

Weekly One Liners 2nd to 8th December, 2024

Women-Centric Welfare Schemes in FY25: Key Allocations and Initiatives

In FY25, women-centric welfare schemes collectively account for **0.5% of India's GDP**, reflecting their growing prominence in state policies and national budgets. Maharashtra leads with the largest allocation of **\$5.4 billion (1.1% of its GDP)**, while nine states collectively allocate \$18 billion for such initiatives.

These schemes, including cash transfers and developmental programs, have emerged as pivotal political tools to attract women voters, as seen in Maharashtra's "**Ladki Bahin Yojana**," a significant factor in the BJP-led coalition's electoral success. Haryana proposes the highest monthly cash transfer at **₹2,100 for eligible women, impacting 1.7% of its GDP**, the highest among states.

Key State-Level Initiatives

Top Allocators: Haryana, Karnataka, and West Bengal allocate substantial budgets, with schemes ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹2,100 monthly cash transfers.

Economic Impact: Haryana's scheme is projected to cost 1.7% of its GDP, while Delhi and Tamil Nadu see minimal economic strain at 0.2% and 0.4%, respectively.

Precedents: Assam (2020) and West Bengal (2021) pioneered these initiatives, with West Bengal spending \$1.7 billion (0.8% of its GDP).

National Schemes for Women Empowerment

Safety and Support: One Stop Centres (Sakhi Centres) and Women Helplines provide integrated support for violence survivors.

Rehabilitation Initiatives: The **Swadhar Greh** and **Ujjawala Schemes** assist women in distress and victims of trafficking.

Accommodation and Childcare: The **Working Women Hostel Scheme** offers safe housing and day-care facilities for employed women.

Education and Equality: The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** program addresses declining child sex ratios and promotes education for girls.

Key Highlights of Filmfare OTT Awards 2024

Category	Award	Winner
Series Category	Best Series	The Railway Men
	Best Director Series	Sameer Saxena and Amit Golani (Kaala Paani)
	Best Actor, Series (Male): Comedy	Rajkummar Rao (Guns & Gulaabs)
	Best Actor, Series (Male): Drama	Gagan Dev Riar (Scam 2003 – The Telgi Story)
	Best Actor, Series (Female): Comedy	Geetanjali Kulkarni (Gullak Season 4)
	Best Actor, Series (Female): Drama	Manisha Koirala (Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar)
	Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female): Comedy	Nidhi Bisht (Maamla Legal Hai)
	Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female): Drama	Mona Singh (Made In Heaven Season 2)
	Best Original Story, Series	Biswapati Sarkar (Kaala Paani)
	Best Comedy (Series/Specials)	Maamla Legal Hai

Community Empowerment: The **Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme** fosters rural women's empowerment through inter-sectoral convergence.

Maternity Benefits and Umbrella Initiatives

PMMVY: This conditional cash transfer scheme provides ₹6,000 to eligible mothers for nutritional and health needs during pregnancy and lactation.

Mission Shakti: An integrated program for women's safety, security, and empowerment through convergence across governance levels and enhanced digital infrastructure.

Past and Present Context

The evolution of women-centric schemes underscores a shift from standalone welfare to integrated empowerment models. States have adopted diverse strategies with varying fiscal impacts, reflecting a balance between voter engagement and developmental goals. At the national level, initiatives aim to mainstream women's participation in governance and nation-building, marking a transition toward sustainable, inclusive growth.

Filmfare OTT Awards 2024 Celebrating Digital Excellence

The **5th edition of the Filmfare OTT Awards 2024** was a grand celebration of the best in digital entertainment. The event highlighted the outstanding contributions from **both films and series in the OTT space**, with notable achievements in various categories.

Overview

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's **Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar** led the charge with 16 nominations, followed by **Guns & Gulaabs** and **Kaala Paani**. The **Railway Men** clinched the coveted Best Series award, while **Amar Singh Chamkila**, directed by Imtiaz Ali, dominated the film category, sweeping multiple accolades. Notable stars like **Diljit Dosanjh**, **Kareena Kapoor Khan**, and **Ananya Panday** received recognition for their exceptional performances.

Category	Award	Winner
	Best (Non-Fiction) Original (Series/Special)	The Hunt For Veerappan
	Best Dialogue, Series	Sumita Arora (Guns & Gulaabs)
	Best Production Design, Series	Subrata Chakraborty and Amit Ray (Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar)
	Best Debut Director, Series	Shiv Rawail (The Railway Men)
Films Category	Best Film, Web Original	Amar Singh Chamkila
	Best Director, Web Original Film	Imtiaz Ali (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Actor, Web Original Film (Male)	Diljit Dosanjh (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Actor, Web Original Film (Female)	Kareena Kapoor (Jaane Jaan)
	Best Supporting Actor, Web Original Film (Male)	Jaideep Ahlawat (Maharaj)
	Best Supporting Actor, Web Original Film (Female)	Wamiqa Gabbi (Khufiya)
	Best Dialogue (Web Original Film)	Imtiaz Ali and Sajid Ali (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Cinematographer (Web Original Film)	Sylvester Fonseca (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Production Design (Web Original Film)	Suzanne Caplan Merwanji (The Archies)
	Best Editing (Web Original Film)	Aarti Bajaj (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Background Music (Web Original Film)	A R RAHMAN (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Story (Web Original Film)	Zoya Akhtar, Arjun Varain Singh, Reema Kagti (Kho Gaye Hum Kahan)
	Best Music Album, Film	A R RAHMAN (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Debut Director, Film	Arjun Varain Singh (Kho Gaye Hum Kahan)
	Best Debut Male, Film	Vedang Raina
Critics Category	Best Series, Critics	Guns & Gulaabs
	Best Director, Critics	Mumbai Diaries Season 2
	Best Actor, Series (Male), Critics: Drama	Kay Kay Menon (Bambai Meri Jaan)
	Best Actor, Series (Female), Critics: Drama	Huma Qureshi (Maharani S03)
	Best Film, Critics	Jaane Jaan
	Best Actor (Male), Critics – Film	Jaideep Ahlawat
	Best Actor (Female), Critics – Film	Ananya Panday
	Special Recognition	Arjun Varain Singh (Kho Gaye Hum Kahan)

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Set To Introduce in the Lok Sabha

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to introduce the **Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha** on 2nd December, 2024. The bill aims to amend several key banking-related legislations, including the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980**. The amendments are expected to enhance the functioning and regulation of the banking sector, and the bill will be considered for debate and passage in the lower house of Parliament.

Key Amendments in the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

1. Definition of Fortnight for Cash Reserves

Current Definition

- The RBI Act defines a “fortnight” as the period from Saturday to the second following Friday (including both days) to calculate the average daily balance held by scheduled banks as cash reserves.

Proposed Amendment

The Bill changes the definition of a “fortnight” to:

- The period from the 1st day to the 15th day of each month, and
- The period from the 16th day to the last day of each month.

Impact

- This change also applies under the Banking Regulation Act, where non-scheduled banks are required to maintain cash reserves.

2. Tenure of Directors of Co-operative Banks

Current Rule

- Directors of co-operative banks (except the chairman or whole-time directors) **cannot hold office for more than eight consecutive years.**

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill seeks to increase the tenure for directors of co-operative **banks to 10 consecutive years.**

Impact

- This extension is expected to provide stability in the governance of co-operative banks.

3. Prohibition on Common Directors in Co-operative Banks

Current Rule

- The Banking Regulation Act prohibits a director from serving on the boards of more than one bank, with exceptions for directors appointed by the RBI.

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill extends this **exemption** to the directors of central co-operative banks, allowing them **to serve on the board of a state co-operative bank in which they are a member.**

Impact

- This aims to enhance coordination and strengthen the leadership within the co-operative banking system.

4. Substantial Interest in a Company

Current Rule

- The Banking Regulation Act defines “substantial interest” as holding shares worth more than ₹5 lakh or 10% of the paid-up capital, whichever is less.

Proposed Amendment

- **The Bill increases this threshold to ₹2 crore**, allowing individuals and their families (spouse or minor children) to hold a larger stake before it is considered substantial.

Impact

- This change is expected to relax restrictions on shareholding, particularly benefiting larger investors and corporate entities.

5. Nomination for Deposits and Bank Products

Current Rule

- The Banking Regulation Act allows **depositors to appoint a single nominee** for their deposits, articles, or lockers.

Proposed Amendment

The Bill allows up to **four nominees** for,

- Deposits (either simultaneously or successively).
- Other items like articles and lockers (successively).

Impact

- The Bill outlines that in case of simultaneous nominations, the distribution will be according to a declared proportion. For successive nominations, the person listed first in the order of nomination will have priority.

Outcome

- This will facilitate the distribution of assets and clarify the rights of multiple nominees.

6. Settlement of Unclaimed Amounts

Current Rule

- Under the State Bank of India Act and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980, unpaid or unclaimed dividends are transferred to an unpaid dividend account, and after seven years, they are moved to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill widens the scope of funds that can be transferred to the IEPF, now including:
- Shares for which dividends have not been claimed for seven consecutive years.
- Interest or redemption amounts for bonds that remain unpaid/unclaimed for seven years.

Impact

- Individuals can claim unclaimed funds that have been transferred to the IEPF, helping to resolve outstanding claims and promote financial transparency.

7. Remuneration of Auditors

Current Rule

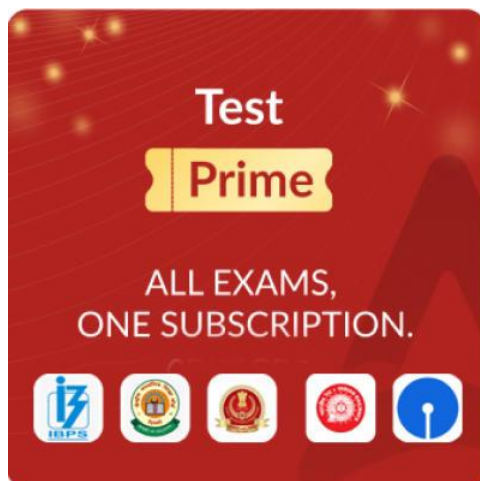
- The remuneration for auditors of banks is decided by the RBI in consultation with the central government.

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill empowers banks to **determine the remuneration for their auditors** independently.

Impact

- This amendment is expected to streamline the process and reduce bureaucratic involvement in the auditing procedures of banks.



India Highlights Green Initiatives at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh

India joins 197 nations at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, which commenced on December 2, 2024, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking the convention’s first-ever session in West Asia. **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** and **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** lead India’s delegation, presenting the ambitious Aravalli Green Wall Project and showcasing India’s commitment to combating desertification.

Key Highlights of UNCCD COP16

Theme and Focus: The 16th COP centers on the theme “Our Land. Our Future,” emphasizing sustainable land management to reverse desertification and land degradation globally.

Historic Context: The UNCCD, one of the three agreements from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, entered into force in 1996 and includes 197 parties. The conference occurs biennially, with COP15 held in May 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

India’s Role at COP16

“Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” Initiative: Minister Yadav planted a sapling at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh under India’s “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” campaign, advocating for eco-consciousness.

Mission LIFE Engagement: He encouraged Indian students to adopt sustainable practices through Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

Aravalli Green Wall Project: India is presenting this flagship initiative aimed at restoring 1.15 million hectares of degraded land across four states, signaling its proactive stance on environmental restoration.

Significance of the UNCCD

Global Goals: The UNCCD aims to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) under the Changwon Initiative launched in 2011, with over 120 countries committing to LDN targets.

Scientific Approach: The convention promotes reclaiming degraded lands using innovative scientific methods.

Connections with Other Environmental Summits of 2024

UNFCCC COP29: Held in Baku, Azerbaijan (November 11-22), focusing on global warming and the Paris Agreement targets.

CBD COP16: The biodiversity summit started in Cali, Colombia, but was postponed due to quorum issues and will resume in Rome in February 2025.

Monetary Policy Meeting Dec 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted its latest bi-monthly **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting** in December 2024. Governor Shaktikanta Das announced several crucial measures and projections to address current economic challenges while maintaining stability. Here’s a detailed breakdown:

CRR Cut by 50 Basis Points to 4%

To tackle liquidity concerns, the **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** was reduced by **50 basis points to 4%**. This move aligns with the RBI’s neutral policy stance, aimed at ensuring economic stability without disruptive interventions.

INDICATOR	VALUE
GDP Growth Forecast (FY25)	6.6% (down from 7.2%)
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4% (reduced by 50 bps)
Repo Rate	6.5% (unchanged)
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	6.75%
Inflation Projection (FY25)	4.8%
Agricultural Loan Collateral Limit	Rs 2 lakh crore (up from Rs 1.6 lakh crore)

RBI Monetary

Policy Meeting Dec 2024: Key Highlights

Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%

The MPC decided by a 4-2 majority to maintain the **repo rate at 6.5%**. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate were also retained at 6.25% and 6.75%, respectively. This cautious approach reflects the central bank’s focus on balancing inflation and growth.

GDP Growth Forecast Lowered for FY25

The RBI revised the GDP growth forecast for **FY25 to 6.6%**, down from the earlier projection of 7.2%. Governor Das attributed the adjustment to weaker-than-expected Q2 growth and specific challenges in the manufacturing sector. Despite this, high-frequency indicators suggest potential stabilization ahead.

Inflation Projections for FY25

The RBI forecasted an inflation rate of **4.8%** for FY25. Food inflation is expected to persist during Q3 but may ease from Q4 onward. Quarterly projections are as follows:

- Q3 FY25: 5.7%
- Q4 FY25: 4.5%
- Q1 FY26: 4.6%
- Q2 FY26: 4.0%

Support for the Agricultural Sector

In a significant move, the RBI increased the collateral limit for agricultural loans from Rs 1.6 lakh crore per borrower to Rs 2 lakh crore. This aims to enhance financial support for farmers and boost credit availability in the sector.

Introduction of SORR Benchmark

The RBI proposed a new benchmark, the Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR), to strengthen market-based pricing mechanisms and enhance transparency in monetary operations.

New Communication Initiative: RBI Podcasts

The RBI plans to launch podcasts as a communication tool to improve public engagement and transparency. This initiative reflects the central bank's commitment to leveraging technology for better outreach.

Measures to Attract Foreign Capital

To boost foreign investments, the RBI raised interest rate ceilings on FCNR-B deposits and increased FCNR deposit rates. These measures aim to attract higher foreign portfolio inflows, which have totaled \$9.3 billion so far in FY25.

Addressing Unclaimed Deposits

The RBI directed banks to segregate unclaimed deposit accounts using Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). This step aims to ensure transparency and efficiency in beneficiary identification while facilitating the seamless flow of DBT funds.

Challenges in Domestic Consumption

Private consumption growth slowed to 6% in the September quarter from 7.5% earlier, reflecting a decline in urban demand. Fixed investment growth also dipped to 5.4%. However, government consumption rebounded by 4.4%, driven by election-related activities.

Key Members of the MPC

The Monetary Policy Committee comprises six members:

1. Shaktikanta Das (Governor, RBI)
2. Michael Debabrata Patra (Deputy Governor, RBI)
3. Rajiv Ranjan (Executive Director, RBI)
4. Ram Singh (Director, Delhi School of Economics)
5. Saugata Bhattacharya (Economist)
6. Nagesh Kumar (Director, ISID)

These measures and insights reflect the RBI's balanced approach to addressing economic challenges while fostering growth and stability. The central bank continues to monitor developments closely, ensuring proactive and effective policymaking.

National Affairs

- The **New Pamban Bridge**, India's first **vertical lift railway sea bridge**, is replacing the 105-year-old **Pamban Bridge** to improve connectivity between the **Indian mainland** and **Rameswaram**, Tamil Nadu. The **2.05 km bridge**, costing **Rs 535 crore**, features a fully automated vertical lift span for **22 meters of air clearance** for ships. Designed for **double tracks** and **high-speed trains**, it began construction in **February 2020**, with completion expected by **June 30, 2024**, after delays due to the **pandemic**. The original bridge was

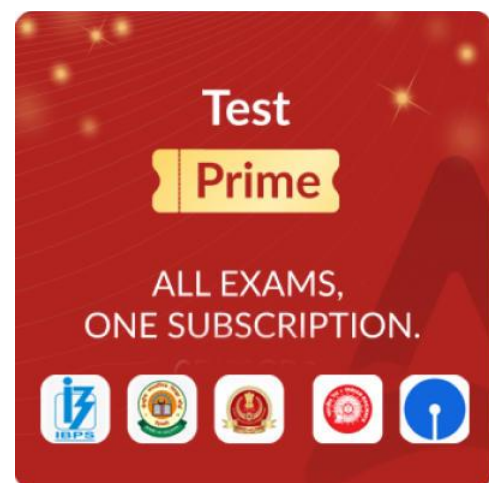
decommissioned in **December 2022**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Ministry of Ayush**, under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has transformed into a global leader in traditional medicine since its inception in **2014**. Key achievements include over **755,780 registered practitioners**, **886 undergraduate** and **251 postgraduate colleges**, and **3,844 hospitals** with **36,848 dispensaries**. The Ministry has also expanded infrastructure with **satellite centers** of **AIIA**, **NIUM**, and **NIH**, adding **400 education seats** and **550 beds**, aligning with **UN SDGs** and **Universal Health Coverage**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **PRAGATI** (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), launched under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has transformed **India's infrastructure development**. The platform fosters **accountability** and **collaboration** between federal and regional authorities, accelerating delayed projects. A study by **Oxford University** and the **Gates Foundation** highlights its impact, overseeing **\$205 billion** worth of projects. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **tiger population** has grown significantly, reaching **3,682** in 2022, up from **1,411** in 2006, reflecting a **6% annual increase** in monitored areas. This growth is attributed to conservation efforts under **Project Tiger** and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**. Key regional trends include a rise in **Central India** and **Eastern Ghats** (1,033 to 1,439), **Shivalik-Gangetic Plains** (646 to 819), and **Sundarbans** (88 to 101), while **Northeastern India** saw a decline, particularly in **Arunachal Pradesh** (29 to 9). ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ratapani Tiger Reserve**, located in Madhya Pradesh, has been officially designated as India's **57th Tiger Reserve**. Spanning **1,271.4 sq km**, it includes a **763.8 sq km core area** and a **507.6 sq km buffer area**. This move strengthens India's commitment to **tiger conservation** and reinforces Madhya Pradesh's status as the "**Tiger State of India**". ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap)**, introduced by the **Indian government**, aims to ensure **fair trade** and **consumer protection** by promoting transparency and compliance with metrology standards. The **digital platform** will streamline registration, certification, and provide **automated workflows** for businesses. It also focuses on **consumer awareness** and grievance redressal for measurement issues. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has declared **snakebite** a **notifiable disease**, aiming to reduce the high mortality and morbidity rates, particularly in rural and tribal areas. This move, announced by the **Union Health Ministry** in November 2024, mandates **reporting of all snakebite cases** in healthcare facilities. It aligns with the **WHO's target** to halve global snakebite deaths and injuries by 2030, enhancing **surveillance**, treatment, and prevention strategies. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Shri Pralhad Joshi**, Union Minister, launched **Anna Chakra** and the **SCAN portal** to modernize India's **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and **subsidy claim** mechanisms. **Anna Chakra** aims to optimize the **PDS supply chain** for efficient food grain movement, while **SCAN** streamlines **subsidy claims** under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** with **single-window submission, automation, and rule-based processing** for faster subsidy release. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme, launched in 2015, has improved the **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 and raised the **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** for girls at the secondary level from 75.51% to 79.4%. The scheme focuses on eliminating gender-biased practices, promoting **girl child protection, and education**. It is centrally funded under the **Mission Shakti Sambal** vertical, with funds allocated based on SRB data. However, **West Bengal** has not implemented the scheme. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024** replaces the 90-year-old **Aircraft Act of 1934**, modernizing India's aviation regulations. Passed by **Parliament**, it aims to enhance **safety, affordability, governance, and consumer protection** while promoting **investment and self-reliance** in aircraft manufacturing. The bill also seeks to streamline processes and align with **international standards**. The renaming in **Hindi** reflects the government's goal to promote **indigenous identity** despite sparking debates. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **SMILE** sub-scheme, a **central government initiative**, aims to rehabilitate individuals, including **children**, involved in **begging**. Implemented across **81 cities in 26 states and UTs**, it focuses on areas with significant **religious, historical, or tourist** importance. The scheme supports **reintegration** of marginalized individuals into society. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has been chosen to chair the **68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**, marking its first time in this role. **Ambassador Shambhu S Kumaran** assumed the chairmanship, overseeing global drug policy and international cooperation on drug control. The **CND** monitors drug trends, advises member states, and oversees international drug conventions, functioning under **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, based in Vienna, and is a functional commission of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Telangana** has joined India's **mineral auction regime**, auctioning two **limestone blocks** in **Sultanpur and Saidulnama** to **NCL Industries and Deccan Cement**. This makes Telangana the **14th state** to participate, responding to the Centre's push for auctioning **critical minerals**. The state's move aims to boost **mineral production** for industries like **cement manufacturing**, with more auctions expected. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mission Arun Himveer** has been launched by the **Arunachal Pradesh Government** to improve market access for local farmers, **SHGs, FPOs, and cooperatives**. The **Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB)** signed an **MoU** with **ITBP** to purchase **fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry** directly from farmers. This initiative aims to boost **economic growth** in rural areas, support the **Vibrant Village Programme**, and promote **reverse migration**. A **₹4 crore revolving fund** will ensure farmers receive **100% payments**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **West Bengal** has gained international recognition with **UNESCO** declaring it a top destination for **heritage tourism**. **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** highlighted the state's growth in **religious, heritage, and tea tourism**, driving job creation for youth. The focus on enhancing **religious sites and heritage spots** is elevating the state's position in India's tourism sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Uber** has launched **Asia's first water transport service, Uber Shikara**, in **Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**. This service modernizes the traditional **shikara ride**, combining **technology with Kashmir's cultural heritage** to enhance the **tourism experience**. Launched by **Uber India President Prabhjeet Singh**, it aims to improve **accessibility** and make the shikara ride more **convenient** for tourists. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Telangana government**, under **CM A. Revanth Reddy**, will launch the **Rythu Bharosa Scheme** after **Sankranti**, providing **₹15,000 annual subsidies** to farmers. This scheme replaces the previous **Rythu Bandhu** and aims to improve farmers' welfare. Additionally, the government has cleared **₹7,625 crore in crop loan arrears for Kharif 2023** and waived loans up to **₹2 lakh for 25.35 lakh farmers**, marking a historic move. **Subsidies** for palm oil, drip irrigation, and fodder seeds are also continued, with an **₹8,000 crore** allocation. ([Click here to read article](#))

States in the News

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has declared the **Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj** as the new **Maha Kumbh Mela district** ahead of the **January 2025 Kumbh Mela**. This move aims to improve **administration, coordination, law enforcement, and resource management** for the event, which attracts millions of pilgrims. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Devendra Fadnavis** has been elected as the leader of the **Maharashtra BJP legislature party**, paving the way for his **third term** as Chief Minister. Alongside him, **Eknath Shinde** and **Ajit Pawar** will serve as deputy chief ministers. The **BJP** won a historic **132 seats** in the **2024 Maharashtra elections**, contributing to the **Mahayuti coalition's** total of **230 seats**, securing a commanding majority. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced a **complete ban on beef in hotels, restaurants, and public places** across the state, effective immediately. This move amends existing laws, extending the ban beyond the 5-km radius around **temples** and **religious sites** to include all **public functions** and events. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Google and the **Telangana government** have signed an agreement to establish the **Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)** in **Hyderabad**, Google's second such center in Asia Pacific. The center will focus on **AI-driven security**, advancing **cybersecurity capabilities**, and creating **employment opportunities**. GSEC will enhance **cybersecurity for businesses, governments, and citizens**, while strengthening **Hyderabad's** position as a global leader in IT and cybersecurity. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- **Donald Trump**, the **US President-elect**, has appointed **Kash Patel** as the next **FBI Director**, succeeding **Christopher Wray**. Patel, a **Trump loyalist** known for his criticism of the “**deep state**” and federal agencies, has a history of strong support for Trump's policies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Donald Trump** has threatened to impose **100% tariffs** on **BRICS** countries, including **India**, if they reduce reliance on the **US dollar** in international trade. This threat follows discussions at the **BRICS Summit** in October about **de-dollarisation**, posing challenges to India's **export sectors** like **pharmaceuticals, textiles, and IT services**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Aleppo**, Syria's second-largest city, has fallen from **government control** for the first time since the conflict began, following a surprise offensive by **Islamist rebel groups** supported by **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham** and allies. This marks a key turning point, as Aleppo was **recaptured** by government forces in **2016**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Oxford Word of the Year 2024** is '**brain rot**', reflecting concerns about the negative impact of excessive **low-quality online content**, especially on **social media**. Selected through a global vote and expert analysis, the term highlights the growing debate around digital consumption. Originally coined in **1854** by **Henry David Thoreau**, it has gained new relevance, particularly among **Gen Z** and **Gen Alpha** on platforms like **TikTok**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando** was sworn in as the **48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka** on **December 2, 2024**, marking a historic moment as the **second woman** to hold the position, after **Justice Shirani Bandaranaike**. She was appointed following the retirement of **Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- China has opened its first **atmospheric monitoring station** in **Antarctica**, located in **Larsmann Hills, East Antarctica**. The **Zhongshan National Atmospheric Background Station** will provide continuous data on **climate change** and human impact, enhancing China's role in **Antarctic research** as part of its goals as a **polar power**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, Namibia's first female president, made history with her election at age 72, winning over **57% of the vote**. A key political figure, she rose from **activism** against South African occupation to leadership in post-independence Namibia. Her victory highlights the power of **perseverance, activism, and a commitment to economic and social progress**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- On **December 4, 2024**, **India** and **Kuwait** established a **Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)**, led by their **foreign ministers**. The JCC, formalized through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, will serve as a key mechanism to review and enhance **bilateral relations**. This decision came during a meeting between **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** and **Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali Al Yahya**, marking a significant step in strengthening ties between the two nations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- During **Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's visit to China**, **Nepal** and **China** signed the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation Framework**, aiming to accelerate BRI projects. This agreement focuses on **enhanced connectivity**, including infrastructure development in **ports, railways, roads, and telecommunications**. While Nepal initially sought **grants**, a compromise replaced it with “**aid and technical assistance**,” raising concerns about potential loan implications. The **Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network (THMDCN)** and related projects are expected to be finalized soon, supporting Nepal's political stability and economic growth. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **FDI** rose by **45%** to **USD 29.79 billion** in H1 of FY 2024-25, driven by growth in **services, computer, telecom, and pharma** sectors. The **July-September quarter** saw a 43% increase, totaling **USD 13.6 billion**. **Maharashtra** was the top recipient. Key investors included **Mauritius, Singapore, and the US**, with **non-conventional energy** also attracting significant FDI. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **GST revenue** grew by **8.5%** to **₹1.82 lakh crore** in November 2024, driven by a **9.4%** increase in **domestic transactions**. Key figures include **Central GST** at ₹34,141 crore, **State GST** at ₹43,047 crore, **Integrated IGST** at ₹91,828 crore, and **Cess** at ₹13,253 crore. This follows a record **₹2.10 lakh crore** collection in April 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In the **July-September 2024-25** quarter, **Singapore** became the largest source of FDI for India, contributing **50%** of the total **USD 13.6 billion** inflows, a **43% increase**. From **April 2000 to March 2024**, Singapore's cumulative FDI in India reached **USD 159.94 billion**, emphasizing its crucial role in India's **economic growth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **October 2024**, India's **UPI** set a record with **16.58 billion transactions** worth **Rs 23.5 trillion**. This marked a **10% increase** in volume and **14% in value** from September, driven by a surge in **person-to-merchant transactions** during the festive season. The daily average surpassed **535 million transactions** valued at **Rs 75,801 crore**, with **45% year-on-year growth** in volume and **37% in value**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **December 2, 2024**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** lifted the supervisory restrictions on **Navi Finserv**, a **non-banking financial company (NBFC)** led by **Sachin Bansal**. The restrictions, imposed on **October 17, 2024**, were lifted after the company addressed regulatory concerns related to **loan pricing practices** and **non-compliance with lending norms**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian government **abolished the windfall tax** on **crude petroleum, petrol, diesel, and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**, effective **November 2, 2024**. Introduced in **July 2022** to curb excessive profits from oil companies during the **Russia-Ukraine war**, the tax aimed to stabilize **domestic supplies** and fund welfare programs. Its removal follows a **review** by the **PMO, Revenue Department, and Petroleum Ministry**, citing stabilizing **crude prices** and reduced revenue from the tax. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)** achieved a milestone by paying a record **Rs. 37.97 crore** dividend to the **Government of India** for FY 2023-24. **NSIC's revenue** increased by **18.16%** to **Rs. 3,273 crore**, and its **Profit After Tax (PAT)** rose by **14.55%** to **Rs. 126.56 crore**. The **dividend cheque** was presented by **Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya** to **Jitan Ram Manjhi** and **Shobha Karandlaje**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has increased the **UPI Lite wallet limit** to **Rs 5,000** and the **per-transaction limit** to **Rs 1,000**, enhancing offline payment capabilities. This change aims to encourage wider adoption of **UPI Lite** for seamless, higher-value transactions without internet. Replenishment of the wallet will be done online with **Additional Factor Authentication (AFA)** for added security. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SEBI** imposed a **₹9 lakh penalty** on **Reliance Securities Ltd (RSL)** for violating stock broker norms during an inspection of its records from **April 2022 to December 2023**. The violations included **poor record-keeping, unauthorized terminal use, and lack of office segregation**. Despite corrective actions, SEBI maintained the penalty due to non-compliance during the inspection period. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Morgan Stanley** revised **India's GDP growth** projection for FY25 to **6.3%** from **6.7%**, following a **5.4% GDP growth** in Q2 FY25, the lowest since **March 2023**. The slowdown is attributed to weaker **private consumption** and **capital expenditure**, though the **services sector** remained resilient. Despite this, **Morgan Stanley** expects a **recovery** in H2 FY25, driven by **government spending, improved rural demand, and easing financial conditions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **World Bank** approved a **\$188.28 million loan** to **Maharashtra** to boost economic growth in its underdeveloped districts. Provided by the **IBRD**, the loan has a **15-year maturity** with a **five-year grace period**. The project aims to enhance **district-level governance**, improve **e-governance services**, and encourage **private sector involvement** to accelerate **economic development** and **job creation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **OECD** has upgraded **India's GDP growth forecast** for **FY25** to **6.8%**, citing strong **public infrastructure spending, private consumption, and agricultural recovery**. This growth momentum is expected to continue through **FY25** and **FY26**, driven by **investment** and **rural income growth**. Despite global uncertainties and geopolitical risks, India's **economic resilience** points to a promising future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has granted **FCRA licenses** to **USIN Foundation** and reinstated **CNI's license**, allowing the **Church of North India** to resume receiving foreign funds for **social and religious activities**. This decision reflects the MHA's ongoing scrutiny of **NGOs** and increasing **regulatory oversight**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SEBI** clarified that **digital platforms** are not required to register as **Specified Digital Platforms (SDPs)**. The framework simplifies **compliance** for **regulated entities (REs)** while offering **flexibility** for digital platforms. SEBI stated that preventive measures for **SDP recognition** are **voluntary**, with no regulatory framework governing SDPs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **gold reserves** reached **882 tonnes** in October 2024, with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** adding **27 tonnes**. This marks a five-fold increase in gold purchases, totaling **77 tonnes** in 2024. The RBI's acquisition in October accounted for **45%** of global central bank gold purchases. Of India's total gold reserves, **510 tonnes** are held domestically. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Adani Group** plans to invest **\$2 billion** in acquiring **ports in Europe** to strengthen its global presence in sea trade. **Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones Ltd. (APSEZ)** aims to acquire two or three terminals in Europe, which handles **40% of global sea trade**. Domestically, APSEZ currently handles **27%** of India's cargo, with plans to increase it to **40%** by 2030. The group operates ports in **Sri Lanka, Israel, Australia, Tanzania, and Greece**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)** to offer **pre-sanctioned credit lines** via **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, aiming to improve **financial inclusion**. This decision targets underserved groups, such as **micro-entrepreneurs, small businesses,** and rural customers. The credit products will focus on **smaller loan amounts** with **shorter terms**, particularly for **new-to-credit** individuals with limited access to formal credit. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), led by **Governor Shaktikanta Das**, will launch a **podcast series** to enhance **public communication** and **financial literacy**. This initiative aims to provide more accessible and transparent information, focusing on **monetary policy** and financial education. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Eurogrip Tyres**, a leading Indian brand for **2, 3-wheeler**, and off-highway tyres, has signed **M.S. Dhoni** as its brand ambassador. The partnership emphasizes the brand's values of **performance, reliability,** and **safety**, aiming to boost **visibility** and **trust**. Dhoni's passion for **motorcycles** and his focus on **dependability** align with Eurogrip's mission to empower **riders**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Anurag Mehrotra**, with over two decades of experience in the automotive industry, resigned as **Vice President** of **Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles**. He is set to join **JSW MG Motor** as **CEO** in February, aiming to triple the company's volumes in the next 3-5 years. Mehrotra's career includes leadership roles, notably as **Managing Director** of **Ford India**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indian Army** and **Cambodian Army** have begun their first-ever **Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX**, in **Pune** from **1st to 8th December 2024**. The exercise, involving **20 personnel** from each army, focuses on **counter-terrorism** operations under **UN Charter Chapter VII** to enhance **strategic cooperation, trust,** and **interoperability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **4th India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, HARIMAU SHAKTI**, began on **December 2, 2024**, at **Bentong Camp, Malaysia**. Running until **December 15**, the exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation, focusing on **counterinsurgency operations** in **jungle terrain**. The Indian contingent consists of **78 personnel** from the **MAHAR Regiment**, while **123 Malaysian personnel** from the **Royal Malaysian Regiment** are participating. The exercise aims to enhance joint military capabilities and foster stronger **India-Malaysia defense relations**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Adani Defence** has delivered the **Drishti-10 Starliner drone** to the **Indian Navy**, enhancing India's maritime surveillance capabilities. The drone features **36-hour endurance, 450 kg payload,** and is **NATO certified** for **all-weather military operations**. Designed for **intelligence, surveillance,** and **reconnaissance (ISR)**, it offers **persistent, autonomous monitoring** of maritime threats, supporting **satellite communication-based operations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Biden administration** has approved a **\$1.17 billion deal** under the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** program to provide advanced **communication systems, sensors,** and **logistical support** for India's **Sikorsky MH-60R helicopters**. This deal strengthens the **India-US defense partnership** and aims to counter challenges in the **Indian Ocean Region**. The **MH-60R helicopters** are equipped with **anti-submarine warfare** capabilities, including **Mk 54 torpedoes** and **Hellfire missiles**, along with advanced **radar and sonar systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Maria Victoria Juan**, a nurse from the **Philippine Army Health Services**, has been awarded the **Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024** for her exceptional contributions to healthcare. Recognized for her dedication and resilience, she was honored for transforming the healthcare landscape, particularly within the **Armed Forces of the Philippines**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jasleen Kaur**, a Glasgow-born Scottish Sikh artist, won the **Turner Prize 2024** for her solo exhibition **Alter Altar** at **Tate Britain**. The exhibition combines **sculpture, sound,** and **music** to explore **community, cultural inheritance,** and **anti-colonial struggles**. Kaur's work, using everyday objects like **Irn-Bru, family photos,** and a **vintage Ford Escort**, reflects themes of **resilience, memory,** and **identity**. She received a **£25,000** prize for her innovative storytelling. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India won the **ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024** for its innovative social security practices. **EPFO** also received **five Certificates of Merit** for enhancing **service delivery, communication,** and **inclusivity** in social security. The awards were presented by **Dr. Mohammed Azman** at the **Regional Social Security Forum** in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14)** is being held from **December 4–6, 2024** in **New Delhi**, hosted by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. The event brings together **meteorologists, satellite operators, scientists,** and **researchers** to promote **collaboration** and advance **satellite meteorology** through **presentations, panel discussions,** and a **training workshop**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTTC)**, held every three years, will take place in **Chennai, India** from **December 4-6, 2024**. Organized by the **World Maritime Technology Congress**, the event brings together **21 member organizations** from **17 countries** in the maritime technology sector. It will be hosted by the **Institute of Marine Engineers (India)** Chennai Branch. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **IndiGo Airlines** ranked **103rd out of 109** in the 2024 **AirHelp Score** report, placing it among the worst-performing global airlines. **Air India** ranked slightly better at **61st**. IndiGo disputes the findings, criticizing the **methodology** for lacking **transparency**, particularly regarding the **sample size** from India. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- Jay Shah, **Secretary of BCCI**, has begun his tenure as **ICC Chairman** at 36, becoming the youngest to hold the position. His leadership comes during a pivotal time for global cricket, with key opportunities and challenges in expanding the sport's **reach** and **inclusivity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Arjun Erigaisi** has made history by becoming only the second **Indian** after **Viswanathan Anand** to breach the **2800 ELO rating** in classical chess, ranking **4th globally** with a rating of **2801**. This achievement follows his strong performance in **2024**, including an individual gold and team title at the **45th Chess Olympiad**. Erigaisi now joins the elite group, ranking just below **Magnus Carlsen (2831)** and **Fabiano Caruana (2805)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Pavan Kampelli** made history by winning **India's first-ever bronze medal** in **eFootball** at the **2024 Asian Esports Games** in **Bangkok**. Known as '**Mr Tomboy**', Pavan's exceptional skill marked a significant milestone in **India's esports journey**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **Syed Modi International Super 300** (December 2024) in **Lucknow**, **PV Sindhu** claimed her **3rd title**, defeating **Luo Yu Wu** of China (21-14, 21-16). **Lakshya Sen** won his **first Syed Modi title** in men's singles, beating **Jia Heng Jason Teh** of Singapore (21-6, 21-7). **Treesa Jolly** and **Gayatri Gopichand** made history as the **first Indian women's doubles pair** to win the title. The event was held at the **Babu Banarasi Das Academy** in **Uttar Pradesh**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's men's junior hockey team clinched their **fifth Junior Asia Cup** title with a **5-3 victory** over **Pakistan** on December 4, 2024, in **Muscat**. This win marked their **third consecutive championship** (2015, 2023, 2024). **Araijeet Singh Hundal** was the hero, scoring **four goals** to secure the historic triumph. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, Union Minister of State for **Environment, Forest, and Climate Change**, inaugurated a 15-day trial of **Nano Bubble Technology** at the **National Zoological Park**, Delhi. The trial aims to improve **water quality** in zoo ponds by removing **algae, foul odors, and discoloration** caused by pollution, benefiting **aquatic animals**. Successful implementation could lead to broader use for cleaner, healthier water. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC)** scheme, launched on **March 31, 2023**, has reached a milestone of over **43 lakh accounts** by **October 31, 2024**. Aimed at empowering **women and minor girls**, the scheme offers a **7.5% annual interest rate**, compounded quarterly, with a **two-year tenure**. It allows **partial withdrawals** (up to 40%) and **premature closure** on compassionate grounds. To open an account, women or guardians can visit **Post Offices** or designated banks, with deposit limits ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹2 lakh. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SheSTEM 2024**, organized by **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and the **Swedish Embassy** in partnership with **Innovation Norway, Innovation Centre Denmark, and Business Finland**, celebrated the contributions of **women in STEM**. The initiative invited **Indian students** from grades 6–12 to present innovative ideas on **Battery Technology and Energy Storage (BEST)**. Over 1,000 submissions were received, showcasing **youth creativity** and future leadership in **science, technology, and sustainability**. The event is part of the **India-Nordic BEST project** aimed at advancing energy storage solutions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY)**, launched in **February 2024**, is transforming India's **solar energy** sector. In just 9 months, it has achieved **6.3 lakh installations**, with a goal of **10 lakh** by March 2025 and **1 crore** by March 2027. This makes it the world's largest **domestic rooftop solar scheme**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)** has trained **6.39 crore** individuals, surpassing its target of 6 crore rural households by March 31, 2024. Launched under the **Digital India Programme**, it aims to empower rural households with essential **digital skills**. The scheme has enrolled **7.35 crore** individuals, with **4.78 crore** certified, helping beneficiaries access **cashless transactions, online government services**, and improve livelihoods. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

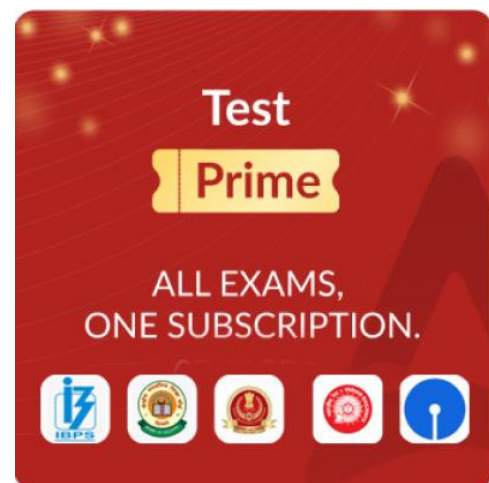
- **IIT Ropar's iHub – AWaDH** celebrated its **4th Foundation Day** with a **Farmer Engagement Session**, marking progress in transforming agriculture through **technology**. Launched under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** with support from the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, AWaDH focuses on **agriculture, water, and IoT**. It has developed over **70 technologies** and nurtured **100+ agri-tech and water-tech startups** for sustainable solutions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Amazon has introduced **Nova Foundation Models (FMs)**, a breakthrough in **generative AI**, designed to process **text, images, and videos**. The **Amazon Nova** series aims to enhance **multimedia content creation, document analysis, and video understanding**, addressing challenges like **latency, cost-effectiveness, and customization**. This positions Amazon as a strong competitor in the AI space, alongside **OpenAI, Meta, and Adobe**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On December 5, 2024, ISRO's **PSLV-C59 rocket** successfully launched the **ESA's Proba-3 mission** to study the **Sun's corona**. The **twin-satellite mission** involves the **Occulter and Coronagraph** spacecraft, which will fly in **formation** to block the Sun's light and observe its outer atmosphere. The mission aims to demonstrate **precise formation flying** and advance understanding of **space weather**. The satellites were placed in a highly elliptical orbit with a perigee of 600 km and an apogee of 60,000 km. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Wisdom**, the world's **oldest wild bird at 74 years old**, a **Laysan albatross**, has made history by laying her first egg in **four years**. First banded in **1956**, Wisdom's remarkable longevity and survival instincts make her an iconic figure in **wildlife conservation**, symbolizing **resilience** and the **delicate balance of nature**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- World AIDS Day, observed on **December 1** since 1988, raises awareness about **HIV/AIDS**, promotes **solidarity**, and highlights progress in **prevention, treatment, and care**. The 2024 theme, "**Take the rights path: My health, my right!**," emphasizes **human rights** in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the importance of achieving **Universal Health Coverage** and the **Right to Health**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**, observed on **December 2**, calls for action against **modern slavery**, including **human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation**, while promoting **human rights** and the **dignity** of individuals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)**, observed on **December 3rd** since 1992, promotes **understanding** of disability issues, advocates for the **rights and dignity** of persons with disabilities, and calls for their integration into **political, social, economic, and cultural** life for **inclusive development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Navy Day** is observed on **December 4** to honor the valor and dedication of the Indian Navy in protecting the nation's maritime borders. It also marks the success of **Operation Trident** during the **1971 Indo-Pak War**. The theme for **Indian Navy Day 2024**, "Strength and Capability through Innovation and Indigenization," highlights the Navy's commitment to achieving **self-reliance** in defense technologies. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **International Day of Banks**, observed on **December 4**, emphasizes the vital role of banks in promoting **sustainable growth**, improving **living standards**, and stabilizing economies. In **India**, the banking sector has shown significant **resilience** and **adaptability** despite challenges like **geopolitical tensions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Volunteer Day (IVD)**, celebrated on **December 5** annually, is recognized by the **United Nations** to honor the contributions of volunteers in **economic and social development** worldwide. It provides a platform for volunteers to showcase their invaluable impact on communities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Soil Day**, observed on **5th December**, emphasizes the importance of **healthy soil** and sustainable soil management. The **2024 theme**, "**Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage**," highlights the need for accurate **soil data** to support sustainable management and ensure **food security**. It focuses on **measuring, monitoring, and managing** soil health for long-term **ecological balance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed on December 6, marks the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the chief architect of the **Indian Constitution**. A visionary leader, **reformer, and thinker**, Dr. Ambedkar dedicated his life to **equality** and fighting **caste-based discrimination**. On this day, millions in India honor his **legacy** and reflect on his teachings for a just and inclusive society. ([Click here to read article](#))
- All India Civil Defence and Home Guards Day, observed on December 6, commemorates the formation of the **Home Guard** force in 1946. Initially established as a **voluntary citizen force** to aid the police, it has evolved into a crucial auxiliary unit supporting the nation during **crises, natural disasters, and emergencies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Armed Forces Flag Day** is observed on **December 7** in India to honor the **valor, sacrifices, and dedication** of the **Indian Armed Forces**. It serves as a reminder of the commitment of the **Army, Navy, and Air Force** in safeguarding the nation's **freedom and security**. The day encourages citizens to express **gratitude** and contribute to the welfare of **personnel, veterans, and their families**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD)** is celebrated on **December 7** to honor the impact of **civil aviation** on **global development**. First observed in 1994, it marks the 50th anniversary of the **Chicago Convention**. The 2024 theme, "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future," highlights **safe, sustainable air travel** and celebrates **80 years** of the Chicago Convention and **ICAO's** achievements in **global connectivity** and **economic progress**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** has declared **December 21** as **World Meditation Day**, co-sponsored by **India** and supported by countries like **Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Mexico**. The resolution highlights meditation's role in promoting **well-being, inner peace**, and addressing modern challenges like **stress and anxiety**. **December 21**, the **Winter Solstice**, is an auspicious time in **Indian tradition** for reflection, complementing the **International Day of Yoga on June 21**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Cheetah Day**, observed on **December 4**, raises awareness about the challenges faced by **cheetahs** and promotes global **conservation** efforts. Established by the **Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)**, the day honors the memory of a cheetah cub, **Khayam**, rescued by **Dr. Laurie Marker**. Cheetahs, once widespread across **Africa, Asia, and the Middle East**, are now **critically endangered**, with fewer than **7,000** individuals remaining in the wild. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Brigadier Raj Manchanda**, known as the 'Old Fox,' passed away on December 1, 2024, at the age of 80. A **six-time National Squash Champion** (1977-1982), he was awarded the **Arjuna Award** for his contributions to the sport. Manchanda also achieved **fourth place** at the **1984 Asian Championships**. His legacy in Indian squash is marked by resilience, excellence, and dedication. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Neale Fraser**, one of **Australia's tennis legends**, passed away at 91. He won **19 Grand Slam titles**, including **3 singles, 11 doubles, and 5 mixed doubles**. Fraser also led **Australia to 8 Davis Cup victories**. His career, spanning singles and doubles success, solidified his legacy as a tennis icon. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **Vikrant Massey**, renowned for his versatile performances across **TV, films, and OTT**, has announced his retirement from acting at **37** after nearly two decades in the industry. He shared the news through an emotional **Instagram** note and plans to complete two final projects before retiring in **2025**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Bank/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
1	ISRO	Chairman - S Somnath Head Office - Bengaluru
2	ESA (European Space Agency)	Director General - Josef Aschbacher Head Office - Paris, France
3	RBI	Governor - Shashikant Das Head Office - Mumbai
4	SEBI	Chairperson - Madhabi Buch Head Office - Mumbai
5	Navi Finserv.	MD & CEO - Sachin Bansal Head Office - Bengaluru
6	TATA Motors	CEO & MD - Marc Llistosella Head Office - Worli, Mumbai
7	World Bank	President - Ajay Banga Head Office - Washington D.C.
8	National Small Industries Corporation Limited	MD - Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya Head Office - Bengaluru
9	Kuwait	Emir - Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Capital - Kuwait City
10	Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake Capital - Colombo
11	Bhutan	PM - Tshering Tobgay Capital - Thimphu

Weekly One Liners 2nd to 8th of December 2024

Sr. No	Bank/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
12	Singapore	PM _ Mr. LEE Hsien Loong Capital - Singapore City
13	Namibia	President - Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Capital - Windhoek
14	Maharashtra	Governor - C.P. Radhakrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnavis Capital - Mumbai
15	Jharkhand	Governor - Santioch Gangwar CM - Hemant Soren Capital - Ranchi
16	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya CM - Himanta Sarma Capital - Dispur
17	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor - Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik CM - Pema Khandu Capital - Itanagar
18	West Bengal	Governor - C.V. Ananda Bose CM - Mamta Banerjee Capital - Kolkata
19	Telangana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Varma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
20	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow

