphone exports globally as of 2024?

- A. 1st
- B. 2nd
- C. 3rd
- D. 5th

Answer: C. 3rd

India has become the **3rd largest exporter of smartphones globally**, climbing from the 23rd rank in 2019. In November 2024, the country's smartphone exports surpassed **₹20,000 crore** in a single month.

Q.: When will the free visa policy for 39 countries, including India, be formalized by Sri Lanka?

- A. December 2024
- B. January 2025
- C. February 2025
- D. March 2025

Answer: B

From January 2025, Indians will be among nationals from **39 countries** eligible for **free visas to travel to Sri Lanka**

Q.: What is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)?

- a) A global environmental treaty
- b) A regional defense alliance
- c) A trade agreement among several Pacific Rim countries
- d) An international humanitarian organization

Answer: c) A trade agreement among several Pacific Rim countries

On **December 15, 2024**, **Britain** officially became the **first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**, becoming the **12th member** of this significant trade bloc.

Q.: When is the snap election in Germany scheduled after Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost the vote of confidence?

- a) January 16, 2025
- b) February 23, 2025
- c) March 1, 2025
- d) February 16, 2025

Answer: b) February 23, 2025

On December 16, 2024, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost a vote of confidence, triggering a snap election set for February 23, 2025.

Q.: Where is the Gadhimai Mahotsav, famous for mass animal sacrifices held every five years, celebrated?

- a) Kathmandu, Nepal
- b) Bariyarpur, Nepal
- c) Varanasi, India
- d) Dhaka, Bangladesh

Answer: b) Bariyarpur, Nepal

The Gadhimai Mahotsav, held every five years at the Gadhimai Temple in Nepal's Madhesh Province, is the world's largest animal sacrifice festival. Gadhimai Mahotsav, started on December 2 and concluded on December 15, 2024.

Q.: The Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS) of which country was conferred the rank of Honorary General of the Indian Army in December 2024?

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Nepal
- d) Bhutan

Answer: c) Nepal

Nepal's Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS), General Ashok Raj Sigdel was honored with the rank of *Honorary General of the Indian Army* by India's President, Droupadi Murmu, on December 16, 2024.

Q.: Which team did India defeat in the final of the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024?

- a) Republic of Korea
- b) Japan
- c) China
- d) Malaysia

Answer: c) China

India won the **Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024 Hockey Championship in Muscat, Oman on 15 December 2024**, defeating **China 3-2 in a penalty shootout**

Q.: Which team won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Mumbai
- d) Karnataka

Answer: c) Mumbai

Mumbai won the **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024**, defeating **Madhya Pradesh** by **five wickets** in the final on **15 December 2024** at the **M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru**.

Question: Zakir Hussain, a legendary artist who received the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and five Grammy Awards, passed away in December 2024. He was renowned for his contribution to which field?

- a) Indian Classical Dance
- b) Tabla and Indian Classical Music
- c) Painting and Sculpture
- d) Literature and Poetry

Answer: b) Tabla and Indian Classical Music

Legendary tabla maestro **Zakir Hussain** passed away at the age of **73** in the **United States** on **15 December 2024** .

Q. What significant event does Vijay Diwas (December 16th) commemorate?

- a) India's independence from British rule
- b) Victory in the Kargil War
- c) India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war
- d) The signing of the Indian Constitution

Answer: c) India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war

Vijay Diwas, celebrated annually on **December 16th**, marks a significant day in Indian history, commemorating the victory over Pakistan in the **1971 war**.

Q.: What is the name of the new Route Patrolling Vehicles (RPVs) introduced by NHAI?

- a) Rajmarg Seva
- b) Rajmarg Saathi
- c) Highway Helper
- d) Road Saathi

Answer: b) Rajmarg Saathi

The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** plans to introduce advanced **Route Patrolling Vehicles (RPVs)** named **Rajmarg Saathi** to improve highway safety.

