

Weekly One Liners 29th Dec to 03rd of January 2026

National Affairs

- **IS 19412:2025 for Incense Sticks:** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi released India's first dedicated standard for agarbatti on December 24, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, prohibiting insecticidal chemicals and synthetic fragrances to enhance consumer safety.
- **IS 19445:2025 for Bomb Disposal:** BIS notified India's first dedicated standard for bomb disposal systems in December 2025, covering bomb blankets, baskets, and inhibitors, developed at the request of MHA and TBRL (DRDO).
- **Anti-Dumping Duty on Chinese Products:** GoI imposed five-year anti-dumping duty on refrigerant gas R-134a and cold-rolled non-oriented electrical steel from China, with duties ranging from USD 223.82 to USD 5,251 per tonne.
- **IS 19262:2025 for Electric Tractors:** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi unveiled Indian Standard for Electric Agricultural Tractors on December 24, 2025, setting uniform testing procedures for safety, reliability, and performance.
- **Shipbuilding Initiatives Guidelines:** MoPSW notified operational guidelines for SBFAS (Rs.24,736 crore) and SbDS (Rs.19,989 crore) with total budget of Rs.44,700 crore, valid until March 31, 2036.
- **DAC Approvals Worth Rs.79,000 Crore:** Defence Acquisition Council approved procurement proposals worth Rs.79,000 crore for IA, IN, and IAF under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category in December 2025.
- **Parvati-Arga ESZ Declaration:** GoI declared Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary in Gonda District, UP (1,084 hectares, Ramsar-listed) as Eco-Sensitive Zone to promote biodiversity conservation.
- **VijAlpatha Labs Launch:** Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched Cyient AI Labs in government schools at Hosapete, Vijayanagara district, Karnataka, with Rs.1 crore three-year pilot budget.
- **e-Swasthya Samvad Platform:** Rajasthan Government launched digital communication platform for medical education governance, conducted twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays) in two phases.
- **Batadrava Than Redevelopment:** Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated redeveloped Batadrava Than in Nagaon, Assam on December 29, 2025, completed at Rs.222 crore under Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva Abhirbhav Kshetra project.
- **NFAP-2025 Release:** DoT released National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025, effective December 30, 2025, covering 8.3 kHz to 3000 GHz frequency range with enhanced support for 5G, 6G, and satellite services.
- **IAIRO Approval in Gujarat:** Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel approved establishment of Indian AI Research Organization at GIFT City with Rs.300 crore five-year budget, operational from January 1, 2026.
- **Zero-Duty on Australian Imports:** Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced 100% Australian tariff lines will be zero-duty for Indian exports from January 1, 2026, marking third anniversary of India-Australia ECTA.
- **SOAR Programme Launch:** President Droupadi Murmu launched SOAR initiatives including #SkillTheNation Challenge and IGNOU centre at Rairangpur, Odisha on January 1, 2026.
- **MoSPI New Identity:** MoSPI unveiled new logo with theme "Data for Development" and mascot "Sankhyiki" on January 1, 2026, to modernize institutional identity and enhance public outreach.
- **Land Stack Pilot Launch:** Union MoS Pemasani launched Land Stack portal pilot in Chandigarh and Tamil Nadu, integrating property and land information on GIS-based platform under DILRMP.
- **Sin Goods Tax Revision:** MoF notified revised tax framework for tobacco and pan masala, introducing additional excise duty and health cess replacing GST Compensation Cess from February 1, 2026.
- **Integrated e-Bill System:** Union Minister J.P. Nadda launched Integrated e-Bill system on January 1, 2026, to digitally process fertilizer subsidies worth Rs.2 lakh crore.
- **Defence Procurement Contracts:** MoD signed two contracts worth Rs.4,666 crore for CQB Carbines (Rs.2,770 crore) and Heavy Weight Torpedoes (Rs.1,896 crore) in December 2025.
- **Kavach 4.0 Commissioning:** Western Railways commissioned indigenous Kavach 4.0 on 96 km Bajwa-Ahmedabad section covering 17 stations in Gujarat, with Sankalp Fast as first Kavach-enabled train.



