

Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (DECEMBER 2024)

INTERNATIONAL

Global meeting end without agreement on treaty to combat plastic pollution

A global meeting in South Korea's Busan to finalise a treaty to combat plastic pollution concluded without an agreement. This was the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which has been working since 2022 to draft a legally binding treaty on plastic pollution.

Centre-left party wins Iceland's election

Iceland's centre-left Social Democratic Alliance has won the most votes in snap elections prompted by the collapse of the coalition in power for the past seven years. The Social Democrats won 15 seats in the 63-seat parliament, the Althingi, with 20.8 percent of the votes.

Voting underway in Romania to elect new Parliament

Voting is underway in Romania to elect the new Parliament. More than 18 million Romanian citizens, including those living abroad are casting ballots to fill 332 seats in the Chamber of Deputies and 137 in the Senate.

South Korean President lifts emergency martial law

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has announced the lifting of emergency martial law after the National Assembly voted to end it, following fierce opposition from lawmakers across the political spectrum.

French government collapses in no-confidence vote

The French government has collapsed after Prime Minister Michel Barnier was ousted in a no-confidence vote. MPs voted overwhelmingly in support of the motion against him - just three months after he was appointed by President.

US announces new 725 million dollars military aid package for Ukraine

The United States has announced a new 725 million dollars military aid package for Ukraine that features a second tranche of landmines as well as anti-air and anti-armour weapons.

India to Chair UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the first time

India has been chosen to Chair the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). India's Permanent Representative to the UN in Vienna, Shambhu Kumaran officially assumed the Chairmanship of CND. This is the first time that India has been named to Chair this important UN body.

UK joins US and Bahrain in C-SIPA

The United States, Bahrain, and the United Kingdom have announced an expansion of their strategic partnership through the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA). C-SIPA was initially established between the US and Bahrain in 2023.

Burkina Faso's military dissolves the government

Burkina Faso's military junta issued a decree dismissing Prime Minister Apollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela and announced the dissolution of the national government.

Ghana presidential elections

In Ghana's presidential elections, opposition candidate John Mahama claimed victory in elections after ruling New Patriotic Party candidate and Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia conceded defeat even before the announcement of official results.

Romania, Bulgaria to join EU's Schengen area

Romania and Bulgaria are set to fully join the European Union border-free Schengen Area on January 1, 2025. The border-free Schengen Area guarantees free movement to more than 425 million European Union citizens, along with non-EU nationals living in the EU or visiting the EU.

India backs UNGA resolution for immediate ceasefire in Gaza Strip

India has joined 157 other nations in supporting a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution demanding an 'immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in the war-torn Gaza Strip.

Britain becomes the first European nation to join the CPTPP

Britain became the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the 12th member of the bloc.

The Embassy of Moldova inaugurated in New Delhi

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, Mihail Popsoi, jointly inaugurated the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi. Moldova also signed the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement and officially joined the ISA.

India, France, UAE strengthen defence ties with Desert Knight air combat exercise

India, France, and the UAE have begun a major air combat exercise, "Desert Knight," over the Arabian Sea. The operation aims to enhance trilateral defence cooperation and foster better interoperability among their air forces during complex combat scenarios.

Sri Lanka to offer visa-free travel to Indian nationals from Jan 2025

Indians will be among the nationals from 39 countries, who will have free visas to travel to Sri Lanka from January 2025. Sri Lanka will give free visas to 39 countries, including India.

7.3 magnitude earthquake hits Vanuatu, 14 dead

A powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the island nation of Vanuatu, with its epicentre located near the capital, Port Vila. The earthquake has claimed at least 14 lives, with the death toll expected to rise.

Sweden to expand defence capabilities by 2030

Sweden's Parliament has approved a new defence plan, increasing the military budget from 125 billion Swedish Krona (SEK) in 2024 to 186 billion SEK by 2030.

Cyclone Chido Death Toll Rises to 45 in Mozambique

The death toll from Cyclone Chido in Mozambique has risen to 45. In Malawi, the death toll from the remnants of Tropical Cyclone Chido has risen to 13 while more than 45,000 people are affected by heavy rains.

Russia-Ukraine rule out renewing key gas transit deal for Europe

Russia and Ukraine have both ruled out renewing a key gas transit deal for Europe. Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that Kyiv has refused to extend the five-year agreement to transport Russian gas across Ukraine beyond its expiry at the end of this month.

Over 78% of top paid H1B applicants were from India

In the last four years, more than 78% of the top paid H-1B applicants (whose proposed wage rate exceeded \$1 million per year) were from India. Among the Indians whose wage rate exceeded \$1 million per year, over 25% were women.

US House passes bill to fund government

The US House of Representatives passed a spending bill narrowly avoiding a consequential government shutdown just few hours before the deadline came to end. The Democrats joined Republican lawmakers to advance the bill to keep the federal government funded until mid-March next year.

India dispatches 1,000 MT of humanitarian aid to Lesotho

India has extended humanitarian assistance to Lesotho, a country in Southern Africa. A consignment of one thousand metric tonnes has departed from Nhava Sheva Port for Lesotho.

France begins withdrawal of military forces from Chad

France has commenced the withdrawal of its military forces from Chad, following the Central African nation's decision to end its defence cooperation agreement with France.

India, Kuwait sign several bilateral agreements

India and Kuwait signed four MoUs in the areas of defence, sports and cultural cooperation during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Gulf nation.

Bangladesh seeks extradition of ousted PM Sheikh Hasina from India

Bangladesh has submitted a formal request to India to extradite its former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to New Delhi in August amid student-led protests that ended her 15 years in power.

UNICEF reports 14,500 children killed in Gaza

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has stated that one child is killed every hour in the Gaza Strip. Since the start of the conflict, 14 thousand 500 children have been reported killed in Gaza, as per UNICEF's data.

German President Dissolves the Country's Lower House

Following the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's three-way coalition, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier dissolved the country's lower house of parliament to pave the way for snap elections on 23rd February.

South Korea's National Assembly to Impeach Acting President Han Duck-soo

Less than two weeks after he took over for President Yoon Suk Yeol, who was impeached for his botched imposition of martial law, South Korea's National Assembly voted to impeach acting President Han Duck-soo.

Russia declares federal emergency over Black Sea oil spill

Russia warned of severe environmental damage from a huge oil spill in the Black Sea caused when two tankers collided in a storm near Crimea, which declared a state of emergency.

Centre asks states and UTs to make snakebite cases a Notifiable Disease

The Union Health Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to make snakebite cases and deaths a 'Notifiable Disease' under the relevant provisions of the State Public Health Act or other applicable legislation.

Indian Army, Singapore armed forces conclude joint military exercise "Agni Warrior 2024"

The Joint Military Exercise Agni Warrior 2024 between Indian Armed Forces and Singapore Armed Forces concluded in Devlali, Maharashtra. The aim of the exercise was to maximise mutual understanding of drills and procedures to achieve jointness as a multinational force under the United Nations Charter.

Defence Ministry signs contract with Cochin Shipyard

The Defence Ministry signed a contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited for the short refit and dry docking of INS Vikramaditya at an overall cost of more than 1,200 crore rupees. INS Vikramaditya is an Indian aircraft carrier commissioned in the Indian Navy in November 2013.

India-Cambodia armies commence Joint Exercise CINBAX Begins in Pune

The Indian Army and the Cambodian Army have commenced their first-ever Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, in Pune. The exercise aims to foster strategic cooperation, trust, and interoperability between the two nations.

Vikram Sampath's book Tipu Sultan- The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum released

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has released Vikram Sampath's book titled "Tipu Sultan-The Saga of the Mysore Interregnum" in New Delhi.

Centre working on a national policy paper on female labour force participation

The Centre will soon bring out a national policy document on female labour force participation with a focus on providing an enabling atmosphere like a viable care economy structure.

Centre launches 16 initiatives to empower Divyangjans

On the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 on December 3, the Centre launched sixteen initiatives in New Delhi to empower Divyangjans across the nation. Some of the key initiatives that were launched by the Minister include the launch of the, Sugamya Bharat Yatra 'Kadam Knee Joint, Standard Bharti Braille Code, 'Pathways to Access: Part III, Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, and the Braille Book Portal.