Q.: Which organization is manufacturing the Su-30MKI fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force?

- a) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- c) Bharat Electronics Limited
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Answer: b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

On December 12, 2024, the **Defence Ministry** signed a contract worth **₹13,500 crore** with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the procurement of **12 Su-30MKI aircraft**.

Q. Which organization has developed the Indian Light Tank (ILT)?

- a) Indian Army
- b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- d) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)

Answer: b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Indian Light Tank (ILT) developed by the Combat Vehicles Research Development Establishment, a DRDO lab in Chennai, based on the Indian Army's provisional requirements.

Q. At what altitude did the Indian Light Tank (ILT) successfully fire rounds?

- a) 3,500 meters
- b) 4,000 meters
- c) More than 4,200 meters
- d) 5,000 meters

Answer: c) More than 4,200 meters

The Indian Light Tank (ILT) successfully fire rounds at various ranges at an altitude exceeding 4,200 meters.

Q.: The Smart India Hackathon (SIH) focuses primarily on which field of innovation?

- a) Healthcare Innovations
- b) Technology and Problem-Solving
- c) Agricultural Development
- d) Sports Management

Answer: b) Technology and Problem-Solving

The **Smart India Hackathon 2024** concluded successfully with multiple teams from across India emerging as winners across various categories.

Q.: What is the primary aim of the Bharatmala Project?

- a) To enhance digital literacy
- b) To improve rural electrification
- c) To develop a robust network of highways
- d) To promote renewable energy

Ans: c) To develop a robust network of highways

The Bharatmala Project, launched in 2015, is a large-scale infrastructure initiative by the Indian government aiming to enhance the efficiency of freight and passenger movement.

Q.: Who became the youngest World Chess Champion on 12 December 2024?

- a) Magnus Carlsen
- b) Garry Kasparov
- c) Viswanathan Anand
- d) Dommaraju Gukesh

Answer: d) Dommaraju Gukesh

Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh made history on 12 December 2024 by becoming the youngest World Chess Champion at the age of 18.

Q.: Which countries are set to fully join the Schengen Area on January 1, 2025?

- a) Belgium and Netherlands
- b) Austria and Switzerland
- c) Romania and Bulgaria
- d) Poland and Czech Republic

Ans: c) Romania and Bulgaria

On December 12, 2024, EU interior ministers announced that **Romania and Bulgaria** will fully join the border-free Schengen Area starting January 1, 2025.

Q.: Who has been awarded the 34th Vyas Samman in 2024?

- a) Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih
- b) Suryabala
- c) Ramji Tiwari
- d) Viswanath Pratap Singh

Answer: b) Suryabala

Noted Hindi writer Suryabala has been awarded the 34th **Vyas Samman 2024** for her novel *Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary*

Q.: For which novel did Suryabala receive the Vyas Samman 2024?

- a) *Venu Ki Diary*
- b) *Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary*
- c) *Kashi Ki Kahaniyan*
- d) *Pardes Mein Parivartan*

Answer: b) *Kaun Des Ko Vasi: Venu Ki Diary*

Q.: What is the primary aim of the ‘One Nation, One Election’ initiative?

- a) To reduce the frequency of elections and associated costs
- b) To promote digital literacy
- c) To enhance international trade
- d) To improve healthcare facilities

Ans: a) To reduce the frequency of elections and associated costs

Q.: Who led the high-level committee that recommended the ‘One Nation, One Election’ initiative?

- a) Former President Ram Nath Kovind
- b) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- c) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman
- d) Home Minister Amit Shah

Ans: a) Former President Ram Nath Kovind

High-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind suggested amendments to the Constitution to facilitate simultaneous elections in two phases: first, aligning the Lok Sabha and state assembly elections, followed by synchronizing municipal and panchayat elections within 100 days of the national and state polls.