- **NMCG Project Approval:** NMCG's 68th EC meeting approved dedicated project to protect sandbar-nesting birds including Endangered Indian Skimmer in Ganga Basin under Namami Gange Mission-II.
- **India Post Service Discontinuation:** India Post discontinued certain outward international letter mail services from January 1, 2026, including Registered Small Packet and Surface/SAL Letter Mail.
- **Safeguard Duty on Steel:** GoI imposed final safeguard duty on non-alloy and alloy steel flat products imports at 12% (2025-26), 11.5% (2026-27), and 11% (2027-28).
- **ESIC SPREE Extension:** ESIC extended SPREE 2025 registration deadline till January 31, 2026, allowing voluntary registration without past liabilities under ESI Act, 1948.
- **Mann Ki Baat 129th Episode Concludes 2024:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation in the final Mann Ki Baat broadcast of 2024, emphasizing youth participation, innovation, sports achievements, and the vision of Viksit Bharat in this monthly radio programme launched in October 2014.
- **Ayushman Bharat Expands Digital Healthcare Coverage:** The scheme expanded in 2024 with emphasis on digital health records and telemedicine, covering over 50 crore beneficiaries nationwide through integration with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- **Green Panel Approves Dulhasti Stage-II Hydel Project:** The environmental committee cleared the Dulhasti Stage-II Hydel Power Project on Chenab River in Jammu & Kashmir, boosting renewable energy generation with mandated environmental safeguards supporting India's clean energy targets.
- **India Grants New GI Tags to Regional Products:** Several traditional products including handicrafts, textiles, and agricultural items received Geographical Indication tags in 2024, protecting regional identity and increasing exports and rural income.
- **Industrial Production Hits 25-Month Peak:** India's Index of Industrial Production grew 6.7% in November 2025, marking the highest growth rate in over two years driven by manufacturing and electricity sectors.
- **Passport Declared Fundamental Right:** Supreme Court ruled that the right to passport is part of personal liberty under Article 21, declaring arbitrary passport denials unconstitutional.
- **Banking NPAs at Multi-Decade Low:** India's gross non-performing assets dropped to 2.1%, a multi-decade low, reflecting improved asset quality and strengthened banking reforms according to RBI data.
- **Aravalli Hills Case Paused:** Supreme Court paused an order related to Aravalli Hills and sought fresh environmental expert review concerning ecological degradation of one of the world's oldest mountain ranges.
- **India Becomes World's 4th Largest Economy:** India officially overtakes Japan with nominal GDP crossing USD 4 trillion, driven by robust domestic consumption, government capital expenditure, and structural reforms including GST, IBC, Digital India, and PLI schemes.
- **National AI Research Organization Announced for GIFT City:** Government of India establishes national-level AI Research Organization in GIFT City, Gandhinagar to focus on AI research, innovation, policy formulation, and ethical AI development under National AI Strategy.
- **8th Pay Commission Implementation Expected from January 2026:** Discussions underway for implementing 8th Pay Commission from January 1, 2026, which will revise salary, allowances, and pensions benefiting over 1 crore central government employees and pensioners.
- **India Records Historic 5.5 Lakh Trademark Registrations:** India achieves highest-ever trademark registrations in FY 2024-25 with over 5.5 lakh registrations, reflecting increased entrepreneurship, startup activity, and digitization of IP services with AI-based examination systems.
- **Rakesh Aggarwal Appointed as Interim NIA Chief:** Rakesh Aggarwal receives additional charge as Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), ensuring leadership continuity amid increasing focus on terror financing and cross-border threats.
- **NITI Aayog Recognizes Gujarat Biotechnology University as Global Model:** NITI Aayog report highlights Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU) as model institution for industry-integrated and research-driven education, supporting National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 goals.
- **National Test House and NHAI Sign Quality Enhancement MoU:** National Test House (NTH) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) sign MoU to enhance highway construction quality through scientific testing of materials, aiming to reduce structural defects and road accidents.
- **Cabinet Clears 6-Lane Nashik-Solapur-Akkalkot Greenfield Corridor:** Union Cabinet approved a 6-lane greenfield corridor to boost Maharashtra connectivity.
- **Centre's Fiscal Deficit Crosses 62% of FY26 Target:** Fiscal deficit crossed 62% of the annual target in FY26.
- **The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train** has been approved after trials, ushering in **high-speed overnight rail travel**. Its **first route Guwahati-Kolkata**, with **180 kmph speed**, modern amenities, and **KAVACH safety system**, boosts **Make in India**.

