MONTHLY SNIPPETS

DECEMBER 2025

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POLITY

Supreme Court clarifies that an **ICC of one department** can hear a POSH complaint against an employee of **another department** + interpretation of **Section 11** rejects restrictive reading that ICC must belong to respondent's workplace + protects complainants from **alien workplaces**, intimidation & procedural hurdles + mandates **inter-departmental cooperation** under **Section 19(f)** for providing documents & assistance + ruling arose from case involving **IRS officer (2010 batch)** and **IAS officer (2004 batch)** + strengthens **victim-centric justice**, enhances **POSH compliance**, addresses lapses like underreporting & poor ICC formation + promotes **safer workplaces**, **administrative accountability** and improved governance.

SC sets aside Patna HC order in *Amlesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2025)* + rules **involuntary narco tests unconstitutional** for violating **Article 20(3)** (self-incrimination) + **Article 21** (bodily integrity + mental privacy) + reaffirms **Selvi (2010)** guidelines + narco test = **sedation using barbiturates** to lower inhibitions + results have **no standalone evidentiary value** and require corroboration + permissible **only with voluntary informed consent** recorded before magistrate + **BNSS 253 allows voluntary testing** but **no right to demand** or impose such tests.

Union Cabinet decisions + **₹11,718 cr Census 2027** (India's **first fully digital & all-caste census**, 30 lakh enumerators, self-enumeration) + **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025** enabling **100% FDI with domestic investment safeguards** + **MGNREGA renaming to Poojya Bapu Grameen Rozgar Yojana** with **workdays raised to 125** + **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill** creating **single higher-education regulator** + **SHANTI Bill** opening **nuclear energy to private sector** & **CoalSETU** for transparent coal allocation to drive **data-led reforms, growth & welfare**

Union government proposes VB-G RAM G Bill to replace **MGNREGA (2005)** + signals shift in **rural employment framework** + **guaranteed workdays raised to 125** + applies only to **Centre-notified rural areas** + aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047** + **programme pausable during peak agricultural seasons** + shifts from **demand-driven, rights-based model to supply-driven, budget-capped scheme** + introduces **fixed allocations** + changes funding to **60:40 Centre–State (90:10 for NE/Himalayan States)** + expands **Central control over allocation, geography and planning** + codifies **Aadhaar payments, app attendance, geotagging** + criticised for **weakening rural livelihood guarantees**.

Lok Sabha passed SHANTI Bill, 2025 + marks **major policy shift** by allowing **private sector participation** in India's **state-dominated nuclear sector** + repeals **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and **Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act, 2010** + grants **statutory status to AERB** + aims to expand **nuclear capacity from 8.7 GW (24 reactors under NPCIL)** to **100 GW by 2047 (~10% power mix)** + justified by **rising energy demand**, **clean baseload needs**, and **net-zero & energy security goals**, despite **Opposition protests and walk-out**.

Rajya Sabha passed Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill + allows **100% FDI in insurance** (from 74%) + mandates **premiums retained in India** + requires **foreign insurers' participation in social security schemes** + strengthens **IRDAI regulation** + aims to boost **competition, capital inflows, insurance penetration and financial inclusion** + amid **opposition concerns on data privacy, profit repatriation and foreign control** + alongside passage of **Repealing and Amending Bill scrapping 71 obsolete laws**.

Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025 introduced by **Nirmala Sitharaman** + consolidates **SCRA 1956, SEBI Act 1992, Depositories Act 1996** + creates **unified, principle-based, tech-friendly framework** + expands **SEBI Board (9 to 15)** with **conflict disclosure** + enhances **SEBI powers, SRO/MII delegation, regulatory sandbox** + **decriminalises minor violations**, classifies **civil vs serious offences** + boosts **inter-regulatory coordination, investor protection, capital mobilisation**, and **ease of doing business**.

Right to Disconnect Bill introduced as **Private Member's Bill** + seeks **employee autonomy** by allowing refusal of **after-hours digital communication** + responds to **WFH-era boundary erosion** + operates alongside **four labour codes** + highlights **employer control via emails/calls** + aims at **work–life balance and mental well-being** + suffers from **undefined "work" concept**, **no overtime clarity**, and **weak integration with OSH Code, 2020** + draws from **EU/France/Germany models** + linked implicitly to **Article 21 autonomy**, yet remains **normative, not enforceable**

President Droupadi Murmu released the **Constitution of India** in the **Santhali language** at Rashtrapati Bhavan + spoken widely in **Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar** + edition written in **Ol Chiki script** + marks **pride and cultural recognition** for the Santhal community + enables **better understanding, accessibility and awareness** of constitutional values in their own language

Delhi High Court restrains **unauthorised commercial use** of **R. Madhavan's name–image–likeness** + orders takedown of **obscene/AI deepfake content** + reflects rising **AI impersonation disputes** + India lacks **dedicated personality rights law** so protection via **Copyright Act + Trademarks Act + Article 21 (privacy–dignity–identity)** + courts granting **urgent injunctions**, blocking URLs, enforcing intermediaries + challenges: **free speech balance, fragmented remedies, weak digital enforcement, AI deepfakes** + need **dedicated law, consent-based digital likeness rules, stronger platform accountability**

MoRTH issues comprehensive tunnel safety guidelines after **Silkyara Bend–Barkot (2023) collapse** + addresses **multiple tunnel failures, poor DPRs, weak geotechnical study & risk monitoring** + mandates **GBR, Risk Register**, **site-specific studies** + stronger **ground investigation** for **squeezing zones, rock bursts, gases, water ingress** + balanced **NATM/TBM use** with **continuous monitoring** + robust **emergency preparedness** with **escape pipes, rescue/survival containers, ERP updates** + crucial for **Himalayan terrain, border projects & expanding national tunnel network**

SCHEMES

DHRUVA is a proposed **digital addressing framework** of **Department of Posts** using **UPI-like labels** + consent-based access to full addresses + interoperable **address-management system** + digital labels issued by Address Service Providers + **DIGIPIN** as a precise geolocation layer (10-character code mapping 14 sq m) + boosts logistics efficiency + strengthens **India's DPI** ecosystem + enhances privacy, standardisation, and delivery accuracy.

Prime Minister Professorship under **ANRF (Act, 2023)** selects eminent scientists like **Dr Kishore M Paknikar** + embeds **research-active experts** in **teaching-strong but research-weak universities** + **5-year full-time tenure** + **₹2.5 lakh/month fellowship** + **₹24 lakh/year research grant** + **institutional overheads** + **21 professors in first phase** + focuses on **institution-building, mentoring, decentralised excellence** + strengthens **India's higher education research ecosystem** in line with **NEP**.

"Your Money, Your Right" campaign (launched 4 Oct 2025) urged by **PM Narendra Modi (10 Dec 2025)** to reclaim **₹1 lakh+ crore unclaimed assets** + covers **bank deposits (₹78,000 cr), insurance (₹14,000 cr), mutual funds (₹3,000 cr), dividends/shares (₹9,000 cr)** + **100% digital, free, fraud-proof process** + coordinated by **RBI, IRDAI, SEBI, MCA** + **₹2,000 cr returned in 2 months** + supports **financial inclusion, transparency & Viksit Bharat @2047**.