Q.: Which award category is part of the National Panchayat Awards?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi Rural Development Award
- b) Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar
- c) Jawaharlal Nehru Innovation Award
- d) Swachh Bharat Village Award

Ans: b) Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar

On December 11, 2024, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Panchayat Awards 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The awards were presented across various categories, including the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar and the Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar.

Q.: What is the main focus of bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024 held from December 11 to 14 at India Expo Centre in Greater Noida ?

- a) Information Technology
- b) Agriculture
- c) Construction and Mining Equipment
- d) Textile Industry

Ans: c) Construction and Mining Equipment

On December 11, 2024, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the **bauma CONEXPO INDIA 2024** at the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida.

This four-day event, showcases cutting-edge innovations in the construction and mining sectors

Q.: When is International Mountain Day observed annually?

- a) December 1
- b) December 5
- c) December 10
- d) December 11

Answer: d) December 11

International Mountain Day is observed annually on **December 11th** to raise awareness about the significance of mountains and the challenges they face.

Q. When is Human Rights Day observed annually?

- a) December 1
- b) December 5
- c) December 10
- d) December 15

Answer: c) December 10

Human Rights Day is observed annually on **December 10th** to commemorate the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Q. What significant document is commemorated on Human Rights Day?

- a) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- b) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- c) Convention on the Rights of the Child
- d) United Nations Charter

Answer: a) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

Q.: Who has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria following the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's regime?

- a) Hadi al-Bahra
- b) Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali
- c) Mohamed al-Bashir
- d) Geir Pedersen

Answer: c) Mohamed al-Bashir

Mohamed al-Bashir has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria on 10 December 2024.

Q.: What major reform was introduced for CUET in 2025 to reduce rigid boundaries in higher education?

- a) Mandatory questions
- b) Allowing students to choose any subject regardless of Class 12 subjects
- c) Hybrid exam mode
- d) Reduction in total marks

Answer: b) Allowing students to choose any subject regardless of Class 12 subjects
From 2025, students will be allowed to appear for any subject in the **Common University Entrance Test-UG (CUET-UG)**, regardless of their Class 12 subjects.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) starting December 11, 2024?

- a) Shaktikanta Das
- b) Urjit Patel
- c) Sanjay Malhotra
- d) Raghuram Rajan

Ans: c) Sanjay Malhotra

Sanjay Malhotra, the current Revenue Secretary at the Ministry of Finance, has been appointed as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). His tenure will begin on December 11, 2024, and last for three years.

Question: What is the name of the latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate commissioned into the Indian Navy in December 2024?

- a) INS Vikrant
- b) INS Tushil
- c) INS Khanderi
- d) INS Arihant

Answer: b) INS Tushil

Explanation: INS Tushil, a multi-role stealth guided missile frigate, was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 9th December 2024 in Russia, marking a milestone in Indo-Russian collaboration.

Question: What is the name of the first Indian director nominated for Best Director (Motion Picture) at the 82nd Golden Globe Awards?

- a) Shaji N. Karun
- b) Payal Kapadia
- c) Mira Nair
- d) Zoya Akhtar

Answer: b) Payal Kapadia

Filmmaker **Payal Kapadia** has made history as the first Indian director nominated for **Best**

Director (Motion Picture) at the **82nd Golden Globe Awards** for her film *All We Imagine As Light*.

Question: Who is operating the Noida International Airport?

- a) GMR Group
- b) Zurich International Airport AG
- c) Adani Group
- d) Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Answer: b) Zurich International Airport AG

The Noida International Airport in Greater Noida marked a significant milestone on **9 December 2024** as its first trial flight landed. The airport, operated by **Zurich International Airport AG** will start commercial flight from **April 2025**.

Q.: Who was the President of Syria for the past 24 years, who fled the country after the rebel forces took control in December 2024?

- a) Bashar al-Assad
- b) Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali
- c) Hadi al-Bahra
- d) Geir Pedersen

Ans : a) Bashar al-Assad

Q.: Which team won the Men's Asia Cup Under-19 Cricket in 2024?