Centre approves proposals worth over 21 thousand crore rupees for naval defence equipments

The Defence Acquisition Council has approved five capital acquisition proposals amounting to over 21 thousand 772 crore rupees. The council under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi has granted Acceptance of Necessity for the procurement of 31 New Water Jet Fast Attack Crafts for the Indian Navy.

NCVET recognizes IN-SPACe as awarding body to boost vocational training in space sector

The National Council for Vocational Education and Training of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has officially recognized the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe) as an awarding body.

Lok Sabha passes Banking Laws Bill

The Lok Sabha has passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The Bill seeks to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

India, Kuwait sign MoU to establish Joint Commission for Cooperation

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Kuwait's Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya have signed a MoU to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) at the level of foreign ministers.

Centre provides financial assistance to cooperative societies exclusively promoted by women

The Central government has said that the National Cooperative Development Corporation, NCDC has sanctioned financial assistance of over seven thousand 708 crore rupees for the development of cooperative societies exclusively promoted by women.

5G services spread across the country says Communication Minister

The Union government said 5G services are available in 779 districts out of 783 districts in the country. over 4.6 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations have been installed in the country. With the availability of 4G and 5G networks.

'Anna Chakra' PDS Supply chain optimisation tool launched

Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi has launched Anna Chakra, a tool to enhance the efficiency of the Public Distribution System (PDS) supply chain. This tool will revolutionise and modernise the PDS logistics network and enable the seamless movement of food grains across the nation through route optimisation.

PM e-Vidya DTH channel for Indian Sign Language launched

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the PM e-Vidya DTH 24x7 channel for Indian Sign Language (ISL) in New Delhi. The channel is devoted to the promotion of Indian Sign Language and has been conceptualized to promote ISL as a language and a subject.

NMDFC, DICCI sign MoU to empower marginalised communities through entrepreneurship

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) signed a MoU with the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) in New Delhi to empower marginalized communities through entrepreneurship.

Nationwide 100-day TB eradication campaign launched

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda launched the nationwide 100-day TB eradication campaign from Panchkula. He said the TB eradication program will prove to be a milestone in making the country tuberculosis-free by 2025.

International Gita Mahotsav.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar addressed a programme organised at the Gita Gyan Sansthanam in Kurukshetra on the occasion of International Gita Mahotsav.

The fourth edition of India Internet Governance Forum
Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Jitin Prasada inaugurated the Fourth edition of India Internet Governance Forum in New Delhi. The theme for this edition is "Innovating Internet Governance for India."

Advanced Flood Monitoring System developed

The Indian Army's Trishakti Sappers from the Eastern Command have developed the Advanced Flood Monitoring System (AFMS) which is earning national acclaim at Inno Yodha, a competition for defense and disaster management innovations.

Ashtalakhshmi Mahotsav is celebrated

Ashtalakhshmi Mahotsav, which aims to showcase the beauty, diversity, and promise of the eight states of the Northeast India region which include Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, and Sikkim was celebrated at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

INS Tushil commissioned into Indian Navy in Russia

INS Tushil, the latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate has been commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Russia. INS Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6, of which six are already in service.

ICRISAT grants its first industrial design in India for Solar-Powered Water Hyacinth Harvester

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has been granted its first industrial design in India for a Solar-Powered Water Hyacinth Harvester developed by a team of scientists.

Suspect registry of identifiers of Cyber Criminals launched in collaboration with banks and financial institutions

The Centre informed that a suspect registry of identifiers of Cyber Criminals has been launched in collaboration with banks and financial institutions under Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (I4C).

Centre Releases ₹1,869 Crore for Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen in 2024

The Ministry of Rural Development has informed that a sum of over 1,869 crore rupees was released up to November this year as center's share under Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen to sustain the open defecation free status of villages across the country.

Opposition submits no confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar

The opposition party has submitted a no-confidence motion against Rajya Sabha Chairman, Jagdeep Dhankhar accusing him of being partisan in functioning in the House. The notice has been submitted to Secretary General of the Rajya Sabha.

Lok Sabha Passes Railways Bill 2024

The Lok Sabha passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024. The bill seeks to amend the Railways Act 1989 and is intended to enhance the power of the Railways Board and improve the functioning and independence of the body.

Defence ministry signs ₹13,500 Cr deal with HAL

Defence Ministry has signed a contract of 13,500 crore rupees with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of 12 Su-30MKL aircraft along with associated equipment.

Lok Sabha passes Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024

The Lok Sabha passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The bill empowers the NDMA and SDMA to prepare the disaster plan at national level and state level instead of the National Executive Committee and the State Executive Committee.

No fresh suit to be registered under Places of Worship Act till further orders: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India has ordered that no fresh suits would be registered under the Places of Worship Act in the country. It also ordered that in the pending cases, no final or effective orders would be passed till further orders of the Apex Court.

Uttarakhand CM inaugurates The World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024

The World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 officially commenced at Dehradun. This year's event is themed "Digital Health, Ayurvedic Approach," focusing on the integration of traditional Ayurveda with modern technological advancements.

22nd Divya Kala Mela started at India Gate

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities will host the 22nd Divya Kala Mela at India Gate, New Delhi. The event showcased the talent, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit of Divyang artisans, entrepreneurs, and artists from across India.

The 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT

Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi participated virtually in the 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT held in Japan. The 2nd LAND FORCES SUMMIT serves as a testament to the growing commitment among regional and global powers to strengthen defence ties and promote a peaceful, stable, and secure Indo-Pacific.

India's First Integrated Waste Management City To Be Set Up In Gorakhpur

India's first Integrated Waste Management City-cum-Learning Centre is set to come up in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur by September 2025. The initiative aims to make the city garbage-free and foster sustainable waste management through a circular economy model.

Centre Launches Credit Guarantee Scheme to Ease Loan Access for Farmers via e-NWR

The Union Government has launched the 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR-Based Pledge Financing.' Under this scheme, farmers will now be able to get a loan through their produce.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Signs MoU with Indian Navy

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy to enhance logistics-related education, research, and training in New Delhi.

One Nation, One Election Bill tabled in Lok Sabha

The bills related to One Nation One Election have been introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has moved the motion to introduce the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty Ninth Amendment) Bill 2024 and The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the House.

India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit Kisan Kavach

Science and Technology Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh has launched India's first-of-its-kind anti-pesticide bodysuit, Kisan Kavach in New Delhi. This bodysuit is designed to protect farmers from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure.

MoS Defence Sanjay Seth presides over commissioning ceremony of INS Nirdeshak

Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth participated in the commissioning of the Indian Navy's state-of-the-art hydrographic vessel INS Nirdeshak at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

Masali Village in Gujarat Becomes India's First Solar Border Village

In Gujarat, Masali village in Banaskantha district has become the country's first solar border village. Masali village, with a total population of 800, is located 40 kilometers from the Pakistan border.

India Conducts First-ever Ganges River Dolphin Tagging in Assam

India marked a historic achievement in wildlife conservation by conducting first ever Ganges river dolphin tagging in Assam.

Centre approved setting up of 7 additional Central Forensic Science Laboratories of over ₹860 cr

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has informed that the Centre has approved the setting up of seven additional Central Forensic Science Laboratories with a total outlay of over 860 crore rupees under the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme.

India Partners with France to Establish Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum

India has partnered with France Museums Développement to establish Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum billed to be the largest museum in the world will have eight thematic segments telling the story of India spanning over 5,000 years.

NITI Aayog releases Report on 'SAFE' for Affordable Worker Housing to Workers

Policy think tank NITI Aayog has released a report on the Site Adjacent Factory Employee (S.A.F.E.) Accommodation—Worker Housing for Manufacturing Growth. The report explores the crucial role of secure, affordable, flexible, and efficient accommodations for industrial workers in boosting India's manufacturing sector.

Opposition's no-confidence motion against VP Jagdeep Dhankhar dismissed

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh has dismissed a no-confidence motion moved against the Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. Opposition parties had moved a no-confidence motion against the chairman, alleging working in a partisan manner.

Two indigenously built warships Nilgiri & Surat delivered to Indian Navy

The Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has delivered two Capital warships, Nilgiri and Surat to the Indian Navy. Nilgiri is the First Stealth Frigate of Project 17A Class Ship while Surat is the Fourth Stealth Destroyer of Project 15B Class Guided Missile Destroyer.

Lower House refers two bills on One Nation, One Election to Joint Committee of Parliament

The two bills related to the One Nation One Election have been referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament. The committee has 27 Members from Lok Sabha and 12 Members from the Rajya Sabha. The Committee will submit its report to the House by the first day of the last week of the next Parliament session.