NITI Aayog roadmap on internationalisation of higher education + proposes **Vishwa Bandhu scholarships and fellowships, Erasmus+-like programme**, and **eased regulations for foreign campuses** + aims to correct **inbound–outbound student imbalance** (1:28 in 2024) + projects **7.9–11 lakh international students by 2047** + suggests **Bharat Vidya Kosh $10 bn fund**, updated curricula, and expanded **NIRF criteria** to meet **NEP 2020 goals**

SOCIAL ISSUES

India's doctor-population ratio of **1:811** shows progress + exposes major **healthcare disparities**; modern medicine and **AYUSH** widen the workforce + access remains weak in **rural/remote areas**; **hard-area allowances** try to attract specialists + challenges - poor **infrastructure**, uneven distribution, and heavy patient loads persist; bridging this gap needs **sustained investment** + stronger **primary healthcare** + equitable deployment to ensure **universal, quality care** for all.

The **Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA)** marks a major shift toward **integrated governance** by linking *health + nutrition + sanitation + welfare* through **20-ministry collaboration**, while large-scale community mobilisation via *Panchayats + SHGs + students* strengthens women as **active rights-claiming agents**. Rapid uptake of **digital health tools** (e.g., eSanjeevani, MCTS, breast cancer screening) expands access, though **digital gaps + privacy risks + Aadhaar failures** persist. A **gender-just digital health future** requires *low-tech solutions + co-design + stronger consent + empowered frontline workers*.

Recent government assessment shows **secondary retention remains weak** + **GER falling at middle and secondary levels** + boys leaving due to **financial pressure/work** + girls leaving for **domestic responsibilities** + **72% dropouts aged 14–18** + exam failures increasing exclusion + govt using **NIOS outreach, incentives, fee waivers, flexible open schooling** + risk of **missing NEP 2020 100% GER**, widening **inequality** without stronger psychosocial and livelihood support for vulnerable students, address regional gaps, and stabilise long-term human capital outcomes in India

India recorded 45 bus fire incidents (2021–2025) + **64 deaths + 145 injuries** + causes include **overheating engines + electrical failures + illegal fuel modifications + rear-end collisions** + despite **mandatory fire extinguishers, exits, detection & suppression systems**, poor **enforcement**, unsafe **private bus construction**, **combustible interiors**, and **untrained drivers** worsen casualties + experts stress **stricter certification, crash testing, audits**, ban unsafe modifications + **driver fire-safety training**, **real-time vehicle monitoring**, and **strong penalties** essential for **passenger safety reform**

ECONOMY

Dakshina Kannada of Karnataka - designated a **District Export Hub (DEH)** + **seafood + cashew** export base and supporting **balanced + Focus - sustainable regional development** + **District Export Action Plan (DEAP)** focuses on improving **logistics + first-mile port connectivity**, expanding **warehousing**, and strengthening **processing infrastructure** + A **District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC)** coordinates action among **administration + exporters + port/customs agencies** to resolve bottlenecks

Bengaluru leads India as the Ethereum hub + **ETH trading surges 6.6x** to 230M while Bitcoin declines + **Ethereum becomes most-traded token** among tech investors + rising **Tier-2/3 participation (40%)** + persistent **gender gap** but improving + industry sees growth via **institutions, regulation, education** + calls for **unified regulatory framework** + capacity building boosted by CoinSwitch's **VDA Decoded** handbook.

RBI cut **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25%** + cumulative **125 bps cuts** since Feb + inflation at **decadal low (CPI 0.25%)** + GDP growth strong at **8.2% six-quarter high** creating a **"rare Goldilocks period"** + lower EMIs & improved credit flow + ₹1 lakh crore **OMO bond purchase** + **$5-billion sell swap** to stabilise rupee + policy stance **neutral**.

India's Construction Equipment industry growing **10–15% CAGR** + aims to become **2nd largest globally by 2030** overtaking **China** + targets **$25B market size** & **global export hub** status + sells **1,40,000 machines** with **20% exports to 140 countries** + rapidly adopting **IoT/telematics, AI/ML, drones/robotics, digital twins, electrification, AR/VR, 3D printing** + aligned with **mega infrastructure** & **smart city** goals

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Seven States contribute **more to total taxes** than their **share in devolutions** + **Maharashtra** shows biggest **negative gap** (36.1% taxes vs 6.65% devolutions) + other negative-gap States: **Karnataka**, **Haryana**, **Gujarat**, **Tamil Nadu**, **Telangana**, **Goa** + **Uttar Pradesh**, **Bihar**, **Madhya Pradesh**, **Rajasthan** receive **higher devolution** than their tax share + data based on **2020-21 to 2024-25** Finance Ministry figures

World Inequality Report 2026 edited by **Lucas Chancel, Ricardo Gómez-Carrera, Rowaida Moshrif & Thomas Piketty** highlights rising **income & wealth inequality in India** + top **10% earn 58%** of national income while bottom **50% get 15%** + wealth gap sharper with **top 10% owning 65%** and **top 1% owning 40%** + majority of Indians now in **bottom 50% globally** + **gender pay gap** stark as women earn **61% of men's hourly income** (32% incl. unpaid labour) + climate inequality severe with **top 10% causing 77%** of private capital emissions vs **bottom 50% only 3%** + globally top 10% own **75% of wealth** while bottom 50% own **2%** + **Gini Index 25.5** indicates moderate inequality (scale 0–100) + rising inequality harms **social cohesion, growth & sustainable development** + demands **progressive taxation, redistribution, social spending & gender-sensitive policies** to ensure **inclusive development**.

India faces a structural Current Account Deficit (CAD) + surpluses occurred only in **2001–04** and **2020–21** + **current account** covers **goods, services, remittances & investment income** while **capital account** covers FDI/FPI, ECBs, external assistance & NRI deposits + **merchandise trade deficit** large at $286.9B (2024–25) but **invisibles** (software, services, remittances) keep CAD manageable + CAD peaked at **$78.2B (2011–12)** and **$88.2B (2012–13)** + recent **rupee depreciation** driven by **capital account pressures**, not CAD + foreign capital inflows fell to **$18B (2024–25)** vs **CAD $23.1B** with **FDI/FPI dropping to $4.5B** from **$54.2B** + despite **~8% GDP growth**, investor inflows weakened + policy must target **FDI attraction, service exports & BoP stability** since **capital account shortfall**, not trade deficit, is causing rupee volatility.

Lok Sabha approval on December 15, 2025 of **first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants (2025–26)** + enables **government spending beyond February 2025 Union Budget estimates** + authority derived from **Article 115 of the Constitution of India** allowing **additional fund requests** + procedure requires **Lok Sabha passage** followed by **Appropriation Bill** to withdraw from **Consolidated Fund of India** + **relatively low fiscal impact** due to **record ₹2.69 trillion RBI surplus transfer** earlier in the year

Finance Ministry unveiled a **new unified logo** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** + reinforcing **single brand identity** under **'One State One RRB'** + **Department of Financial Services** consolidated **26 RRBs** across **11 States/UTs** effective **May 1, 2025** + reform aims at **stronger, efficient RRBs** + supporting **policy and security goals**

India's startup ecosystem raised **$10.79 bn in 2025** (**15% decline YoY**) per **Tracxn**, signalling **structural correction not collapse** + DeepTech, Manufacturing, AI, EnergyTech drove growth + shift from **consumer apps to AI infrastructure** + **FinTech resilient** + **late-stage funding fell** while **IPOs rose** + **unicorn creation slowed**, indicating **maturity and profitability focus**.

India's exports are increasingly regionally concentrated + Top five States account **~70%** with rising **HHI** + Western–Southern coastal hubs integrate into GVCs while northern–eastern hinterlands lag + Global trade slowdown + capital favouring complexity shrinks labour-intensive windows + Capital deepening > labour absorption with stagnant **manufacturing jobs (~12%)** + Employment elasticity of exports falling + Credit–human capital gaps widen regional divide + **Exports now reflect existing capacity, not inclusive development**, demanding **investment in skills, logistics, finance, and state capacity** across lagging regions.

Arvind Subramanian argues India's manufacturing stagnation + **unusual Dutch Disease** where **high public sector wages** raised costs, appreciated **real exchange rate**, hurt **competitiveness and exports** + **imports displaced local industry** under freer trade + **manufacturing failed to upgrade technologically** despite theory of induced innovation + **private sector dynamism without wage growth**, reliance on **cheap labour**

platforms, weak **productivity leap** + outcome: **limited industrialisation**, weak **job creation**, rising **inequality**, and **services overshadowing manufacturing** in growth trajectory.

India's exports projected at **~$850 billion in FY 2025–26** + still **below $1 trillion target** + despite active **FTA engagements (~18 FTAs)** + **services may cross $400 bn** while **merchandise remains flat** + trade pressures from **weak global demand + rising protectionism + US tariffs + EU CBAM 2026** + limited gains from FTAs without **competitiveness, technology, diversification** + need stronger push for **manufacturing productivity + supply-chain resilience + infrastructure & logistics efficiency**

ENVIRONMENT

Cyclone Ditwah, formed south of Sri Lanka on 26 November, caused **unusual large-scale damage** + Causes - **rare genesis near the equator** ; **slow, parallel track** along Sri Lanka's east coast prolonged impact + country's **low cyclone exposure**, limited **evacuation capacity**, and geography intensified losses.

The Government has approved the **National Coral Reef Research Institute (NCRRI)** in **South Andaman** + India's **nodal monitoring agency** for **coral research, conservation, restoration** + Coral reefs - **450-million-year** ecosystems, support **high biodiversity**, provide **$375-billion ecosystem services**, and act as **natural coastal barriers** + Rising temperatures cause **coral bleaching**, as seen in **1998 + 2010 + 2014–17 + ongoing global events** + India's reefs span **2,375 sq km** (Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep, A&N), protected under **CRZ 2019 + WPA 1972 + EPA 1986**.

The **26th Hornbill Festival** began in **Nagaland** on **1st December** + known as the **"Festival of Festivals"** + named after the **Great Hornbill** found in **evergreen and moist deciduous forests** + classified as **Vulnerable** by **IUCN** + protected under **Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972** + **Greater Hornbills** found in **Western Ghats and Himalayas** + **state bird** of **Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala**

Five products from **Tamil Nadu** secured **GI tags**, taking the state's total to **74** + these are **Woraiyur cotton sari**, **Kavindapadi nattu sakkarai (jaggery powder)**, **Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware)**, **Thooyamalli rice variety**, and **Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys)**

Every year, **December 4** is marked as **International Cheetah Day** to raise awareness about the shrinking Cheetah population.

On **December 1**, **Madras High Court** ordered **temple authorities** to light the ceremonial **"Karthigai Deepam" lamp** at the **Deepathoon** stone pillar on **Thirupparankundram Hill** + lamp to be lit **near but not within** the **Sulthan Sikkandar Avulia Dargah** premises + **Thirupparankundram Hill** historically symbolizes **religious coexistence and communal harmony**, housing **Subramaniya Swamy Temple**, **Kasi Viswanathar Temple**, and **Sikkander Badusha Dargah**, a **17th-century mosque** + hill was **controversial earlier in 2025** after some **Muslim groups demanded renaming it Sikkandar Hill**

Quarrying paused in Telangana to protect **endangered Rock Eagle Owl eggs** + species under **Schedule I** + **IUCN population decreasing** + threats include **poaching worth ₹35–40 lakh/bird** + incubation **6–8 weeks** + **human access restricted** to avoid abandonment + shows **community-led conservation success** in industrial zone.

Govt says offshore mining blocks exclude Marine Protected Areas + **130 MPAs** & **106 ICMBAs** already notified for conservation + Kerala saw **major protests** over proposed sand, lime mud & polymetallic nodule mining + **no companies selected yet** after 2024 auction proposal + operations require **environmental management plans** under 2024 rules + **Offshore Areas Mineral Trust** to fund research & mitigation for ecological impacts

Western tragopan (Critically Endangered Himalayan pheasant & Himachal's state bird) now survives in **fragmented pockets** with only **3,000–9,500 individuals** + climate change & human disturbance worsen decline + surveys from **Kazinag & Limber (J&K)** and rare sightings in **GHNP** show habitat persists but is threatened + **Sarahan Pheasantry** achieved world's first captive breeding success with **46 captive birds** today, retaining **87% genetic diversity** + captive breeding acts only as an **insurance policy**, not a substitute for **in-situ conservation** + climate variability disrupting **breeding–insect synchrony** risks chick starvation + **rewilding stalled since 2023** due to budget & protocol gaps after initial promise in 2020–21 + long-term survival requires **habitat protection**, **climate-adaptive models**, **phased rewilding**, and **community-led conservation** through eco-tourism + overall, the species remains **on the edge of survival** despite ex-situ successes.

Delhi winter AQI deterioration (294–Poor) + **policy misdirection in air pollution control** + overfocus on **PM10** while neglecting **PM2.5 (most lethal pollutant)** that **penetrates lungs & bloodstream** + **NCAP targets only PM10 (40% by 2026)** + weak **CPCB/SPCB capacity** & cosmetic measures like **smog guns** + global lessons show need for **PM2.5-centric, airshed-based, health-linked governance** to make **India's clean air mission effective**

Siliserh Lake (Alwar, Rajasthan) declared **Ramsar Site under Convention on Wetlands, 1971** + India's **Ramsar sites rise to 96** (from 26 in 2014) + **5th Ramsar site in Rajasthan** + freshwater wetland in semi-arid **region** supporting **100+ bird species**, **groundwater recharge** & **microclimate regulation** + boosts **biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, water security & climate resilience**, marking progress towards **100 Ramsar sites milestone**

Bengal Tiger spotted at 3,010 metres in **Sunderdhunga glacier valley, Bageshwar (Uttarakhand)** under a **government camera-trap project** originally meant for **snow leopard study** + rare **high-altitude subalpine forest presence** raises questions on **tiger movement from Terai to higher Himalayas** + species shows **orange coat with dark stripes due to genetic mutation** + Scientific name: Panthera tigris + WPA, 1972: Schedule I + IUCN status: Endangered + CITES: Appendix I + inhabits **tropical rainforests, mangroves, grasslands, temperate and evergreen forests** + Indian distribution across **Shivalik-Gangetic plains, Central India & Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-East & Brahmaputra floodplains, and Sundarbans**

India's Ramsar Sites rise to 96 with inclusion of **Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan)** and **Kopra Jalashay (Chhattisgarh)** + **Kopra Jalashay becomes Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar site** + reservoir located in **upper catchments of River Mahanadi** + supports **60+ migratory bird species** used for **nesting, feeding and stopover** + notable species include **Vulnerable Greater Spotted Eagle (Aquila clanga)** and **Endangered Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus)** + **Siliserh Lake** is a **human-made wetland** in the **buffer zone of Sariska Tiger Reserve** + located in a **semi-arid region** and acts as a **critical water source for regional biodiversity**

India unveils updated Seismic Zonation Map under BIS Earthquake Design Code 2025 (IS 1893) + introduces **new highest-risk Zone VI** + places **61% landmass and ~75% population** in **moderate-to-high seismic risk** + classifies **entire Himalayan belt uniformly as Zone VI** + upgrades **inter-zonal boundaries to higher risk** + shifts to **Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA)** and **Probabilistic Exposure & Multi-Hazard Assessment (PEMA)** + expands focus from **structural elements to architectural elements & utilities** + strengthens **resilient infrastructure, urban planning and disaster preparedness**.

Study affirms Kerala's richest butterfly diversity in the **Western Ghats** + documents **328 species in Kerala**, including **41 Western Ghats endemics** + based on monograph 'The Butterflies of Kerala: Status and Distribution' published in **ENTOMON** + notes **337 species across the Western Ghats**, with **Kerala hosting nearly entire diversity** + covers **six families** led by **Nymphalidae (97), Lycaenidae (96) & Hesperiidae (82)** + records **36 migratory species**, highlighting Kerala as a **key seasonal corridor** + identifies **22 species in IUCN Red List** (mostly **Least Concern**, **2 Near Threatened**) + reports **70 species protected under Wildlife**

(Protection) Act, 1972, with **4 under Schedule I** + includes **major larval host plant checklist** with **1,800+ feeding records**, **350 new observations** across **~800 plant species**, making it **one of India's largest region-specific compilations**

Supreme Court (Nov 2025) settled **uniform legal definition of Aravalli hills (≥100 m elevation)** + **paused fresh/renewed mining leases** across **Delhi–Haryana–Rajasthan–Gujarat** + based on **CEC recommendations** recognising **Aravallis as ecologically fragile national infrastructure** + crucial for **desertification control, groundwater recharge, climate regulation, biodiversity corridors** + linked to **UNCCD obligations** + addresses **four decades of mining-induced groundwater depletion, habitat loss, air pollution** + adopts **sustainable use over total ban** + mandates **scientific mapping, macro-EIA, no-go zones, regulated mining, restoration** + reinforces **inter-generational equity and environmental rule of law**.

Southern Ocean carbon anomaly: A **October study in Nature Climate Change** finds **higher CO_2 absorption since early 2000s**, defying **climate model projections** + despite **stronger westerlies and upwelling**, **freshwater stratification from rainfall and Antarctic ice melt** formed a **"freshwater lid"** trapping carbon below + shows **models incomplete not wrong** + warns this is a **temporary reprieve** as **salinity rises and mixing may resume**, reviving **carbon sink weakening**.

Supreme Court of India reaffirmed **non-negotiable conservation of the Great Indian Bustard** + held humans as **"guests in the bird's abode"** while hearing a **2019 Article 32 petition** + noted **<150 individuals left**, **endemic grassland species**, **Schedule I WPA**, **IUCN Critically Endangered** + approved **expert panel's balanced approach** revising **priority habitats in Rajasthan & Gujarat**, mandating **in-situ/ex-situ conservation**, **restricting renewables in key areas**, recognising **Bishnoi ethic**, and strengthening **long-term recovery programmes**, underscoring **constitutional duty to protect biodiversity**.

Science study on rhino conservation shows **dehorning sharply cuts poaching** + global rhinos **<28,000** with **horn trade as key threat** + **Greater Kruger data** reveal huge losses despite massive spending + **dehorning removes 90–93% horn humanely** + results: **75% fall in poaching**, up to **95% lower risk** + **cost-effective (≈1.2% budgets)** using **Bayesian analysis** + **not a silver bullet** as governance, justice gaps persist + works best **within mixed strategy + community inclusion + demand reduction**, not standalone.

Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris launches **AI-enabled Command & Control Centre** in **Gudalur Division** + hotspot for **human–elephant conflict** + uses **46 AI cameras (infrared + thermal)** based on **10 years movement data** + gives **real-time alerts**, **speaker warnings**, **SMS notifications** + linked to **railway safety network** + earlier pilot led to **zero elephant deaths** & **6,000 safe crossings** + aims to **reduce casualties**, **protect crops & property**, **strengthen coexistence** + needs **scaling, maintenance funding, community participation, national corridor policy**

CREA analysis shows **~1/3 of Delhi's PM2.5** comes from **secondary ammonium sulfate** + forms when **$SO_2 \rightarrow$ sulfate + reacts with ammonia** + highest share **post-monsoon (49%) + winter (41%)** + India is **world's largest SO_2 emitter (~11.2 MT)** + sources include **coal plants + industry + agriculture** + **regional, transboundary pollution** not just local + **PM2.5 causes severe respiratory–cardiac health risks** + urgent need for **FGD enforcement + cleaner fuels + ammonia management + industrial controls + coordinated regional action**

NITK develops ML-based landslide early warning system for Western Ghats + region accounts for **~60% of India's landslides**, mostly **rainfall-triggered** + replaces **rainfall-only alerts** with **SVALSA** integrating **rainfall , soil behaviour , surface deformation , hydrological data** + powered by **Python**, **KNN model**, **3-stage warnings** + aims to **reduce false alarms**, give **reliable community alerts** + funded by **DST/IMPRINT/National Technical Textiles Mission** + addresses **residual soil instability** + boosts **disaster preparedness, community resilience** & **climate adaptation**

India set to lead Indian Ocean Region with 100+ UNESCO-certified 'Tsunami-Ready' villages + ensures **public awareness**, **hazard mapping**, evacuation routes, **24×7 alerts**, **mock drills & coordinated response** + currently **24 certified**, major push from **Odisha (72 soon)** + others: **Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar** + backed by **INCOIS & ITEWC** for real-time monitoring + boosts **community resilience**, **local leadership**, readiness for **tsunamis, cyclones & storm surges** + aligns with **Sendai Framework** and **national disaster preparedness**

Kashmir's apple industry (75–78% of India's output) + rising concern over **occupational pesticide exposure**, not consumer risk + SKIMS studies report **higher malignant brain tumour incidence**, **pesticide residues in blood** + exposure to **Chlorpyrifos, Mancozeb, Captan** flagged for **neurotoxicity & carcinogenic risk** + workers face **respiratory issues, skin problems, metabolic impacts** + risks worsened by **frequent spraying**, **poor safety gear**, **low awareness**, **runoff pollution** + experts urge **health screening, strict monitoring, training, PPE access, safer alternatives & long-term research**

SCIENCE

GPS spoofing - incidents detected at **7 major airports** incl. **Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai** + spoofers send **strong fake GPS signals** + risk to **navigation & landing precision** + **DGCA mandates reporting**, **WMO tracking sources** + **flights safe** due to contingency procedures + **backup aids** like **ILS & VOR/DME** + authorities boosting **cybersecurity & monitoring** to ensure **aviation safety**

The DoT's new directive mandates **SIM binding** for messaging apps + continuous **IMSI verification** instead of one-time OTP to curb rising **digital fraud** + Rule under **Telecommunication Cybersecurity Amendment Rules 2025** + aims to prevent impersonation and cloned-number misuse but raises **privacy** + **usability** concerns due to frequent logouts and challenges for travellers

Interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS is releasing **high levels of carbon-based chemicals** + observations show unusually high **methanol**, a **key prebiotic molecule** + methanol acts as a **building block for complex molecules linked to origins of life** + comets are **dust, rock, and ice remnants** from the **formation of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago** + **three interstellar comets** identified: **Oumuamua**, **2I/Borisov**, and **3I/ATLAS** + **Oumuamua**, meaning **"messenger from afar"** in Hawaiian, was detected by **Pan-STARRS1 telescope in 2017**

C-CAMP launched **Centre of Excellence for Sustainability & Climate Change** + partnership with **Ashraya Hasta Trust** + focus on **climate-ready agriculture, healthcare & environment** + aims for **bioscience-based climate solutions** + scale to **30 innovations in 3 years** + targets **methane-cutting crops, resilient crop strains, disease surveillance** + strengthens India's **climate-adaptation capacity**.

NATGRID now receives **~45,000 data requests/month** + operational since **2023** + integrates **Aadhaar, bank, DL, travel & limited social media data** + expanded access to **state police & SP-level officers** + enables **real-time multi-agency intelligence** + reduces inter-agency dependence + boosts **early threat detection amid rising cyber-incidents**.

India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel flagged off by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** at **Namo Ghat, Varanasi** + first Indian maritime demonstration of **hydrogen fuel-cell propulsion** using **fully indigenous technology** + powered by **Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (LT-PEM) fuel cell** converting **hydrogen to electricity** with **water as the only byproduct** + marks shift towards **clean, sustainable and self-reliant transport** + vessel capacity **50 passengers**, **air-conditioned cabin**, **8 hours operation on single hydrogen fill** + **Cochin Shipyard Ltd.** and **Inland & Coastal Shipping Ltd.** signed **tripartite agreement** for **technical support, operations and oversight**

GlowCas9 developed by **scientists at Bose Institute, Kolkata (DST autonomous institute)** + **bioluminescent Cas9** created by fusing **Cas9 with split nano-luciferase enzyme** derived from **deep-sea shrimp proteins** +

enables **real-time visualization of genome editing inside living cells** + pioneers **theratracking**—the emerging field of **tracking molecular gene therapy in motion**

Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced **Project Suncatcher** + long-term research initiative to deploy **solar-powered data centres in space by 2027** + plan involves **solar-powered satellite constellations** equipped with **Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)**—Google's patented chips for **high-volume, low-precision computation** + use of **optical inter-satellite links** to **scale machine learning and AI workloads in space** + aims to explore **energy-efficient, next-generation computing infrastructure beyond Earth**

Scientists capture first real-time footage of influenza virus entry into human cells + reveals viruses **"surf" along the cell membrane** by binding to **specific surface molecules** instead of passive entry + virus **glides to receptor-dense clustered sites** that offer **optimal entry points** + host cell actively participates by **forming a membrane pit** beneath the virus + **clathrin protein** deepens the pit, creating a **vesicle via endocytosis** + vesicle is internalised, viral **outer coat dissolves**, and the virus is **released to initiate infection**, reshaping understanding of **early flu infection mechanisms**

ISRO releases RESPOND Basket 2025 aligned with **current & future mission requirements** + unveiled by **ISRO Chairperson V. Narayanan** at **ISRO–Academia Day inauguration** + emphasises **academia's role** in providing **innovative ideas, advanced research & skilled human resources** + RESPOND programme enables **collaborative research** to address **complex technological challenges** + includes **urgent & critical research problems** identified by **ISRO and Department of Space centres/units** + features **technical talks by ISRO scientists** outlining **mission-driven needs & expected outcomes** + invites **research proposals** from **premier universities & recognised R&D institutions** + supports **upcoming missions & national priorities** + **last date for submission: January 31, 2026**

Project Suncatcher announced by **Google CEO Sundar Pichai** + **moonshot research initiative** + aims to deploy **solar-powered space data centres by 2027** + envisions **satellite constellations as AI data hubs** + uses **continuous solar energy, laser optical links and TPUs** + responds to **AI-driven surge in energy, water and carbon costs of terrestrial data centres** + enabled by **reusable rockets** + raises **governance, cybersecurity and space regulation challenges**.

DHRUV64, an **indigenous 64-bit dual-core (1 GHz) RISC-V microprocessor**, launched by **MeitY** and developed by **C-DAC** under the **Microprocessor Development Programme**, supports **industrial automation, telecom, embedded and strategic systems** + strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat** via **cybersecurity, supply-chain resilience and strategic autonomy** + aligns with **DIR-V (open-source ISA, no licence fees)** + complements initiatives like **SHAKTI, AJIT, VIKRAM, THEJAS** + backed by **DLI, Chips to Startup and India Semiconductor Mission**, though **benchmarks, fabrication and ecosystem details remain undisclosed**.

ISRO's LVM3 M6 mission on December 24 + **commercial launch for U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile** + deployment of **BlueBird Block-2 satellite** + **next-generation space-based cellular broadband** delivering **high-speed connectivity directly to smartphones worldwide** + supports **commercial and government use** + builds on **five BlueBird satellites launched in Sept 2024** + **largest commercial communication satellite in low Earth orbit** + backed by **partnerships with 50+ global mobile operators**

Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine + jointly organised by **WHO and Ministry of Ayush, Government of India** + held **17–19 December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** + theme **"Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being"** + global leaders, policymakers, scientists, practitioners and Indigenous knowledge holders deliberate on **equitable, sustainable and evidence-driven health systems**

ISRO successfully conducts **on-ground & in-air parachute tests** for **Gaganyaan** + mission aims to send **Indian astronauts to LEO by 2027** and build **indigenous human spaceflight capability** + recent tests focused on **drogue parachutes** under **extreme 600 km/h conditions** at **TBRL Chandigarh** + ensured **controlled reefed opening**, **stability**, **safety**, and **soft sea splashdown** + part of **10-parachute recovery system** + places India with **USA–Russia–China** league + strengthens **reliability, astronaut protection, & strategic space capability**

ISRO's LVM3-M6 successfully launches **BlueBird Block-2 (~6,100 kg)** from **Sriharikota** + heaviest commercial satellite launched from India + placed in **518 km LEO** in **15 minutes** + enables **direct 4G/5G connectivity**, **voice–text–internet streaming**, **internet everywhere vision** + mission executed by **NSIL** with **AST SpaceMobile (USA)** + boosts **India's commercial launch market standing** + shows **mega payload capability**, strengthens **LEO communication infrastructure** + reinforces **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, **heavy-lift leadership**, supports **Gaganyaan readiness**

PNAS study shows **high-altitude mosquitoes** (West Africa) can **carry infectious pathogens** + evidence from **helium-balloon sampling (120–290 m)** + **DNA & PCR testing** found **Plasmodium (8%)** + **flaviviruses (3.5%)** + **filarial worms (1.6%)** + proves **wind-assisted migration** across **tens–hundreds of km** + risk of **long-range disease spread** without human movement + **Dengue, West Nile detected** + reveals **sylvatic transmission threat** + demands **monitoring aerial corridors + wind-based forecasting + stronger downwind surveillance & rapid public-health response**

RGI's Annual Report (2023) shows **circulatory diseases** as **leading cause of medically certified deaths (36.4%)** + slight fall from **40% in 2022** + **only 22% deaths medically certified**, big state-wise variation + highest mortality in **70+**, followed by **55–64 yrs**, worrying rise in **15+ group** + **heart diseases form majority** + linked to **sedentary lifestyle, stress, tobacco–alcohol, poor diet** + exposes **weak certification infrastructure** + calls for **NCD prevention, screening, lifestyle awareness, stronger medical certification systems**

DEFENCE
DRDO successfully conducted a **high-speed rocket-sled test** of an **indigenous fighter aircraft escape system** at the **Rail Track Rocket Sled facility (TBRL, Chandigarh)** + validated **canopy severance**, **ejection sequencing**, and **aircrew recovery** + carried out with **HAL** & **ADA**, marking a **major boost to India's escape-system capability**.

Second edition of the **India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE–II**, scheduled to be held at Abu Dhabi

Indian Navy commissioned **second MH-60R squadron INAS 335 (Ospreys)** at **INS Hansa, Goa** on **11 Dec 2024** + US-made **Sikorsky–Lockheed Martin** multi-role helicopters + boost **ASW, anti-surface warfare, surveillance, SAR** + enhance **maritime domain awareness** in **IOR** amid **Chinese–Pakistani naval activity** + align with **Atmanirbhar Bharat** via **indigenisation** + part of **₹15,000+ crore deal (2020)** for **24 helicopters**, strengthening **SLOC protection and deterrence**.

Indian Navy inducted **Anjadip**, **3rd of 8 ASW-SWCs**, built **indigenously** by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers** with **L&T Shipyard** under **PPP** + **77-m waterjet-propelled craft** optimised for **shallow waters** + equipped with **torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets, sonar, 30-mm gun** + boosts **coastal ASW, IOR security, maritime domain awareness** + **>80% indigenous content** advancing **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah urges States to adopt **uniform NIA-designed ATS framework** + ensures **standard SOPs, coordinated counter-terror response, national preparedness** + launches **Organised Crime Network Database** + **Lost/Looted & Recovered Weapon Database** as part of **Zero-Terror Policy** +

strengthens **intelligence sharing, inter-agency coordination, operational efficiency** + integrates tools like **NATGRID & NIDAAN** to track **terror–organised crime nexus** + addresses lessons from **recent terror incidents** + aims to eliminate **siloed policing** and build **watertight investigation ecosystem**

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Myanmar's opium poppy cultivation hit its **highest level in a decade**, with the UNODC's **2025 Opium Survey** reporting a **17% rise** from 2024 to **53,100 hectares** + the country remains the **world's main illicit opium source** after Afghanistan's decline post-Taliban ban + Myanmar is also the **largest methamphetamine producer** + rising **opium prices** (now **$329/kg**, double 2019) and **civil war-driven poverty** are pushing farmers deeper into opium harvesting.

Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar** – elected as **Chairman** of the Council of Member States of **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)** for **2026** + International IDEA - **intergovernmental organization** + supports and strengthens **democratic institutions and electoral processes** worldwide + Headquartered in **Stockholm, Sweden** + regional offices across **Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, West Asia**, and **North America** + it also holds the status of an **official UN Observer**

The **interconnected** world demands stronger **multilateralism** + nations collaborate through **rules-based institutions** to address shared challenges (**trade**, **climate**, **migration**, **debt**, geopolitics) + 2025 **G20 Summit** revived debate on its relevance + multilateralism built on **shared norms**, **open markets**, **institutional cooperation** but strained by **great-power rivalry**, **de-globalisation**, **populist nationalism**, institutional paralysis + weakening consensus on **climate finance**, **energy transition**, **health governance** + reforms needed for **inclusive**, **representative**, responsive global governance.

India & Russia to set up defence joint ventures + key outcome of **Modi–Putin summit** + Russia to enable **local production of spares, components & defence equipment via technology transfer** under **Make in India** + potential localisation of **Su-57** proposed + Foreign Secretary confirms **robust military cooperation** + existing successes include **BrahMos, AK-203 rifles, Su-30 MKI & MiG-21** production + both sides praise **regular military contacts** & **Indra exercises**, reaffirming commitment to deeper defence collaboration.

US expands social-media vetting to **all H-1B applicants & dependents** from Dec 15 + part of wider **security-focused scrutiny** already applied to **F/M/J visas** + follows steep **H-1B fee hike** & push for **public social-media disclosure** + impacts **India-US ties** as **Indians receive ~72%** of H-1B visas + H-1B enables hiring in **high-skill specialty roles** with **6-year max stay** under **65k+20k caps** + restrictions affect **talent mobility, tech workforce flows** & **bilateral economic engagement**

US NDAA 2026 outlines **Indo-Pacific defence priorities** reflecting rising **India–US alignment** amid China's assertiveness + expands **alliances & partnerships** to strengthen US comparative advantage + deepens engagement with India via **Quad cooperation**, **military exercises**, **defence trade**, HADR, and **maritime security coordination** + supports India's role in maintaining a **free & open Indo-Pacific** + creates a new **Defence Industrial Base Cooperation initiative** to boost **industrial linkages, supply-chain resilience & interoperability** with partners including **India, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Philippines & New Zealand** + proposes a **joint consultative mechanism** under the **US–India Strategic Security Dialogue** for regular high-level exchanges + enhances India's **strategic leverage**, **technology access**, and **maritime capabilities** in countering China.

Trump's 'gold card' goes live + offers **fast-track US residency** for **$1M individuals**/**$2M corporations** + replaces **EB-5** with a **revamped, stronger path to citizenship** + aims to attract **top global talent** + promises **billions in revenue** for the US government + removes mention of **job-creation rules/caps** while highlighting demand from businesses for **hiring top graduates**

India excluded from US-led Pax Silica + initiative seeks **secure silicon & critical minerals supply chains** amid **China diversification** + members include **Japan, South Korea, EU allies & Australia** + India's absence reflects **limited semiconductor, AI & advanced manufacturing capacity**, not strategic drift + India already part of **Minerals Security Partnership (2023)** + **National Critical Mineral Mission (2025)** & **QUAD cooperation** keep scope for **future inclusion**

India–Oman CEPA signed in **Muscat** + **Oman zero-duty on 98.08% tariff lines (38% Indian exports)** + **India tariff removal on 79% products (94.81% import value)** + **100% FDI** in Omani services + **logistics, IT, healthcare** boost + **labour mobility** for Indians + **local currency trade talks** + **energy security (crude, LNG, fertilisers)** + **gateway to West Asia–Africa** + **6th NDA trade pact**, complementing **India–UAE CEPA**.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

World Athletics Awards: **Armand "Mondo" Duplantis** named **Athlete of the Year** + set **4 pole vault records (2025)** + **6.30m Tokyo**, **14th world record**, unbeaten in **16 events** + **Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone** wins women's title with **2nd-fastest 400m**, championship record + other winners: **Emmanuel Wanyonyi**, **Nicola Olyslagers**, **Maria Perez**

Karnataka Sports Boost: **CM Siddaramaiah** makes **Ekalavya Awards annual** + assures **cash prizes & govt jobs** for **Olympic medalists** + **60 athletes** prepped for **LA 2028** with **₹10 lakh/year** + **32 athletes** honored + **Lifetime Achievement**, **Karnataka Kreeda Ratna**, **Sports Patron** awards strengthen **sports ecosystem**

Kashi Tamil Sangamam: focuses on **Tamil language promotion** + celebrates **Kashi–Tamil civilizational ties** + initiatives include **language learning**, **student exchanges**, **Sage Agastya expedition** + contextual amid **NEP 2020 three-language debate** + **TN opposes imposition**, Centre says **no forced language** + aligns with **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** promoting **cultural bonding & multilingualism**

The new PMO complex, earlier called the **Executive Enclave**, will now be known as **Seva Teerth** + is in its final construction stage under the **Central Vista redevelopment** + Will house the **Prime Minister's Office**, **Cabinet Secretariat**, **National Security Council Secretariat**, and **India House** (venue for talks with visiting dignitaries) + is designed to reflect the **spirit of service**.

The Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) has been **renamed** as the **Centre for Badminton Excellence (CBE)** from **October 1** + The academy, founded in **1994** by **Padukone, U. Vimal Kumar**, and **Vivek Kumar** + trained stars like **Gopichand, Saina, Sindhu, Lakshya Sen**

India's first comprehensive Silk Museum in Mysuru + proposed by Central Silk Board + to be built on **3 acres inside CSRTI campus** + cost **₹20 crore** + partial funding (₹5 crore) from Culture Ministry under **Silk Scheme** + DPR via tendered agency + completion in **2 years** post funding + showcases full **soil-to-sartorial** silk journey + covers **Mulberry, Tussar, Muga, Eri** + highlights major silk traditions like **Mysore Silk, Kanjeevaram, Banarasi** etc. + includes **Centre of Excellence** & **Seri-tourism Zone** (cultivation → rearing → reeling → weaving) + raw silk production rising (**38,948 MT → 41,121 MT**) + mulberry cultivation expanding in Karnataka + challenges include **1,500–2,000 MT** raw silk imports + govt support via **Silk Samagra** scheme

Cyclone Ditwah wreaks havoc in Sri Lanka + causing **153 deaths**, massive floods, landslides, and displacement of **200,000 people** + crippling infrastructure in Western Province, Kandy, Badulla + India launches **Operation Sagar Bandhu** with IAF and Navy delivering relief supplies + **INS Vikrant** and **INS Udaigiri** assist + IMD warns India's east coast of imminent landfall + highlighting **India's humanitarian diplomacy** and regional disaster cooperation amid record rainfall, widespread power outages affecting millions and prompting school closures and urgent evacuations across multiple districts.

Dr Tessy Thomas, renowned **aerospace engineer** behind India's **strategic missile programme**, honoured with **8th Paulos Mar Gregorios Award 2025** for **outstanding contribution in women empowerment, space, and missile technology** + award instituted in memory of **Paulos Mar Gregorios**, scholar, theologian, and former **President of World Council of Churches**

Siddhi Jain became first **female cadet** awarded **President's Medal** for **overall order of merit** + selected for **149th NDA course**, second batch of **female cadets** + women's entry into **NDA** enabled after **Supreme Court interim order, August 2021** allowing eligible women to appear for **NDA and Indian Naval Academy exams**

Australia has become the **first country** to impose a nationwide ban on social media access for children under 16.

Italian cooking rituals added to **UNESCO intangible heritage** + highlights **cultural traditions** of preparing & sharing food (family lunches, grandmother-taught skills, communal meals) + celebrates **identity & heritage** beyond specific dishes + recognised for **love, care & social bonding** in Italian culinary culture + praised by **Premier Giorgia Meloni**

President Droupadi Murmu meets **India's 2025 women's World Boxing Champions** + boxers praised for **exceptional performances** + **Jaismine & Minakshi** win **gold**, **Nupur** wins **silver**, **Pooja Rani** wins **bronze** at the **Liverpool WBC 2025**

UNESCO inscribes Deepavali on its **Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** under the **2003 ICH Convention** + celebrates **victory of light over darkness**, **regional diversity**, and **universal values** of hope & harmony + selected for its **mythological depth**, **community continuity**, and **cultural significance** + inclusion announced during **UNESCO event at Red Fort, New Delhi** + Deepavali becomes **India's 16th ICH element** alongside **Yoga, Garba, Ramlila, Vedic chanting**, etc. + enhances **India's soft power**, boosts **cultural diplomacy**, and promotes **heritage preservation**, **traditional arts**, **community pride**, and **cultural tourism**.

Germany's dominance in FIH Junior Men's Hockey WC = **13 podiums in 14 editions** + only miss in **2005** + **8th title** won in **Madurai/Chennai** vs Spain + success built on **strong club pipeline** + **mastered fundamentals** + **structured systems & communication** + **willpower, self-belief, crunch-time mentality** + shootout heroics from **Jasper Ditzer** + showcases **excellence, not perfection**

International Anti-Corruption Day observed on **9 December (since 2005)** + aims to raise awareness against corruption under **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)** + 2025 theme: **"Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity"** + **11th Conference of States Parties to UNCAC** scheduled **15–19 December 2025 in Doha, Qatar**

Human Rights Day observed on **10 December** marking **adoption of UDHR (1948, Paris)** by **UN General Assembly** + 2025 theme: **"Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials"**

India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025 held at **Vivekananda Hall, CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi** + jointly organised by **CSIR-NIScPR and CSIR-NPL** + theme **"Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat"** promoting **science-led self-reliance and growth**

India hosted the **20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** from December 8 to 13, 2025, at the **historic Red Fort in New Delhi**.

Artist Nnena Kalu becomes **first artist with a learning disability** to win the **Turner Prize** + **autistic with limited verbal communication** + awarded for **cocoon-like sculptures** made by **twisting, swirling and**

knotting found fabric and VHS tape + **Turner Prize established in 1984**, named after **JMW Turner** + honours a **British artist** or one **working primarily in Britain / British-born working globally**

Vijay Diwas commemorated in Assam at **Assam State War Memorial** by **Directorate of Sainik Welfare** + honours **India's 1971 victory over Pakistan** leading to **creation of Bangladesh** + tribute paid by **defence personnel and veterans** + notable attendees included **Lt Gen Pranab Kumar Bharali (retd), Maj Gen Purnananda Das (retd), Brig Abani Kumar Pait (retd)** sharing **wartime experiences** + **'Amar Swaheed Shraddhanjali'** event honoured **widows of fallen soldiers** + **Brig Ajit Kumar Bora**, Group Commander **NCC Group HQ Guwahati**, also present on the solemn occasion

Tripura government's plan to reconstruct Jackson Gate (Agartala) revives debates on **heritage conservation, historical memory and cultural identity** + built in **1929** as the **gateway to Ujjayanta Palace** by **Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya** to mark **Sir Francis Stanley Jackson's visit** + **Charminar-inspired design** symbolised **royal diplomacy & planned urban vision** + demolished in **1981** citing road widening + reconstruction underscores **state responsibility to preserve collective memory**.

Powerlifter Vishwas Gowda P. wins **three gold medals** in **90 kg category** at **WRPF World Championship 2025** + event held in **Moscow, Russia** from **December 4–7** + tops **Full Powerlifting, Bench Press & Push Pull** events + achievement brings **international recognition to Indian powerlifting** through a **dominant performance** at the **prestigious championship**

Rashtrapati Bhavan displays portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees + replaces **96 British Aide-de-Camps portraits** + **Param Vir Chakra** is **India's highest military honour** for **exceptional valour, courage & sacrifice in war** + **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurates **'Param Vir Dirgha' gallery** on **Vijay Divas** + initiative honours **fallen soldiers** and educates visitors about **national heroes** + described as step toward **shedding colonial mindset** and embracing **India's culture, heritage & sanatan values** + part of wider **decolonisation efforts** including **Rajpath renamed Kartavya Path**, **Navy ensign redesign**, **Indian instruments at Beating Retreat**, **renaming of islands & places**, and **Mughal Garden renamed Amrit Udyan**

Bengaluru leads India as top founder residence with **88 self-made entrepreneurs** + highlighted in **IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025** + ranks **200 India-headquartered companies** by **market cap & valuation** + total company value rises **15% to ₹42 lakh crore ($469 bn)** + **Bengaluru remains top startup hub** with **52 companies**, followed by **Mumbai (41)** and **Gurugram (36)** + **Deepinder Goyal (Eternal)** tops list with **₹3.2 lakh crore valuation** + **Swiggy co-founders** rank **5th** with **₹1.06 lakh crore** + list features **young founders**, **veterans like Ashok Soota (82)**, and **20 women entrepreneurs** led by **Falguni & Adwaita Nayar (Nykaa)** + **InterGlobe Aviation founders** enter **top-3** with **₹2.2 lakh crore valuation** + reflects **strong startup growth, rising valuations & increased employee benefits**

Former IAS officer Raj Kumar Goyal sworn in as **Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)** of the **Central Information Commission** by **President Droupadi Murmu** + appointment fills **vacancy since September** after **Heeralal Samariya demitted office** + **CIC heads the Commission**, which can have **up to 10 Information Commissioners** + currently includes **Anandi Ramalingam & Vinod Kumar Tiwari**

World 25K Kolkata saw **Joshua Cheptegei** dominate from start to finish to win the **men's race** in **1:11:49** + sealing his **maiden title** ahead of **Alphonce Felix Siumbu** and **Tebello Ramakongoana** + **Degitu Azimeraw** delivered a **wire-to-wire victory** to clinch the **international elite women's title** in **1:19:36**, dethroning **Sutume Asefa Kebede** + **India's Gulveer Singh** and **Seema rewrote course records** in their **elite categories**, with **Gulveer** impressing after mixing with the international field to finish in **1:12:06**

Rs 6 crore prize announced for **gold-winning Olympians** + **Rs 4 crore silver** + **Rs 3 crore bronze** + **Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah** at **KOA Awards 2025, Bengaluru** + **sports quota govt jobs from Jan 2026** + **3% reservation**

in Police & Forest + **2% in other departments** + **KOA honours top & emerging athletes** including **Ayush Shetty**, **SD Prajwal Dev**, **Pranavi Urs**, **Divya TS** and **Unnathi Aiyappa**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted at Hampi that **Vijayanagara Empire's model of "Prosperity for All"**—combining **inclusive agrarian growth** + **state-backed trade and artisans** + **robust irrigation and urban infrastructure** + **religious–cultural pluralism** + **decentralised yet accountable governance (Nayankara system)** + **state as economic enabler not controller**—offers enduring lessons for **India's Viksit Bharat 2047** vision by aligning **growth, equity, institutions and culture** into a single development framework.

Porunai (Thamirabarani River Civilisation) Museum inaugurated in **Tirunelveli** by **Tamil Nadu government** + **₹33 crore, 54,296 sq ft, 6-block museum** showcasing **path-breaking archaeology of southern Tamil Nadu** + **Sivakalai evidence (~5300 years BP)** proves **world's oldest Iron Age**, pushing back **iron smelting timeline** + exhibits from **Adichanallur (burial urns)** and **Korkai (Pandya port)** + covers **Palaeolithic to Early Historic periods**, reinforcing **India's deep civilisational antiquity**.

Deepti Sharma becomes **World No. 1 Women's T20I Bowler** in **ICC Rankings** + first time in her career + rises to top with **737 rating points** + overtakes **Annabel Sutherland (Australia)** + marks India's growing dominance in women's cricket + reinforces Deepti's impact as a **match-winning all-rounder** + **Smriti Mandhana** remains **India's top-ranked batter**, holding **3rd position**, underlining India's strong presence across batting and bowling rankings.

Veer Bal Diwas is observed on **26 December** + commemorates the bravery at **Anandpur Sahib Fort** when **Guru Gobind Singh** and followers were forced to flee + highlights the capture of his young sons **Zorawar Singh** and **Fateh Singh** by Mughal forces + they bravely refused conversion to Islam + were **bricked alive in 1705** on orders of **Wazir Khan** + the day was officially declared in **2022** to honour their **supreme sacrifice**, **courage**, and unwavering **faith**.

Good Governance Day is observed on **25 December** + marks the birth anniversary of former PM **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** + announced in **2014** to reinforce the spirit of **responsible governance** + aims to create **awareness among citizens** about **accountability**, **transparency**, and **ethical administration** + encourages **efficient service delivery**, **citizen-centric policies**, and **responsive government systems** + promotes commitment among **civil servants** to uphold **good governance values** and strengthen **democratic governance** in India.

Punjab grants 'Holy City' status to Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib & Talwandi Sabo + linked to **Sikh Takhts & deep historical-religious significance** + bans on **liquor, tobacco/cigarettes & meat** in notified areas + aims to **preserve sanctity, boost faith tourism** & strengthen **cultural identity** + plans **better pilgrim mobility & infrastructure** + concerns include **livelihood impact, community differences, implementation challenges** + key governance test of balancing **religion, economy & diversity** under a **policy framework**