

# CURRENT MONTHLY AFFAIRS

## BOOSTER

# JANUARY 2025



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**Jayakrishnan Ramachandran**



## NEWS CREDIT

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India Today

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Jan-25

- Important Personalities
- National & International News
- Important Projects & Schemes
- Banking & Economy
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Business News, Financial News, Economy News, Politics News, India News, Breaking News, Indian Economy, International News, Sports News, and many more topics covered.....



## Important Personalities

- Who has been appointed as the CEO of Wipro's Europe Strategic Market Unit? **Omkar Nisal**
- Who has been appointed as CEO of Samsung Bioepis Co.? **Kim Kyung-Ah**
- Who will be sworn in as the 14th Chief Minister of Jharkhand? **Hemant Soren**
- Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Samsung SDI? **Choi Joo-sun.**
- Who has been appointed as the next president of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)? **Masato Kanda**, Japan's former top currency diplomat.
- When will Masato Kanda assume office as ADB president? **On February 24, 2025.**
- Who is Masato Kanda succeeding as ADB president? **Masatsugu Asakawa.**
- Who secured a second term as President of the European Commission? **Ursula von der Leyen.**

Moldova to secure a second term in 2024? **Maia Sandu**

- Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director and CEO of NSDL? **Vijay Chandok.**
- Who has taken charge as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)? **Jay Shah.**
- Who has been appointed as the next CEO of Cricket Australia? **Todd Greenberg**
- Who was sworn in as the 48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka? **Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando.**
- Who did Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando succeed as Chief Justice of Sri Lanka? **Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya.**
- Who has become Namibia's first female president, elected in the country's eighth presidential election? **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.**
- Who is set to become Maharashtra's Chief Minister for the third term? **Devendra Fadnavis.**
- Who has been appointed as the Chair of the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)? **Shambhu Kumaran**
- Who has been appointed as the new Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)? **Sanjay Malhotra**
- Who has been given additional charge of Revenue Secretary as of December 2024? **Ajay Seth**
- Who has been appointed as the acting Secretary of BCCI in December 2024? **Devajit Saikia**
- Who did Devajit Saikia replace as acting Secretary of BCCI? **Jay Shah**
- Who has been appointed as the caretaker Prime Minister of Syria's transitional government? **Mohamed al-Bashir**
- Who has been appointed as the Rotating President of the OPEC Conference for 2025? **Mohsen Paknejad**
- Who will lead Salesforce's newly formed South Asia Operating Unit? **Arundhati Bhattacharya.**
- Who was recently appointed as the Prime Minister of France by President Emmanuel Macron? **François Bayrou.**
- Who was elected as the next president of Georgia amid controversy over the government's halt to the European Union accession process? **Mikheil Kavelashvili.**
- Who has been appointed as Canada's new Finance Minister after Chrystia Freeland's resignation? **Dominic LeBlanc.**

### IMPORTANCE

To show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.

### World AIDS Day

INCEPTION: 1987  
1<sup>st</sup> OBSERVED: 1988

### MOTTO

To raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease.

### NOTE

World AIDS Day was the first ever international day for global health.

### 2024 THEME

LET COMMUNITIES LEAD

### BY

James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter

**01**  
DECEMBER

- Who became the first directly elected president of



- Who has been appointed as the new Country Manager and Vice President for Google India? **Preeti Lobana**
- Who has been appointed as New Zealand's white-ball captain, succeeding Kane Williamson? **Mitchell Santner**.
- Who was elected as the new Speaker of Sri Lanka's Tenth Parliament? **Hon. (Dr.) Jagath Wickramaratne**.
- Who was recently appointed as a Managing Director of SBI? **Ram Mohan Rao Amara**.
- Which organization recommended Ram Mohan Rao Amara's name for the SBI MD position? **The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)**.
- Who is the new Prime Minister of Iceland? **Kristrún Frostadóttir**
- Who has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)? **Retired Supreme Court judge V. Ramasubramanian**.
- Who has been reappointed as the Prime Minister of Romania in December 2024? **Marcel Ciolacu**
- Who has been elected as Tonga's new Prime Minister? **Aisake Eke**
- Name the co-founder and chairman of Essar Group, who passed away recently? **Shashikant Ruia**
- Name the CEO of United Healthcare, who passed away recently? **Brian Thompson**
- Name the former Karnataka Chief Minister known for promoting 'Brand Bengaluru', who passed away recently? **SM Krishna**.
- Who was the renowned Gujarati singer and composer who passed away at the age of 90? **Purushottam Upadhyay**
- Who was the legendary tabla maestro who passed away at the age of 73 and was the first Indian to win three Grammy Awards in one night? **Zakir Hussain**
- Who was Pandit Sanjay Ram Marathe? **A veteran classical singer and harmonium maestro**.
- Who was the former Haryana Chief Minister who passed away at the age of 89? **Om Prakash Chautala**.
- Padma Shri awardee Shyam Benegal, who passed away recently, was the famous \_\_\_\_\_. **Film Director**

### IMPORTANCE

This day is observed in the memory of those who have lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas tragedy on 2nd December, 1984.

## National Pollution Control Day

INCEPTION: 1984  
EDITION: 40<sup>th</sup>

### MOTTO

To control the Industrial disaster and to reduce the level of pollution.

### BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

A gas leak incident on the night of 2-3 December 1984 at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal (M.P.), India. Considered among the world's worst industrial disasters.

### DEATHS

Over 16,000 claimed

### NON-FATAL INJURIES

At least 558,125

### CAUSING AGENT

Methyl isocyanate

**02**  
DECEMBER

### IMPORTANCE

To mark adoption of the declaration by UNGA for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (Dated 2 December 1949).

## International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

INCEPTION: 2004  
EDITION: 20<sup>th</sup>

### MOTTO

To highlight the importance of eradicating contemporary forms of slavery including trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, etc.

### NOTE

According to the UN, an estimated 40.3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24.9 in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriage.

### ORGANISATION INVOLVED

ILO

**02**  
DECEMBER



## National & International News

- What is the budget allocated by the Centre for the One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) scheme? **₹6,000 crore.**
- What is the total budget allocation for the continuation of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till 2028? **₹2,750 crore**
- Which flagship scheme inspired the 'Bal Vivah Mukti Bharat' campaign? **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.**
- What online platform will be unveiled during the launch of 'Bal Vivah Mukti Bharat'? **The 'Child Marriage Free Bharat' portal.**
- Where was the 12th International Tourism Mart held? **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.**
- Who inaugurated the 12th International Tourism Mart? **Union Minister for Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.**
- Who chaired the High-Level Committee that approved ₹1,115 crore for disaster mitigation? **Union Home Minister Amit Shah.**
- What was the theme of the RAK Energy Summit 2024? **Advancing Energy Transition through Smart Technologies.**
- What is the name of the Indian Army's online digital platform for officers' training launched by COAS General Upendra Dwivedi in 2024? **Eklavya**
- What is the name of the centre established by CFCL and TERI for sustainable agriculture research? **CFCL-TERI Centre of Excellence for Advanced and Sustainable Agriculture Solutions.**
- Where was India's first water transport service, Uber Shikara, launched? **In Srinagar, on Dal Lake.**
- What is the current working strength of the Supreme Court after Justice Manmohan's appointment? **33 judges**
- Which policy emphasizes the standardization of Indian Sign Language for education? **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.**
- Which portal ensures end-to-end automation of food subsidy processes under NFSA? **Subsidy Claim Application for National Food Security Act (SCAN).**

### IMPORTANCE

To mark the proclamation by UNGA in 1992 to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

### World Day of the Handicapped

INCEPTION: 1992

The 5th PM of India also known as Champion of India's Peasants.

### Chaudhary Charan Singh

(23 DEC 1902 – 29 MAY 1987)

### MOTTO

To increase awareness from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

### NOTE

It was originally called "International Day of Disabled Persons" Also known as the International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD).

### 2024 THEME

Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world.



**03**  
DECEMBER

### BOOKS

- Joint Farming X-rayed (1959)
- India's Economic Policy – The Gandhian Blueprint (1978)
- Economic Nightmare of India: Its Cause and Cure (1981)
- Abolition of Zamindari
- Co-operative Farming X
- Prevention of Division of Holdings Below a Certain Minimum

### OCCUPATION SUMMARY

- 5th PM of India (28 Jul 1979 – 14 Jan 1980)
- 3rd Deputy PM of India (24 Jan 1979 – 28 Jul 1979)
- Minister of Finance (24 Jan 1979 – 28 Jul 1979)
- Minister of Home Affairs (24 Mar 1977 – 1 Jul 1978)
- 5th CM of UP (1967)

### POLITICAL PARTY

Janata Party (1979–1987)

### OTHER POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

Indian National Congress (Before 1967), Bharatiya Lok Dal (1967–1977), Janata Party (1977–1980), Lokdal (1980–1987).





- Who launched the 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN portal? **Union Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi.**
- Which body recently approved the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024? **The Parliament.**
- Which Union Territory became the 14th to onboard its government employees onto the iGOT Karmayogi platform? **Puducherry.**
- What is the theme of the 4th India Internet Governance Forum? **"Innovating Internet Governance for India."**
- What is the theme of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024? **'Replete, Responsible, Ready.'**
- Which Indian organization has received Cabinet approval to collaborate with Italy's CNR-IRPI on landslide forecasting? **Geological Survey of India**
- What lease duration has the Bihar Government granted to the BCA for Moin-ul-Haq Stadium? **30-year lease.**
- Where is India's first child cancer hospital, Mahavir Child Cancer Hospital, being built? **Phulwari Sharif town of Patna, Bihar.**
- Where did Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurate the Geoscience Museum established by the Geological Survey of India? **Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.**
- What is the proposed starting year for simultaneous elections under the "One Nation One Election" Bill? **2034**
- Who presented the "One Nation One Election" Bill in the Lok Sabha? **Arjun Ram Meghwal**
- What is the proposed amendment to Article 82(A) in the "One Nation One Election" Bill? **Simultaneous elections**
- What is the government's six-point strategy to enhance farmers' income? **Increasing production, reducing costs, ensuring fair prices, disaster compensation, diversification, and promoting organic farming.**
- Which country recently launched its Arctic Foreign Policy with a focus on sovereignty, governance, and inclusive diplomacy? **Canada.**
- Which university was designated as the nodal agency by NITI Aayog under Mission Purvodaya? **Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), Sabour, Bhagalpur.**
- Which national highway in India is the first to be constructed using bio-bitumen material? **NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.**
- Where was the RAK Energy Summit 2024, focusing on AI-driven energy innovations, held? **Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.**
- Where did the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission conclude its deployment in 2024? **At the Lielvarde military airbase in Latvia.**
- Which vessels are prohibited from engaging in coasting trade without a licence under the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024? **Non-Indian vessels.**
- Which Egyptian leader directed the foreign minister to convey full support for Sudan during its civil conflict? **President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi.**
- Which country ranked first globally in Global Trade Indicators and Maritime Protection in 2024? **UAE**
- Which cultural practice of Mongolia was added to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during the 19th session in Asuncion, Paraguay? **Mongol nomad migration and associated practices.**


**IMPORTANCE**  
To commemorate the Operation Trident on 4 Dec 1971, in which Indian Navy attacked Karachi harbour during 1971's Indo-Pakistan war.