26 countries in world provide visa-free entry & 40 countries provide visa-on-arrival facilities to Indian passport holders

The Centre said that 26 countries in the world provide visa-free entry and 40 countries provide visa-on-arrival facilities to Indian passport holders. India provides visa-free entry to citizens of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives.

India's forest cover increases by 1,445 square kilometres
Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav released the 'India State of Forest Report 2023' (ISFR 2023) at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. According to the latest assessment, the total forest and tree cover in India stands at 8 lakh 27 thousand 357 square kilometers, representing 25.17 percent of the country's total geographical area.

India's First Bio-Bitumen National Highway Inaugurated
The Union Transport Minister inaugurated India's First National Highway constructed using Bio- Bitumen material in Nagpur-Mansar Bypass project of National Highway 44 in Nagpur District.

Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' Announced as Theme for Republic Day 2025 Tableaux

The Ministry of Defence has said that 'Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas' will be the theme of tableaux for Republic Day (RDC)-2025. It added that 15 states and Union Territories have been selected to showcase their tableaux on the Kartavya Path during the parade.

President Droupadi Murmu Appoints New Governors in 5 States

President Droupadi Murmu has appointed governors in five states. The Governor of Mizoram Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati will now be the new Governor of Odisha. Former Union Minister General Vijay Kumar Singh has been appointed as Governor of Mizoram. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who is serving Governor of Bihar has been appointed as the Governor of Kerala. He will succeed Arif Mohammed Khan who will be the Governor of Bihar. Former Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed as Governor of Manipur.

The Foundation Stone Laid For the Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project

On the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the country's first ambitious and multipurpose Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

Annual Malaria Cases Reduce by 97 Percent

According to the Health Ministry, the number of annual malaria cases declined from 7.5 crore at the time of independence to 20 lacs by 2023, with over a 97 percent reduction.

ISRO Launches SpaDeX Mission

On December 30, 2024, ISRO launched the SpaDeX mission. The SpaDeX mission consists of two satellites—SDX01 or Chaser and SDX02 or Target—with both designed to align in the same orbit, reduce the distance between each other, to join and transfer electrical power between them, and then finally, separate.

EC Releases Comprehensive Data on the 2024 LS Polls.
The Election Commission (EC) said that the 2024 Lok Sabha elections saw 64.64 crore votes being polled, and the number of female votes outshone male participation with 65.78 percent participation.

Punjab Becomes the Fifth Indian State to Provide 100 Percent Piped Water Supply to Rural Households
Punjab has become the fifth state in the country to provide 100 percent piped water supply to rural households. This has been done under the 'Har Ghar Jal,' a central government scheme.

Centre launches 'Udaan Yatri Cafe'

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has announced the launch of "Udaan Yatri Cafe", an eatery outlet at the airport for providing basic essentials like food and water at affordable and reasonable rates. The one-of-its kind initiative is being launched at Kolkata airport on a pilot basis.

Cyclone Fengal wreaks havoc

Cyclone Fengal has caused widespread devastation, bringing record rainfall and flooding to Puducherry and parts of Tamil Nadu.

96 ships and submarines to be inducted into the Indian Navy in the coming ten years.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has said that 96 ships and submarines will be inducted into the Indian Navy in the coming ten years. He said, 62 ships and one submarine are under construction and one ship will be inducted every month till next year.

Saras Food Festival organized by the Ministry of Rural Development

Saras Food Festival was organized by the Ministry of Rural Development till the 17th of December at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place in New Delhi.

18th edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran

The Indian Army contingent comprising 334 personnel participated in the 18th edition of Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran. The exercise was conducted in Saljhandi, Nepal from the 31st of December 2024 to the 13th of January 2025.

Wayanad landslides a disaster of "Severe Nature,"

Following assessments by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), the central government has declared the devastating Wayanad landslides that occurred on 30th July 2024, in Kerala a disaster of "severe nature," acknowledging its significant impact.

India's first glass bridge over sea

In Kanyakumari, the iconic tourist destination of Tamil Nadu, India's first glass bridge over the sea was inaugurated. The classic glass bridge connects the 133-foot-tall Saint Tiruvalluvar statue and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission successfully launched

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission. ISRO's PSLV-C60 rocket carrying two spacecraft that would aid in the demonstration of space docking lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

BANKING & ECONOMY

Skylark Information Technologies opens India's first OT Centre of Excellence (CoE)

Global IT services provider Skylark Information Technologies in partnership with Fortinet announced the launch of India's first Operational Technology (OT) Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Chennai.

FPIs' selling continues in November at ₹21,612 crore

Foreign investors pulled out ₹21,612 crore (\$2.56 billion) from the Indian equity market in November, mainly owing to the rising U.S. bond yields, strengthening dollar and expectation of a slowdown in the domestic economy.

Overall Coal Production in November 2024 Reaches 90.62 Million Tonnes

Coal Ministry has achieved a milestone in November, with overall coal production reaching 90.62 million tonnes compared to 84.52 MT in the same month last year.

FDI witnessed tremendous growth in April to September 2024

The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has witnessed a surge of 45 percent to over 29 billion dollars from April to September this year as compared to the same period last year.

The Ayush sector has registered tremendous growth

In the last decade, the Ayush sector has registered tremendous growth and the market of Ayush sector has surpassed 43 billion dollars in 2023.

India positioning itself among top 10 global suppliers

India has made significant strides in its global export landscape, positioning itself among the top 10 global suppliers, with all sectors reaching export values exceeding 1 billion dollars in 2023.

RBI asks banks to activate inoperative/frozen accounts

The RBI has asked banks to take urgent necessary steps to bring down the number of inoperative/ frozen accounts and make the process of activation of such accounts smoother and hassle free. The banks have been told to enable seamless updation of KYC through mobile/internet banking, non-home branches and Video Customer Identification Process.

Amazon launches new AI models

Amazon introduced a range of artificial intelligence foundational models at its flagship annual event Amazon Web Services re: Invent, called Nova, which will allow for text, image and video generation.

ADB and Mastercard Partner to Boost MSMEs in Asia-Pacific

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Mastercard Impact Fund, administered by the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, announced a landmark partnership to promote financial inclusion and access for MSMEs across the Asia-Pacific region.

Karnataka attracts FDI worth \$3.54 bn during H1 of FY'25

Karnataka has attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of \$3.54 billion during the first six months of fiscal 2025, as per data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

World Bank approves \$188 million loan to Maharashtra

The World Bank has approved a \$188.28-million loan to stimulate economic growth in Maharashtra, especially in the lagging districts. The \$188.28 million Maharashtra Strengthening Institutional Capabilities in districts for enabling growth operation will support district planning and growth strategies.

UPI sets new record of 16.58 billion financial transactions in October

The Finance Ministry has said that the Unified Payments Interface, UPI achieved a milestone by processing nearly 16.58 billion financial transactions in a single month in October this year.

RBI amends rules to increase transaction limit via UPI Lite

The RBI had announced to enhance the limits for UPI Lite. The Offline framework has been updated and the enhanced limits for UPI Lite shall be ₹1,000 per transaction, with ₹5,000 being the total limit at any point in time.

Bitcoin tops \$100,000 on optimism over Trump crypto plans

Bitcoin rose above \$100,000 for the first time on December 5 as the election of Republican Donald Trump as president of the United States spurred expectations that his administration will create a friendly regulatory environment for cryptocurrencies.

RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the 11th consecutive time. The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25 per cent, while the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate remain at 6.75 per cent.

The RBI has projected India's real GDP growth for FY25 at 6.6%.

RBI gives nod to Canara Bank's proposal to divest its stake in life insurance

RBI has accorded approval to Canara bank for divesting its shareholding in Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited and Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Limited by 13% and 14.5%, respectively through Initial Public Offer (IPO).

OpenAI introduces monthly \$200 ChatGPT Pro plan

OpenAI is introducing a higher-priced paid tier for its chatbot ChatGPT that includes unlimited access to its most powerful artificial intelligence models, including an improved version of its software that can perform human-like reasoning tasks.

RBI to allow small finance banks to extend credit lines through UPI

The RBI allowed small finance banks (SFBs) to offer pre-sanctioned credit lines through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in December 2024. This move aims to increase financial inclusion and provide more access to credit for people and businesses.

