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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# NATIONAL NEWS

### UTTARAKHAND'S MANUAL FOR UNIFORM CIVIL CODE -

- **Recently, Uttarakhand's government approved a comprehensive manual for its Uniform Civil Code (UCC), aiming to standardise personal laws across the state.**
- This initiative marks Uttarakhand as the first state of India to implement the UCC, with preparations underway for training officials and launching online services.
- The UCC seeks to streamline processes related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and other personal matters, amid ongoing discussions about its broader implications for Indian society.



### AYODHYA CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RAM LALLA'S PRAN PRATISHTHA -

- The sacred city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh is resonating with devotion and festivity as it marks the first anniversary of the 'Pran Pratishtha' of Ram Lalla at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.
- **The milestone event, celebrated on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, reflects the city's spiritual legacy and the culmination of centuries of devotion and struggle.**
- The grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla took place on January 22, 2024, under the auspices of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a historic moment for the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir.
- The ritual, steeped in ancient Hindu traditions, symbolizes the consecration of Lord Ram's idol in the sanctum sanctorum, making it a revered site for millions of devotees.



### INDIA WELCOMES ITS FIRST GENERATION BETA BABY -

- As the year 2025 brought upon the world the 'Generation Beta', India got its first baby of this gen on New Year's day, January 1, in Mizoram's Aizawl.
- **The baby, named Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng, is recognized as India's first child from the so-called Generation Beta. Born at 12:03 AM on January 1, 2025, at Synod Hospital in Durtlang, Aizawl, the healthy newborn weighed a little over 3.12 kilograms.**
- This milestone makes Frankie the "first-gen Beta Baby" of India, symbolizing a new chapter of hope and progress for the nation. Beta Generation babies, born from the mid-2020s, are set to thrive



in an era defined by groundbreaking AI, sustainable living, and a seamlessly connected digital world.

#### **PM TO INAUGURATE Z-MORH TUNNEL, BOOSTING KASHMIR-LADAKH CONNECTIVITY -**

- The Z-Morh tunnel, set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 13, 2024, marks a significant step in creating a year-round strategic corridor between Kashmir and Ladakh.
- **The tunnel is critical for ensuring continuous access to Sonamarg, a popular tourist destination, which was previously inaccessible during the winter months due to snow and avalanches.**
- Built under the Thajiwas Glacier, it bypasses landslide-prone areas and includes an intelligent traffic management system to enhance safety and control vehicle flow. The tunnel is also expected to boost winter tourism in Kashmir and support military logistics to Ladakh.

#### **INDIA'S FY25 GROWTH FORECAST CUT TO 6.5% BY IMF -**

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised India's economic growth forecast for FY25, reducing it to 6.5%, down from earlier projections. Despite this downward revision, the IMF retained a stable growth outlook for FY26.**
- The adjustment reflects current challenges, including global economic uncertainties and domestic inflationary pressures, which may impact India's growth trajectory.
- This revision comes in the context of the country's ongoing recovery post-pandemic, with the IMF also citing inflation, investment slowdown, and geopolitical risks as key factors that could affect economic momentum.



#### **INDIA TO HOST 28TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE IN 2026 -**

- India is set to host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in January 2026.
- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced this during the CSPOC Standing Committee Meeting in Guernsey. The conference will focus on the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and social media into parliamentary processes, reflecting India's commitment to technological advancement and modern governance.**



#### **TIMELINE OF THE INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER ISSUE -**

- **1975:** India and Bangladesh signed Joint Guidelines and agreed not to construct defense structures within 150 yards of the international border.
- **1980s:** India initiated barbed wire fencing along critical stretches of the India-Bangladesh border to address infiltration, smuggling, and illegal migration.
- **2015:** Land Boundary Agreement (LBA): Resolved long-standing enclave and land disputes between the two nations. Enabled better border demarcation, facilitating additional fencing. India enacted the 100th Constitutional Amendment to implement the agreement.





- **2019:** Operation BOLD-QIT Launched, Deployed in Assam's Dhubri district under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS). Introduced electronic surveillance for riverine and porous sections of the border.
- **2023:** Fencing Progress: Approximately 81.5% of the 4,096.7 km border was fenced as of 2023. Challenges such as riverine areas, resistance from local communities, and pending land acquisition continued to impede progress.

#### **ISKCON TEMPLE INAUGURATED BY PM MODI IN NAVI MUMBAI -**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sri Sri Radha Madanmohanji Temple of ISKCON in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, on January 15, 2025.**
- Built over 12 years at a cost of ₹170 crore, this temple is Asia's second-largest ISKCON temple.
- It stands as a fusion of spirituality and knowledge, featuring various facilities that reflect ISKCON's mission to serve society.
- The inauguration was attended by prominent figures, including Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Governor CP Radhakrishnan, and MP Hema Malini.



#### **MAKAR SANKRANTI 2025 -**

- Makar Sankranti is a vibrant and ancient Hindu festival that celebrates the Sun's movement from the Sagittarius zodiac sign to Capricorn.
- **This event marks the end of the long winter nights and the beginning of longer days, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness. In 2025, Makar Sankranti will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 14.**



#### **CENTRE ENDS NO DETENTION RULES IN SCHOOLS -**

- The government of India abolished the 'No-detention policy' for students in class 5 and 8 who fail their year end exams.
- **This significant amendment to the Right of children to free and compulsory education rules, 2010 is aimed at improving learning outcomes among students.**
- The revised policy mandates that students who failed their annual exams will be required to retake within two months, failing which they will have to repeat the academic year.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**AFTER 15 MONTHS OF WAR, WHICH SAW THE DEATHS OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, THE DESTRUCTION OF MUCH OF GAZA AND MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF PAINSTAKING NEGOTIATIONS, HAMAS AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED TO A CEASEFIRE. -**

- The Israel-Hamas ceasefire was implemented after a 15-month-long war that began on October 7, 2023.
- **The war caused severe casualties, with over 46,900 deaths in Gaza, the majority being civilians, and the displacement of nearly 2 million people in Gaza.**
- In Israel, 1,200 people were killed, and 251 individuals were taken hostage by Hamas.
- The ceasefire agreement was brokered through the diplomatic efforts of Egypt, Qatar, and the United States, based on a framework proposed by U.S. President Joe Biden, endorsed by the UN Security Council in June 2024.



### **7.1 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS TIBET -**

- On January 7, 2025, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake struck the Tibetan region near the Nepal border. The quake's epicentre was approximately 80 km north of Mt Everest, located 10 km below the surface.
- **By evening, reports indicated at least 95 fatalities and over 130 injuries in China, with extensive property damage. Tremors were felt as far away as Kathmandu and Kolkata.**
- This event marks the seismic activity in the Himalayan region and raises concerns about future earthquakes.



### **2025 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WINTER WILDFIRES -**

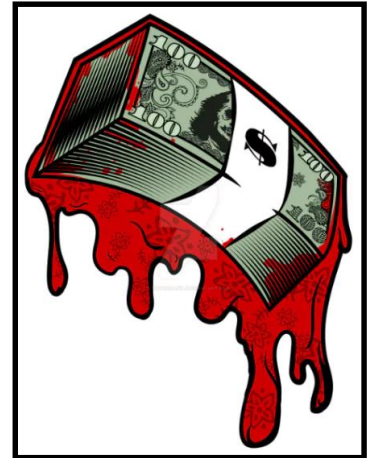
- In January 2025, Southern California experienced a severe wildfire outbreak that devastated large portions of Los Angeles, including celebrity homes and neighborhoods like Hollywood Hills.
- **Wildfires such as the Palisades fire, Eaton fire, Sunset, Hurst, and Lidia fires led to significant destruction, killing 10 people, displacing 130,000 individuals, and delaying the Oscars nominations.**
- Despite winter traditionally being an off-season for wildfires, these fires are particularly intense due to three main contributing factors: wet weather followed by dry conditions, Santa Ana winds, and climate change.





### **BLOOD MONEY AND PLEA BARGAINING -**

- The death sentence of an Indian nurse in Yemen for allegedly murdering her business partner, along with efforts involving blood money (diya under Sharia law) for her acquittal, has reignited debates over its implications.
- Blood money refers to money paid as compensation for unintentional murder, culpable homicide, or when victims' families forgo retribution (qisas).
- Even after reconciliation, the state retains the right to impose penalties.
- India's Position: India does not formally recognize blood money.
- The legal system offers 'plea bargaining' as a negotiation tool but it is not available for crimes against women or children aged below 14, heinous crimes such as murder or rape etc.
- It outlines a procedure where the accused pleads guilty in exchange for concessions from the prosecutor, potentially including victim compensation.
- **It was introduced through the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005 to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (BNSS).**
- It can be taken up only for offences that are penalised with imprisonment of less than 7 years.



### **U.S. WITHDRAWS FROM WHO AND SUSPENDS FOREIGN AID -**

- On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order initiating the United States' withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) and suspending all foreign aid for 90 days. This decision has sparked significant global concern and debate.

**The executive order cites several reasons for the withdrawal:**

- **Mishandling of the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The U.S. administration criticized the WHO's response to the pandemic, particularly its perceived leniency towards China's initial handling of the outbreak.
- **Lack of Independence:** Concerns were raised about the WHO's susceptibility to political influence from member states, undermining its effectiveness in addressing global health issues.



### **TRUMP WITHDRAWS US FROM PARIS AGREEMENT AGAIN -**

- On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump initiated the United States' second withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, a move that has significant implications for both domestic and international climate policies.
- **Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement is a global accord aimed at limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. The agreement encourages countries to set and achieve their own emission reduction targets, known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).**



**IRAN'S CAPITAL SHIFT TO MAKRAN AND ALEXANDER'S LEGACY -**

- Iran plans to relocate its capital from Tehran to the southern Makran coastal region due to economic and ecological concerns.
- **In ancient times, Makran was notable as the region where Alexander the Great lost a third of his men while retreating to Macedonia, after his Invasion of India (327-325 BCE).**
- **Historical Context:** Tehran has been Iran's capital for over 200 years, having been established during the reign of Agha Mohammad Khan, the first ruler of the Qajar dynasty (1794 to 1925) of Iran.
- **Planned Relocation:** Iran intends to move its capital from Tehran to Makran in Sistan and Baluchestan Province due to Tehran's overpopulation, pollution, water scarcity, and energy shortages.
- The idea of relocating the capital was first proposed during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidency in the early 2000s.



**CHINA UNVEILS WORLD'S LONGEST TUNNEL, ENHANCES BRI CONNECTIVITY -**

- China has completed the construction of the Tianshan Shengli Tunnel, the world's longest expressway tunnel, marking a significant advancement in infrastructure development and enhancing connectivity within the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.
- **Tunnel Specifications:** The Tianshan Shengli Tunnel spans 22.13 kilometers and is a pivotal component of the Urumqi-Yuli Expressway, which connects Urumqi in northern Xinjiang to Yuli County in the south. Once operational, it will reduce travel time through the Tianshan Mountains from approximately three hours to about 20 minutes.





# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

## PARAKRAM DIWAS 2025 -

- **On January 23, 2025, India celebrates Parakram Diwas to honor the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, a visionary freedom fighter and one of India's greatest leaders.**
- Known for his indomitable spirit and revolutionary ideas, Netaji's legacy continues to inspire generations.
- While his contributions to India's independence are widely known, here are 10 lesser-known facts about him that shed light on his extraordinary life.



## WORLD HINDI DAY 2025- CELEBRATING THE GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HINDI -

- The World Hindi Day, popularly called the 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas', is celebrated on January 10 every year to promote Hindi as one of the most widely spoken languages around the world, along with English and Mandarin.
- **World Hindi Day is an occasion that celebrates Hindi as a global language. Recognized as one of the most spoken languages in the world, Hindi is not merely a medium of communication but an emotion that binds millions of people.**
- With a rich history and cultural significance, Hindi has evolved over the centuries, incorporating words from various languages and becoming more refined and understandable. From the media to contemporary writers, Hindi has established itself as a vital language of expression.



## MANIPUR, MEGHALAYA AND TRIPURA CELEBRATE STATEHOOD DAY 2025 -

- **Every year on January 21, the northeastern states of Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura celebrate their Statehood Day, marking the historic moment they attained full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.**
- This day holds significant importance for the region, not only as a commemoration of their statehood but also as a celebration of their rich cultural heritage, vibrant history, and significant contributions to India's identity.
- The northeastern states, often referred to as the "Seven Sisters," are renowned for their unique culture, history, and natural beauty, and this day serves as a reflection of their growth into integral and empowered states within the Union of India.



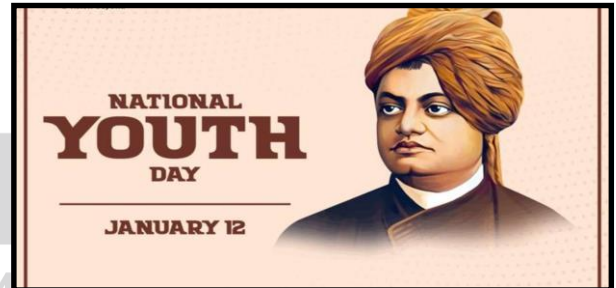
**77TH INDIAN ARMY DAY 2025- HONOURING VALOR AND PATRIOTISM -**

- **Every year on January 15, India marks Indian Army Day, a significant occasion that celebrates the foundation of the Indian Army and the pivotal moment in history when power was handed over to Indian leadership. This day represents both India's military independence and the nation's progress toward self-reliance in defense matters.**
- Indian Army Day pays tribute to the valor and sacrifices of soldiers who dedicated their lives to the service of the country.
- This event is not just a celebration of the Indian Army's achievements but also an effort to instill a deep sense of patriotism and unity among citizens. The day is a reminder of the unwavering commitment of our armed forces in ensuring the nation's security.



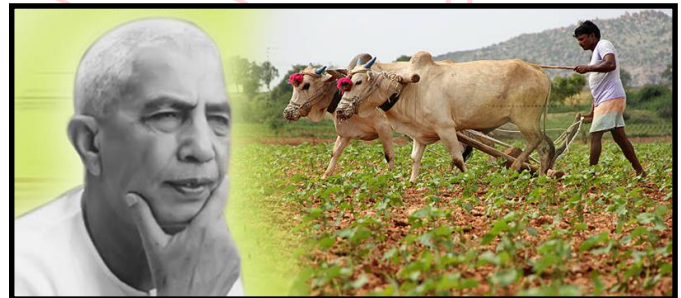
**NATIONAL YOUTH DAY JANUARY 12TH -**

- **National Youth Day, also known as Rashtriya Yuva Diwas, is celebrated annually on January 12 to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Recognized for his contributions to spiritual growth, national integration, and youth empowerment, Swamiji's life and teachings remain an inspiration to India's youth.**
- The Government of India declared his birthday as National Youth Day in 1984 to encourage young people to follow his ideals and work towards a progressive, united, and self-reliant India.



**NATIONAL FARMERS DAY 2024 -**

- **National Farmers' Day, celebrated annually on December 23, is a tribute to the backbone of India's agrarian economy—its farmers.**
- Known as Kisan Diwas, this day also commemorates the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, India's fifth Prime Minister, who was a staunch advocate for farmers' welfare and rural development.
- The day highlights the importance of empowering farmers and addressing their concerns to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for the nation.



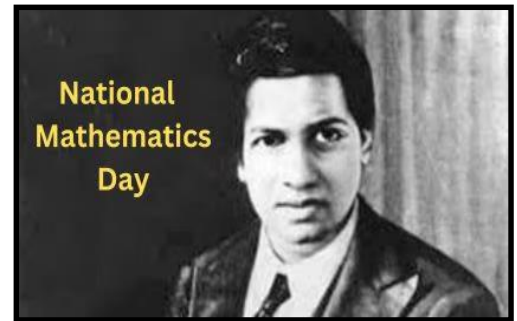
**NATIONAL CONSUMER DAY OBSERVED ON DECEMBER 24 -**

- National Consumer Day is observed annually on December 24, and commemorates the enactment of the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.
- The act was established to safeguard consumers against exploitation and unfair trade practices.
- **This theme for National Consumer Day 2024 is "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice."**



**NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY 2024: CELEBRATING SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN -**

- Every year on December 22, India celebrates National Mathematics Day. This date marks the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of the greatest mathematicians in history.
- **National Mathematics Day was first announced in 2012 by India's former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, to honour Srinivasa Ramanujan's contributions to mathematics.**
- Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu. Despite having no formal training in mathematics, he made groundbreaking discoveries in fields like infinite series, number theory, and continued fractions.



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## SPORTS NEWS

### INDIA TO HOST FIDE CHESS WORLD CUP 2025 -

- **The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 27, 2025. This tournament is of paramount importance as it features a knockout format with over 200 players from around the world. It also serves as a vital gateway to the Candidates Tournament, offering three qualification spots.**
- These spots are highly coveted as the Candidates Tournament determines who will challenge the reigning World Chess Champion.
- Originally, FIDE, the international chess governing body, had listed India as the host nation in its 2025 calendar. However, the announcement was retracted on Monday, with a “to be announced” status replacing it.



### DJOKOVIC BREAKS FEDERER'S RECORD FOR GRAND SLAM MATCH COUNT -

- Novak Djokovic, one of tennis' greatest players, added another milestone to his illustrious career on January 17, 2025, by breaking a tie with Roger Federer for the most Grand Slam matches played in tennis history.
- **The Serbian tennis star achieved his 430th Grand Slam match during the second round of the Australian Open, where he won a challenging match against Portuguese qualifier Jaime Faria. This victory added to Djokovic's growing list of records, highlighting his unparalleled success in tennis.**



### DELHI TO HOST 2025 PARA ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS -

- India is set to host the 2025 Para Athletics World Championships, marking a historic moment for the country as it becomes the first time this prestigious event will be held in India.
- **The competition is scheduled to take place between September 26 and October 5, 2025, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. This event will be the 12th edition of the Para Athletics World Championships and the fourth time it is being held in Asia.**
- More than 1,000 athletes from over 100 nations are expected to participate in this landmark event, which will also serve as a critical qualifier for the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games.



### INDIA WINS INAUGURAL KHO KHO WORLD CUP 2025 -

- India emerged as the champions of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup 2025, clinching both the men's and women's Kho Kho World champions titles by defeating Nepal in the finals.
- Kho Kho World Cup 2025:** The tournament was backed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), it included group stages and knockouts for both divisions (men's and women's).
- Kho Kho's Historical Significance:** It is one of India's oldest traditional tag games, believed to have evolved from the Chakravyuha, a war formation in the Mahabharata, resembling a defensive tactic similar to Kho Kho's ring play.
- Experts believe that Kho Kho originated in Maharashtra, and was initially played on chariots. The modern foot version emerged in 1914 during World War I, with Pune's Deccan Gymkhana Club formalizing its rules and structure.
- A Kho Kho team consists of 9 active players, with 3 substitutes available. Players alternate between chasing, defending, and tagging opponents.**



### INDIA TO HOST ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP 2025 -

- India has been announced as the host of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun 2025.
- This prestigious event highlights India's growing reputation as a global hub for shooting sports.
- It marks the ninth top-level shooting championship hosted by the country over the past decade and adds another accolade to the National Rifle Association of India's (NRAI) commendable track record.**



### INDIA CLINCHES WOMEN'S U19 T20 ASIA CUP TITLE -

- India clinched the inaugural U10 Women's Asia cup T20 title by defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final held at the Bayuemas Oval, Kuala Lumpur on December 22, 2024.**
- The victory was powered by a stellar half century from Gongadi Trisha and an impressive bowling performance, highlighting India's dominance in the tournament.





## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

### USHA VANCE, THE FIRST INDIAN-AMERICAN AND HINDU SECOND LADY OF THE UNITED STATES -

- On January 20, 2025, Usha Vance made history by becoming the first Indian-American and Hindu Second Lady of the United States.
- Her husband, J.D. Vance, was sworn in as the 50th Vice President of the United States, marking a significant milestone in American politics. Usha's journey, deeply rooted in her Indian heritage and her remarkable accomplishments, has garnered widespread attention and admiration.**



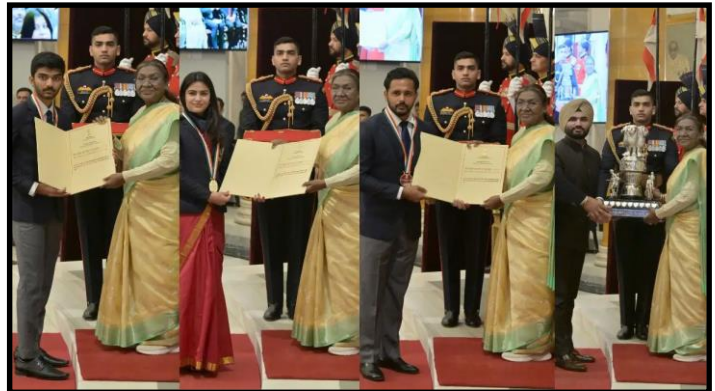
### PM MODI HONOURED WITH KUWAIT'S TOP CIVILIAN AWARD -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Kuwait's highest civilian honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer, by Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah.
- This prestigious accolade marks the 20th international honour received by PM Modi, symbolizing his contributions to fostering global partnerships and India's growing influence on the world stage.
- The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer is Kuwait's highest knighthood order.
- It is conferred upon Heads of State, foreign sovereigns, and members of royal families as a gesture of friendship and goodwill. Previous recipients include global leaders such as Bill Clinton, Prince Charles, and George Bush.**



### PRESIDENT MURMU HONORS NATIONAL SPORTS AWARDS 2025 WINNERS -

- On January 17, 2025, the prestigious National Sports Awards were presented by President Droupadi Murmu in a glittering ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The awards, including the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna and the Arjuna Awards, recognized the remarkable achievements of India's sporting champions.
- Among the honored were double Olympic-medalist shooter Manu Bhaker, chess prodigy and youngest world champion D. Gukesh, men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, and Paralympic gold-medalist high jumper Praveen Kumar.**
- The event also highlighted the significant contribution of India's para-athletes, who had a spectacular performance at the Paris Paralympics, bringing home 29 medals, including 7 golds and 9 silvers.
- The ceremony not only celebrated the athletes' achievements but also recognized the coaches and institutions that have contributed to their success.

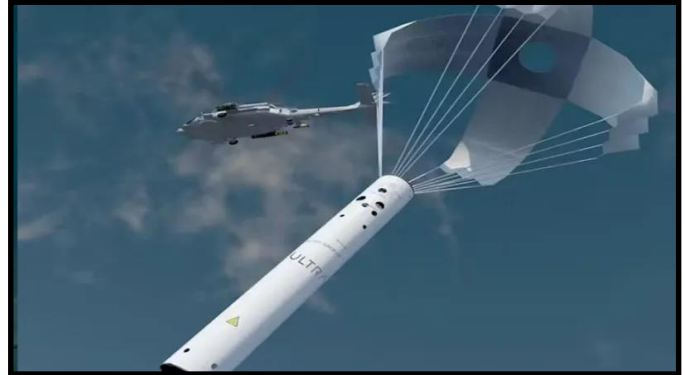




## DEFENCE NEWS

### INDIA-U.S. COLLABORATION ON SONOBUOY PRODUCTION FOR INDIAN NAVY -

- India and the U.S. have entered into a significant partnership for co-producing U.S. sonobuoys to enhance undersea domain awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy.
- This move is part of a broader collaboration aimed at improving naval capabilities and tracking submarines in the deep seas, in response to the growing Chinese naval presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**
- Ultra Marine (UM), a U.S.-based leader in undersea warfare technology, and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) will jointly manufacture sonobuoys, ensuring interoperability between the U.S. and Indian navies, as well as allied nations like Australia and Japan.



### INDIA UNVEILS 'UTKASH' AS SECOND MULTI-PURPOSE VESSEL -

- On January 13, 2025, the second of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) built by M/s L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy was launched at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The event was graced by Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy and L&T Shipyard. The vessel, named 'Utkarsh', signifies a leap forward in India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and aligns with the country's broader vision of self-reliance in defense manufacturing.**



### COMMISSIONING OF NILGIRI, SURAT AND VAGHSHEER -

- The Indian Navy announced the commissioning of Nilgiri, Surat, and Vaghsheer, built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), on 15th January 2025, at Mumbai.
- Nilgiri:** The lead ship of Project 17A, represents a major upgrade over the Shivalik-class frigates, featuring advanced stealth technology and state-of-the-art weapon systems to strengthen naval defense.
- Surat:** The fourth and final destroyer under Project 15B, is an enhanced version of the Kolkata-class destroyers, equipped with long-range missiles and indigenous weapons systems.



- Project 15B is an initiative by the Indian Navy to design and construct four advanced guided-missile destroyers
- **Vaghsheer:** The sixth submarine in the Scorpene-class (Project 75), is one of the quietest diesel-electric submarines globally, capable of anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, surveillance, and special operations.
- Project-75 (India) aims to build 18 conventional submarines and six nuclear-powered submarines for the Indian Navy.

#### **INDIA TESTS 'BHARGAVASTRA' MICRO-MISSILE FOR COUNTERING DRONE SWARMS -**

- India has successfully tested its first indigenous micro-missile system, 'Bhargavastra,' designed to counter swarm drone threats. This development marks a significant milestone in enhancing the nation's defense capabilities against emerging aerial threats.

##### **Key Features of the Bhargavastra Micro-Missile System**

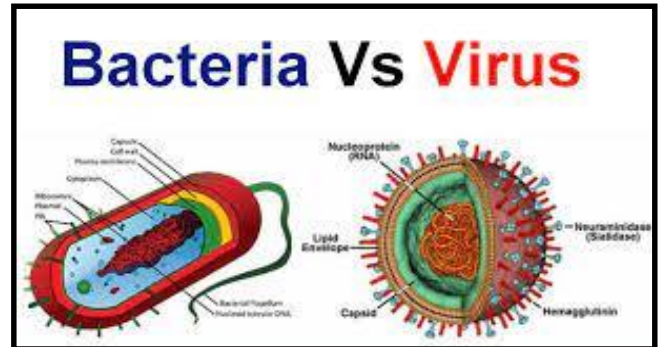
- **Detection and Neutralization:** Capable of detecting small aerial vehicles at distances exceeding 6 km and neutralizing them using guided micro munitions.
- **Simultaneous Launch Capability:** Designed to launch over 64 micro missiles simultaneously, enabling effective countermeasures against swarm formations.
- **Mobile Platform:** Mounted on a mobile platform for rapid deployment across diverse terrains, including high-altitude regions.
- **Versatile Design:** Engineered to operate across varied terrains, meeting specific requirements of the Indian military.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

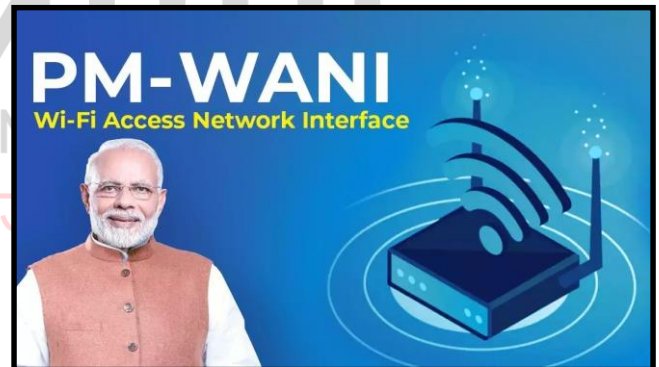
## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BACTERIA AND VIRUSES -

- Bacteria and viruses are tiny organisms that can cause diseases, but they are very different from each other. Bacteria are living microorganisms that can survive on their own, while viruses need a host to live and multiply.
- Some bacteria are helpful, but viruses are usually harmful. Understanding their differences helps us know how they spread, affect us, and how we can treat or prevent them.**
- Bacteria are tiny living organisms called prokaryotes. They can survive in almost any environment, including extreme conditions like hot springs, deep oceans and even volcanic areas. While some bacteria cause disease, many are harmless or even helpful to humans.



## THE TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI) HAS RECOMMENDED CAPPING INTERNET TARIFFS FOR WI-FI SERVICE PROVIDERS UNDER THE PM-WANI SCHEME AT TWICE THE RETAIL BROADBAND RATE -

- Launch Year:** Launched in 2020 by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- Aim:** To enhance the proliferation of public Wi-Fi hotspots and create robust digital communication infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Promotes ease of doing business by allowing local businesses to become Wi-Fi providers without licenses or fees.
- App Provider:** Develops applications to help users locate and connect to nearby PM-WANI hotspots for seamless internet access.
- Managed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT). Maintains records of App Providers, PDOs, and PDOAs.



## INDIA JOINS UN PANEL ON BIG DATA -

- India has become a member of the United Nations (UN) Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD) after its recent induction into the United Nations Statistical Council (UNSC), signaling its growing influence in global statistical frameworks.
- UN-CEBD is a specialized body under the United Nations, established to leverage Big Data and data science for strengthening global statistical systems.**
- It was established in 2014, under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).
- It has 31 member states (including India) and 16 international organizations.





- Explore the role of big data in monitoring and reporting progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

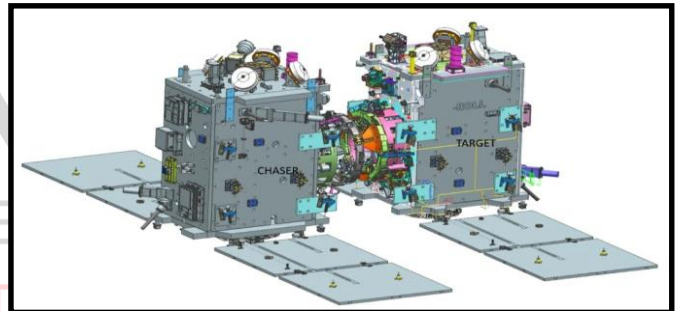
#### **NEW LAUNCHPAD OF ISRO COMING UP AT SRIHARIKOTA -**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a third launchpad at ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- **The project, costing ₹3,985 crore, is a critical step in enhancing India's space transportation capabilities, especially for the Next Generation Launch Vehicles (NGLVs).**
- This launchpad is designed to support future human spaceflight missions and India's ambitious plans for space exploration, including an Indian crewed lunar landing by 2040.



#### **SPADEX MISSION: ISRO'S LEAP TOWARDS SPACE DOCKING TECHNOLOGY -**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission in December 2024, aiming to make India the fourth country to achieve space docking technology.
- **The mission, aboard PSLV-C60, involves two 220-kg spacecraft—SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target)—that will demonstrate autonomous in-space docking. This breakthrough will enable ISRO to advance its space ambitions, including lunar missions, the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS), and satellite servicing.**



#### **ISRO, ESA JOIN HANDS FOR HUMAN SPACEFLIGHT ADVANCEMENTS -**

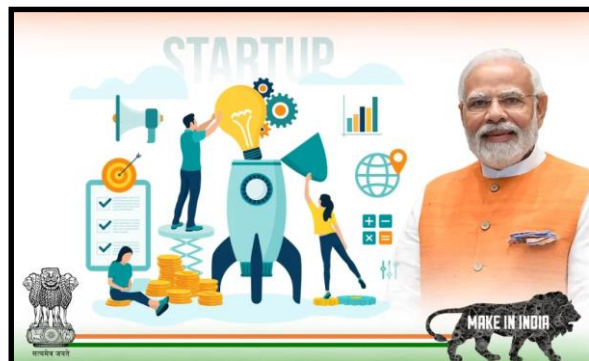
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) have signed a landmark agreement to enhance collaboration in human space exploration.
- **This partnership aims to foster astronaut training, mission implementation, and joint research experiments. Signed by ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and ESA Director General Dr. Josef Aschbacher, the agreement establishes a robust framework for cooperation, strengthening the relationship between the two premier space agencies.**



# **GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES**

## **9TH ANNIVERSARY OF STARTUP INDIA INITIATIVE -**

- **16th January 2025 marked the 9 years of completion of Startup India Scheme since it was launched on 16th January 2016.**
- This day has been recognized as National Startup Day. Startup India initiative aims to cultivate innovation, support startups, and stimulate investments.
- **The Startup India initiative is a government program launched in 2016 that supports entrepreneurs and startups in India.**
- The goal of the initiative is to create a strong ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship that will drive economic growth and employment by supporting startups through measures such as tax benefits, easier compliance, and access to funding.



## **UJALA – 10 YEARS OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING -**

- The UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All) scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 5th January 2015, has completed a decade of impactful service to the nation.
- **This initiative, originally launched as the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), revolutionized India's domestic lighting sector by providing affordable, energy-efficient LED bulbs, tube lights, and fans to households across the country.**
- It has contributed to not only lowering energy consumption but also reducing carbon emissions, making India a global leader in energy-efficient lighting. The UJALA scheme, along with the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), has significantly impacted the country's energy efficiency, economic savings, and environmental sustainability.



## **INDIA TO INVEST ₹50,000 CRORE IN NATIONAL WATERWAYS OVER 5 YEARS -**

- In a significant move to enhance the country's inland water transport infrastructure, the Indian government has announced an investment of ₹50,000 crore over the next five years. This initiative aims to develop and improve national waterways, promoting sustainable and efficient transportation.
- **New Waterways and Green Shipping:** Approximately 50% of the total investment is earmarked for the development of new national waterways and the promotion of green shipping initiatives. This includes the introduction of 1,000 green vessels to bolster eco-friendly transportation.
- **Expansion of Water Metro Projects:** Building on the success of Kochi's Water Metro project, the government plans to extend similar projects to 15 cities, including Guwahati, enhancing urban water transport connectivity.



- **Infrastructure Development:** The plan includes constructing six floating steel jetties on the river Godavari (National Waterway 4) at locations such as Gandipochamma Temple, Pochavaram, and Perantapalli village in Andhra Pradesh, facilitating better access and trade opportunities.

#### **CABINET NOD FOR 8TH PAY COMMISSION IMPLEMENTATION -**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the constitution of the 8th Central Pay Commission, which will evaluate and recommend revised salary structures and allowances for central government employees and pensioners.
- **This early initiative ensures readiness for implementing the recommendations by January 1, 2026. The commission's scope encompasses over one crore employees and pensioners, aiming to address compensation, pensions, and welfare enhancements.**



#### **PM-SURYA GHAR: MUFT BIJLI YOJANA -**

- **The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued operational guidelines for the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, detailing RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) and Utility-Led Aggregation (ULA) models.**
- These guidelines will supplement the existing consumer-driven implementation of rooftop solar installations through the National Portal of the scheme.

##### **Two Models for Solar Installation-**

- **RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) Model:** Third-party entities invest in rooftop solar installations. Consumers only pay for the electricity consumed, without bearing upfront costs. Excess power can be sold to DISCOMs.
- **Utility Led Aggregation (ULA) Model:** Power distribution companies (DISCOMs) or state-designated entities install rooftop solar systems for residential households.
- **Payment Security Mechanism (PSM):** A Rs 100 crore PSM fund has been established to de-risk investments in RESCO-based rooftop solar models. It can be enhanced with additional grants, subject to Ministry approval.



#### **GOVT LAUNCHES 'UDAAN YATRI CAFE' INITIATIVE -**

- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the "Udaan Yatri Cafe" at Kolkata airport, which aims to provide affordable food and beverages to air travellers.**
- The cafe will serve essential items such as water, tea, coffee, and snacks. If successful, the initiative will expand to other airports across India.



# **APPOINTMENTS / PERSON IN NEWS**

## **V. NARAYANAN TAKES OVER AS ISRO CHIEF AND SPACE SECRETARY -**

- Dr. V. Narayanan, a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion, has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- **He will succeed S. Somanath, effective from January 14, 2025, as per the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Currently serving as the Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Dr. Narayanan brings a wealth of expertise in liquid and cryogenic propulsion systems.**
- His leadership has been instrumental in several landmark ISRO missions, including the development of the GSLV Mk III and Chandrayaan-3 propulsion systems.



## **V. RAMASUBRAMANIAN APPOINTED NHRC CHAIRPERSON -**

- The post of Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) remained vacant since Justice (ret'd) Arun Kumar Mishra completed his tenure on June 1, 2024.
- **The appointment of former Supreme Court judge, V. Ramasubramanian, was confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu on December 23. Ramasubramanian's appointment marks a new chapter in the NHRC, following Mishra's tenure from June 2021 to June 2024.**



## **3 INDIANS IN FORBES' 2024 POWER WOMEN LIST -**

- Forbes has unveiled its 21st annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women, a prestigious ranking that celebrates influential figures across business, entertainment, politics, philanthropy, and policymaking.
- This year, three Indian women have made their mark on the global stage with remarkable achievements in their respective fields.
- **They include Nirmala Sitharaman, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, whose contributions to their industries have earned them prominent spots on the list.**



# **ECONOMY & FINANCE**

## **INDIA'S GDP GROWTH PROJECTED AT 6.4% FOR 2024-25 -**

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) has projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow by 6.4% in the financial year 2024-25, a deceleration from the 8.2% growth recorded in 2023-24.
- **Agriculture and Allied Sectors:** Estimated to expand by 3.8% in 2024-25, a significant improvement from the 1.4% growth in 2023-24.
- **Construction:** Projected to grow by 8.6%, indicating robust activity in infrastructure development.
- **Financial, Real Estate, and Professional Services:** Expected to increase by 7.3%, reflecting sustained demand in these sectors.
- **Private Final Consumption Expenditure:** Anticipated to rise by 7.3% during the fiscal year, up from 4% in the previous year, signaling stronger consumer spending.
- **Government Final Consumption Expenditure:** Forecasted to grow at 4.1%, compared to 2.5% in the prior fiscal year, contributing to overall economic demand.



## **55TH GST COUNCIL MEETING: KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND PROPOSALS -**

- **The 55th GST Council meeting, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, convened ministers from 28 states, two Union Territories, and key stakeholders.** The discussions centered on vital tax reforms impacting consumers and businesses across sectors, focusing on luxury items, essential services, and rationalizing the tax structure.



### **Key Highlights**

- Proposal to increase GST rates on high-end products,
- Wristwatches priced above ₹25,000 and shoes costing over ₹15,000 per pair may attract a 28% GST (up from 18%).
- Premium garments above ₹10,000 might also face a steep 28% tax, while,
- Garments below ₹1,500 remain at 5%.
- Garments between ₹1,500 and ₹10,000 may see a jump to 18%.
- GST rate for platforms like Swiggy and Zomato may be reduced.
- From 18% with Input Tax Credit (ITC) to a simplified 5% without ITC.

## **GOLD IMPORT DATA DISCREPANCIES -**

- The Indian government has formed a committee to establish a reliable system for publishing accurate gold import data, following significant discrepancies in reported figures.
- **The errors arose due to the migration of the data transmission system from the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) platform to the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE).**

### **Issue with Gold Import Figures**



- Unusual Surge in Imports: Gold imports in November 2024 surged by 331% year-on-year, raising economic concerns such as:
- Weakening of the domestic currency.
- Negative impact on trade and fiscal policies.
- Revised Figures: November's reported gold import figures were reduced by \$5 billion after corrections.
- Cumulatively, the gold import data from April to November 2024 was revised downwards by \$12 billion, from the initial estimate of \$49 billion to \$37 billion.

### **THE UNION CABINET, CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, RECENTLY APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE 8TH PAY COMMISSION -**

- This move aims to revise salaries and allowances for central government employees and pensioners. Scheduled to replace the 7th Pay Commission (implemented in 2016).
- **The new commission will impact over 49 lakh employees and 65 lakh pensioners.**
- Introduction: A Pay Commission is constituted by the Central Government approximately every ten years to review and recommend changes to the pay structures of its employees.
- Nodal Agency: Department of Expenditure (Ministry of Finance).



### **The recommendations of a Pay Commission apply to:**

- Central Government Employees: Those paid from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Civil and Military Personnel: Employees from all central civil services and defense services.
- Pensioners: Retired personnel receiving pensions from the government.
- Notably, employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and autonomous bodies are excluded. PSU employees follow separate pay scales specific to their organization.

### **GLOBAL RISKS REPORT 2025 -**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 20th Global Risks Report 2025.
- **Global Risks Report is an annual report published by the WEF. It presents an analysis of the most pressing global risks anticipated over short-term (2 years) and long-term (10 years) periods.** Global risk is the potential for an event to significantly harm global GDP, population, or natural resources.
- Top Risks for India: The report highlighted the top five risks for India include water supply shortages, misinformation and disinformation, erosion of human rights and civic freedoms, pollution (air, water, and soil), and labour and talent shortages.

### **Top Global Risks-**

- Immediate Risks (Next 2 years): Misinformation and disinformation, Extreme weather events, and State based armed conflict.
- Long-Term Risks (Next 10 Years): Extreme weather events, Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse and Critical changes to earth systems.





# **ENVIRONMENT**

## **DISPUTES RELATED TO INDUS WATER TREATY -**

- **The Neutral Expert (NE) appointed by the World Bank under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) declared that he is “competent” to adjudicate disputes concerning the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir(J&K).**
- This supports India’s stance to exclude the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), reinforcing its diplomatic and legal efforts to assert rights over the Indus waters.

### **Water Sharing Dispute:**

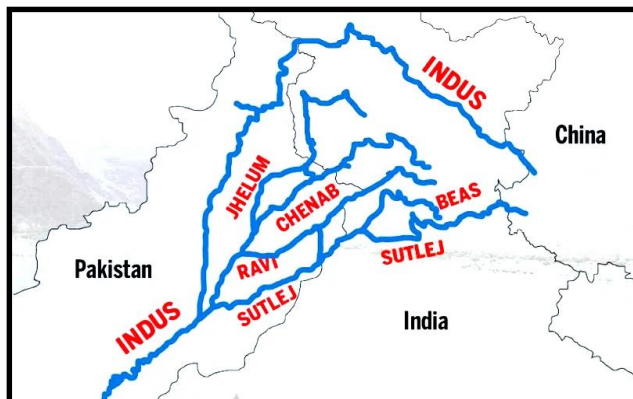
- **Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project:** Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project (HEP) is located on the Kishanganga River (tributary of Jhelum) in J&K. Pakistan objected, claiming that water diversion for power generation violates the IWT.
- **Ratle Hydroelectric Project:** Ratle Hydroelectric Project is a run-of-the-river project on the Chenab River in J&K, Pakistan raised concerns that the dam's design, including the spillway gates, gives India excessive control over river flow.

### **Dispute Over Resolution Procedure:**

- Pakistan objected to the Kishanganga and Ratle projects, initially requesting a NE under the IWT in 2015 but later sought adjudication by the PCA.
- India opposed this, emphasizing the IWT's dispute resolution hierarchy, which prioritizes NE over PCA. In 2022, the World Bank initiated both NE and PCA processes.
- India boycotted the PCA while engaging with the NE, asserting that only the NE has the authority to resolve disputes under the IWT.

### **What is the Indus Waters Treaty-**

- It is a water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan signed in 1960 under the aegis of the World Bank to divide the waters of the Indus River and its 5 tributaries (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab) between the countries.



## **150 YEARS OF INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD) -**

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD), established in 1875, is one of the oldest scientific institutions in India dedicated to weather forecasting and disaster preparedness.
- **As it marks its 150th anniversary on January 15, 2025, the IMD continues to play a pivotal role in tracking weather patterns, issuing cyclone warnings, monitoring earthquakes, and studying atmospheric changes.**
- **Ancient Roots:** Early texts like the Upanishads (circa 3000 B.C.) discuss weather phenomena, including cloud formation, rain cycles, and seasons.
- **Modern Meteorology:** Scientific advancements began in the 17th century with the invention of the thermometer, barometer, and gas laws.
- **First Observatory:** Established in 1785 in Kolkata (Calcutta) to conduct weather studies.



**EARTH BREACHES 1.5°C LIMIT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2024 -**

- In a landmark event for climate change, 2024 became the first year in recorded history when the mean global temperature exceeded the critical 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels, as reported by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- **This breach marks a dangerous trajectory for global warming, bringing humanity closer to a point of no return. Climate experts warn that if this trend continues without drastic emission cuts, global temperatures could exceed the 2°C limit by 2050, with devastating consequences for ecosystems, economies, and human livelihoods.**



**FLAMINGO FESTIVAL 2025 CONCLUDES IN ANDHRA PRADESH -**

- The three-day Flamingo Festival 2025 in Andhra Pradesh concluded on January 20, 2025, with calls to protect the rich biodiversity of the region, specifically in Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary.
- The event, which attracted numerous visitors, particularly bird watchers and photographers, was hailed as a major success.
- **The closing ceremony saw the participation of Ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and Anagani Satya Prasad, who expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for the revival of the festival, which had been dormant for some time.**



## REPORTS & INDICES

### INDIA RANKS 4TH IN GLOBAL FIREPOWER INDEX 2025 -

- India has been consistently ranked as the fourth most powerful military in the world, according to the Global Firepower Index 2025. This ranking underscores India's significant military capabilities, placing it just behind the United States, Russia, and China.
- The Global Firepower Index ranks 145 countries based on their conventional military strength across land, sea, and air. It evaluates over 60 factors, including manpower, natural resources, finance, and geography, without considering nuclear capabilities.**
- In the 2025 edition of the Global Firepower Index, India maintains its position at number four, with a score of 0.1184. The index evaluates the military strength of 145 countries based on over 60 parameters, including manpower, natural resources, finance, and geography. A score of 0.0000 represents an ideal military strength, which no country possesses.



### **The top ten countries in the 2025 ranking are:**

- United States of America – Score: 0.0744
- Russia – Score: 0.0788
- China – Score: 0.0788
- India – Score: 0.1184
- South Korea – Score: 0.1656
- United Kingdom – Score: 0.1785
- France – Score: 0.1878
- Japan – Score: 0.1839
- Turkey – Score: 0.1902
- Italy – Score: 0.2164

**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ॥

### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KUMBH MELA AND MAHAKUMBH MELA -

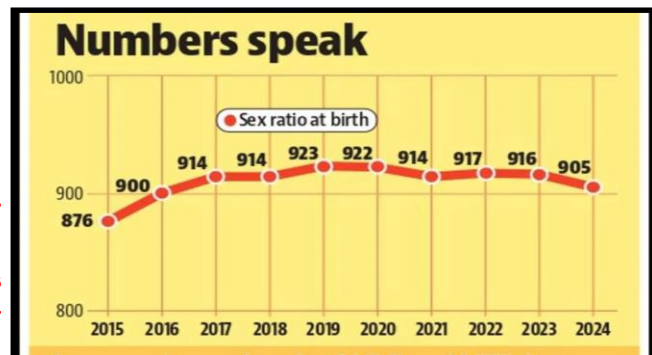
- The **Kumbh Mela and Mahakumbh Mela are two of the largest religious gatherings in India, attracting millions of devotees. Both events hold immense significance in Hinduism**, where people gather to bathe in holy rivers to cleanse their sins.
- However, they differ in terms of their frequency, spiritual importance and scale. While the Kumbh Mela is held every 3 years, the Mahakumbha Mela takes place once every 12 years.
- Kumbh Mela is a religious festival held every three years in four holy cities of India: Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik and Prayagraj. During this event, devotees take a dip in sacred rivers like the Ganges, Shipra, Godavari and the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers in Prayagraj.** People believe that this act cleanses sins and brings spiritual renewal.





### HARYANA'S DECLINING SEX RATIO AT BIRTH -

- In 2024, Haryana reported a concerning drop in its sex ratio at birth, reaching an eight-year low of 910 girls for every 1,000 boys. This figure has alarmed activists and civil society members, despite government officials describing it as a minor fluctuation.
- The sex ratio is a critical indicator of gender equality and reflects the status of women in society. Nationally, the sex ratio at birth in India was recorded at 929 in the National Health and Family Survey-5 (NFHS-5) published in 2021.**



### INDIA'S RANKING IN THE HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2025-

- India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2025 has dropped to 85th, five points lower than its 80th position in 2024.
- The index, based on data from the International Air Transport Authority (IATA), is a globally recognized tool for assessing passport mobility. Singapore retains its top spot for the second consecutive year, while Japan ranks second after holding the top position from 2018-2023.**



### RBI'S RECORD FOREX INTERVENTION IN NOVEMBER 2024 -

- In November 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sold a record \$20.2 billion in the foreign exchange market to stabilize the rupee amid significant foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows.
- This intervention increased the RBI's net short position in the forward market to \$58.9 billion by the end of the month, up from \$49.18 billion in October.**

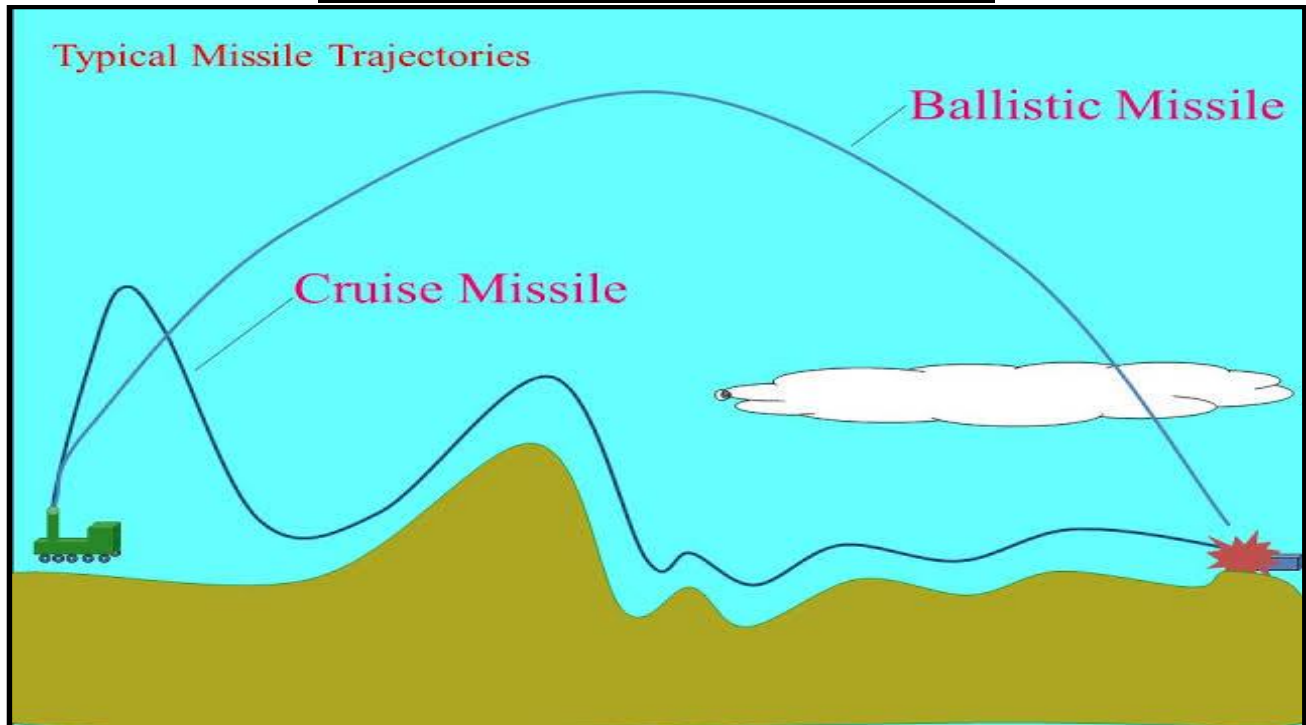


### 2025 AS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLACIERS' PRESERVATION -

- The United Nations will observe 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, with 21st March marked annually as World Day for Glaciers starting in 2025.
- Glaciers are large, slow-moving masses of ice formed from compacted snow over centuries. They form on land and move due to gravity, slowly moving downward.**
- Historical Context: Most glaciers today are remnants of the massive ice sheets that covered Earth during the Ice Age (around 10,000 years ago).
- During Earth's history, there have been glacial periods (or ice ages) when glaciers formed and interglacial periods when glaciers melted.
- Global Distribution: Most glaciers are found in polar regions such as Greenland, the Canadian Arctic, and Antarctica because of low solar insolation received in higher latitudes.
- Tropical glaciers exist in mountain ranges near the Equator, like the Andes in South America at high altitudes. Approximately 2% of the Earth's water is stored in glaciers



## IMPORTANT MAPS







## **IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

1. **What is the name of India's first indigenous micro-missile system designed to counter swarm drones ?**  
a) Bhargavastra  
b) Agni  
c) Vayu  
d) Saryu
2. **Where has the first astronomical observatory of Eastern India been inaugurated?**  
a) Darjeeling  
b) Purulia  
c) Kolkata  
d) Howrah
3. **What is the name of the first orbital rocket launched by Jeff Bezos's company Blue Origin?**  
a) New Shepard  
b) Falcon Heavy  
c) New Glenn  
d) Starship
4. **Assertion (A):** The drastic decline of air quality in Delhi is caused by a combination of factors, such as calm winds, low temperatures, and dense fog.  
**Reason (R):** These weather conditions trap pollutants close to the ground, worsening the pollution levels.  
Which of the following options is correct ?  
a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and Reason (R) is the correct explanation for Assertion (A).  
b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but Reason (R) is not the correct explanation for Assertion (A).  
c) Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.  
d) Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.
5. **Match the vessels with their respective descriptions.**  
**Vessels:**  
1. INS Nilgiri  
2. INS Surat  
3. INS Vaghsheer  
**Descriptions:**  
A) The lead ship of Project 17A stealth frigate class, incorporating advanced stealth technology and aviation facilities for multiple helicopter operations, including the newly inducted MH-60R.  
B) The fourth vessel of the Project 15B stealth destroyer class, enhancing the Indian Navy's maritime defense capabilities with advanced design improvements.  
C) The sixth and final submarine under the Scorpene-class Project 75 A, designed for anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, with features like modular construction and air-independent propulsion technology.  
a) 1 - A, 2 - B, 3 - C  
b) 1 - B, 2 - C, 3 - A  
c) 1 - C, 2 - A, 3 - B  
d) 1 - A, 2 - C, 3 - B
6. **Which cricket team has won the 2024-25 Vijay Hazare Trophy?**  
a) Karnataka  
b) Tamil Nadu  
c) Himachal Pradesh  
d) Rajasthan
7. **Palamu Tiger Reserve is located in which state?**  
a) Maharashtra  
b) Karnataka  
c) Bihar  
d) Jharkhand
8. **Kalaripayattu is the traditional martial art of which state ?**  
a) Tamil Nadu  
b) Kerala  
c) Karnataka  
d) Maharashtra
9. **Assertion:** India is projected to maintain a growth rate of 6.7% in FY26 and FY27, making it the fastest-growing major economy globally.  
**Reasoning:** This growth rate is significantly higher than the global average of 2.7%.  
Which of the options is correct ?  
a) Both the assertion and the reasoning are correct, and the reasoning correctly explains the assertion.  
b) Both the assertion and the reasoning are correct, but the reasoning does not explain the assertion.  
c) The assertion is correct, but the reasoning is incorrect.  
d) The assertion is incorrect, but the reasoning is correct.
10. **Consider the following statements regarding the European Union (EU):**  
1. The European Union (EU) has 27 member states.  
2. The Euro is the official currency of all EU member states.

3. The EU was established by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1993.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
11. **Neduntheevu Island, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?**  
a) Bangladesh  
b) Myanmar  
c) Sri Lanka  
d) Indonesia
12. **Project Veer Gatha 4.0 a joint initiative of which ministries?**  
a) Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Youth Affairs  
b) Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education  
c) Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Defence  
d) Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sports
13. **Joseph Aoun has been elected as president of which country?**  
a) Oman  
b) Lebanon  
c) Qatar  
d) Yemen
14. **Consider the following statements regarding the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025:**  
1. The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 began on January 13, 2025, and will last for 45 days.  
2. The Kumbh Mela is celebrated every 12 years at four sacred locations: Haridwar, Prayagraj, Ujjain, and Nashik.  
3. The Kumbh Mela is spiritually significant due to the belief that bathing at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj grants moksha (spiritual liberation).  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1, and 3 only  
b) 1 and 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) All of these
15. **Consider the following statements regarding the Cashless Treatment Scheme for Road Accident Victims:**  
1. The scheme covers treatment costs up to ₹1.5 lakh per incident and applies to all road accidents involving motor vehicles.  
2. Victims can receive treatment under the scheme for a duration of up to 30 days after the accident.  
3. A police report must be filed within 24 hours of the accident for treatment to be covered under the scheme.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) All of the above  
d) None of these
16. **Diego Garcia Island, that was recently seen in news, is located in which ocean ?**  
a) Indian Ocean  
b) Atlantic Ocean  
c) Pacific Ocean  
d) Arctic Ocean
17. **Nag Mk 2 Missile is developed by which organization ?**  
a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)  
b) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)  
c) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
d) Bharat Dynamics Limited
18. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 6.5 km Z-Morh tunnel in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. What is the expenditure incurred for the construction of the Z-Morh tunnel ?**  
a) ₹2,000 crore  
b) ₹2,500 crore  
c) ₹2,700 crore  
d) ₹3,000 crore
19. **Consider the following statements regarding the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC):**  
**Statement-I:** The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) of India was established in 1948 under the direct authority of the President of India.  
**Statement-II:** The primary objective of the AEC is to ensure the peaceful use of nuclear energy, including power generation, agriculture, and medicine.  
Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?  
a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.  
b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.  
c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect.  
d) Statement-I is incorrect, and Statement-II is correct.
20. **With reference to the ' the Z-Morh tunnel', consider the following statements:**

1. It will facilitate all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg enroute Leh.  
2. It enhances access to Thajiwas glacier.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 21. Who has been appointed Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) recently?**  
a) Gyanendra Pratap Singh  
b) Akhilesh Sinha  
c) Deepak Kumar  
d) Ravideep Singh
- 22. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) works under which ministry?**  
a) Ministry of Defence  
b) Ministry of Home Affairs  
c) Ministry of Jal Shakti  
d) Ministry of External Affairs
- 23. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 'Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025', the largest mobility expo in the country, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Which organization is coordinating the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 ?**  
a) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)  
b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)  
c) Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC)  
d) National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)
- 24. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship by Registration under the Citizenship Act, 1955:**  
1. A person of Indian origin can apply for Indian citizenship by registration only if they have lived in India for at least five years.  
2. A foreign person married to an Indian citizen can apply for citizenship by registration after living in India for seven years.  
3. Individuals who have renounced or lost their Indian citizenship are eligible for citizenship by registration.  
How many of the above statements are correct?  
a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- 25. Consider the following statements regarding India's achievement in space docking:**  
1. On January 17, 2025, India became the fourth country to achieve space docking.  
2. The SpaDeX mission used two large spacecraft, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target), for the docking process.  
3. Space docking is a technology that allows two fast-moving satellites to join precisely in space.  
4. The SpaDeX mission was launched using the PSLV-C60 rocket and aims to develop autonomous rendezvous and docking technology.  
5. The mission also enhances capabilities for resource monitoring, life extension, and satellite repairs in future missions.  
How many of the above statements are correct?
- a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) Only 3  
d) All five
- 26. What was the Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation in December 2024 as reported by MoSPI?**  
a) 5.00%  
b) 5.22%  
c) 5.48%  
d) 5.76%
- 27. The first edition of the Kho Kho World Cup started at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on 13 January 2025. Who is leading the Indian men's team in the Kho Kho World Cup 2025?**  
a) Pratik Waikar  
b) Rahul Sharma  
c) Rohit Kumar  
d) Arvind Singh
- 28. Nicolás Maduro was recently sworn in as the President of which country ?**  
a) Colombia  
b) Brazil  
c) Argentina  
d) Venezuela
- 29. With reference to 'Blue Flag Certification', consider the following statements:**  
1. It is awarded by Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education  
2. It is an eco-label awarded annually to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2



**30. Consider the following statements:**

1. The theme of National Youth Day 2025 is "Youth for a Sustainable Future: Shaping the Nation with Resilience and Responsibility".

2. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the "maker of modern India."

3. Swami Vivekanand founded the Ramakrishna Mission on May 1, 1897 at Belur Math near Calcutta.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**31. What is the name of the major military exercise conducted by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces ?**

- a) Exercise Shatrujeet
- b) Exercise Vayu Shakti
- c) Exercise Devil Strike
- d) Exercise Yudh Abhyas

**32. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education ?**

- a) Rajesh Kumar
- b) Alok Sharma
- c) Vineet Joshi
- d) Anil Chauhan

**33. The Gaan Ngai festival commemorates the end of the harvest season and is celebrated in Manipur. Which community celebrates the Gaan Ngai festival in Manipur?**

- a) Meitei

- b) Kuki
- c) Kabui/Rongmei Naga
- d) Tangkhul

**34. With reference to 'Siachen Glacier', consider the following statements:**

1. It is located in the Eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas to the northeast of Point NJ9842.

2. It lies immediately south of the great drainage divide that separates the Eurasian Plate from the Indian subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**35. Consider the following pairs:**

Significant Addition to Indian Navy	Project
INS Surat	Project 17A
INS Nilgiri	Project 15B
INS Vaghsheer	Project 75

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None of the above

**36. Flamingo Festival 2025 is celebrated in which state ?**

- a) Odisha
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**37. Kalpeni Island, which was seen in news, is located in which state/UT ?**

- a) Lakshadweep
- b) Andaman and Nicobar
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Puducherry

**38. NRI or Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated every year on 9th January to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community to the development of India. Where was the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention held in 2025 ?**

- a) New Delhi
- b) Varanasi
- c) Ahmedabad
- d) Bhubaneswar

**39. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme:**

1. The scheme is funded by the central government and state governments in a 60:40 ratio.

2. Beneficiaries under the scheme receive Rs. 6,000 annually in three installments through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

3. Only small and marginal farmers with up to 2 hectares of cultivable land are eligible for the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

**40. Consider the following statements with reference to the "BHARATPOL portal":**

1. It is an online platform developed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

2. It aims to improve collaboration between Indian law enforcement agencies and international counterparts.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect ?

- a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 41. Who has been invited as the chief guest for India's 2025 Republic Day parade ?**  
a) Joko Widodo  
b) Prabowo Subianto  
c) Lee Hsien Loong  
d) Rodrigo Duterte
- 42. What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in the fiscal year 2024-25 as per the first advance estimates ?**  
a) 7.0%  
b) 6.4%  
c) 6.6%  
d) 5.8%
- 43. Who has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance?**  
a) Arunish Chawla  
b) Tuhin Kanta Pandey  
c) Rajesh Kumar  
d) Parul Tyagi
- 44. Consider the following statements regarding caste censuses in India:**  
1. The practice of caste census begun during the colonial era, with the British administration using caste data for governance.  
2. The 1931 Census was the first comprehensive caste census conducted in India, recording 4,147 castes.  
3. After the independence, caste census was completely stopped in India.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 only  
b) 1, and 3 only  
c) All of the above  
d) None of these
- 45. Consider the following statements regarding India's GDP growth forecast for FY25:**  
1. India's nominal GDP for FY25 is projected to reach Rs 324 lakh crores, reflecting a growth of 9.7% compared to FY24.  
2. Private consumption (PFCE) is expected to contribute around 60% to India's GDP, but its growth rate since FY20 has been higher than the historical average of 7%.  
3. Government final consumption expenditure (GFCE) is expected to grow by 4.2% in FY25.  
4. Net exports (NX) have historically contributed positively to India's GDP growth, with the gap between imports and exports continuing to widen in recent years.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 3 only  
b) 1, 3, and 4 only  
c) 2 and 4 only  
d) 1 and 2 only
- 46. Who has been appointed as the new space secretary and chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation ?**  
a) Prahlad Chandra Agrawal  
b) Anil Bhardwaj  
c) V Narayanan  
d) Shiv Prasad
- 47. Which country has officially joined the BRICS as a full member in January 2025 ?**  
a) Singapore  
b) Mauritius  
c) Indonesia  
d) Malaysia
- 48. What is the rank of India in terms of the largest metro network in the world ?**  
a) First  
b) Second  
c) Third  
d) Fourth
- 49. Consider the following statements regarding the recent U.S. decision to remove Indian entities from its "restricted lists":**  
1. The removal of Indian entities from the restricted lists is expected to increase U.S.-India cooperation in the fields of nuclear energy, space exploration, and technological innovation.  
2. This policy shift will primarily benefit India's defense sector by allowing greater access to U.S. defense technologies and strategic resources.  
3. The move is likely to have a limited impact on U.S.-India economic and trade relations as it is restricted to only scientific and nuclear sectors.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1 only
- 50. Consider the following about ISRO's SpaDeX mission:**  
1. SpaDeX is India's first mission to demonstrate in-space docking technology.  
2. SpaDeX primarily focuses on growing plants in space and ensuring food security for astronauts on long missions.  
3. It involves two satellites, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target).

4. The success of SpaDeX would place India among countries like the U.S., Russia, and China, capable of in-space docking and laying.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1, 2, and 3 only  
b) 1, 3, and 4 only  
c) 2 and 4 only  
d) 1, 2, 3, and 4
51. **Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya urged corporates to adopt one sport during the first-ever corporate round-table conference in New Delhi. What is the primary objective behind the Union Minister's initiative to involve corporates in sports ?**  
a) To promote sports tourism in India  
b) To strengthen the Indian sports ecosystem for hosting the 2036 Olympic Games  
c) To launch a new national sports league  
d) To encourage local sports events only
52. **Google-backed Indian space start-up company Pixxel has become the first Indian private company to launch its commercial satellite constellation named Firefly on board a Space X rocket. Which rocket was used to launch Pixxel's Firefly satellite constellation ?**  
a) PSLV-C55  
b) GSLV Mk III  
c) Falcon 9  
d) New Shepard
53. **Which organization approved the 2nd Living drug, Qartemi, for treating blood cancer ?**

- a) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)  
b) Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)  
c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi  
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
54. **With reference to the working of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in India, consider the following statements:**  
1. ARCs can raise funds through the issuance of security receipts (SRs).  
2. Security receipts issued by ARCs are guaranteed by the Government of India.  
3. ARCs can act as both asset acquirers and asset managers.  
How many of the above given statements are incorrect ?  
a) Only one  
b) Only two  
c) All three  
d) None
55. **Consider the following pairs:**
- | Port                     | Location    |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Kamarajar Port        | Tamil Nadu  |
| 2. Vadhvan Port          | Maharashtra |
| 3. Mundra Port           | Goa         |
| 4. Galathea Port         | Lakshadweep |
| 5. Jawaharlal Nehru Port | Maharashtra |
- How many pairs given above are correctly matched?  
a) Only two pairs  
b) Only three pairs  
c) Only four pairs  
d) All five pairs
56. **Which city is the host of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention 2025 ?**  
a) Chennai  
b) Bhopal

- c) Bhubaneswar  
d) Hyderabad
57. **Which institute has recently developed bacteria to combat soil pollution and boost agriculture ?**  
a) IIT Kanpur  
b) IIT Madras  
c) IIT Bombay  
d) IIT Guwahati
58. **What is "INS Surat" that was recently seen in news ?**  
a) Fleet tanker  
b) Kamorta-class corvettes  
c) Nuclear powered aircraft carrier  
d) Stealth Destroyer
59. **The construction of the Tsangpo Dam poses significant concerns for India due to its potential impact on water security, ecology, and regional stability.**  
**Reason:** As the lower riparian state, India depends on the steady flow of water from the Tsangpo River for its agriculture, drinking water, and ecological balance.  
Choose the correct option:  
a) Both assertion and reason are correct, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.  
b) Both assertion and reason are correct, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.  
c) The assertion is correct, but the reason is incorrect.  
d) The assertion is incorrect, but the reason is correct.
60. **Assertion (A):** India has condemned Pakistan's recent airstrikes on Afghanistan.



- Reason (R):** Pakistan's airstrikes were aimed to eliminate anti Pakistan insurgent groups operating from Afghan soil.  
Which of the following is the most appropriate explanation for the relationship between the Assertion and Reason ?
- a) Both Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason is the correct explanation for the Assertion.  
b) Both Assertion and Reason are correct, but the Reason does not explain the Assertion.  
c) The Assertion is correct, but the Reason is incorrect.  
d) The Assertion is incorrect, but the Reason is correct.
- 61. Which Indian state is the host of 1st International Olympic Research Conference ?**
- a) Kerala  
b) Maharashtra  
c) Gujarat  
d) Karnataka
- 62. What rank does India hold among the world's largest coffee producer, according to the Commerce Ministry ?**
- a) Fifth  
b) Sixth  
c) Seventh  
d) Eighth
- 63. Which northeastern states celebrate their Statehood Day on January 21 ?**
- a) Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura  
b) Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura  
c) Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram  
d) Meghalaya, Assam, and Nagaland
- 64. Consider the following statements:**
1. Recently, India and France have agreed to enhance their partnership into high end technologies.
  2. High end technologies refer to complex technologies such as defence, and cyber technologies.
  3. France is third largest arm supplier to India after USA and Russia.
- How many statements are correct ?
- a) Only 1  
b) Only 2  
c) All three  
d) None
- 65. Consider the following statements about the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme:**
1. The BBBP scheme was launched on January 22, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Panipat, Haryana.
  2. The primary objective of BBBP is to improve the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) by at least two points annually.
  3. The scheme aims to reduce dropout rates among girls at the primary school level.
  4. BBBP has been instrumental in promoting the enrollment and retention of girls in secondary education.
- Which of the above statements are correct ?
- a) Only 1, 2 and 4  
b) Only 2, 3, and 4  
c) All four  
d) Only 1 and 4
- 66. The National Youth Day is celebrated on 12th January every year in commemoration of which Indian leader ?**
- a) Bhagat Singh  
b) Chandra Shekhar Azad  
c) APJ Abdul Kalam  
d) Swami Vivekananda
- 67. According to a United Nations report, by what percentage is the Indian economy expected to expand in 2025 ?**
- a) 5.6%  
b) 6.6%  
c) 7.2%  
d) 5.0%
- 68. What is the name of the new food delivery app launched by Swiggy, It is a 15-minute food delivery app offering quick snacks and meals, similar to Zepto's Zepto Cafe ?**
- a) Swiggy Express  
b) Snacc by Swiggy  
c) Swiggy Snack  
d) Swiggy Dash
- 69. Assertion (A):** The Bijapur Maoist attack of January 6, 2025 indicating a severe lapse in standard operating procedures (SOPs) followed by security forces.  
**Reason (R):** Security forces operating in Maoist-affected zones follow strict SOPs.  
Choose the correct option:
- a) Both Assertion and Reason are correct, and the Reason is the correct explanation for the Assertion.  
b) Both Assertion and Reason are correct, but the Reason is not the correct explanation for the Assertion.  
c) Assertion is correct, but Reason is incorrect.  
d) Assertion is incorrect, but Reason is correct.
- 70. With reference to the Silligudi or Chicken Neck Corridor in**

**India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Corridor is bordered with Nepal to the north and Bangladesh to the south.
  2. The Mahananda rivers flow through the Corridor.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**71. Where was the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 organized ?**

- a) Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir
- c) New Delhi
- d) Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh

**72. The Mannan community is primarily found in which state ?**

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

**73. What is the rank of India in the Global Firepower Index 2025 ?**

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

**74. Consider the following statements regarding the Geographical Indication (GI) tag:**

1. A Geographical Indication (GI) tag ensures legal protection and exclusive rights to use the tag for approved users only.
2. GI tags in India are governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, and are aligned with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) TRIPS agreement.

3. A GI tag is valid for a period of 20 years.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All three
- d) None

**75. Consider the following statements with reference to the Bharat Ratna Award of India:**

1. It is the second highest civilian award of the country after Padma Vibhushan.

2. The recommendations for the award is made by the Prime Minister to the President of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### ANSWER KEY

1-a	2-b	3-c	4-a	5-a	6-a	7-d	8-b	9-a	10-b	11-c	12-b	13-b	14-d	15-b
16-a	17-b	18-c	19-d	20-c	21-a	22-b	23-c	24-a	25-d	26-b	27-a	28-d	29-c	30-d
31-c	32-c	33-c	34-c	35-a	36-d	37-a	38-d	39-c	40-a	41-b	42-b	43-b	44-a	45-a
46-c	47-c	48-c	49-d	50-b	51-b	52-c	53-b	54-a	55-b	56-c	57-c	58-d	59-a	60-b
61-c	62-c	63-b	64-b	65-a	66-d	67-b	68-b	69-a	70-c	71-b	72-c	73-d	74-b	75-b