- a) India
- b) Pakistan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Sri Lanka

Answer: c) Bangladesh

In the Men's Asia Cup Under-19 Cricket final on December 8, 2024, Bangladesh defeated India by 59 runs at the Dubai International Stadium to win the title.

Q.: Who is D Gukesh competing against in the 2024 FIDE World Chess Championship?

- a) Magnus Carlsen
- b) Fabiano Caruana
- c) Ian Nepomniachtchi
- d) Ding Liren

Answer: d) Ding Liren

In the 2024 FIDE World Chess Championship, India's 18-year-old D Gukesh leads defending champion Ding Liren 6-5 after their 11th game on December 8, 2024, at Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore.

Q.: Who will India face in the final of the Men's Under-19 Asia Cup ODI Cricket on December 8, 2024?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Afghanistan
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Sri Lanka

Ans: c) Bangladesh

India will face Bangladesh in the final, scheduled to be held at the **Dubai International Cricket Stadium** on **December 8, 2024**.

Q.: What is the revised Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) after the RBI's December 2024 decision?

- a) 3.5%
- b) 4.0%
- c) 4.5%
- d) 5.0%

Answer: b) 4.0%

The RBI reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4%, releasing ₹1.16 lakh crore to ease liquidity stress.

Q.: What is the current policy repo rate as announced by the RBI in December 2024?

- a) 6.25%
- b) 6.50%
- c) 6.75%
- d) 7.00%

Answer: b) 6.50%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its December monetary policy meeting, decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the 11th consecutive time since February 2023.

Q.: Who has assumed the chairmanship of the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) on behalf of India in December 2024?

- a) S. Jaishankar
- b) Shambhu Kumaran
- c) T. S. Tirumurti
- d) Syed Akbaruddin

Answer: b) Shambhu Kumaran

India has been appointed to chair the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), with Shambhu Kumaran, India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, assuming the chairmanship on December 6, 2024.

Q.: What is the primary mission of the PROBA-3 satellites launched by ISRO on 5 Dec 2024?

- a) Study Earth's magnetic field
- b) Explore Mars' surface
- c) Study the Sun's corona
- d) Monitor global warming

Answer: c) Study the Sun's corona

On **5 December 2024**, ISRO successfully launched the **PSLV C-59** rocket from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**, at **16:04 IST**, carrying the **PROBA-3 spacecraft** into a highly elliptical orbit. The **PROBA-3 mission**, is to study the Sun's **corona** (outer atmosphere).

Q.: Which region of India is celebrated in the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav held from 6-8 Dec 2024?

- a) Northern India
- b) Southern India
- c) Northeastern India
- d) Western India

Answer: c) Northeastern India

Eight North Eastern states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—collectively known as **Ashtalakshmi**.

Q.: What is the main purpose of the Hornbill Festival?

- a) Promote Tourism in India
- b) Showcase the Cultural Heritage of Naga Tribes
- c) Celebrate National Independence
- d) Foster International Trade Relations

Ans: b) Showcase the Cultural Heritage of Naga Tribes

The **Hornbill Festival**, also known as the **Festival of Festivals**, is an annual celebration held in the northeastern Indian state of Nagaland from **December 1 to December 10**.

Q.: What is the new UPI Lite wallet limit set by the RBI in December 2024?

- a) ₹2,000
- b) ₹3,000
- c) ₹4,000
- d) ₹5,000

Answer: d) ₹5,000

On **4 December 2024**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** increased the **UPI Lite wallet limit** from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 and raised the **offline transaction limit** from ₹500 to ₹1,000 per transaction.

Q.: Which organization launched the UPI platform in India?

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- c) State Bank of India (SBI)
- d) Ministry of Finance

Answer: b) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

UPI is India's payment ecosystem launched in 2016 by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

Q.: Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah becomes the first female president of which country in December 2024?