India's Forex Reserves rise by 1.51 billion dollars to 658.09 billion dollars

India's foreign exchange (FOREX) reserves increased by 1.51 billion dollars to 658.09 billion dollars in the week ending November 29.

Bangladesh: New currency notes without image of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh Bank (BB) is printing new currency notes without the image of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Currently, in Bangladesh, currency notes of all denominations have an image of him.

RBI increases limit for collateral-free agriculture loans

Taking into account the rise in agricultural input costs and overall inflation, the RBI has decided to increase the limit for collateral-free agriculture loans from ₹1.6 lakh to ₹2 lakh per borrower.

RBI unveils MuleHunter to prevent digital frauds

The RBI has developed an innovative artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) based model MuleHunter.ai to address the growing issue of mule bank accounts that are often used for committing financial fraud.

SPF to bring together 30 startups, policymakers and regulators

Startup Policy Forum (SPF), an alliance to advance India's emerging sectors and a platform for collaboration between founders, policymakers and regulators, announced its formation. The Startup Policy Forum (SPF), founded by Shweta Rajpal Kohli, aims to bridge the gap in policy representation for India's new-age startups.

RBI to start podcast to communicate

In its bid to attract the attention of the youth, the Reserve Bank of India, while expanding its communication toolkit and techniques, has decided to add 'podcasts' to its communication toolkit for wider dissemination of information.

LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana Launched

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana, an initiative of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, designed to empower women aged 18 to 70 years, who are Class X pass. They will receive specialized training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

NABARD provides financial support for development of Tribal areas

The Centre said that NABARD is giving monetary support for development of tribal areas under its Tribal Development Fund (TDF) and 1029 projects have been sanctioned in the past 18 years. These projects are aimed at providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to tribal families.

FDI inflows into India cross \$1 trillion

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India have crossed the \$1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period.

About 25 per cent of the FDI came through the Mauritius route. India received USD 177.18 billion from Mauritius, USD 167.47 billion from Singapore and USD 67.8 billion from the US.

RBI releases "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2023-24"

The Reserve Bank of India released the ninth edition of its statistical publication titled "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States, 2023-24". Through this publication, the Reserve Bank has been disseminating wide-ranging data on the regional economies of India.

73,151 startups in India now have at least one woman Director: Commerce & Industry Ministry

Commerce and Industry Ministry has said that 73,151 startups with at least one-woman director have been recognized under the Startup India Initiative. Over 3,107 crore rupees has been invested in 149 women-led startups through Alternative Investment Funds.

Flipkart, DPIIT sign MoU to accelerate growth of startup ecosystem

Flipkart, India's e-commerce platform, has signed an MoU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to support and empower tech start-ups in India.

RBI approves Burman family entities' open offer to acquire 26% additional stake in REL

The Reserve Bank has approved the open offer of Burman family -- the promoters of FMCG major Dabur -- to acquire an additional 26% stake in NBFC firm Religare Enterprises Ltd (REL).

Nov retail inflation eases to 5.48%

According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), India's retail inflation eased to 5.48 percent in November, down from 6.2 percent in the previous month of current fiscal year.

India's industrial output grows 3.5% in October

India's industrial output rose to 3.5 percent in October this year, standing at a three-month high, as per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation today.

Registered Enterprises on MSME Udyam Portal Jump from 1.65 Crores to 5.60 Crores in 2023

The number of registered enterprises on MSME Udyam portal has increased from 1.65 crores on 31st March 2023 to 5.60 crores on 30th November this year, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said. There is an addition of 3.95 crore enterprises during the period.

India's Forex Reserves Fall by \$3.23 Billion to \$654.86 Billion: RBI

India's foreign exchange (FOREX) reserves declined by 3.23 billion dollars to 654.86 billion dollars in the week ending December 6, the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Yes Bank appoints Manish Jain as ED

YES Bank has appointed Manish Jain as the Executive Director (Whole-Time Director) for a three-year term.

Switzerland Suspends MFN Status to India

Switzerland has suspended the application of the 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) clause in its tax treaty with India. This decision follows a 2023 Indian Supreme Court ruling that altered the interpretation of the MFN clause, reversing a Delhi High Court decision favoring Nestlé.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India record their highest-ever aggregate net profit

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India have recorded their highest-ever aggregate net profit of around 1 lakh 41 thousand crore in the financial year 2023-24. The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio has declined, dropping to 3.12 percent in September this year.

WPI eases in November.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) eased to 1.89 percent in November, as prices of food items, especially vegetables turned cheaper, as per the government data released on December 16. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 2.36 percent in October 2024.

Cargo promotion scheme 'Jalvahak' unveiled

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, unveiled the cargo promotion scheme 'Jalvahak' to boost cargo movement on three national waterways.

ADB, NaBFID partner for India's infrastructure

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India's National Bank for Financing Infrastructure Development (NaBFID) have signed a letter of intent (LOI) to strengthen their partnership in funding India's infrastructure projects. public and private investment.

Bitcoin surges above \$106,000 on strategic reserve hopes

Crypto currency Bitcoin has surged to a record high above \$106,000 in early Asian trade on December 16, 2024, boosted by comments from President-elect Donald Trump that suggested he plans to create a U.S. bitcoin strategic reserve similar to its strategic oil reserve.

CBIC chairman launches four new initiatives to enhance taxpayer services

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has launched four new initiatives to enhance taxpayer services. These four citizen-centric initiatives include a revised citizen's charter, a revamped citizen's corner for complete tax-related information, an ease of doing business tab for making suggestions, and CBIC archives for tax repository.

India becomes 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in world

India has become the 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in the world, which was on the 23rd rank in 2019. The country's smartphone exports have also breached the 20 thousand crore rupees mark in a single month, in November 2024.

Amazon to create a total of 2 mn jobs in India by 2025

Amazon has claimed that it has created 1.4 million direct and indirect jobs in India in the last four years and was currently on track to create another 6 lakhs jobs to take the total jobs count to 2 million in the country by 2025.

RBI lifts curbs on ECL Finance, Edelweiss ARC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to lift the restrictions placed on ECL Finance Ltd. and Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd., with immediate effect.

U.S. Federal Reserve cuts its key rate

The US Federal Reserve has announced its eighth and final monetary policy decision for 2024. It slashed its benchmark interest rate by (25 bps) or a quarter of a percentage point to 4.25-4.50 per cent.

World Bank approves \$2 billion for Ukraine

The World Bank's executive board had approved \$2.05 billion in Development Policy Operation funding for Ukraine that includes the first grant from a new \$20 billion U.S. loan fund for Kyiv that is backed by income from frozen Russian sovereign assets.

Net direct tax collections rise 16.5%

India's net direct tax collection for 2024-25 has soared 16.5% to ₹15.82 lakh crore till December 17, 2024, owing to healthy personal income tax collections even as growth in corporate taxes remained moderate.

DMart's Damani, Zomato's Goyal top list of self-made entrepreneurs

Avenue Supermarkets Ltd. (DMart) promoter Radhakishan Damani, Zomato founder Deepinder Goyal and Swiggy's Sriharsha Majety and Nandan Reddy have secured the top three positions respectively in the second edition of IDFC First Private Banking and Hurun India's 'India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2024'.

Pawan Hans secures 10-year contract for helicopter services to ONGC

State-owned helicopter services operator Pawan Hans has secured a 10-year contract worth over ₹2,000 crore to provide four helicopters to ONGC for transporting its personnel to off-shore duty locations.

Sri Lanka's economy grows 5.5% in Q3 2024

Sri Lanka's economy has grown by 5.5% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2024. According to the data released by the island's Department of Census and Statistics, GDP at constant prices rose to about 3.152 trillion Lankan rupees up from 2.987 trillion rupees in Q3 2023.

SEBI tightens norms for investment advisors in proposed amendments

SEBI has mandated that any person wishing to give investment advice must be qualified and registered under the Investment Advisor Regulations (IA Regulations), 2013. SEBI published proposed amendments to tighten the norms for investment advisors in India.

New Zealand sinks into recession as Q3 GDP dives

New Zealand has officially entered a recession as the economy shrank for the second consecutive quarter, marking its steepest contraction in over three decades.

Elon Musk's Wealth marks Half a Trillion in Post-Election Surge

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX and the owner of X has achieved a record-breaking net worth of \$500 billion, making him the first person in history ever to amass such massive wealth. On December 17, Elon Musk net worth reached a record high of \$500 billion, becoming the first person in history to achieve such wealth, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

SEBI tightens rules for IPOs of small firms

SEBI had issued tighter regulations for initial public offerings (IPOs) by small businesses, mandating that entities listing should have been profitable in recent years.

SEBI extends suspension of derivatives trading in seven agricultural commodities till January 2025

SEBI has extended the suspension of derivatives trading in seven agricultural commodities, including wheat and moong, till January 2025 to rein in prices.

The Walton family is the world's richest

The Walmart Waltons have reclaimed the top spot as the world's wealthiest family, amassing a staggering \$432.4 billion. The Al Nahyan family (UAE): The United Arab Emirates' ruling family, with a wealth of \$323.9 billion secured the second position on this year's list.

From India, the Ambanis secured the 8th position (\$99.6 billion), while the Mistrys of Shapoorji Pallonji (\$41.4 billion) landed at 23rd on the list.

Centre, ADB sign \$350 million loan agreement to strengthen India's logistics ecosystem

The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 350-million-dollar policy-based loan agreement. This loan is part of the second subprogram of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem (SMILE) program.

Indian economy to grow 6.6% in FY26: Ind-Ra

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, up from 6.4% in the current fiscal year.

India Signs \$42 Million Loan Agreement with ADB

The Central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 42 million dollar loan to strengthen coastal protection to help boost community resilience in Maharashtra.

Amaravati development: World Bank approves \$800 million loan

In a major boost to the development of Amaravati, the greenfield capital city of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.), the World Bank (WB) has approved the \$800 million loan for the Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Program (AIUDP).

RBL Bank re-appoints R Subramaniakumar as MD & CEO

RBL Bank said its board of directors has reappointed R Subramaniakumar, the current managing director and chief executive officer (MD and CEO) of the bank, for a period of three years, effective June 23, 2025.

GST Council announces rate cut on fortified rice kernels to 5%

GST Council 55th meeting was chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The GST Council has decided rate cut on fortified rice kernels to 5 per cent and recommends amendment to definition of pre-packaged and labelled items.

NPS assets under management to touch ₹15 lakh crore by fiscal end: PFRDA

The assets under management (AUM) of the National Pension System are expected to touch ₹15 lakh crore by the end of the current fiscal year, Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority Chairman Deepak Mohanty said.

SC allows banks to charge over 30% interest on credit card

In a relief to banks, the Supreme Court of India had set aside an order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) that capped credit card interest rates at 30% per annum on late bill payments. The top court ruling has put an end to a 16-year-old case.

Japan's Nissan and Honda announce plans to merge
Japan's Honda and Nissan are planning a merger, which would create the world's third-largest carmaker as the industry pivots away from fossil fuels.

India Secures \$500 Million ADB Loan for Green Infrastructure Projects

The Union government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 500 million dollar loan to support green and sustainable infrastructure projects aligned with the country's climate commitments.

HDFC Bank executes first gold forward deal from Gujarat GIFT City

HDFC Bank has become the first domestic bank to execute a gold forward deal from GIFT City, Gujarat. The deal was executed by HDFC Bank GIFT City IBU in collaboration with Hindustan Platinum Private Limited.

Central Bank emphasises on Digital Banking, MSME and low cost deposits on 114th Foundation Day

Central Bank of India, one of the country's leading public sector banks, marked its 114th Foundation Day on 21st December 2024 with celebrations held across the country. It has announced the introduction of customised financial products for MSMEs, retail, salaried class, business persons and facilities for forex operations.

Centre launches Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, Jagriti Dashboard on occasion of National Consumer Day

The Department of Consumer Affairs has launched Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, and Jagriti Dashboard on December 24 on the occasion of National Consumer Day 2024.

Indian economy is recovering from slowdown witnessed in 2nd quarter: RBI bulletin

The Reserve Bank's monthly bulletin for December 2024 has indicated that the Indian economy is recovering from the slowdown witnessed in the second quarter, driven by strong festival activity and a sustained upswing in rural demand.

The Profitability of Indian Banks Improved for the Sixth Consecutive Year

According to a report released by the RBI, the profitability of Indian banks improved for the sixth consecutive year in 2023-24 and their non-performing assets (NPAs) declined to a 13-year low of 2.7 percent. The net bad loans of banks fell to 0.57 per cent of total loans at September-end, from 0.62 per cent in end-March, driven by stronger loan-loss buffers.

RBI Constitutes a Panel for the Ethical Use of AI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an eight-member committee to develop a Framework for Responsible and Ethical Enablement of Artificial Intelligence (FREE-AI) in the financial sector.

The committee will be headed by Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, who serves as a Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Bombay.

Government Successfully Auctions 88 Mineral Blocks

The government has successfully auctioned 88 mineral blocks in the current financial year, including 24 critical mineral blocks completed in four tranches. Amendments to the MMDR Act, 1957, were also made to rationalize royalty rates for 12 critical minerals.

India Records the Highest-Ever Coal Production in 2023-24

India recorded the highest-ever coal production in the year 2023-24. The all-India coal production in the year 2023-24 was 997.826 million tonnes (MT) in comparison to 893.191 MT in the year 2022-23, with a growth of about 11.71 percent.

Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24

According to the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, the monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) has increased by nine percent in rural areas and around eight percent in urban areas in 2023-24 from the level of 2022-23. The average MPCE in rural India is estimated to be 4,122 rupees, while the average MPCE in urban India is estimated to be 6,996 rupees.

PPI Users to Make and Receive UPI Payments Through Third-Party Mobile Applications

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), approved prepaid payment instruments (PPI) users to make and receive UPI payments through third-party mobile applications.

Ultra Tech Cement Acquires Stake in Star Cement

Ultra Tech Cement, an Aditya Birla Group company, further consolidated its position as the largest cement producer in the country by acquiring an 8.69 percent stake in Star Cement for ₹851 crore.

Reliance buys Karkinos Health for ₹375 crore

Reliance Industries buys healthcare platform Karkinos for ₹375 crore. Karkinos provides technology-driven innovative solutions for the early detection, diagnosis and management of cancer.

India receives remittances, the highest ever for a country, in any year in 2024

India's share in global remittances was 14.3% this year, the highest such share since the turn of the millennium for any country. In 2024, India received an estimated \$129.1 billion worth of remittances, the highest ever for a country in any year. Following India, Mexico and China received the largest remittances in 2024.

GDP projected to grow at 6.6 per cent in 2024-25, as per an RBI report

The Reserve Bank released the December 2024 issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), on December 30, 2024. The Indian economy is exhibiting resilience and stability, and the gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow at 6.6 per cent in 2024-25.

RTGS and NEFT, to verify the name of the bank account to which money is being transferred

To avoid mistakes and prevent fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to develop a facility to allow customers using online fund transfer systems, RTGS and NEFT, to verify the name of the bank account to which money is being transferred before initiating the transaction.

The asset quality of SCBs improves

The RBI said in the December 2024 issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR) that the asset quality of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) improved further with their Gross Non Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio declining to a 12- year low of 2.6% in September 2024.

Rajat Verma to be the new CEO of DBS Bank India

The proposal to appoint Rajat Verma as the new CEO of DBS Bank India received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India.

AWARDS

Michelle Bachelet to be conferred the Indira Gandhi Peace prize 2024

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 will be conferred on former Chilean president and prominent human rights voice Michelle Bachelet.

UNEP's 2024 Champions of the Earth recognizes six environmental leaders

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced recipients of the 2024 Champions of the Earth. The recipients are Sonia Guajajara, Brazil, Amy Bowers Cordalis, of the Yurok Tribe, Gabriel Paun, a Romanian environmental defender, Lu Qi, a Chinese scientist, Madhav Gadgil, an Indian ecologist, and SEKEM.

President confers National Awards for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Awards for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to 33 exemplary individuals and institutions on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 in New Delhi.

Indian-origin artist Jasleen Kaur wins Turner Prize

Indian-origin Scottish artist Jasleen Kaur has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition, "Alter Altar", that reflects on plurality, personal and political themes.

Ang Lee Honored with DGA's Lifetime Achievement Award

Director Ang Lee will be honored with the Directors Guild of America's Lifetime Achievement Award at the 77th Directors Guild of America (DGA) Awards.

President Murmu Confers National Panchayat Awards 2024

The President presented the National Panchayat Awards 2024, which include categories such as the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar, Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar, and Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar.