- **MoSPI** launched a new logo and mascot “**सांख्यिकी (Sankhyiki)**” to promote **data-driven governance**. The initiative enhances **public participation**, awareness, and transparency in statistics.
- From **February 1**, extra **excise duty** on tobacco and **Health & National Security Cess** on pan masala will apply. The move supports **public health**, revenue generation, and regulation of **sin goods**.
- The **Government of India** has launched a **Digital E-Bill System** for fertiliser subsidies, inaugurated by **Union Minister JP Nadda**. The platform will digitally process nearly **₹2 lakh crore** in annual subsidy payments.
- India recorded **166 tiger deaths in 2025**, an increase from 2024, according to the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**. **Madhya Pradesh** reported the highest deaths due to **territorial conflicts, habitat pressure, and space crunch**, with some cases of **poaching**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the international exhibition “**The Light and the Lotus**” showcasing **Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Bhagwan Buddha** in New Delhi.
- **Parvati Arga Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone**: Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh was declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone with restrictions on industrial activities to protect biodiversity and act as buffer zone.
- **Delhi Launches AI-Based Grievance Redressal System**: Delhi Government collaborates with IIT Kanpur to launch AI-based grievance redressal system using Machine Learning to automatically classify and route public complaints for time-bound and transparent resolution.
- **Goa to Get Third District with Headquarters at Quepem**: **Goa government** announced the formation of a third district.
- Tamil Nadu will begin **Jallikattu 2026** on **January 3 at Thatchankurichi**, Pudukkottai. Events will follow **2017 Amendment Act**, with **strict SOPs**, online permissions, and safety norms.
- **Assam** became the **first state** to form the **8th State Pay Commission** ahead of time. Headed by **Subhas Das**, it aims at timely **salary and pension revision**.
- **Surat** is close to becoming India's **first slum-free city** through **in-situ slum redevelopment** under **PMAY** and state housing schemes.
- Delhi **PWD** has mandated **QR codes** on all new road signboards from **January 1, 2026**. Citizens can access details like **manufacturer, materials, and warranty**, and report issues via the **PWD Sewa App**, enhancing **transparency, accountability, and public participation**.
- **Bulgaria** has adopted the **Euro**, becoming the **21st Eurozone member**, replacing the **Bulgarian lev**. The move is expected to boost **trade, investment, and financial integration**, though concerns remain over **inflation and national identity**.
- **Turkmenistan** has legalized **cryptocurrency mining and trading** from **January 2026**, introducing **Central Bank licensing** and strict **state oversight**. Cryptos will not be **legal tender**. The move aims at **economic diversification** beyond **natural gas**.

States in the News

- **Karnataka AI Initiatives**: Karnataka launched India's first AI-powered Skills Intelligence Unit (KSIU) and District Skill Groups at Quest 2 Learn Summit 2025 in Bengaluru.
- **Gujarat IAIRO Establishment**: Gujarat became first state to host specialized AI research body with IAIRO establishment at GIFT City, operational from January 1, 2026.
- **Rajasthan e-Swasthya Platform**: Rajasthan launched e-Swasthya Samvad digital platform for medical education governance, conducted twice weekly with two-phase interaction model.
- **Odisha Joins AB-PMJAY**: Odisha signed MoU with NHA in January 2025 to join AB-PMJAY as 34th State/UT, providing Rs.5 lakh health coverage per family.
- **Delhi Joins AB-PMJAY**: Delhi signed MoU with NHA in April 2025, becoming 35th State/UT to join AB-PMJAY, leaving West Bengal as only non-joiner.
- **Assam Batadrava Redevelopment**: Assam completed Rs.222 crore redevelopment of Batadrava Than in Nagaon district, birthplace of Srimanta Sankardeva, inaugurated December 29, 2025.
- **Himachal Pradesh Launches Green to Gold Hemp Initiative**: The state adopted industrial hemp farming under the Green to Gold initiative for textiles, medicine, and eco-friendly products, promoting sustainable agriculture and farmer income under strict regulatory norms.



- **France plans to restrict social media use for children under 15**, requiring **parental consent** and **age verification**. The move aims to protect **mental health**, prevent **cyberbullying**, and curb **addictive online behavior**, possibly influencing **EU-level rules**.

International Affairs

- **India Rare Earth Reserves Ranking**: India ranked 3rd globally with 6.9 million tonnes REO reserves (6-7% of global reserves), behind China (44 MT) and Brazil (21 MT).
- **Russia Soyuz-2.1b Launch**: Russia launched Soyuz-2.1b rocket with 52 satellites from Vostochny Cosmodrome on December 28, 2025, including two Aist-2T Earth-observation satellites and 50 university satellites.
- **Russia Launches Iranian Satellites**: Russia launched three Iranian satellites (Paya-150 kg, Kowsar-35 kg, Zafar-2) from Vostochny Cosmodrome with 3m resolution imaging capability for 5-year mission.
- **Syria New Currency Series**: Syria unveiled new banknotes (10-500 Syrian Pounds) with agricultural motifs, entering circulation from January 1, 2026, with 90-day dual tender period.
- **Bulgaria Adopts Euro**: Bulgaria adopted Euro as official currency from January 1, 2026, replacing Bulgarian lev at conversion rate 1 EUR = 1.95583 BGN, becoming 21st Eurozone member.
- **India Becomes 4th Largest Economy**: India overtook Japan to become world's 4th largest economy with GDP of USD 4.18 trillion, behind USA, China, and Germany.
- **Israel Recognizes Somaliland as Independent State**: Israel officially recognized Somaliland, which declared independence from Somalia in 1991, marking a geopolitically significant move in the Horn of Africa with mixed international reactions affecting regional diplomacy.
- **Thailand and Cambodia Agree to Border Ceasefire**: The two nations reached a ceasefire agreement through diplomatic negotiations after border clashes, restoring stability in Southeast Asia with ASEAN welcoming the development in the long-standing territorial dispute.
- **Natural Disasters Cost World Over \$120 Billion**: Global losses from wildfires, floods, and cyclones exceeded \$120 billion in 2024, with climate change increasing disaster frequency and intensity, disproportionately affecting developing countries and highlighting climate resilience needs.
- **Warren Buffett Steps Down as Berkshire Hathaway CEO**: Legendary investor Warren Buffett announced his decision to step down as CEO, marking the end of an era in global investment leadership.
- **India and Pakistan exchanged nuclear installation lists on January 1, 2026**. The annual exchange under the **1988 agreement** promotes **strategic stability**.