- a) South Africa
- b) Botswana
- c) Namibia
- d) Zimbabwe

Answer: c) Namibia

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the ruling SWAPO party has won Namibia's eighth presidential election, becoming the country's first female president with over 57% of the votes.

Q. Who becomes the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the third time in December 2024?

- a) Uddhav Thackeray
- b) Ajit Pawar
- c) Devendra Fadnavis
- d) Eknath Shinde

Ans: c) Devendra Fadnavis

Devendra Fadnavis becomes the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the third time on 5 December 2024.

Q.: Which significant naval operation is commemorated on Navy Day on December 4?

- a) Operation Vijay
- b) Operation Trident
- c) Operation Blue Star
- d) Operation Pawan

Ans: b) Operation Trident

The Navy day commemorates the success of **Operation Trident**, a significant naval mission during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

Q.: Which city will host the Maha Kumbh 2025?

- a) Haridwar
- b) Ujjain
- c) Nashik
- d) Prayagraj

Ans: d) Prayagraj

The **Maha Kumbh 2025** is set to be a grand and spiritually significant event, taking place in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh** from **January 13 to February 26, 2025**.

Q. When is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) observed every year?

- a) December 1
- b) December 3
- c) December 5
- d) November 30

Ans: b) December 3

The **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** is observed annually on **December 3rd** to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.

Q.: Where is the 4th edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise *Harimau Shakti* being held in December 2024?

- a) Kuala Lumpur
- b) Bentong Camp
- c) Langkawi
- d) Johor Bahru

Answer: b) Bentong Camp

The 4th edition of the India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise *Harimau Shakti* began on **2 December 2024** at Bentong Camp, Malaysia.

Q.: Where is World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) 2024 from December 4 to 6, 2024 being held?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Chennai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Kolkata

Answer: b) Chennai

The World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) 2024 will be held from December 4 to 6, 2024, at The Leela Palace, Chennai, India. Organized by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

Q.: Which organization launched the PRAGATI platform in India?

- a) The Gates Foundation
- b) Oxford's Saïd Business School
- c) Government of India
- d) The United Nations

Ans: c) Government of India

A recent study by **Oxford's Saïd Business School** and the **Gates Foundation** has recognized the effectiveness of India's **PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)** platform. Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, PRAGATI has significantly transformed the delivery of infrastructure projects in India.

Q.: What is the title of the study conducted by Oxford's Saïd Business School and the Gates Foundation on PRAGATI?

- a) "Innovating Governance: India's PRAGATI"
- b) "Efficiency in Infrastructure: The PRAGATI Model"
- c) "From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress"
- d) "Digital Transformation and Accountability"

Answer: c) "From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress"

Q.: Who won the Women's Singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament 2024?

- (A) Wu Luo Yu
- (B) Treesa Jolly
- (C) PV Sindhu
- (D) Gayatri Gopichand

Answer: (C) PV Sindhu

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, won the Women's Singles title by defeating China's Wu Luo Yu 21-14, 21-16.

Q.: Who won the Men's Singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament 2024?

- (A) Lakshya Sen
- (B) Jia Heng Jason Teh
- (C) Huang Di
- (D) Dhruv Kapila

Answer: (A) Lakshya Sen

Lakshya Sen claimed the Men's Singles title with a commanding victory over Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-6, 21-7.

Q.: Who became the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on December 1, 2024?

- (A) Greg Barclay
- (B) Sourav Ganguly
- (C) Jay Shah
- (D) N Srinivasan

Answer: (C) Jay Shah

Jay Shah became the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on December 1, 2024

Q.: When was the Border Security Force (BSF) established?

- a) March 1, 1962
- b) April 1, 1963
- c) December 1, 1965
- d) January 1, 1969

Ans : c) December 1, 1965

The **Border Security Force (BSF)** celebrated its **60th Raising Day** on **December 1, 2024**. This day marks the anniversary of the force's formation in 1965.