Tabla Maestro Pt. Swapan Choudhary Awarded 2023 National Tansen Samman

Renowned tabla player of Indian classical music Pt. Swapan Choudhary of Kolkata was honoured with the "National Tansen Samman" for the year 2023. This award, established by the Madhya Pradesh government in the name of Music Emperor Tansen.

Sanand Nyas, an institution of Indore, was honoured with the "Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman" for the year 2023.

The Best' FIFA Awards 2024

Full list of Winners

Best Men's Player: Vinicius Jr

Best Women's Player: Aitana Bonmati

Best Men's Coach: Carlo Ancelotti

Best Women's Coach: Emma Hayes

Best Men's Goalkeeper: Emiliano Martinez

Best Women's Goalkeeper: Alyssa Naeher

Puskas Award: Alejandro Garnacho

Marta Award: Marta

FIFA Fair Play Award: Thiago Maia

Puskas Award: Manchester United's Alejandro Garnacho

FIFA Fan Award: Guilherme Gandra Moura

Centre announces Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024

The 2024 Sahitya Akademi Awards have been announced, honoring 21 writers and poets from different Indian languages.

Hindi poet Gagan Gill received an award for her poetry book Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar, while English author Easterine Kire was honored for her novel Spirit Nights. Aron Raja's book Swrni Thakhai, written in Bodo, won in the novel category.

Winners in the short tale category included Hundraj Balwani's Purzo (Sindhi) and Yuva Baraf's Chhichimira (Nepali).

PM Modi conferred Kuwait's highest Honour, the Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer

Kuwait has bestowed its highest honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The External Affairs Ministry said, this is the 20th international honour given to Prime Minister Modi by a country.

Ashwini Vaishnaw confers 69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Award 2024

Union Railway and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has conferred the 69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Award 2024 to 101 employees and officers for their exceptional contributions to the Indian Railways.

'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' conferred

On the occasion of Veer Bal Diwas, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 'Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar' on 17 children for their exceptional achievements in seven categories in New Delhi. The children, who hail from 14 states and union territories, were recognized for their bravery, innovation, and accomplishments in art and culture, science and technology, social service, sports, and environment.

30 Indian-origin professionals to be recognised in King Charles' 2025 New Year Honours List

King Charles' 2025 New Year Honours List released annually by the Cabinet Office in the name of the British monarch has Community leaders, campaigners, academics, and medics among over 30 Indian-origin professionals to be recognised.

PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

Donald Trump

Time Magazine has named Donald Trump as its person of the year for the second time - he previously won the honour after winning the presidential election in 2016.

Time already announced NBA star Caitlin Clark as Athlete of the Year, Elton John as Icon of the Year and Lisa Su of Advanced Micro Devices as CEO of the Year.

Francois Bayrou

French President Emmanuel Macron appointed centrist leader François Bayrou as the new Prime Minister of France following a no-confidence vote that ousted the previous government. Francois Bayrou is the fourth Prime Minister this year.

Madan Lokur

Former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur has been appointed as chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council (IJC). Lokur has been appointed for a 4-year-tenure ending on 12th November 2028.

Rodrigo Rato

Former Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Spain's Former Deputy Prime Minister, Rodrigo Rato, was sentenced to four years and nine months in prison by the Madrid Provincial Court. He was found guilty of tax fraud, money laundering, and corruption.

Kristrun Frostadottir

Iceland's new government, led by Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir of the Social Democratic Alliance (SDA), has officially took office. Ms Frostadottir is Iceland's youngest prime minister.

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Mikheil Kavelashvili has been elected the next President of Georgia, amid growing resentment over the government's postponement of the European Union accession process until 2028.

Yoon Suk Yeol

In South Korea, the Parliament voted to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over his short-lived martial law declaration earlier this month.

Kash Patel

US President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American Kash Patel to lead the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Mr. Patel became the second Indian American to be picked in his cabinet.

Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando

Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando became the 48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka and the second woman to hold this position. Justice Fernando succeeds Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

In Namibia, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) party has won the country's eighth presidential election, becoming its first female president.

Bashar al-Assad

Bashar al-Assad fled Syria after rebels headed by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham reached the capital Damascus on December 8. The former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his family have arrived in Moscow after fleeing from West Asia.

Sanjay Malhotra

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sanjay Malhotra's name as the next governor for the Reserve Bank of India. He has been appointed to the post for a period of three years starting from the 11th of this month. Mr. Malhotra will succeed Shaktikant Das.

Kaamya Karthikeyan

A 17-year-old student from Navy Children School in Mumbai, Kaamya Karthikeyan, created history by becoming the youngest female in the world to scale the highest peaks on each of the seven continents.

Mohamed al-Bashir

Mohamed al-Bashir has been appointed the caretaker Prime Minister of the transitional government in Syria. Al-Bashir ran the rebel-led Salvation Government before the 12-day lightning offensive swept into Damascus.

Harmeet Dhillon

US President-elect Donald Trump has named Republican Party activist Harmeet Dhillon to be the Assistant Attorney General for civil rights.

Chrystia Freeland

Canada's Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Chrystia Freeland had resigned abruptly. In a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Freeland said, they were at odds about the best path forward for the country.

Sriram Krishnan

United States President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Indian American entrepreneur Sriram Krishnan as the Senior White House Policy Advisor on Artificial Intelligence, AI.

V. Ramasubramanian

Retired Supreme Court judge V. Ramasubramanian has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Maia Sandu

Maia Sandu assumed office as president of the Republic of Moldova for a second term. She won the Moldovan presidential elections in 2020 and was re-elected in a runoff in November 2024.

Kwon Young-se

South Korea's ruling People Power Party (PPP) named five-term lawmaker Kwon Young-se to head its emergency leadership committee tasked with managing the political fallout from President Yoon Suk Yeol's impeachment.

Aisake Valu Eke

Aisake Valu Eke was elected as the new Prime Minister of Tonga. He will replace Hu'akavameiliku Siaosi Sovaleni, who resigned on December 9.

Zakir Hussain

Legendary tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passed away. In a career spanning six decades, Hussain won five Grammy Awards. Hussain received the Padma Shri, one of the country's highest civilian honours, in 1988, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.

M T Vasudevan Nair

Noted writer M T Vasudevan Nair passed away. His literary achievements earned him the Jnanpith Award in 1995, India's highest literary honour. In 2005, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour.

Manmohan Singh

Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh passed away in New Delhi. Dr Singh, who was the finance minister under the then prime minister PV Narasimha Rao, is considered the architect of economic reforms in 1991 that ushered in an era of economic liberalisation. He was the prime minister for two terms in the Congress-led UPA government from 2004 to 2014.

Osamu Suzuki

Osamu Suzuki, the visionary leader who brought affordable mobility to millions in India with the Maruti 800, has passed away. He headed Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation for more than four decades.

S.M. Krishna

S.M. Krishna, former Karnataka Chief Minister from 1999 to 2004, passed away at his residence. He was 92. S M Krishna had also served as the Minister of External Affairs between June 2009 and October 2012.

Raj Manchanda

India's legendary squash player Raj Manchanda, the Arjuna Award recipient and winner of six national titles, died at the age of 79. Manchanda was the undisputed national champion from 1977 to 1982 and won an unprecedented 11 titles for the Services.

Neale Fraser

Australian tennis great Neale Fraser, who won 19 Grand Slam titles, has died aged 91. Fraser won Wimbledon in 1960 and back-to-back U.S. national titles in 1959-60 along with 16 Grand Slam championships in men's and mixed doubles.

Rohan Mirchandani

Founder of Drums Food International, the firm behind popular Greek yogurt brand Epigamia, Rohan Mirchandani has passed away due to cardiac arrest. In 2013, he co-founded Drums Food International, the parent company of Epigamia, India's first Greek yoghurt brand.

Shyam Benegal

Acclaimed film director Shyam Benegal, who was widely regarded as one of the greatest visionaries in Indian cinema, passed away in Mumbai. He was 90 years old. He won several National Awards for movies. He was honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke, Padma Shri, and Padma Bhushan.

Tulsi Gowda

Environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee Tulsi Gowda, who passed away. Tulsi Gowda worked for the cause of environment for more than 60 years and planted over 30,000 saplings. In 2021, the Government of India honoured Tulsi Gowda with the Padma Shri

Om Prakash Chautala

Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo and former Haryana chief minister for five times Om Prakash Chautala passed away in Gurugram at the age of 89. Om Prakash Chautala, son of former Deputy Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Devi Lal.