**Indian Navy Day**

**MOTTO**  
To recognize the achievements and role of the Indian Navy to the country.

**INDIAN NAVY FACTS**

- President is the Commander-in-Chief of Indian Navy.
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle is considered as the "Father of the Indian Navy".
- Navy Day does not commemorate the day the Indian Navy was founded.
- Ezhimala Naval Academy in Kerala is the largest naval academy in Asia.
- INS Viraat was the navy's 1st aircraft as well as carrier and the oldest aircraft carrier in the world.



04

DECEMBER



- When does Norway plan to ratify TEPA? **By 2025.**
- Which summit will Norway host in 2025? **Indo-Nordic Summit in 2025.**
- When did South Africa assume its G20 presidency? **December 1, 2024**
- What is the theme of South Africa's G20 presidency? **Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability**
- Where was the 2nd edition of the India-Nepal Cultural Festival held? **Lumbini, Nepal.**
- What was the main theme of the 2nd India-Nepal Cultural Festival? **Buddhism.**
- Which regions will be included in Salesforce's South Asia Operating Unit? **India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia.**
- Which company has obtained regulatory approval to market Afrezza in India? **Cipla Limited.**
- When did Sweden join NATO? **March 2024.**
- What status did Switzerland withdraw from India, affecting taxes for Indian entities? **Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.**
- Which two leaders jointly inaugurated the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi, marking a milestone in India-Moldova relations? **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova Mihail Popsoi.**
- What is the new tax threshold for Sri Lanka under the recent reforms? **The new tax threshold is Rs 1,50,000 per month.**
- What recent legislation was passed by Ethiopia's House of Peoples' Representatives? **Allowing foreign banks to operate in the country.**
- What is the purpose of the Banking Business Proclamation passed in Ethiopia? **To liberalize Ethiopia's banking sector and attract foreign investment.**

### IMPORTANCE

To mark the birth anniversary of H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of this initiative.

## World Soil Day

EDITION: 10<sup>th</sup>  
1<sup>st</sup> OBSERVED: 5 December 2014

### MOTTO

To raise awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being.

### ORGANISATION INVOLVED

FAO & United Nation

### NOTE

The FAO unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013 and requested its official adoption. But in December 2013, UNGA responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

### 2024 THEME

Soil and Water: A source of Life

**05**  
DECEMBER

### IMPORTANCE

To honor the martyrs and the men in uniform who valiantly fought on our borders to safeguard the country's honor.

## Armed Forces Flag Day

INCEPTION: 1949  
EDITION: 76<sup>th</sup>

### MOTTO

To collect funds from people for the betterment of the Armed Forces staff just by selling Indian flags, batches, stickers, and other items.

### ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY FUND

Funds for war victims, Kendriya Sainik Board Fund, Ex-servicemen's welfare fund, and other units were united to make a single Armed Forces Flag Day fund in the year 1993 by the Defense Ministry of India.

### MANAGED BY

Local arms of the Kendriya Sainik Board in India

### ESTABLISHED

Committee of Defense Minister

**07**  
DECEMBER



## Important Projects & Schemes

- In which district of Arunachal Pradesh will the Heo and Tato-I Hydro Electric Projects be constructed? **Shi Yomi District**
- What is the approved financial outlay for the PAN 2.0 Project by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs? **₹1,435 crore**
- When is ISRO's Shukrayaan Mission scheduled for launch? **March 2028.**
- Which scheme was launched by the Government of India to promote the holistic development of the fisheries sector? **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
- How much funding has the central government approved for the development of Assam's iconic tourist sites under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme? **Rs 200 crore**
- How much central assistance has been allocated under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme? **Rs 66,750 crore.**
- What is the main objective of the AMRUT 2.0 scheme? **To make cities "self-reliant" and "water secure."**
- Which organization is associated with the Bima Sakhi Yojana? **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).**
- What is the age group targeted under the Bima Sakhi Yojana? **Women aged 18 to 70 years.**
- Where will the Udaan Yatri Cafe pilot project be launched on December 21, 2024? **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata.**
- What is the financial assistance amount under the Lakhpati Baideo scheme? **₹10,000.**
- What is the total cost of the fisheries development plan approved for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands? **₹58.91 crore.**
- Under which scheme was the tuna fish export infrastructure plan approved? **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**
- What is the name of the scheme launched to incentivize cargo movement on National Waterways 1, 2, and 16? **Jalvahak**
- What is the maximum loan amount provided under the 'Bana Kaih' scheme? **₹50 lakh.**
- Which government scheme, aimed at promoting local crafts and products, has expanded to 1,854 railway stations, empowering women

entrepreneurs and supporting marginalized communities? **One Station One Product (OSOP)**

- What is the name of the recently launched government scheme that allows farmers to access loans using electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWR)? **Credit Guarantee Scheme for e-NWR-Based Pledge Financing.**
- What is the time limit for payment under the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme after receiving the certificate? **15 days.**
- Which Act governs the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024? **Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024.**
- What is the name of Mizoram's flagship scheme launched to promote economic growth and self-reliance? **'Bana Kaih' scheme.**

### IMPORTANCE

To Mark the 50th anniversary of the signing the Convention on International Civil Aviation in 1944.

### ABOUT ICAO

**ESTABLISHED**  
7th December 1944

### International Civil Aviation Day

**INCEPTION:** 1994  
**OFFICIAL STATUS BY UN:** 1996

### NEED

Securing international cooperation and consistency in civil aviation matters.

ICAO is a UN body that operates in association with other UN members including the WMO, ITU, UPU, WHO and IMO.

### NOTE

International Services Transit Agreement and the International Air Transport Agreement were also signed in 1944.

### HISTORY BEHIND

In 1994, member countries signed the "Chicago Convention" giving permission to global civil aviation system to develop peacefully and in a manner benefitting all peoples and nations of the world.

**NOTE:** Currently, the Chicago Convention has 191 state parties including all member states of the UN except Dominica, Liechtenstein and Tuvalu.

**07**  
**DECEMBER**



## Banking & Economy

- How much financing has the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved for Kyrgyzstan? **\$22.58 million.**
- What is the new maximum number of nominees allowed for a bank account under the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024? **Four nominees.**
- What is the total investment announced by Saudi Arabia for afforestation initiatives under the Saudi Green Initiative Forum? **\$60 million.**
- How much funding has the Asian Development Bank approved for water resources management projects in Cambodia? **\$173 million.**
- How much has the Arab Coordination Group (ACG) pledged to combat land degradation by 2030? **\$10 billion**
- What is the current repo rate as per the RBI's 11th consecutive review? **6.50%.**
- What is the revised GDP growth forecast for FY25 by the RBI? **6.6%.**
- What is the global economic growth forecast by S&P Global Ratings for 2025? **3%.**
- Which AI/ML-based initiative has been launched by RBI to detect mule accounts efficiently? **MuleHunter.AI.**
- What is the new collateral-free agriculture loan limit set by the RBI? **₹2 lakh per borrower.**
- Why did the RBI revise the collateral-free loan limit? **To account for inflation and rising agricultural input costs**
- What is S&P Global Ratings' GDP growth projection for India in FY25? **6.8%**
- How does S&P's FY25 growth forecast compare to the RBI's? **S&P's forecast of 6.8% is higher than the RBI's projection of 6.6% for FY25.**
- What is the projected GDP growth for India in FY26 and FY27 according to S&P? **6.9% in FY26 and 7.0% in FY27.**
- Which international organization approved a \$25.45 million grant for water supply and sanitation in the Solomon Islands? **Asian Development Bank**
- How much loan did ADB approve to support PPP projects in the Philippines? **30 million USD.**
- What is the purpose of the revised Citizen's Charter introduced by CBIC? **To provide updated timelines and service standards for taxpayer services.**
- What does the 'Ease of Doing Business' tab under CBIC aim to achieve? **Allows taxpayers to suggest improvements in tax procedures and policies.**
- When were the restrictions on ECL Finance and Edelweiss ARC imposed by the RBI? **In May 2024.**
- What restriction was placed on Edelweiss ARC by the RBI? **Barred from acquiring financial assets, including security receipts, and reorganizing them into senior and subordinate tranches.**
- How much financial assistance will ADB provide for the Nagpur Metro Project? **Rs 1,527 crore**
- How much total financial assistance did ADB agree to provide for Sri Lanka's power system? **A total of \$200 million in two loans: \$150 million for CEB and \$50 million for Lanka Electricity (Pvt) Ltd.**
- Which organization approved an \$800 million loan for Amaravati's development? **World Bank**
- Which two entities partnered to promote the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana? **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) and Canara Bank.**
- How much penalty has been imposed on IndusInd Bank by RBI? **₹27.3 lakh**
- What is the penalty imposed on Manappuram Finance? **₹20 lakh**
- How much funding was allocated under the "Second Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development Credit"? **\$500 million**
- How much loan has the Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended to India for green infrastructure projects? **\$500 million.**
- Which Indian institution will receive the ADB loan to support green and sustainable infrastructure? **India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).**
- Which treaty did India sign after nearly two decades of negotiations at WIPO? **Riyadh Design Law Treaty.**
- What is the focus of the recent protocol between North Korea and Russia? **Expanding and strengthening sports cooperation.**
- What areas of collaboration have increased after the strategic partnership treaty between Russia & North Korea? **Military, economy, and sports.**
- Which organizations signed the MoU for enhancing on-site testing of construction materials? **NABL and CREDAI.**
- What agreement did Rwanda sign with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI)? **To establish IVI's African Regional Office in Kigali.**



- Which entity did OpenAI sign its first MoU with in South Korea? **KDB (Korea Development Bank).**
- What key sectors did Morocco and Hungary agree to strengthen cooperation in during their recent meeting? **Economy, agriculture, culture, sports, and tourism.**
- When was the India-Russia Strategic Partnership formalized? **2000**
- What are the key areas of cooperation in the new strategic partnership between Sweden and Poland? **Security and defense, innovation, and competitiveness**
- Which two entities signed an \$820-million loan agreement to fund renewable energy projects in Thailand in 2024? **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Gulf Renewable Energy Company Limited.**
- Which company signed an agreement with INEOS to revive its PTA manufacturing plant in Mangalore as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative? **GAIL Mangalore Petrochemicals (GMPL).**
- Which international organization signed a \$98 million loan agreement with the Centre to improve horticulture farmers' access to certified disease-free planting materials under the Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme? **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**
- Which country signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with India for the design and development of Electric Propulsion Systems for the Indian Navy? **The United Kingdom.**
- How much has the Centre invested in the development projects along the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam? **Rs 1,010 crore**
- How many frigates are part of the India-Russia 2016 deal? **Four frigates, two built in Russia and two in India at Goa Shipyard Limited.**
- Which Arunachal Pradesh initiative, launched to improve market linkages for local farmers, was recently implemented in partnership with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)? **'Mission Himveer'**
- What is the duration of the collaborative work programme outlined in the MoU signed by UNECA and AUDA-NEPAD? **2024 to 2028.**
- What is the value of the Defence Ministry's contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited for INS Vikramaditya's refit? **₹1,207 crore.**
- Razorpay's recent collaboration to enhance cybersecurity around digital payments is with which government ministry? **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- What is the focus area of recent India-Italy bilateral cooperation? **Space**
- With which country, India signed an MoU to establish a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) at the foreign ministers' level? **Kuwait**
- Which museum's maintenance is covered under the MoA signed between the Arunachal Pradesh government and the Indian Army? **Major Ralengnao Bob Khathing Museum of Valor**
- Which companies have recently partnered to develop an advanced in-cabin sensing solution for vehicles? **LG Electronics and Ambarella**
- Which university has partnered with Airbus to create a talent pool for India's aerospace industry? **Mahindra University**
- Which two associations have partnered to boost sensor product manufacturing in India? **Electronics City Industries Association (ELCIA) and India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA)**
- Which two countries have recently announced a 5-year Programme of Cooperation (PoC) for scientific and technological collaboration for 2024–2029? **India and Slovenia**
- What is the shared goal of Algeria and South Africa in the UN and AU? **To push for reforms in the UN Security Council, advocating for Africa to gain two permanent seats.**

An Independence activist, lawyer, writer, historian and statesman.

**C. Rajagopalachari**  
(10 DEC 1878 – 25 DEC 1972)

An Independence activist, lawyer, writer, historian and statesman  
Governor-General of India (1948 to 1950)  
1st Governor of West Bengal (1947 to 1948)  
8th Premier of Madras Presidency (1937 – 1939)  
Minister of Education (1946 – 1947)  
Minister of Home Affairs (1950 – 1951)

**AWARDS**  
• Bharat Ratna (1954)  
• Sahitya Akademi Award

**FOUNDED**  
Swatantra Party

**NOTE**  
He wrote Tamil translation of Ramayan, which later published as Chakravarthi Thirumagan (won Sahitya Akademi Award 1958).





- What does the partnership between Algeria and South Africa aim to enhance for Africa? **To boost trade and promote African cooperation through the establishment of a free trade zone.**
- Which organizations signed an MoU to empower marginalized communities through entrepreneurship? **NMDFC and DICCI.**
- What agreement did India and the EFTA bloc sign in 2024? **The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**
- What collaboration did Google announce with NCERT? **To launch YouTube channels providing curriculum-based content for grades 1 to 12 in 29 Indian languages.**
- What subjects do NPTEL courses cover in Google's partnership? **Sciences, literature, sports psychology, rocket propulsion, and more.**
- Who can access NPTEL courses via YouTube? **Anyone outside the IIT system**
- What platforms have adopted the YouTube Player for Education? **Google Classroom, Quizizz, and Teachmint**
- What loan has ADB approved for India's logistics sector? **A \$350 million policy-based loan to strengthen and modernize India's logistics sector.**
- Which two entities signed a joint declaration during the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 to enhance water sector cooperation? **Israeli Foreign Ministry and Rajasthan's Water Resources Department.**
- Which organization has partnered with the Kerala government to improve coastal infrastructure and marine development through a recent MoU? **ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).**
- Which country will be the first partner at the 'Utkarsh Odisha -- Make In Odisha Conclave 2025'? **Singapore**
- Which electric vehicle company signed an MOU with Tata Power Renewable Energy to enhance EV charging infrastructure for commercial vehicles? **Tivolt Electric Vehicles**
- Which countries signed an MoU to implement Quick Impact Projects focusing on socio-economic development? **India and Nicaragua**
- What is the trade target set by the recent Iran-Türkiye MoU? **30 billion USD within five years.**
- Which company has TCS extended its partnership with in Denmark? **Telenor Denmark (TnDK).**
- Which banks signed an MoA with the Mizoram government for the 'Bana Kaih' scheme? **SBI, Mizoram Rural Bank (MRB), and Mizoram Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd. (MCAB).**
- What type of services will TCS deliver to Telenor Denmark under the extended partnership? **IT infrastructure services.**
- What is the purpose of the HPCL and Sea6 Energy MoU? **To jointly develop and commercialize technologies for converting seaweed biomass into fuels and chemicals.**
- Which organization signed a ₹13,500-crore deal with the Defence Ministry for 12 Sukhoi-30 fighters in 2024? **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**
- Which organization signed an MoU with Hockey India to broadcast the upcoming Hockey India League in 2024? **Prasar Bharati.**
- Which European country became the first to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)? **Britain**
- Which organization recently signed an MoU with an E-Commerce platform Flipkart to ensure the availability of its publications across India? **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).**
- Which university recently signed an MoU with the Indian Navy to enhance logistics education and research? **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara.**
- Which corporation signed an agreement with NLDS to integrate APIs with ULIP? **HPCL**
- Which organizations collaborated to develop the Kisan Kavach? **BRIC-inStem, Bengaluru, and Sepio Health Pvt Ltd..**
- Which country has signed a \$100 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve public sector governance and accountability? **Papua New Guinea**
- How much debt relief has Sri Lanka secured through its restructuring agreement? **Worth USD 14.2 billion.**
- Who is collaborating on the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum (YYBNM)? **India & France Museums Développement (FMD)**
- Which company signed an MoA for the development of Indigenous Ballistic Material? **Reliance Industries Ltd.**
- What MoU was signed between Uttar Pradesh and Manipur governments? **For the implementation of the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' programme.**
- How long will the MoU between Uttar Pradesh and Manipur be valid? **3 years**
- What agreement was signed between ADB and the Ceylon Electricity Board? **To provide \$150 million for transmission projects in Sri Lanka.**



- What MoU was signed between Cambodia's MISTI and UNOPS? **To advance sustainable water access and climate-resilient infrastructure in Cambodia.**
- What is the goal of the Cambodia-UNOPS collaboration? **To improve water access and build climate-resilient infrastructure for vulnerable communities.**
- What is the value of the agreement between Lebanon and France for green agriculture development? **7.3 million USD.**
- Which organizations signed the agreement to boost green agriculture in Lebanon? **The French Development Agency and CIHEAM Montpellier**
- Which two countries are advancing their partnership in the space sector, including human spaceflight and joint exploration? **The United States and India.**
- What agreement has India signed to enhance its collaboration with the US in space exploration? **The Artemis Accords.**
- Which international organization signed a \$350 million loan agreement with India under the SMILE program to strengthen the logistics ecosystem? **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**
- What is the value of the recent contract signed by the Defence Ministry with L&T for K9 Vajra-T artillery guns? **₹7,629 crore.**
- What percentage stake in India Cements is UltraTech Cement acquiring? **32.72%**
- Which organizations collaborated to construct the bio-bitumen highway? **CRRI, Praj Industries, NHAI, and Oriental.**
- Which country recently elevated its bilateral relationship with India to a 'Strategic Partnership'? **Kuwait**
- Which country signed financing agreements worth \$900 million with the World Bank for climate resilience and urban development? **Bangladesh**
- Which two Japanese automakers have initiated merger to create the world's third-largest auto group? **Honda and Nissan.**
- Which company acquired an 85.8% stake in Air Works, India's largest private-sector MRO firm, for ₹400 crore? **Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL).**
- Which international organization signed a \$500 million loan agreement with the Indian government to support green infrastructure projects? **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

### IMPORTANCE

To mark the adoption of the Convention against Corruption on 31 Oct 2003, UNGA designated December 9 International Anti-Corruption Day.

## International Anti-Corruption Day

INCEPTION: 2003  
EDITION: 21<sup>st</sup>  
CAME INTO FORCE: 2005

### MOTTO

To raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it.

### 2024 THEME

UNCAC at 20: Uniting the World Against Corruption.

### NOTE

As per UN, every year \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption.

ORGANISATION INVOLVED  
UNDOC

**09**  
DECEMBER

### IMPORTANCE

To mark the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights by UNGA on 10 December 1948.

## Human Rights Day

INCEPTION: 1948

### MOTTO

To improve the physical, social, cultural and spiritual well-being and welfare of the vulnerable group of people globally.

### 2024 THEME

Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All.

### NOTE

In 2004, International Human Rights Day was sanctioned by the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) as an official day of human rights celebration.

ORGANISATION INVOLVED  
UNESCO

**10**  
DECEMBER



## Awards & Recognitions

- Which organization awarded the 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award to the Indian Chemical Council (ICC)? **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).**
- What award did the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'One Health' pavilion receive at the 43rd IITF? **Special Appreciation Medal.**
- Which organization has been recognized by NCVET as an awarding body to boost vocational training in the space sector? **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPaCE).**
- Who won the prestigious Turner Prize in 2024? **Jasleen Kaur**
- What was the title of Jasleen Kaur's exhibition that won the Turner Prize in 2024? **Alter-Altar**
- Which artist won the Turner Prize in 2024, marking the award's 40th anniversary? **Jasleen Kaur**
- Who won the 2024 MLS MVP Award, contributing to a league-high 36 goals for Inter Miami? **Lionel Messi.**
- Who was awarded the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development? **Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile**
- Who chaired the jury that announced the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize winner? **Shivshankar Menon**
- Who was chosen for the JC Daniel Award 2023 for lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema? **Shaji N Karun.**
- What is the value of the purse associated with the JC Daniel Award? **Rs 5 lakh.**
- Which jury member chaired the selection process for the JC Daniel Award 2023? **TV Chandran.**
- Which booklet will be launched during the National Panchayat Awards 2024 ceremony? **Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats**
- Who won the PGA Tour Player of the Year 2024 award? **Scottie Scheffler**
- Who recently received the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' from President Droupadi Murmu? **Nepali Army Chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel.**
- Who was honoured with Russia's esteemed Order of Friendship for his contributions to fostering ties between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church? **Baselios Marthoma Mathews III.**
- Which airport won the Certificate of Merit at the National Energy Conservation Awards 2024 (NECA 2024) for its exceptional energy efficiency initiatives? **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA) in Ahmedabad.**
- Who was conferred the rank of Honorary General of the Indian Army during his official visit to India? **General Ashok Raj Sigdel, Chief of the Army Staff of Nepal.**
- Who presented Tom Cruise with the US Navy's highest civilian honor? **The US Navy presented Cruise with the Distinguished Public Service Award.**


**IMPORTANCE**  
To highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development, and to build alliances that will bring positive change to mountain peoples and environments around the world.

**INCEPTION:** 2002  
**1<sup>st</sup> OBSERVED:** 2003

**MOTTO**  
To increase awareness on the importance of mountains for the health of the planet and well-being of billions of people.

**2024 THEME**  
Restoring mountain ecosystems.

**NOTE**  
Mountains cover nearly 27% of Earth's land & play a crucial role in sustainable economic growth.



11

DECEMBER



- What was the theme of the FIFA Awards ceremony? **Showcasing football as the world's most beloved sport.**
- Who won the Best Men's Player Award? **Vinicius Jr (Real Madrid).**
- Who claimed the Best Women's Player Award? **Aitana Bonmati (Barcelona & Spain).**
- Who was honored as the Best Women's Coach? **Emma Hayes (U.S. Women's National Team)**
- Who received the Jamsetji Tata Award 2024? **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon Group.**
- What organization presents the Jamsetji Tata Award? **The Indian Society for Quality (ISQ).**
- Who won the Sahitya Akademi Award for Hindi poetry in 2024? **Gagan Gill for her book "Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar."**
- Which English author received the Sahitya Akademi Award for her novel in 2024? **Easterine Kire for her novel "Spirit Nights."**
- Which Indian public sector steel manufacturing corporation has been conferred with eight national awards by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI)? **SAIL**
- Which Kashmiri author won the Sahitya Akademi Award for novel in 2024? **Sohan Kaul for his novel "Psychiatric Ward."**
- Which Bodo author received the Sahitya Akademi Award for novel in 2024? **Aron Raja for his fiction "Swrni Thakhai."**
- Which two short story authors won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2024? **Yuva Baral for "Chhichimira" (Nepali) and Hundraj Balwani for "Purzo" (Sindhi).**
- Which three authors won the Sahitya Akademi Award for essays in 2024? **Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), and Baishnab Charan Samai (Odia).**
- Who won the Sahitya Akademi Award for play in 2024? **Maheshwar Sorn for "Seched Sawnta Ren Andha Manmi" (Santali).**
- What honour was conferred upon PM Modi by Kuwait during his recent visit? **The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer**
- How many international honours has PM Modi received so far, including Kuwait's Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer? **20 international honours.**

### IMPORTANCE

To focus the attention of decision makers in directing resources towards energy generation through non-conventional sources on a larger scale.

### World/National Energy Conservation Day

INCEPTION: 1991

### MOTTO

To drive mass awareness about importance of energy efficiency and conservation.

### BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOUNDED: 1 March 2002.

HEADQUARTERS: New Delhi, India.

TYPE: Government Agency  
Area served: India.

PURPOSE: Development of policies and strategies, with an emphasis on self-regulation and market principles.

**14**  
DECEMBER

### IMPORTANCE

To commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 for the liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

### Vijay Diwas

INCEPTION: 1971  
EDITION: 54<sup>th</sup>

### MOTTO

To pay tribute to the Indian martyrs who laid down their lives for liberating Bangladesh from Pakistan.

### HISTORY BEHIND

In 1971, the chief of the Pakistani forces, General AA Khan Niazi, along with 93000 troops, had surrendered to Indian Army and Mukti Bahini.

The end of the war also resulted in subsequent secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.

### NOTE

On the same day Bangladesh observed as Bijoy Dibos.

**16**  
DECEMBER



## Sports

- Who became the youngest player to get an IPL contract in the history of the tournament? **Vaibhav Suryavanshi.**
- Who won the gold medal at the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship? **Divith Reddy.**
- Why was Bajrang Punia suspended by NADA? **He refused to provide a dope test sample during the national team selection trials on March 10, 2024.**
- What is the duration of Bajrang Punia's suspension? **4 years, lasting until 2028.**
- How does the suspension affect Bajrang's wrestling career? **It effectively ends his competitive career.**
- Which country will host the 2026 Asian Rifle/Pistol Cup? **India**
- When did India previously host the Asian Air Gun competition? **8th Asian Air Gun competition in 2015.**
- Who became the first athlete from Ladakh to win a Bronze Medal at the 1st World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships in Bahrain? **Rinchen Youdol**
- How many medals, including how many golds, did the Tripura Paralympics team win at the Northeast Para Games? **23 medals, including 9 golds.**
- Who won the singles titles at the Syed Modi International Tournament 2024? **PV Sindhu (Women's Singles), Lakshya Sen (Men's Singles).**
- Who was the first qualifier to win the World Snooker Championship in 1979? **Terry Griffiths.**
- Who secured India's first-ever podium finish in eFootball at the 2024 Asian Esports Games? **Pavan Kampelli**
- Which country hosted the 2024 Asian Esports Games? **Thailand**
- Who secured third place in the 2024 FIM Bajaz World Cup, marking her third World Cup medal in 2W motorsport? **Aishwarya Pissay**
- Who defended their title at the Hero World Challenge with a 9-under 63? **Scottie Scheffler.**
- Who won the Formula Two championship in 2024? **Gabriel Bortoleto.**
- Why was Sunny Dhillon banned from cricket? **For breaching the Emirates Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code during the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 League.**
- Where will the Youth & Para Games 2025 be held? **Bihar.**
- When did the Khelo India Winter Games begin? **In 2020.**
- What is the duration of Sunny Dhillon's ban? **6 years**
- When does Dhillon's ban start? **September 13, 2023**
- Why was the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium land transferred to the Bihar Cricket Association? **To host international matches in Patna and provide state cricketers with a world-class venue.**
- Who will host the 2034 FIFA World Cup? **Saudi Arabia.**
- How many teams will participate in the 2034 World Cup? **48 teams.**
- Which Union Territory will host the snow events of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025? **Jammu & Kashmir.**
- Who were named ICC Players of the Month for November 2024? **Haris Rauf and Danni Wyatt-Hodge.**
- Which country does Haris Rauf represent? **Pakistan.**
- Which country does Danni Wyatt-Hodge represent? **England.**
- Who became the youngest World Chess Champion in 2024? **Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh.**
- Which Pakistani cricketer recently announced retirement from international cricket? **Imad Wasim.**

### IMPORTANCE

United Nations on 18 December, 1992 adopted and broadcast the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.

### Minorities Rights Day in India

1<sup>st</sup> OBSERVED: 2013  
EDITION: 12<sup>th</sup>

### MOTTO

This day focuses on bringing a better understanding and educating people about the issues related to minorities and their safety.

### NOTE

The minorities in India include Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains.

Minorities in India constitute about 19% of the total population.

**18**  
DECEMBER



- Which Bangladeshi cricketer has been suspended from bowling in all competitions organized by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)? **Shakib Al Hasan**
- Which team won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024 by defeating Madhya Pradesh by 5 wickets? **Mumbai.**
- Which country won the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024 in hockey by defeating China in a penalty shootout? **India.**
- Who won the gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol Final at the 67th National Shooting Championship? **Riya Shirish Thatte.**
- Which state does Riya Shirish Thatte represent in the National Shooting Championship? **Maharashtra (Aurangabad).**
- Who did Riya Shirish Thatte defeat in the shoot-off to win gold in the Women's 25m Pistol Final? **Simranpreet Kaur Brar from Punjab.**

### IMPORTANCE

To mark the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by UNGA on 18 Dec 1990.

## International Migrants Day

INCEPTION: 1990  
EDITION: 35<sup>th</sup>

### MOTTO

To recognize the rights, protection, and respect for migrants.

### 2024 THEME

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN MOBILITY.

### INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT

A person who moves to a another country that his/her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his/her new country of usual residence.



**18**  
DECEMBER

- Who is India's second-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket after Anil Kumble? **Ravichandran Ashwin.**
- Who was named the Best Men's Coach? **Carlo Ancelotti (Real Madrid).**
- Who did Jasprit Bumrah surpass for the most Test wickets by an Indian on Australian soil? **Kapil Dev.**
- How many Test wickets has Jasprit Bumrah taken on Australian soil? **52 wickets.**
- Who won triple gold medals in women's air pistol events at the 67th National Shooting Championship? **Suruchi (Haryana).**
- Which team won the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup title? **India.**
- Who captained the Indian team in the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup? **Niki Prasad.**
- In which year will India host the ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup for the first time? **2025.**
- Which organization has awarded India the rights to host the ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup? **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).**
- Who will organize the ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup in India in 2025? **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).**
- Who won the 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals title? **Joao Fonseca.**
- Joao Fonseca became the first player from which country to win the Next Gen ATP Finals? **Brazil**
- Who is the youngest champion in the history of the Next Gen ATP Finals? **Joao Fonseca**
- Who won the Western India Slam 2024 women's singles title and claimed her ninth PSA Challenger title of the year? **Anahat Singh**
- Who won one gold and two silver medals at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Doha? **Sairaj Pardeshi.**
- In which weightlifting category did Sairaj Pardeshi set a national youth record? **81kg men's category.**
- Who won the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Rifle competition at the 67th Senior National Shooting Championship? **Shahu Tushar Mane**
- Who won the silver medal in the men's 10m Air Rifle senior competition at the 67th Senior National Shooting Championship? **Dhanush Srikanth**
- Who won the men's singles title at the Senior National Badminton Championship 2024? **M. Raghu (Karnataka).**
- Which player clinched the women's singles title at the Senior National Badminton Championship 2024? **Devika Sihag (Haryana).**



## Science & Technology

- What is the primary objective of ISRO's Shukrayaan Mission? **To study Venus's surface, atmosphere, and geological structure.**
- Which launch vehicle will be used for the Shukrayaan Mission? **LVM-3.**
- Which countries are collaborating on the Chandrayaan-4 Mission? **India and Japan.**
- Which organization unveiled 'The Developer's Playbook for Responsible AI in India'? **Nasscom.**
- Which mission is central to India's quantum technology aspirations as discussed during the India-Israel ministerial meeting? **National Quantum Mission.**
- Which launch vehicle carried ESA's PROBA-3 mission into orbit? **PSLV C-59.**
- Which satellite was recently launched aboard the Vega-C rocket from Europe's Spaceport? **Copernicus Sentinel-1C.**
- Which submarine-launched ballistic missile with a range of 3,500 km was successfully tested by India from INS Arighaat in the Bay of Bengal? **K4 missile.**
- Who developed India's first indigenously designed surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra? **SSI Mantra was developed by SS Innovations, based in Gurugram.**
- Who will focus on scaling up the technologies for biomass conversion? **HPCL**
- What is Afrezza used for? **To improve glycemic control in adult patients with diabetes mellitus.**
- Who developed the iBooster green propulsion system? **Manastu Space Technologies**
- What type of fuel does the iBooster system use? **A proprietary hydrogen peroxide-based fuel.**
- What is the iBooster green propulsion system developed by DRDO? **For 100–500 kg satellites**
- Which Indian laboratory was approved by WADA as an Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) management unit in December 2024? **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi.**
- What is the target emission intensity for green steel as per India's new taxonomy? **2.2 t-CO<sub>2</sub>e/tfs**
- Which cryogenic engine developed by ISRO successfully passed a key test for the Gaganyaan mission? **CE20**
- Where has Israel launched its first power plant that generates electricity from sea waves, with a capacity of 100 kilowatts? **Jaffa Port in Tel Aviv-Yafo**
- Which Union Minister launched India's first anti-pesticide bodysuit, Kisan Kavach? **Dr. Jitendra Singh**
- What technology does the Kisan Kavach use to neutralize harmful pesticides? **Nucleophilic-mediated hydrolysis.**
- Which country recently joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? **Moldova.**
- When was the International Solar Alliance (ISA) launched? **November 30, 2015, at the COP21 in Paris.**
- Which technology was transferred to three companies, including MIDHANI, Rohtak, during the DIA-GARIMA event? **The technology for Light Weight Bullet Resistant Jacket (ABHED).**
- Which two indigenously-built warships were recently delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd? **Nilgiri and Surat.**
- Which apps and dashboard are being launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs on National Consumer Day 2024? **Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, and Jagriti Dashboard.**
- Which organization will act on complaints registered through the Jagriti App? **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).**
- Which Indian startup successfully tested its patented Standard Interface for Docking and Refueling (SIDRP) in zero gravity conditions in Florida? **OrbitAID Aerospace.**

### IMPORTANCE

To commemorate the day on which UNGA passed a resolution to identify solidarity as one of the fundamental and universal values in 20 Dec 2005.

### International Human Solidarity Day

INCEPTION: 2002  
1<sup>st</sup> OBSERVED: 2005

### MOTTO

To recognize the universal values of poor by making the associated countries aware of reducing poverty and to formulate its counter measures as signed by the independent states.

### NOTE

On 20 December 2002, UNGA established the World Solidarity Fund, which was set up in February 2003 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme.

### WHAT IS SOLIDARITY?

Solidarity is an awareness of shared interests, objectives, standards, and sympathies creating a psychological sense of unity of groups/classes.

It refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one.



**20**  
DECEMBER



## Miscellaneous

- What is the primary objective of the TeacherApp launched by Dharmendra Pradhan? **Educator empowerment.**
- Who was the first woman to lead a Samsung subsidiary? **Lee Boo-jin, CEO of Hotel Shilla Co.**
- Where is the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) headquartered? **Seoul, South Korea.**
- Which specialized AU agency recently opened its headquarters in Kigali? **The African Medicines Agency (AMA) opened its headquarters in Kigali.**
- Where was the 11th edition of the Indian Coast Guard's National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-24) held? **Kochi, Kerala.**
- When will Kanda's term as ADB president end? **In November 2026.**
- When will the new European Commission take office? **On December 1, 2024.**
- How is NATO funded? **Through contributions by member countries, with a target of 2% GDP spending on defense.**
- Which areas are included in India's offshore areas for mineral block auctions? **Territorial waters, continental shelf, and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).**
- What is the focus of the 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' programme? **Social Security.**
- What is India's rank on the National Index Score among 29 countries as per the LSEG-Ipsos PCSI report in November 2024? **Second.**
- Which country ranked first on the National Index Score in the LSEG-Ipsos PCSI report? **Indonesia.**
- What is the National Index Score of India as per the LSEG-Ipsos PCSI report? **61.0**
- How many One Stop Centres (OSCs) for distressed Indian women abroad have been approved by the Government? **Nine.**
- Where did the 13th edition of the "Agni Warrior 2024" military exercise take place? **Devlali, Maharashtra.**
- Name the Inaugural Joint Exercise between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army? **CINBAX**
- Where is the 4th India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti 2024 being held? **Bentong Camp, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**
- What is the theme of the Harimau Shakti 2024 military exercise? **"Two nations, one mission: Ensuring global peace."**
- For which iconic role did Tom Cruise first gain recognition that boosted military enlistment? **His role as Maverick in Top Gun (1986).**
- What is India's rank in the WEF Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024? **39th**
- How many initiatives were launched by the government on International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 to empower Divyangjans? **16 initiatives.**
- What vision underpins the UAE's achievements in sustainable development and economic innovation? **'We the UAE 2031' vision**
- What was the primary theme of Jasleen Kaur's winning exhibition Alter-Altar? **Family memory and community struggle**
- What class does INS Tushil belong to? **The Admiral Grigorovich-class of stealth frigates.**
- Which motorsport club did Indu Chandhok help found in 1953? **Madras Motor Sports Club in 1953.**
- What nickname was Indu Chandhok given for his contributions to motorsports? **Godfather of Motor Sports in India.**
- What was the focus of discussions during the India-Norway Business Forum? **Renewable energy, maritime industries, climate, sustainability, and trade and investment opportunities.**
- Which program does this funding support? **The second subprogram of the Strengthening Multimodal and Integrated Logistics Ecosystem Program.**
- Where was INS Tushil recently commissioned into the Indian Navy? **Russia.**
- Which of Shaji N Karun's films was nominated for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival? **Swam.**
- How does seaweed contribute to India's net-zero goals? **Acts as a carbon sink with high carbon capture potential.**
- Who developed and manufactures Afrezza? **MannKind Corporation, USA.**
- Which agency will be responsible for issuing greenness certificates and star ratings for green steel in India? **NISST**
- Where was the inaugural India-Philippines Maritime Dialogue held in 2024? **Manila, Philippines.**
- When will Sweden deploy troops to NATO's brigade in Latvia? **Early 2025.**
- What is the full form of SLINEX? **Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise**
- Which edition of SLINEX is being conducted in 2024? **11th**
- What material is used for constructing India's first bio-bitumen highway? **Lignin-based bio-bitumen**



## Important Days

Date	Observed As	Importance/Motto/Theme
January 1	Global Family Day	To promote the idea that the Earth is one Global family and we should live in peace
January 4	World Braille Day	To mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille.
January 9	NRI Day	To mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.
January 10	World Hindi Day	To mark the birth anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975.
January 12	National Youth Day	To mark the birth anniversary of the Swami Vivekananda.
January 15	Army day	Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa became the first Indian Army Chief of Independent India on 15 January 1949.
January 24	National Girl Child Day	To increase awareness among the people and ensure every girl gets equal importance as their counterparts.
January 25	National Voters day	To mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI)
January 26	India's Republic Day	To mark the Declaration of Indian Independence that was proclaimed by the Indian National Congress.
January 27	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	To commemorate the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.
January 30	Martyrs' Day	To mark the assassination of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Ji.



## Let's Recap

- How much funding has been allocated for the Pandemic Fund Project to strengthen animal health security in India? **\$25 million.**
- What was the purpose of the mutual legal assistance treaty signed between India and Germany? **To improve cooperation in criminal matters.**
- What is the new loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana's 'Tarun Plus' category? **₹20 lakh.**
- Who took over as the captain of the UAE men's ODI cricket team from Muhammad Waseem? **Rahul Chopra.**
- Which three countries launched the DiGi Framework to support digital infrastructure projects in India? **The United States, Japan, and South Korea.**
- Who has been reappointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank for a three-year term starting January 1, 2025? **Amitabh Chaudhry**
- In which district is the Petrapole Land Port, the largest in South Asia, located? **Uttar 24 Parganas, West Bengal**
- What rating did Shaktikanta Das receive from Global Finance magazine in 2024? **A+ rating**
- Which Indian para badminton player won a gold medal in men's singles at the Japan Para Badminton International 2024? **Sukant Kadam**
- What medal did Sukant Kadam win in the men's doubles category at the Japan Para Badminton International 2024? **Silver medal**
- Which player from Afghanistan 'A' set a record with six consecutive 50+ scores in T20 cricket during the Emerging Asia Cup? **Sediqullah Atal**
- Who resigned as head coach of Pakistan's cricket team following Muhammad Rizwan's appointment as captain? **Gary Kirsten**
- Name the petitioner in the landmark 'Right to Privacy' case in India, who passed away recently? **Justice K S Puttaswamy**
- Which fintech company recently completed its merger with North East Small Finance Bank to expand banking services in Northeast India? **Slice**
- Where is India opening its first Consulate General in Spain? **Barcelona.**
- What will the year 2026 be celebrated as between India and Spain? **The Year of Culture, Tourism, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).**
- What is the budget allocated for the Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme? **Over ₹470 crore.**
- Who has been appointed as the Head Coach of India's Senior Men's Cricket Team for the South Africa tour? **VVS Laxman.**
- Under which scheme will healthcare coverage be extended to all senior citizens aged 70 and above? **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).**
- Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director and CEO of Bharti Airtel? **Shashwat Sharma**
- Who was awarded the women's Ballon d'Or? **Aitana Bonmati**
- Which Indian organization signed an MoU with Switzerland's Department of Environment, Transport, and Communications for technical cooperation? **Indian Railways**
- Who guided North Korea's successful test of the Hwasong-19 missile? **Kim Jong-un**
- Where will Greece establish new consulates in India? **Mumbai and Bengaluru.**
- What role will Greece assume in the UN Security Council? **A non-permanent member for the 2025-2026 term.**
- What is the minimum number of seats required for a party to win in Botswana's National Assembly? **At least 31 seats.**

**IMPORTANCE**  
To mark the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan and his contributions in the development of modern mathematics.

**MOTTO**  
To make people aware of the development of mathematics and its importance in the growth of humanity.

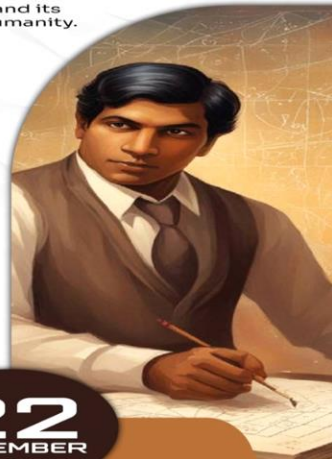
**NOTE**  
On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh declared 22 December as National Mathematics Day in 2012.

**ABOUT SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN**  
(22 Dec 1887 - 26 Apr 1920)  
1729 is called Hardy-Ramanujan number in his honor  
Became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1918, becoming the second Indian to do so.  
On 13 October 1918, he became the first Indian to be elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

**AWARD**  
Fellow of the Royal Society Scientific career.

**National Mathematics Day**  
INCEPTION: 2012  
EDITION: 13<sup>th</sup>

**22 DECEMBER**





- Why was the former deputy president Gachagua impeached? **Due to allegations of corruption and inciting ethnic division.**
- ADB approves 85 million USD loan to Nepal. In context to same what is the total cost of the Irrigation Modernization Enhancement Project? **\$133.64 million.**
- When was Debroy a full-time member of NITI Aayog? **From its inception in 2015 until June 2019.**
- Which award did Bibek Debroy receive in 2015? **The Padma Shri award.**
- How much funding has the IMF approved for Kenya in its latest program review? **\$606 million.**
- What is the total IMF funding Kenya has received under the EFF and ECF programs? **\$3.61 billion.**
- Why was Ladakh chosen as the location for the analog space mission? **Its geographical features closely resemble Martian and lunar landscapes.**
- What is the name of the habitat used in the mission? **Hab-1.**
- Which rocket will be used to deliver CODEX to the ISS? **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.**
- How many countries have signed the Artemis Accords for lunar exploration, including South Korea? **47 countries.**
- Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of India Yamaha Motor? **Itaru Otani**
- When did Praveena Rai officially take charge as CEO of MCX? **On October 31, 2024.**
- Who defeated Tanushree Pandey in the Under-21 Women's Individual Singles final? **Chiang Min Yu of Chinese Taipei.**
- Which team did not retain Saha ahead of the 2025 IPL mega auction? **Gujarat Titans (GT)**
- Which Indian table tennis player won dual titles at the WTT Feeder Caracas in Venezuela? **Harmeet Desai**
- How many gold medals did India secure at the Under-19 World Boxing Championships? **4 gold medals**
- Who won the Gold medal at the Swiss Open Indoor Archery? **Alessandro Paoli from Italy.**
- Which indigenously developed machine pistol was recently inducted by the Indian Army into its Northern Command to boost self-reliance? **Asmi**
- Which organization invested \$400 million in Bajaj Finance to support climate action and women's empowerment? **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**
- Who became the first Indian boxer to win the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Super Featherweight world title? **Mandeep Jangra**
- Which state recently signed two MoUs in the hospitality sector with Saudi Arabia-based firms? **Rajasthan**
- Which country recently launched the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) to attract more tourists from India and China? **South Africa**
- Who has been appointed as the captain of Sydney Thunder for the KFC Big Bash League 2023-24? **David Warner**
- How much financial allocation has been approved for the PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme over the period 2024-25 to 2030-31? **Rs 3,600 crore.**
- Which Indian university secured the highest position in the QS Asia University Rankings 2025, ranking 44th in Asia? **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.**
- Which Indian IT services company has signed a multi-year deal with Air France-KLM to help transform the airline into a leading data-centric organization? **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).**
- Which subsidiary of Reliance Power was involved in submitting fraudulent bank guarantees? **Reliance NU BESS**
- How much did ADB allocate for climate resilience projects like the Metro Manila Flood Management? **\$500 million.**
- When did Mohammad Nabi make his ODI debut? **In 2009, during Afghanistan's first-ever ODI match.**
- How many F-15IA fighter jets is Israel set to acquire? **25 advanced F-15IA jets, with an option for 25 more.**
- Why did Canada amend its tourist visa policy? **To manage immigration levels, address housing shortages, and control the cost of living.**
- What is the name of the tri-services exercise scheduled from November 10-18? **Poorvi Prahar (Eastern Attack).**
- Which forces will participate in the Poorvi Prahar exercise? **The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force**
- Who has been appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as his White House Chief of Staff? **Susie Wiles.**



## Quick Bytes

- India and Sri Lanka agreed to finalize a defence pact, enhance energy ties with electricity grid connectivity, and build petroleum pipelines.
- India Wins Women's Junior Asia Cup 2024 in Hockey
- Italy Grants Citizenship to Argentina's President
- INS Nirdeshak: Indian Navy's New Survey Ship Commissioned
- SLINEX 2024: Strengthening Sri Lanka-India Naval Ties
- RBI Raises Collateral-Free Agricultural Loan Limit to ₹2 Lakh
- India Clinches Women's Junior Asia Cup Title
- India, France, UAE Conduct Desert Knight Air Combat Exercise
- Govt Unveils 'Jalvahak' Scheme to Boost Inland Waterways Cargo
- Mikheil Kavelashvili Elected as Georgia's President
- Britain Becomes First European Nation to Join CPTPP
- India Launches First Diabetes Biobank in Chennai
- UK Joins Indo-Pacific Bloc: A Post-Brexit Trade Milestone
- Dark Eagle Hypersonic Missile Tested by US Armed Forces
- Google Appoints Preeti Lobana as India Head
- Mumbai Clinches Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024
- Padma Bhushan Ustad Zakir Hussain Passes Away at 73
- Rama Mohan Rao Amara Appointed as SBI Managing Director
- Elon Musk Becomes First Person to Reach \$500 Billion Net Worth
- Kiran Jadhav Wins Men's 50m Rifle 3P National Title
- Pranav Venkatesh Wins FIDE World U-18 Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Titles
- Spin Legend R Ashwin Announces Retirement From International Cricket.
- Vinicius Junior Wins FIFA Best Men's Player of the Year Award
- Bhutan Confers Royal Honour on Indian Educationist Arun Kapur
- Japan and India Collaborate to Address Space Debris
- Uttarakhand to Implement Uniform Civil Code from January 2025
- Kisan Kavach – Bharat's Indigenous Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit
- Moldova Joins International Solar Alliance
- Bumrah Surpasses Kapil Dev to Become India's Top Wicket-Taker in Australia
- Nat Sciver-Brunt Sets Record for Fastest Test Century
- Ayodhya Ram Temple Wins Global Safety Excellence Award
- Suryabala's Novel Wins 34th Vyas Samman 2024
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Wins Jamsetji Tata Award for Biosciences Leadership
- Tulsi Gowda, the 'Encyclopedia of Forests,' Passes Away
- Delhi to Host 2025 Para Athletics World Championships.
- India and ADB Sign \$42M Loan for Maharashtra Coastal Protection
- India and France signed an MoU to develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum, modeled after the Louvre, in New Delhi's North and South Blocks.

### IMPORTANCE

To mark the birth anniversary of Chaudharicharan Singh on 23 Dec 1902, Who was the 5th PM of India.

### Kisan Diwas

INCEPTION: 2001  
EDITION: 23<sup>rd</sup>

### MOTTO

To improve the lives of the Indian farmers.

### FACT

Chaudhary Charan Singh never visited the Lok Sabha.

### OTHER WORLD WIDE CELEBRATIONS

Ghana: 1st Friday of Dec.  
Pakistan: 18 Dec  
USA: 12 Oct  
Zambia: 1st Monday of Aug

**23**  
DECEMBER





- China Breaks NASA's Spacewalk Record with 9-Hour EVA
- World Bank Approves \$800M for Amaravati Development.
- Veteran Malayalam Actor Meena Ganesh Passes Away
- 'BRING IT ON: The Incredible Story of My Life' by Deepa Malik.
- Russia to Launch Free mRNA Cancer Vaccine in 2025
- India and France Collaborate to Establish World's Largest Museum
- Masali: India's First Border Solar Village
- Centre, ADB Sign \$42 Million Loan for Coastal Protection in Maharashtra
- Reappointment of Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma as Nepal's Ambassador to India
- Salman Khan Named Brand Ambassador for Kho Kho World Cup
- Chennai-Born Caitlin Sandra Neil Crowned Miss India USA 2024
- India Ranks 39th in Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024
- India Men's Hockey Team Moves to 5th in Latest FIH Rankings for 2025
- Former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala Passes Away at 89
- Meena Ganesh, Iconic Malayalam Star, Dies
- PM Narendra Modi awarded Kuwait's top honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer, during his two-day visit.
- Joao Fonseca Wins 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched "Udaan Yatri Cafe" to provide affordable food and essentials at airports.
- India to Host ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup in 2025
- Justice Madan Lokur Appointed Chairperson of UN IJC
- Iceland's New Govt Under PM Kristrunn Frostadottir
- Koyel and Nilam Win Silver at Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Champ
- India-Kuwait Bilateral Agreements Signed in Defence and Key Sectors
- ISRO, ESA Join Hands for Human Spaceflight Advancements
- Epigamia Co-Founder Rohan Mirchandani Passes Away 42
- Legendary Filmmaker Shyam Benegal Passes Away at 90
- Nusrath Fatima Wins Silver at Junior World Pencak Silat
- Justice V. Ramasubramanian Appointed NHRC Chairperson
- India Rises to 49th Rank in Network Readiness Index 2024
- Adani Group Acquires 85.8% Stake in Air Works for Rs 400 Crore Enterprise Value
- Justice GS Sandhawalia as Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court
- Russian Tennis Star Daniil Medvedev Banned For 2 Years Over Doping
- Jaishankar Receives Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Award for Leadership
- Murdu Fernando Sworn in as Sri Lanka's 48th Chief Justice
- Telangana CM announced Rythu Bharosa scheme to start, promising ₹15,000/acre yearly aid, surpassing ₹10,000 under Rythu Bandhu.
- Arjun Erigaisi is now the second Indian to achieve a 2800 Elo rating in classical chess, joining Viswanathan Anand in this prestigious club.
- India Launches First 'Uber Shikara' Service in Srinagar
- Harimau Shakti 2024: India-Malaysia Military Drill Begins
- RBI Lifts Supervisory Restrictions on Navi Finserv
- Indian-Origin Kash Patel Takes Charge of Director of FBI

**IMPORTANCE**  
To Mark the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

**Good Governance Day(India)**

ESTABLISHED: 2014  
EDITION: 10<sup>th</sup>

**MOTTO**  
To honor Prime Minister Vajpayee by fostering awareness among the Indian people of accountability in government.

**GOOD GOVERNANCE INDEX**  
It assesses the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.

The States and UTs are divided into three groups — the Big States, North-East and Hill States, and Union Territories.

**LAUNCHED BY**  
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.



25

DECEMBER



- India-Cambodia Joint Exercise CINBAX Begins in Pune
- Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Set To Introduce in the Lok Sabha
- Vikrant Massey Retires from Acting at 37
- French PM Michel Barnier's Government Removed in Confidence Vote
- India Clinched Fifth Men's Junior Asia Cup Title
- Justice Manmohan sworns in as Supreme Court judge
- Ratapani Tiger Reserve Notified as 57th Tiger Reserve of India.
- Oxford Word of the Year 2024: 'Brain Rot'
- Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Becomes Namibia's First Female President.
- US Approves \$1.17 Billion Deal for Indian Navy Chopper Equipment
- SEBI Fines Reliance Securities ₹9 Lakh for Rule Violations
- India Wins 5th Junior Hockey Asia Cup, Beats Pakistan 5-3
- Australian Davis Cup Icon Neale Fraser Passes Away at 91
- China Opens First Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Antarctica
- Maria Victoria Juan Wins Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024
- Brigadier Raj Manchanda: The 'Old Fox' of Indian Squash Passes Away at 80
- India to Chair 68th Session of UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- "Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Passed: Civil Aviation Minister Hails Milestone"
- RBI cuts Cash Reserve Ratio by 50 basis points to 4%.
- The third Copernicus Sentinel-1 satellite was launched aboard a Vega-C rocket from Europe's Spaceport in French Guiana.
- OECD projects India's GDP to grow by 6.8% in FY25, an upward from its earlier estimate of 6.6%.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) won the 3rd PSU Transformation Award for "Innovative Product Development" with its FDRE supply model for DISCOMs.
- Shammi Silva, President of Sri Lanka Cricket, is the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).
- Centre, ADB Sign \$50 Million Loan for Water Harvesting in Meghalaya
- Parliament Passes Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024
- India, Kuwait signed MoU to establish Joint Commission for Cooperation
- MHA Grants FCRA Licenses to CNI and USIN

- Foundation
- From Freedom Fighter to Namibia's First Female President
- MHA Grants FCRA Licenses to CNI and USIN Foundation
- SC Granted Permanent Commission to Woman Army Officers
- Merriam-Webster Picks Polarization As Word of the Year 2024
- INS Tushil Commissioned into Indian Navy
- PM Modi Launches LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana for Women Empowerment
- Kush Maini Makes History with F2 Constructors' Championship Win
- Former Karnataka CM SM Krishna Dies at 92
- Sanjay Malhotra Appointed New RBI Governor.
- USS Zumwalt Equipped With Hypersonic Missile Launchers
- Adani Krishnapatnam Port Petroleum Import Approval
- John Mahama Wins Ghana's Presidential Election
- India Mourns the Demise of Former Karnataka CM SM Krishna
- Kush Maini Wins Historic Formula 2 Constructors' Championship

An Entrepreneur, animator, voice actor & film producer.

**Walt Disney**

(5 DEC 1901 - 15 DEC 1966)

### AWARDS

As a film producer, Disney holds the record for most Academy Awards (26) earned by an individual, having won 22 Oscars from 59 nominations. He was presented with two Golden Globe Special Achievement Awards and an Emmy Award, among other honors.

### FACTS

- He was the voice of Mickey Mouse.
- Disney's very 1st animation studio was Laugh-O-Gram.
- Mickey Mouse was originally named Mortimer Mouse.
- Disney's favorite character was Goofy.
- A minor planet is named after Disney--4017 Disneya. The last film Disney personally oversaw was The Jungle Book.





- Joakim Alexandersson Appointed India Women's U-20 and U-17 Coach
- Junta leader Captain Ibrahim Traore appointed Rintalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo as Burkina Faso's new Prime Minister.
- The UK joined the US and Bahrain in the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement.
- Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) earned two awards at the PSU Transformation Awards 2024 for Innovative Product Development and Technology Adoption.
- John Mahama Returns as Ghana's President
- Norris Wins Abu Dhabi GP, Ends McLaren's 26-Year Wait
- Devajit Saikia Appointed Acting Secretary of BCCI
- Mohammed Al-Bashir Reportedly Tapped as Syria's Transitional PM.
- Sunny Dhillon Banned for Match-Fixing Attempt
- Devajit Saikia Appointed as BCCI Acting Secretary
- India, Russia Set for \$4 Billion Advanced Radar System Deal.
- S&P Global Maintains 6.8% Growth Forecast for FY25
- Ajay Seth Assumes Additional Charge as Revenue Secretary
- Amul Extends Jayen Mehta's MD Tenure by 5 Years
- Flipkart and DPIIT Collaborate to Boost India's Startup Ecosystem
- Google Partners with NCERT to Launch YouTube Channels in 29 Indian Languages
- Aditya L1 and Proba-3 to Unite for Solar Research in 2025
- 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship – Japan Triumphs Over South Korea
- Elon Musk Becomes World's First \$400 Billion Net Worth Individual.
- Donald Trump Named TIME's 2024 Person of the Year
- D. Gukesh Becomes Youngest World Chess Champion.
- Romania and Bulgaria are set to fully join the EU border-free Schengen Area on January 1, 2025.
- Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024
- ADB Approves \$25.45M Grant for Solomon Islands Water Project
- Seasoned pacer Siddarth Kaul announces retirement from Indian cricket.
- The Union Cabinet approved the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative, aiming to synchronize Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections across India.
- Saudi Arabia to Host 2034 FIFA World Cup
- Haris, Wyatt-Hodge Win ICC Players of the Month
- Dr. Dinesh Shahra Launched Book - Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness
- Lok Sabha Passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 Amid Disruptions.
- ADB Revises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5% for FY25, 7% for FY26
- Coca-Cola Sells 40% Stake in India Bottling Business to Jubilant Bhartia Group
- Afridi Becomes Youngest to Achieve 100 Wickets in All Formats
- Legendary Gujarati Singer Purushottam Upadhyay Dies at 90
- Nikki Giovanni, Black Arts Icon, Dies at 81
- Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir Announced Retirement from Cricket
- BOBCARD Limited Launched Tiara Credit Card for Women
- François Bayrou Appointed New French Prime Minister
- Max Life Insurance has officially rebranded to Axis Max Life Insurance after receiving regulatory and corporate approvals.
- Switzerland Suspends 'Most Favoured Nation' Status to India
- Manish Jain Appointed Executive Director at YES Bank
- Pakistani All-Rounder Imad Wasim Retires
- India, ADB Sign \$98 Million Loan for Plant Health Management
- Vijay Chandok Joins as MD & CEO of NSDL.
- India Re-elected to U.N. Peacebuilding Commission for 2025–2026.
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala's Reappointment as WTO Director-General.
- World's Oldest Man, John Tinniswood, Dies at 112.
- Economic Historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi Passes Away at 83.
- Max Verstappen Clinches Fourth Formula 1 Title in Las Vegas.
- Gujarat's Gharchola Handicraft Gets GI Recognition
- India Secures \$98 Million ADB Loan to Enhance Horticulture Health



## The 1991 Places of Worship Act: Supreme Court Intervention and Implications

On December 12, 2024, the Supreme Court of India barred civil courts from registering new suits challenging the ownership or title of any place of worship and prohibited the issuance of survey orders for disputed religious sites. The Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and comprising Justices P V Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan, clarified that these directives will remain in effect until further orders. This significant decision stems from the ongoing legal and constitutional debate surrounding the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

### The Case Before the Court

The Supreme Court is currently hearing petitions questioning the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship Act, 1991. This law, enacted in the context of the Ayodhya movement, aims to preserve the religious character of all places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947. It prohibits the conversion of such sites to a different religion and restricts legal challenges to their historical status. However, the Act excludes the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, which was already under judicial consideration when the law was enacted.

The recent order from the apex court affects not only pending cases but also potential new suits that challenge the title of religious sites, particularly those alleging that mosques were constructed on Hindu religious structures during medieval times. Civil courts are now restricted from registering such cases, ordering surveys, or requesting reports from the Archeological Survey of India (ASI). This development has far-reaching implications for ongoing disputes over the historical and religious character of several sites across the country.

### Implications of the Supreme Court's Order

By preventing courts from taking up new cases or issuing survey orders, the Supreme Court's decision halts judicial interventions that could potentially alter the current status quo of disputed religious places. This includes cases where surveys have been ordered to ascertain historical facts about religious structures, a practice that has drawn controversy in recent years.

The apex court underscored that judicial actions in these matters could be challenged on broader constitutional principles, such as secularism and the rule of law, irrespective of the Places of Worship Act. The emphasis

on constitutional values reflects the Court's recognition of the sensitive and potentially polarizing nature of such disputes in a diverse society like India.

### The Challenge to the 1991 Act

The constitutional validity of the 1991 Act remains under scrutiny. Petitions challenging the Act argue that it unfairly curtails the power of judicial review by abating pre-existing claims and prohibiting new ones. Additionally, critics contend that the Act arbitrarily uses August 15, 1947, as the cut-off date for determining the religious character of places of worship, effectively freezing historical grievances in time.

In the landmark Ayodhya verdict of 2019, the Supreme Court referred to the Places of Worship Act as an integral part of the "basic structure of the Constitution," emphasizing its role in upholding secularism. Although the Act itself was not under direct challenge in that case, the Court's observations are likely to influence the current proceedings.

### Conclusion

The Supreme Court's intervention underscores the ongoing tension between historical grievances and constitutional principles. By temporarily barring new cases and surveys, the Court aims to prevent further polarization while it examines the validity of the 1991 Places of Worship Act. As the petitions progress, the outcome will significantly shape the balance between preserving historical integrity and fostering religious harmony in India.





## Infographics

### 2024 in Google Searches

Search terms with the biggest worldwide volume increases on Google in 2024 compared to 2023

#### News

- 1 U.S. election
- 2 Excessive heat
- 3 Olympics

#### People

- 1 Donald Trump
- 2 Catherine, Princess of Wales
- 3 Kamala Harris

#### Musicians

- 1 Diddy
- 2 Usher
- 3 Linkin Park

#### Movies

- 1 Inside Out 2
- 2 Deadpool & Wolverine
- 3 Saltburn

#### Hum to search

- 1 Beautiful Things - Benson Boone
- 2 Bling-Bang-Bang-Born - Creepy Nuts
- 3 Die With a Smile - Lady Gaga

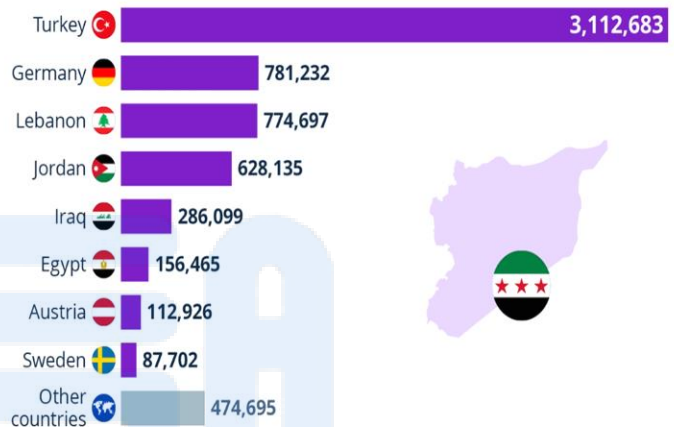
#### Passings

- 1 Liam Payne
- 2 Toby Keith
- 3 O. J. Simpson

Data is sourced from Jan. 1, 2024 - Nov. 23, 2024.  
Source: Google Trends

### Where Syria's Six Million Refugees Live

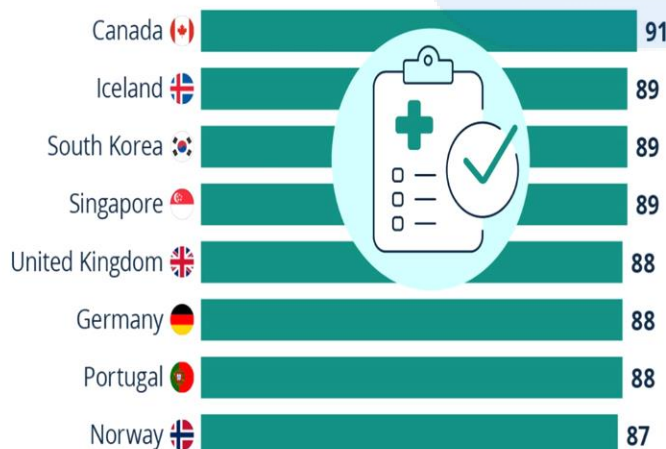
Number of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers by country before the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime\*



\* As of June 2024. Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria officially fell on Dec. 8, 2024.  
Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

### The Best Countries for Free or Universal Healthcare

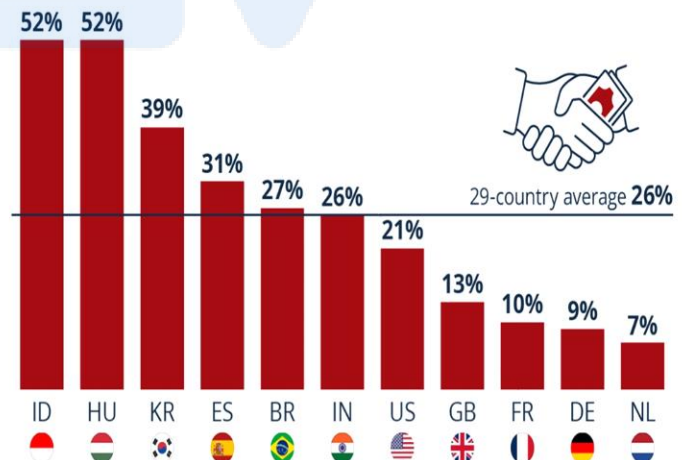
UHC service coverage index in 2021 by country (100=best possible score)\*



\* UHC=Universal Health Coverage. Based on factors including reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, noncommunicable diseases and service capacity and access.  
Source: WHO

### Where Corruption Is or Isn't Seen as a Top Concern

Share of respondents saying corruption is one of the three issues they find most worrying in their country



23,320 adults (16-74 y/o) surveyed in 29 countries Oct.-Nov. 2024; selected countries shown  
Source: Ipsos | What Worries the World



## The World's Busiest Airports

Airports with the highest total passenger traffic in 2023\*



\* Passengers enplaned and deplaned  
Source: Airports Council International

## The World's Suppliers

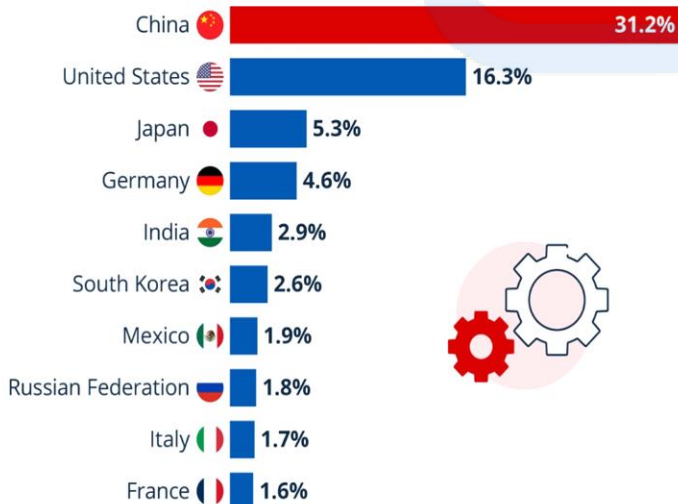
Annual merchandise exports of the world's largest exporters



Source: World Trade Organization

## China Is the World's Manufacturing Superpower

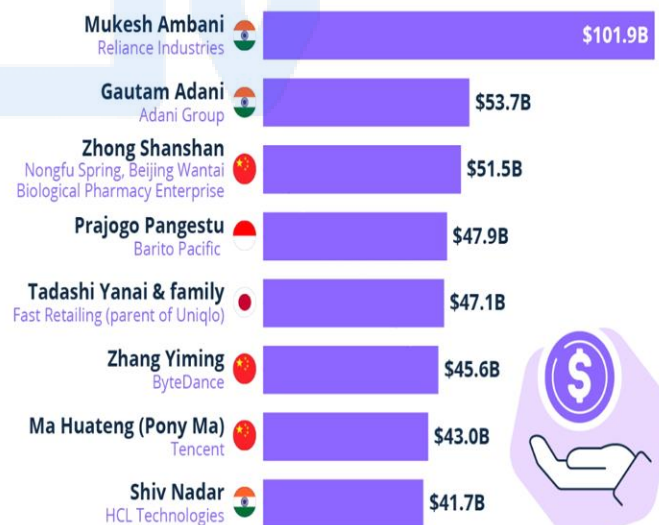
Countries with the highest share of global manufacturing output in 2022\*



\* Output measured on a value-added basis in current U.S. dollars  
Source: United Nations Statistics Division

## Asia's Richest Billionaires

Net worth of the richest people in Asia\*



\* Net worths based on stock prices and exchange rates from Nov. 25, 2024  
Source: Forbes' Real-time Billionaires List



# 2025

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			





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