- **India-Pakistan Exchange Prisoners List**, Both nations exchanged **civil prisoners and fishermen lists** under the **2008 Consular Pact**. India emphasized **early release**, consular access, and humanitarian concerns.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **NTH-DMSRDE MoU**: NTH (MoCAF&PD) signed MoU with DMSRDE (DRDO) in December 2025 to strengthen cooperation in research, testing, and training under IC-CIR&D programme.
- **IAF SDI-IIT Madras MoU**: IAF's Software Development Institute signed MoU with IIT-Madras to jointly develop indigenous airborne communication system for Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.
- **FITT-IDFC Bank Partnership**: FITT (IIT Delhi) partnered with IDFC First Bank to launch new cohort under IGNITE program, supporting 15 startups with up to Rs.30 lakhs each.
- **Air India-airBaltic Codeshare**: Air India and Latvia's airBaltic signed unilateral codeshare agreement on December 30, 2025, enhancing connectivity between India and Baltic region through European hubs.
- **DoP-SIDBI MoU**: DoP and SIDBI signed MoU for Contact Point Verification of IMEs registered on Udyam Assist Platform, valid from December 31, 2025 to December 30, 2027.

Books and Authors

- **Mahamana Vangmay Release**: VP C.P. Radhakrishnan released second series of 'Mahamana Vangmay' (12 volumes, 3,500 pages) on December 25, 2025, compilation of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's works.
- **Books on Sree Narayana Guru**: VP Radhakrishnan released four books during Kerala visit including "The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism" and "Empowering Minds and Transforming Lives" during Trivandrum Fest 2025.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Aryaman Finance NBFC License**: Aryaman Finance (India) Limited received CoR from RBI in December 2025 to operate as Type-II NBFC-ND-ICC for lending and investment services.
- **RBI Banking Report 2024-25**: RBI released report showing India's banking sector with 12 PSBs, 21 PVBs, 44 FBs; consolidated balance sheet grew 11.2% in FY25 versus 15.5% in FY24.
- **Bank Fraud Rise**: Bank fraud amount increased 30% to Rs.21,515 crore in April-September 2025-26, though number of cases declined to 5,092 from previous period.
- **Rediff.com TPAP License**: Rediff.com India (Infibeam Avenues) received NPCI approval for TPAP license to launch RediffPay, India's first financial wellness-focused UPI app with Axis Bank as PSP.

- **IDFC Gaj Credit Card:** IDFC First Bank launched 'Gaj' invitation-only metal credit card for HNIs with Rs.12,500 joining/annual fee, offering zero forex markup and global benefits.
- **BRISKPE PA-CB Authorization:** RBI granted final PA-CB authorization to BRISKPE in December 2025 to facilitate cross-border inward and outward payments under PSS Act, 2007.
- **SEBI NISM Mandate for AIFs:** SEBI mandated NISM Series-III-C certification for AIF compliance officers from January 1, 2027, with disclosure required in annual Compliance Test Reports.
- **SSS Rates Unchanged:** MoF kept interest rates unchanged on Small Savings Schemes including PPF and SSY for Q4FY26 (January-March 2026), marking eighth consecutive quarter.
- **RBI NBFC Risk Guidelines:** RBI issued final guidelines relaxing risk-weight norms for NBFCs in infrastructure financing, effective April 1, 2026, with grace period till March 31, 2027.
- **SMFCL Lending Operations:** Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited, India's first maritime NBFC, commenced operations sanctioning Rs.4,300 crore loans including Rs.4,000 crore for Greenfield Port Project.
- **Ashika Group MF Approval:** Ashika Group received SEBI in-principle approval on December 31, 2025, to establish Ashika Mutual Fund and form AMC for scheme launches.
- **Aryaman Financial Gets RBI Approval as NBFC:** Aryaman Financial arm received Reserve Bank of India approval to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company, strengthening India's financial services ecosystem and expanding credit availability with regulatory compliance.
- **RBI Injects ₹50,000 Crore Liquidity:** Reserve Bank of India conducted ₹50,000 crore Open Market Operation by purchasing government securities to boost banking system liquidity and support credit growth.
- **RBL Bank Restructures Top Management:** RBL Bank announces major management changes with appointment of new Executive Director (ED) and Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to strengthen financial discipline, risk management, and corporate governance.
- **RBI Reviews Scale-Based Regulation Framework for NBFCs:** Reserve Bank of India reviews Scale-Based Regulation (SBR) framework classifying NBFCs by size, risk, and systemic importance to strengthen financial stability amid rapid credit expansion.
- **ATM Numbers Decline as Digital Payments Surge:** RBI reports decline in ATM numbers during FY 2024-25 due to rapid rise in digital payments and UPI usage, reflecting India's transition toward less-cash economy supporting Digital India objectives.
- **Credit Growth Nears 12% While Deposit Growth Slows:** Bank credit growth remains strong at around 12% in FY 2024-25 driven by retail loans, MSMEs, and infrastructure, while slower deposit growth creates liquidity pressure with widening Credit-Deposit ratio.
- **India's Broadband Subscribers Cross 100 Crore Mark:** India reached a major digital milestone as broadband subscribers crossed 100 crore.
- **Market Access Support Scheme to Boost Indian Exports:** The scheme aims to enhance India's export competitiveness.
- **UPI transactions reached 21.63 billion in December 2025,** growing **29% YoY**. This highlights India's leadership in **real-time digital payments**.
- **GST collections rose 6.1% to ₹1.75 लाख करोड़** in December 2025. The growth reflects **economic recovery** and improved tax compliance.
- Former **Bank of India ED Karthikeyan Manickam** has been appointed **Chairman of ESAF Small Finance Bank**, strengthening **corporate governance, risk management, and regulatory compliance**.
- As per **RBI data**, **industrial credit** grew **9.6% in November 2025**, with strong lending to **MSMEs, infrastructure, and services sector**, indicating **balanced economic recovery**.
- The **RBI FSR 2025** highlights strong **GDP growth**, low **GNPA (2.1%)**, and healthy **capital buffers**, but warns of risks from **unsecured loans, fintech credit, and stablecoins**.
- India's **forex reserves** rose to **\$696.61 billion**, boosting **external stability, investor confidence**, and India's ability to handle **global uncertainties**.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Ratan Kumar Kesh Reappointed:** RBI approved re-appointment of Ratan Kumar Kesh as ED of Bandhan Bank for three years effective March 31, 2026, continuing as COO and KMP.
- **Rakesh Agarwal Interim NIA DG:** MHA appointed IPS officer Rakesh Agarwal (1994-batch, HP cadre) as Interim DG of NIA in December 2025 until regular appointment.
- **Lav Aggarwal DGFT DG:** ACC appointed Lav Aggarwal (1996-batch IAS, AP cadre) as DG of DGFT, succeeding Ajay Bhadoo who held additional charge.
- **Rabindra Kumar Agarwal FCI CMD:** ACC appointed Rabindra Kumar Agarwal (1997-batch IAS, Kerala cadre) as CMD of FCI, replacing Ashutosh Agnihotri transferred to MoEFCC.
- **Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia Canara CEO:** Canara Bank appointed Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia as interim MD & CEO effective January 1, 2026, for three months or until regular appointment.

- **Andre De Grasse TMM Ambassador:** Seven-time Olympic medallist Canadian sprinter Andre De Grasse named international event ambassador for 21st Tata Mumbai Marathon scheduled January 18, 2026.
- The Centre appointed new **Chief Justices for Kerala, Patna, and Meghalaya High Courts**. Appointments follow **Supreme Court Collegium** recommendations, ensuring judicial continuity.

Defence News

- **ICG RPRES-25 Exercise:** Indian Coast Guard conducted Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise off Mumbai coast in December 2025 to test oil spill combat preparedness.
- **ICG-L&T RLHTS Deal:** ICG signed agreement with L&T Precision Engineering for procurement of six Rail-Less Helo Traversing Systems for Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels.
- **DAC Rs.79,000 Crore Approvals:** DAC approved procurement of Loiter Munition Systems, LLLWRs, Pinaka LRGR, BP Tugs, HF SDR, HALE RPAS, Astra Mk-II missiles, and SPICE-1000 kits.
- **MoD Defence Deals Worth Rs.4,666 Crore:** MoD signed contracts for 4.25 lakh CQB Carbines (Rs.2,770 crore from Bharat Forge-PLR JV) and 48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes (Rs.1,896 crore from WASS Italy).
- **Pralay Missile Salvo Test:** DRDO successfully conducted salvo launch of two Pralay missiles (150-500 km range, 500-1000 kg payload) from ITR Chandipur, Odisha in December 2025.
- **Pinaka LRGR 120 Test:** DRDO conducted maiden flight test of Pinaka LRGR 120 (120 km range) on December 29, 2025, at ITR Chandipur, designed by ARDE and developed by HEMRL.
- **President Murmu Joins Elite Submarine Mission Club:** President Droupadi Murmu participated in a submarine mission in 2024, joining select Indian leaders with submarine experience, showcasing indigenous naval capabilities and strategic preparedness while boosting defense morale.
- **Indian Coast Guard Conducts RPRES 2024:** The Regional Pollution Response Exercise focused on handling marine oil spill emergencies with participation from multiple national maritime agencies, enhancing India's marine environmental protection preparedness aligned with MARPOL conventions.

- **Pinaka Long-Range Rocket Tested:** DRDO successfully tested the Pinaka Long-Range Guided Rocket system with over 75 km strike range, enhancing Indian Army's precision strike capability under 'Make in India' initiative.
- **Defence Acquisitions Worth ₹79,000 Crore Cleared:** Defence Acquisition Council approved procurements worth ₹79,000 crore, mostly from indigenous manufacturers, boosting self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- **INSV Kaundinya Sets Sail to Oman:** INSV Kaundinya began its maiden voyage from India to Oman, symbolizing India's ancient maritime heritage and strengthening cultural diplomacy through historical trade links.
- **Defence Ministry Signs ₹4,666 Crore Contracts for Carbines and Torpedoes:** Ministry of Defence signs major contracts worth ₹4,666 crore for indigenous procurement of carbines and torpedoes to enhance Indian Army and Navy combat capabilities under Make in India initiative.
- **DRDO Successfully Tests Pralay Missile with Consecutive Salvo Launch:** DRDO successfully carried out consecutive salvo launches of the Pralay missile.
- **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor** took charge as **Vice Chief of the Air Staff** on January 1, 2026. His leadership strengthens **IAF readiness**, training, and modernization.
- **Air Marshal S. Shrinivas** assumed charge of **IAF Training Command**. He brings strong focus on **pilot training** and human resource development.
- **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** became AOC-in-C of **South Western Air Command**. His role boosts **air defence preparedness** in a strategic region.
- The **Desert Cyclone II** exercise concluded in **Abu Dhabi** on December 30, 2025. It enhanced **counter-terrorism**, urban warfare skills, and bilateral defence ties.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Singapore Changi Best Airport:** Singapore Changi Airport awarded Best International Airport 2025 by Travel+Leisure India & South Asia at 14th India's Best Awards.
- **Jayshree Ullal Hurun List:** Indian-origin Jayshree Ullal, Arista Networks CEO, ranked first on Hurun India Rich List 2025 with net worth of USD 5.7 billion (Rs.50,170 crores).
- **Kaamya Karthikeyan South Pole:** 18-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan became youngest Indian and second-youngest woman globally to ski to South Pole on December 27, 2025, after 115 km trek.
- **Meera Syal Damehood:** British-Indian comedian and author Meera Syal awarded Damehood (DBE) in King Charles III's New Year Honours List 2026 for contributions to literature and drama.

Summits and Conferences News

- **Anti-Terror Conference 2025:** NIA organized two-day ATC 2025 in New Delhi (December 26-28) where Union Minister Amit Shah launched OCND, LLRWD databases and honored nine NIA personnel.
- **Quest 2 Learn Summit 2025:** Karnataka launched India's first AI-powered KSIU and DSGs at Quest 2 Learn Summit 2025 hosted by Quest Alliance in Bengaluru.
- **Trivandrum Fest 2025:** VP Radhakrishnan participated in Trivandrum Fest 2025, Christmas-New Year Peace Carnival in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, organized by South Kerala Diocese.
- **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0:** VP Radhakrishnan addressed valedictory function of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 as Chief Guest in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu on December 30, 2025.
- **Anti-Terror Conference 2025:** Union Minister Amit Shah inaugurated two-day ATC 2025 in New Delhi (December 26-28), organized by NIA, launching OCND, LLRWD, and Updated NIA Crime Manual.
- **5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries Strengthens Federalism:** PM Modi chaired the conference in New Delhi with Chief Secretaries from all States and UTs, focusing on faster implementation of flagship schemes and reviewing the Aspirational Districts Programme to strengthen cooperative federalism.

Ranks and Reports

- **India 3rd in Rare Earth Reserves:** India ranked 3rd globally with 6.9 million tonnes REO reserves (6-7% of global reserves), behind China (44 MT) and Brazil (21 MT).
- **India 4th Largest Economy:** India overtook Japan to become world's 4th largest economy with GDP of USD 4.18 trillion, projected to reach USD 7.3 trillion by 2030.
- **RBI Banking Progress Report:** RBI report showed SCB consolidated balance sheet grew 11.2% in FY25; PSBs share declined to 54.9%, bank credit increased 11.5%, investments rose 9.2%.



Sports News

- **2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess:** GM Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won sixth World Rapid title with 10.5/13 points; GM Aleksandra Goryachkina (Russia) won maiden Women's title in Doha, Qatar.
- **2025 FIDE World Blitz Chess:** GM Magnus Carlsen won ninth World Blitz title defeating Nodirbek Abdusattorov 2.5-1.5; GM Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kazakhstan) won third Women's title in Doha.
- **21st Tata Mumbai Marathon:** Canadian sprinter Andre De Grasse (7 Olympic medals) named international event ambassador for 21st TMM scheduled January 18, 2026 in Mumbai.
- **India Records Strong Sports Resurgence in 2024:** Indian athletes won medals in Asian and global tournaments with record-breaking performances in athletics, badminton, wrestling, and shooting, supported by TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme) enhancing India's global sporting reputation.
- **Surya Tamiri Wins National Badminton Title:** Surya Tamiri clinched the men's singles title at the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships in 2025, defeating a top-seeded opponent in a major career breakthrough.
- **Historic T20I Bowling Feat:** Sonam Yeshey became the first Indian to take 8 wickets in a men's T20 International match during a 2025 international series, achieving one of the best bowling performances in T20I history.
- **Smriti Mandhana Crosses 10,000 Runs:** Smriti Mandhana became the second Indian woman to cross 10,000 international runs across all formats during a 2025 match, reflecting her consistency in global women's cricket.
- **Chess Bronze for India:** Koneru Humpy and Arjun Erigaisi won bronze medals at the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championships 2025, highlighting India's rising prominence in global chess competition.
- **Deepti Sharma Sets New Women's T20 Wicket Record:** Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma creates new record for most wickets in Women's T20 Internationals during 2025 international series, highlighting rising dominance of Indian women's cricket globally.
- **Carlsen Wins Gold, Arjun Erigaisi Secures Bronze at Blitz World Championship:** Magnus Carlsen won gold while India's Arjun Erigaisi clinched bronze.
- The **Vande Bharat Sleeper Train** has been approved after trials, ushering in **high-speed overnight rail travel**. Its **first route Guwahati-Kolkata**, with **180 kmph speed**, modern amenities, and **KAVACH safety system**, boosts **Make in India**.
- **MoSPI** launched a new logo and mascot "**सांख्यिकी (Sankhyiki)**" to promote **data-driven governance**. The initiative enhances **public participation**, awareness, and transparency in statistics.

- From **February 1**, extra **excise duty** on tobacco and **Health & National Security Cess** on pan masala will apply. The move supports **public health**, revenue generation, and regulation of **sin goods**.
- Sjoerd Marijne** has returned as **Chief Coach** of the **Indian Women's Hockey Team** ahead of World Cup qualifiers. He earlier guided India to a historic **4th place at Tokyo Olympics 2020**.
- The **National Sports Governance Act, 2025** introduces **National Sports Board, Sports Tribunal**, athlete representation, and strict oversight to ensure **ethical governance** and **athlete welfare**.

Schemes and Committees News

- PMMVY Nine Years:** Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana completed nine years on January 1, 2026, providing Rs.5,000-6,000 financial support to pregnant women for first two children.
- ESIC SPREE 2025 Extension:** ESIC extended SPREE 2025 registration deadline till January 31, 2026, allowing establishments with 10+ employees voluntary registration without past liabilities.
- IGNITE Program Cohort:** FITT (IIT Delhi) and IDFC First Bank launched new cohort under IGNITE program supporting 15 startups with up to Rs.30 lakhs non-dilutive funding.
- AB-PMJAY Expansion:** Odisha (January 2025) and Delhi (April 2025) joined AB-PMJAY as 34th and 35th State/UT respectively, leaving West Bengal as the only non-joiner state.
- Jal Seva Aankalan Launch:** MoJS launched GP-led digital drinking water service assessment tool on JJM portal, to be completed by all HGJ Gram Panchayats by January 26, 2026.
- REPM Scheme Launched to Boost Manufacturing:** Government introduced the REPM Scheme to reduce import dependence, supporting MSMEs and large-scale manufacturers in electronics and green manufacturing sectors, complementing the Make in India initiative.
- India Develops Open-Source Drug Research Tool 'PathGenIE':** Indigenous computational tool PathGenIE developed for advanced drug discovery and pathogen research, supporting AI-driven biomedical research and enhancing capacity for pharmaceutical innovation under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- Centre Launches Market Access Support Scheme:** Government launched a new scheme to support Indian exporters.

Science and Technology News

- PARAM Rudra Supercomputer:** Union Minister Amitesh Kumar Sinha inaugurated PARAM Rudra, Bihar's first supercomputer at IIT-Patna on December 26, 2025, supporting 60 faculty and 400 students.
- Dhruv-NG Helicopter Launch:** Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated HAL's indigenous Dhruv-NG civil helicopter (5,500 kg, twin Shakti engines) in Bengaluru on December 2025.
- Russia Soyuz Satellite Launch:** Russia launched Soyuz-2.1b with 52 satellites (2 Aist-2T, 50 university satellites) from Vostochny Cosmodrome on December 28, 2025, sixth launch of 2025.
- DRDO Pralay Salvo Test:** DRDO successfully conducted salvo launch of two Pralay missiles (150-500 km range quasi-ballistic SSM) from ITR Chandipur in December 2025.
- DRDO Pinaka LRGR Test:** DRDO conducted maiden test of Pinaka LRGR 120 (120 km range) on December 29, 2025, designed by ARDE with carbon-epoxy motor case.
- ISRO Plans Third Launch Pad at Sriharikota:** Indian Space Research Organisation announced plans for a third launch pad to support Gaganyaan and future heavy-lift missions, increasing launch frequency and capacity, strengthening space infrastructure aligned with Space Vision 2047.
- World's First ITVISMA Gene Therapy:** The world's first ITVISMA gene therapy was administered in Abu Dhabi in 2025, marking a breakthrough in precision medicine for treating rare genetic disorders at their root cause.
- Google Allows Users to Change Primary Gmail Address:** Google introduced a new feature allowing users to change their primary Gmail address.
- 2026 will witness India's Gaganyaan G1 and NASA's Artemis-II missions.** These missions mark a new era in **human spaceflight** and global space cooperation.
- Hyderabad start-ups **TakeMe2Space** and **EON Space Labs** have developed a **14-kg mini satellite (MOI-1)** for **ISRO's PSLV launch** in January 2026. Featuring **AI-based data processing**, it highlights India's **start-up-driven space innovation**.

Important Days News

- Observed on **January 3**, the day promotes **holistic health**, emphasizing the connection between **mental and physical well-being**, encouraging **mindfulness, healthy lifestyle**, and **preventive healthcare**.
- Rani Velu Nachiyar**, born in **1730**, was a courageous queen of **Tamil Nadu** and one of the **earliest Indian rulers** to lead **armed resistance against British colonial rule**, much before **1857**.
- Savitribai Phule**, born on **January 3, 1831**, was a pioneering **social reformer from Maharashtra** and is regarded as **India's first woman teacher**.

Obituaries News

- **Biswa Bandhu Sen:** Tripura Assembly Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen (11th Speaker since March 2023) passed away at 72 in Bengaluru; 4-time MLA from Dharmanagar constituency (North Tripura).
- **Begum Khaleda Zia:** Former Bangladesh PM Begum Khaleda Zia (BNP Chairperson) passed away at 80 in Dhaka on December 30, 2025; first female PM (1991-96, 2001-06).

Miscellaneous News

- **Cabinet NH-326 Widening Approval:** Union Cabinet approved widening of NH-326 (68.600-311.700 km) in Odisha with Rs.1,526.21 crore budget in EPC mode, completion in 24 months.
- **Cabinet Nashik-Solapur Corridor:** CCEA approved 6-lane greenfield Nashik-Solapur-Akkalkot Corridor (374 km) in Maharashtra on BOT mode with Rs.19,142 crore investment improving west-east connectivity.
- **VP Radhakrishnan Puducherry Visit:** VP inaugurated Senior Secondary Block at Petit Seminaire School, launched 216 housing tenements under Smart City Mission in Puducherry on December 29, 2025.
- **DoT Telecom Security Reforms:** DoT announced three major reforms including Pro Tem Certification extension (2 years from January 1, 2026), 50% TSTL fee reduction, simplified ITSAR for ONT devices.

Static Takeaways

- **Bureau of Indian Standards:** DG - Sanjay Garg; Headquarters - New Delhi; Established - 1987
- **Indian Coast Guard:** DG - Paramesh Sivamani; Headquarters - New Delhi; Established - 1977
- **National Test House:** Established - 1912; Accreditation - NABL; Recognition - BIS
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited:** CMD - Dr. D.K. Sunil; Headquarters - Bengaluru; Established - 1964
- **DRDO:** Chairman - Dr. Samir V. Kamat; Headquarters - New Delhi; Established - 1958

- **Ministry of Defence:** Union Minister - Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, UP); MoS - Sanjay Seth (Ranchi, Jharkhand)
- **Ministry of Consumer Affairs:** Union Minister - Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad, Karnataka); MoS - B.L. Verma (UP), Nimuben Bambhaniya (Bhavnagar, Gujarat)
- **IDFC First Bank:** MD & CEO - V. Vaidyanathan; Headquarters - Mumbai; Established - 2018
- **Food Corporation of India:** CMD - Rabindra Kumar Agarwal; Headquarters - New Delhi; Established - 1965
- **SEBI:** Headquarters - Mumbai; Established - 1988; Statutory Powers - 1992
- **Canara Bank:** Interim MD & CEO - Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia
- **FIDE:** President - Arkady Dvorkovich; Headquarters - Lausanne, Switzerland; Established - 1924
- **Odisha:** CM - Mohan Charan Majhi; Governor - Hari Babu Kambhampati; Capital - Bhubaneswar
- **Karnataka:** CM - Siddaramaiah; Governor - Thaawar Chand Gehlot; Capital - Bengaluru
- **Tamil Nadu:** CM - M.K. Stalin; Governor - R.N. Ravi; Capital - Chennai
- **Maharashtra:** CM - Devendra Fadnavis; Governor - Acharya Devvrat; Capital - Mumbai
- **Assam:** CM - Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya; Capital - Dispur
- **Russia:** President - Vladimir Putin; Capital - Moscow; Currency - Russian Ruble (RUB)
- **Bangladesh:** President - Mohammed Shahabuddin; Capital - Dhaka; Currency - Bangladeshi Taka (BDT)