Jimmy Carter

Former US President Jimmy Carter who was the oldest living U.S. President of all time and the third U.S. President to visit India, passed away. A Democrat, former President Carter was the President of the U.S. from 1977 to 1981. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.

SPORTS

Arjun Erigaisi becomes 2nd Indian to achieve 2800 ELO rating in chess

Arjun Erigaisi has become the second Indian in history to reach the prestigious 2800 Elo rating in classical chess. With the remarkable feat, the 21-year-old has joined the legendary Viswanathan Anand in this exclusive club.

Syed Modi International Tournament: PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen wins singles titles

Indian Shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen were crowned the Singles champions at the Syed Modi International Tournament in Lucknow. Earlier, Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won the Women's Doubles title.

BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes charge as Chairman of ICC

The outgoing BCCI secretary Jay Shah took charge as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), becoming the fifth Indian to head the global body.

Qatar Grand Prix 2024: Max Verstappen wins

Red Bull's Max Verstappen followed up his Formula 1 drivers' title with another win in an incident-packed Qatar Grand Prix as Lando Norris was hit with a penalty that ended his challenge for the race victory.

The Khelo India Talent Development programme.

The Khelo India Scheme has identified 2781 athletes across 21 sports, including para-athletics, and is providing them essential support as part of the Khelo India Talent Development programme.

India's Pavan Kampelli wins Bronze medal in e-football event

India's Pavan Kampelli has secured a bronze medal in the e-football event at the 2024 Asian Esports Games in Bangkok, Thailand. This is the first-ever medal for India at the Asian Esports Games.

Australia draws level

Australia beat India by ten wickets in the second Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test played with the pink ball under the lights in Adelaide. With this, the series score stands at 1-1.

Kush Maini becomes first Indian racer to win Formula 2 Constructors' Championship

Formula Two driver Kush Maini had finished 13th in the drivers' standings in his second Formula 2 season and made history by clinching the Constructors' Championship with Invicta Racing at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. He is the first from India to win a FIA Constructors' World Championship, despite having an inconsistent season.

India bags six medals at World Pickleball Championship

India produced a stellar performance at the Hong Kong leg of the World Pickleball Championship, securing a total of six medals, including one gold, three silvers, and two bronze.

India beat Sri Lanka 5-0 in deaf bilateral cricket series in Delhi

The Indian deaf cricket team achieved a dominant 5-0 clean sweep against Sri Lanka in the bilateral ODI Deaf Cricket Series, held from December 2 to 8 in Delhi.

BCCI appoints Devajit Saikia as Board's Acting Secretary

BCCI has appointed Devajit Saikia as the board's acting secretary by president Roger Binny, replacing Jay Shah who recently took over as the new ICC chair from December 1.

F1: Lando Norris wins Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

Lando Norris has won the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix to deliver McLaren's first Formula One constructors' title since 1998 after teammate Oscar Piastri collided with Max Verstappen on the opening lap and finished 10th.

BAI has appointed Tan Kim Her as India's doubles badminton coach

The Badminton Association of India has appointed Malaysian doubles specialist Tan Kim Her as India's doubles badminton coach. This marks his second stint with India.

FIFA confirms the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 men's World Cups

FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced that Saudi Arabia will host the men's soccer World Cup in 2034, while the 2030 edition will be held in Spain, Portugal and Morocco, with one-off matches in three South American countries.

D. Gukesh becomes youngest World chess champion
Dommaraju Gukesh became the youngest chess champion in the world at the age of 18. Gukesh made history as he clinched 18th World Chess Championship defeating Ding Liren of China in the 14th and the final match of the FIDE World Chess Championship in Singapore. Gukesh is the second world champion from India after Viswanathan Anand, who won the title four times.

NDTL receives approval from WADA to manage Athlete Biological Passport
National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi has received the approval from World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as an Athlete Passport Management Unit to manage Athlete Biological Passport.

Khelo India winter games scheduled in Ladakh from January 23 to 27
The Khelo India Winter Games dates have been announced. The Union Territory of Ladakh will host ice sports including Ice Hockey & Ice-Skating events from January 23 to 27, next year.

Prasar Bharati signs MoU with Hockey India
Prasar Bharati has signed an MoU with Hockey India in New Delhi to provide a live broadcast of the upcoming Hockey India League.

Bastar Olympics
Union Home Minister Amit Shah has attended the closing ceremony of the Bastar Olympics at Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar.

India wins the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024
In hockey, India won the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024 championship in Muscat, Oman. In the summit clash, the Indian team defeated China 3-2 in a penalty shootout to successfully defend its title.

Mumbai wins the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024
In Domestic Cricket, Mumbai won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024. In the final match, Mumbai registered a five-wicket victory over Madhya Pradesh at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. It was Mumbai's second title win.

India to host maiden World Athletics Continental Tour event in August 2025
India will host its maiden World Athletics Continental Tour event -- a bronze level global meet in Bhubaneswar on August 10 next year.

Badminton: Treesa-Gayatri achieve career-best world ranking of 11
In Badminton, Indian women's doubles pair, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, have achieved their career-best world ranking of 11 in the latest BWF World Rankings.

World Chess Champion Gukesh withdraws from FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championship
World Chess Champion D. Gukesh has pulled out of the upcoming FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship. The FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships was held from December 26-31 in New York.

Pranav Venkatesh wins FIDE World U-18 Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess titles
In Chess, India's Pranav Venkatesh made history by claiming both the FIDE World Under-18 Youth Rapid and Blitz titles in Slovenia.

Spinner R Ashwin announces retirement from international cricket
Ravichandran Ashwin has announced retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. Ashwin is India's second-highest wicket-taker in both international and Test cricket. Over his illustrious career, he took 537 wickets in 106 Tests.

New Delhi to host 2025 World Para Athletics C'ships
New Delhi is set to host the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships at the city's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium next year. It will be the first time the event will be held in India. The event will take place from September 26 to October 5.

India awarded the hosting rights for the World Boxing Cup Final 2025
India was awarded the hosting rights for the World Boxing Cup Final 2025. The ranking tournament, scheduled to be held in November next year, will mark the culmination of three World Boxing Cups held earlier in 2025.

Football: German Super Cup to be named after Franz Beckenbauer from 2025
The German Super Cup will bear the name of Franz Beckenbauer, who died earlier this year, from 2025. Beckenbauer, nicknamed 'Der Kaiser' for his dominant style on the field, was one of the greatest players of all time and died in January aged 78.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Anmolpreet Singh smashes fastest List A hundred by an Indian
In Domestic Cricket, Anmolpreet Singh smashed the fastest List A hundred by an Indian, to guide Punjab to a nine-wicket win over Arunachal Pradesh. Anmolpreet, scored a 35-ball hundred. He broke the record of former India all-rounder Yusuf Pathan, who had scored a hundred off 40 balls.

India awarded hosting rights for ISSF Junior World Cup 2025
India has been awarded the hosting rights for next year's ISSF Junior World Cup including competitions in rifle, pistol and shotgun disciplines.

The Torch Procession of the 38th National Games Inaugurated
On December 26, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the torch procession of the 38th National Games from Haldwani in Nainital district.

Koyel, Nilam win silver medals in Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships
India's Koyel Bar and L. Nilam Devi won silver medals in the 55kg Youth and Junior categories to take the country's tally to six in the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Squash: Anahat Singh wins her 9th PSA Challenger title in 2024
India's squash player Anahat Singh picked up her ninth PSA Challenger title of the year after winning the Western India Slam 2024 Women's Singles crown at the Cricket Club of India courts in Mumbai.

Indian U19 team lifts inaugural T20 Asia Cup Title
India won the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup title at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, after defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final. Chasing a target of 118, Bangladesh were bowled out for a modest 76 runs in just 18.3 overs.

Junior World Pencak Silat Championship: India's Nusrath Fatima Wins Silver

Nusrath Fatima from Sankoo, Kargil, representing India, has won a silver medal at the 5th Junior World Pencak Silat Championship, held in Abu Dhabi. Competing in the 58 kg Junior category. Pencak Silat is an umbrella term for a class of related Indonesian martial arts.

Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships: Sairaj Pardeshi bags one Gold and two Silver medals

In Weightlifting, India's Sairaj Pardeshi has won one gold and two silver medals in snatch, clean and jerk, and total lift categories at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha, Qatar. He bettered his own youth national records to clinch the 81 kg men's title.

Ganemat Sekhon clinches second consecutive national title in women's skeet competition

In the 67th National Shooting Championship, Ganemat Sekhon of Punjab clinched her second consecutive national title in the women's skeet competition in Delhi. In the individual women's final, she hit 50 out of 60 targets, comfortably defeating her state-mate Asees Chhina, who managed 46 hits to take silver.

Silver Medal for Martina Devi

At the Asian Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha, Martina Devi won a silver medal in the women's junior +87kg category. The 18-year-old from Manipur lifted a total of 225 kg to finish second.

Jasprit Bumrah's Remarkable Feat

India's ace pacer, Jasprit Bumrah, achieved a remarkable feat in the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings when he reached 904 rating points, equaling the highest rating ever achieved by an Indian bowler, a record previously held by spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Magnus Carlsen withdraws from Chess Championship over dress code dispute

World chess number one Magnus Carlsen has quit a major tournament after being told he could not carry on playing while wearing jeans.

Sachin Tendulkar accepts MCC's honorary club membership

Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar has accepted the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC), renowned for managing the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) invitation to become an Honorary Cricket Member.

Kerala wins maiden Senior National Men's Handball Championship title.

Kerala defeated Chandigarh 34-31 to win their maiden Senior National Men's Handball Championship title. The tournament final took place in Changanassery, Kerala.

FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship held in New York.

In chess, the highly anticipated FIDE World Blitz Chess Championship, alongside the Women's World Blitz Chess Championship, was held in New York on December 30.

Lakshya Sen clinches bronze

In Badminton, India's Lakshya Sen won the bronze at the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open 2024 with a 21-17, 21-11 victory over French shuttler Alex Lanier.

Humpy triumphs in the World Rapid and Blitz Championship.

India's Koneru Humpy won her second women's title beating Indonesia's Irene Sukander in the World Rapid and Blitz Championship held in New York. Humpy finished the tournament with 8.5 points from 11 rounds to secure her victory.

Australia wins the Boxing Day Test

In Border-Gavaskar Trophy Cricket, Australia registered a 184-run victory over India in the fourth test in Melbourne. India was bundled out for 155 runs in their second innings while chasing a target of 340 runs.

MISCELLANEOUS

Three Indians on BBC's 100 most inspiring women list

Three Indians have made it to the BBC's list of the 100 most inspiring and influential women worldwide for 2024. Wrestler Vinesh Phogat, funerary rites pioneer Pooja Sharma, and social activist Aruna Roy are amongst 97 other influential women across the globe who are featured on the list.

Angela Merkel's book "Freedom: Memoirs 1954-2021" released

Former German Chancellor's autobiography and new book titled "Freedom: Memoirs 1954-2021" (published by St. Martin's Press) was launched. The book is being simultaneously published as an audiobook and in translation in several languages, including French and English.

Polarization is Merriam-Webster's 2024 Word Of The Year

The word 'polarization', which became an integral part of the socio-political discourse in 2024, is Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year.

India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti

The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti, to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-insurgency operations in jungle terrain was held at Bentong camp in Malaysia.

Gadhimai Mahotsav continues to be the world's biggest animal slaughter event

Gadhimai Mahotsav is a Hindu Festival held once every five years in Gadhimai Temple of Bariyarpur in Bara district of Madhesh Province of Nepal near the Indo-Nepal border. The festival witnesses the world's largest animal sacrifice that takes place on Saptami, Ashtami and Navami of the Lunar Calendar.

India demonstrates remarkable progress in malaria reduction: WHO

WHO says that India has demonstrated remarkable progress in reducing malaria cases and associated mortality in the country. The number of estimated malaria cases in India has reduced from 6.4 million in 2017 to around 2 million cases in 2023, which is a remarkable 69 per cent decrease.

Over 77% of Earth's land has become significantly drier in past 30 years: UN

The United Nations has revealed that over 77 percent of the Earth's land has become significantly drier in the past 30 years.

According to a study by the UN Science-Policy Interface, this alarming trend poses severe threats to global agriculture, water resources, and biodiversity.

ISRO launches European space agency's Proba 3 satellite
Indian Space Research Organisation launched PSLV C59 carrying European Space Agency's PROBA 3 satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. Proba 3 is a commercial dedicated mission of the NewSpace India limited to ISRO.

The World Maritime Conference 2024

The World Maritime Conference 2024 was conducted in India after 15 years, in Chennai from the 4th to the 6th of December. This conference discussed various futuristic developments and present challenges in the Maritime World.

The Bald Eagle Is Officially the National Bird of the United States

The bald eagle, a symbol of the power and strength of the United States for more than 240 years, has officially become the country's national bird. The bald eagle has appeared on the Great Seal of the United States, which is used in official documents, since 1782, when the design was finalized.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The world's largest United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification began in Riyadh on December 2, bringing together an unprecedented gathering of global leaders, policymakers, and environmental experts.

Ursa Major Sinks in the Mediterranean Sea

The largest cargo ship in the Russian military's logistics fleet, the Ursa Major, which had a capacity of 1,200 tons and was capable of carrying 120 vehicles on its deck, sank in the Mediterranean Sea after an explosion in its engine room.

India accounts for half of malaria cases in Southeast Asia in 2023:WHO

According to WHO's latest World malaria report, there were an estimated 263 million cases and 597,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2023.

China Approves the Construction of the World's Largest Dam

China has approved the construction of the world's largest dam to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra River makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh. Currently, China's Three Gorges Dam is regarded as the largest in the world.

World AIDS Day: 1st December

World AIDS Day, observed every year on December 1 since its inception in 1988. The theme for World AIDS Day 2024, "Take the rights path: My health, my right!",

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), observed annually on December 3, celebrates the resilience, contributions, and leadership of persons with disabilities (PwDs) worldwide.

Navy Day 2024 observed on December 4

In India, the Navy Day is observed on December 4th to honour and commemorate the bold naval operations carried out during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, particularly the attack on the Karachi border.

Armed Forces Flag Day: 7th December

Since 1949, on 7th December India celebrates Armed Forces Flag Day every year as a way to honor the valiant members and martyrs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

International Civil Aviation Day: 7th December

International Civil Aviation Day is observed every year on December 7th. The theme for International Civil Aviation Day 2024 is "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future".

International Mountain Day: 11th December

The International Mountain Day was observed on 11th December across the world. This time the theme of this day is Mountain Solutions Innovation Adaptation and Youth for a Sustainable Future.

International Day of Neutrality: 12th December

International Day of Neutrality is commemorated on December 12 every year to raise awareness regarding the importance of neutrality in intergovernmental relations and to strengthen peace and security at the global level.

National Energy Conservation Day: 14th December

National Energy Conservation Day is observed on 14th December to spread awareness about the importance of energy and the need of conserving energy by using less energy.

The nation celebrates Vijay Diwas on Dec 16

India celebrates Vijay Diwas annually on December 16, commemorating its 1971 victory over Pakistan. This 13-day war, sparked by a humanitarian crisis in East Pakistan, led to Bangladesh's liberation.

World Meditation Day: 21st December

First-ever World Meditation Day is being observed on 21st December, marking a global initiative to promote well-being, peace and mindfulness across nations.

National Farmers' Day being observed on December 23 across nation

National Farmers' Day is being observed across the nation on December 23 to honour the contributions of farmers to the nation's growth and development. This day also marks the birth anniversary of Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister.

National Consumer Day: 24th December

National Consumer Day is celebrated on the 24th of December to highlight the significance of consumer movement in the country. The theme for this year is Virtual Hearings and Digital Access to Consumer Justice.

Good Governance Day (Sushashan Diwas): 25th December

Good Governance Day (Sushashan Diwas) is observed every year on December 25 in India dedicated to raise awareness about the importance of accountability in government. The occasion marks the birth anniversary of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, one of India's most revered leaders and former Prime Minister.

The Nation Remembers Shaheed Udham Singh

The nation remembered Shaheed Udham Singh on his 125th birth anniversary on December 26. Born in 1899 on this day in the village Sunam of Punjab in undivided India, this revolutionary avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by assassinating Michael O'Dwyer, the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab.