

# Daily Current Affairs

## 03 January 2025

**Adda247**

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- Q1.** In December 2025, the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga approved a new conservation project. Which of the following statements best describes the objective of this project?
- (A). Restoration of mangrove ecosystems along the Ganga delta  
(B). Reintroduction of extinct fish species in Himalayan rivers  
(C). Conservation of coral reefs in the Bay of Bengal  
(D). Protection of breeding habitats of sandbar-nesting birds in the Ganga Basin

Answer: d

Solution:

**Correct Answer(d) Protection of breeding habitats of sandbar-nesting birds in the Ganga Basin**

### Explanation

- The Executive Committee of NMCG, chaired by **Rajeev Kumar Mital**, approved a **first-of-its-kind project** aimed at conserving **sandbar-nesting birds**, including the endangered **Indian Skimmer**, during its **68th meeting in New Delhi**.
- The project focuses on safeguarding **breeding habitats** in the **Ganga Basin** through structured monitoring and conservation actions.

### Information Booster

- The project aligns with **Namami Gange Mission-II**.
- Key focus areas include:
  - Long-term nest and habitat monitoring
  - Community participation
  - Evidence-based conservation planning
- It complements ongoing NMCG initiatives for **dolphins, fish, and turtles**.

### Additional Knowledge

- Nest monitoring will continue in the **Chambal River (MP/Rajasthan)** and **Lower Ganga**.
- New conservation activities will be initiated at **Bijnor, Narora, and Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- **Local communities** will be trained to protect sensitive sandbars, reduce human disturbance, and support awareness and capacity-building efforts.

- Q2.** Kaamya Karthikeyan, who skied to the South Pole in December 2025, achieved which of the following distinctions?

- (A). Youngest Indian and second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole  
(B). First Indian woman to complete the Explorers Grand Slam  
(C). Youngest person in the world to summit Mount Vinson  
(D). First Indian skier to cross Antarctica alone

Answer: a

Solution:

**Correct Answer (a) Youngest Indian and second-youngest woman in the world to ski to the South Pole**

### Explanation

- **Kaamya Karthikeyan**, an 18-year-old skier from Mumbai, became the **youngest Indian and second-youngest woman globally to ski to the South Pole on 27 December 2025**.
- She covered **115 km from 89° South** in extreme Antarctic conditions, including **-30°C temperatures** and strong winds, while pulling an expedition sled.

### Information Booster

- The expedition lasted **11 days** across featureless Antarctic ice under continuous daylight.
- The **Indian Navy** congratulated her achievement, as she is the daughter of an Indian Navy officer.
- The South Pole lies at an elevation of about **2,385 metres** above sea level.

### Additional Knowledge

- Kaamya Karthikeyan became the **youngest Indian to summit Mount Everest** in **2023** from the Nepal side.
- She completed the **Seven Summits Challenge** during **2024–25**, finishing with **Mount Vinson (Antarctica)**.
- **Explorers Grand Slam** includes completing the Seven Summits and skiing to **both the North Pole and the South Pole**.

**Q3.** In December 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted a static ground test related to the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). Which of the following correctly describes this achievement?

- (A). Static test of the first liquid stage of Gaganyaan at Mahendragiri
- (B). Static test of the enhanced third stage (SS3) of SSLV at Sriharikota
- (C). Flight test of SSLV from Kulasekharapattinam
- (D). Cryogenic engine test for LVM3 at Bengaluru

Answer: b

Solution:

**Correct Answer(b) Static test of the enhanced third stage (SS3) of SSLV at Sriharikota**

### Explanation

- On **30 December 2025**, ISRO conducted a **static ground test of the improved SS3 (third stage)** of SSLV at the **Solid Motor Static Test Facility of Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The motor was fired for **108 seconds**, and all performance parameters closely matched pre-test predictions.

### Information Booster

- The enhanced SS3 uses a **carbon-epoxy motor case** along with an **improved igniter and nozzle system**.
- About **233 sensors** were used during the test to monitor pressure, thrust, temperature, vibration, and control electronics.
- After this successful test, the **upgraded SS3 is qualified for flight induction**.

### Additional Knowledge

- The upgrades have increased **SSLV's payload capacity by nearly 90 kg** while improving efficiency and reliability.
- **SSLV** is a **three-stage, all-solid launch vehicle** designed for **quick, on-demand satellite launches and industrial-scale production**.
- SSLV supports India's goal of **responsive and cost-effective access to space**, especially for small satellites.

**Q4.** In December 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved key bureaucratic appointments. Who among the following was appointed as Director General (DG) of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)?

- (A). Ajay Bhadoo

(B). Santosh Kumar Sarangi

(C). Lav Aggarwal

(D). Rabindra Kumar Agarwal

Answer: c

Solution:

**Correct Answer(c) Lav Aggarwal**

**Explanation**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, appointed **Lav Aggarwal** as the Director General of DGFT under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- He succeeded **Ajay Bhadoo**, who was holding additional charge after the transfer of Santosh Kumar Sarangi.

**Information Booster**

- Lav Aggarwal is a **1996-batch IAS officer** of the **Andhra Pradesh cadre**.
- He served as **Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** from **2016 to 2022**.
- He earlier worked as **Additional Secretary** in the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.

**Additional Knowledge**

- In the same reshuffle, **Rabindra Kumar Agarwal** was appointed **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Food Corporation of India**, replacing **Ashutosh Agnihotri**.
- Rabindra Kumar Agarwal is a **1997-batch IAS officer** of the **Kerala cadre** and previously served as **Additional Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, and Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS)**.
- **FCI**, established in **1965** under the **Food Corporation Act, 1964**, functions under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** with headquarters in **New Delhi**.

**Q5.** In December 2025, which British-Indian personality was awarded a Damehood (DBE) in King Charles III's New Year Honours List 2026 for contributions to literature, drama, and charity?

(A). Neeta Akhtar

(B). Cynthia Erivo

(C). Meera Syal

(D). Upadhyaya

Answer: c

Solution:

**Correct Answer(c) Meera Syal**

**Explanation**

- **Meera Syal**, a renowned British-Indian comedian, actress, and writer, was conferred the **Damehood (DBE)** in King Charles III's New Year Honours List 2026.
- The honour recognises her **outstanding contributions to literature, drama, and charitable work**.

**Information Booster**

- Meera Syal had earlier received:
  - **MBE in 1997**
  - **CBE in 2015**
- The **New Year Honours List 2026** recognised **1,157 individuals** across arts, sports, community service, and public life.

**Additional Knowledge**

- The honours hierarchy includes **MBE, OBE, CBE, and DBE/KBE**.

- The **youngest recipient** was **Toby Roberts (20 years)**, awarded **MBE**.
- The **oldest recipient** was **John Hearn (102 years)**, awarded **BEM**.
- Other British Indians honoured included **Upadhyaya (Damehood)**, **Dhruv Patel** and **Neeta Akhtar (CBE)**, and **Pavan Popat (OBE)**.

**Q6.** Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan undertook an official visit to Puducherry, Kerala and Tamil Nadu in December 2025. Which of the following activities/events is correctly matched with the place visited?

- (A). Inauguration of 93rd Sivagiri Pilgrimage – Puducherry
- (B). Unveiling of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati statue – Puducherry
- (C). Valedictory function of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0 – Thiruvananthapuram
- (D). Launch of Trivandrum Fest 2025 – Tamil Nadu

Answer: b

Solution:

**Correct Answer:(b) Unveiling of Mahakavi Subramania Bharati statue – Puducherry**

**Explanation:**

- During his visit to **Puducherry**, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan unveiled the statue of **Mahakavi Subramania Bharati** at the Bharatiyar Memorial and paid floral tributes.
- This was part of his official programme between **December 29–30, 2025**, which included educational, housing, and cultural engagements.

**Information Booster:**

- The Puducherry visit also included:
  - Inauguration of a **Senior Secondary Block** at Petit Seminaire CBSE School
  - Launch of a **Smart City Mission** housing project with distribution of keys to **216 beneficiaries**
  - Attendance as **Chief Guest** at the **30th Convocation of Pondicherry University**

**Additional Knowledge:**

- **Option (a) incorrect:** The **93rd Sivagiri Pilgrimage** was inaugurated at **Sivagiri Mutt, Varkala (Kerala)**.
- **Option (c) incorrect:** **Kashi Tamil Sangamam 4.0** valedictory function was held at **Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu**.
- **Option (d) incorrect:** **Trivandrum Fest 2025** was celebrated in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, not Tamil Nadu.

**Q7.** In December 2025, the Government of India announced that India has overtaken Japan in terms of economic size. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this context?

1. India became the world's 4th largest economy with a GDP of USD 4.18 trillion.

2. The top three economies ahead of India are the USA, China, and Germany.

3. India's GDP growth in Q2 of FY26 was lower than its growth in Q1 of FY26.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (A). 1 and 2 only
- (B). 2 and 3 only
- (C). 1 and 3 only
- (D). 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Solution:

**Correct Answer(a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct** because India surpassed Japan to become the **4th largest economy**, with a GDP valued at **USD 4.18 trillion**.
- **Statement 2 is correct** as only the **USA (1st), China (2nd), and Germany (3rd)** are ahead of India in global GDP rankings.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect** since India's real GDP growth increased to **8.2% in Q2 FY26**, compared to **7.8% in Q1 FY26**.

**Information Booster**

- India is projected to surpass **Germany** to become the **3rd largest economy within 2.5–3 years**, with GDP expected to reach **USD 7.3 trillion by 2030**.
- Growth in FY26 has been driven mainly by **strong domestic demand** amid global uncertainties.
- India aims to achieve **High Middle-Income status by 2047**, marking 100 years of Independence.

**Additional Knowledge**

- **Foreign exchange reserves** stood at **USD 686.2 billion (Nov 2025)**, providing over **11 months of import cover**.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** moderated to **1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY26** from 2.2% in Q2 FY25.
- **FDI inflows** showed strong momentum with **Gross FDI at USD 51.8 billion** and **Net FDI at USD 7.7 billion** in H1 FY26, while **FPIs recorded net outflows of USD 0.7 billion** during April–December FY26.

**Q8.** With reference to 'Jal Seva Aankalan', launched in December 2025, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Gram Panchayat-led digital self-assessment tool hosted on the Jal Jeevan Mission portal.
2. The assessment outcomes are finalised immediately after Gram Sabha approval without any scope for public feedback.
3. District-level coordination under the initiative is primarily facilitated by Zila Panchayats.

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, 2 and 3

Answer: b

Solution:

**Correct Answer:(b) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct** because *Jal Seva Aankalan* is designed as a **community-owned, GP-led digital drinking water service functionality assessment tool** integrated with the Jal Jeevan Mission portal.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** as a **30-day window for citizen feedback** is provided after Gram Sabha approval before the report is finalised.
- **Statement 3 is correct** since **Zila Panchayats (ZPs)** play a facilitative role at the district level by leading planning and coordination.

**Information Booster:**

- *Jal Seva Aankalan* was launched by **C. R. Patil**, Union Minister, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.

- The initiative shifts focus from **infrastructure creation to sustained service delivery** in *Har Ghar Jal* villages.

- Assessment parameters include water regularity, quality, O&M, source sustainability, and village-level institutional arrangements.

#### Additional Knowledge:

- **Jal Jeevan Mission** was launched on **15 August 2019** to provide **55 LPCD** to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections.
- At the **block level**, training of **Panchayat Secretaries** is crucial for accurate data entry and implementation.
- All **Har Ghar Jal Gram Panchayats** are required to complete *Jal Seva Aankalan* by **26 January 2026**.

**Q9.** In December 2025, the Vadodara division of Western Railway commissioned the indigenous Kavach 4.0 system on which of the following railway sections?

- (A). Vadodara–Surat  
 (B). Ahmedabad–Rajkot  
 (C). Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad  
 (D). Vadodara–Mumbai Central

Answer: c

Solution:

**Correct Answer(c) Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad**

#### Explanation

- The Vadodara division of Western Railway commissioned **Kavach 4.0** on the **96 km Bajwa (Vadodara)–Ahmedabad section in Gujarat**.
- The section covers **17 stations**, and **Sankalp Fast (59549/59550)** became the **first Kavach-enabled train** on this route.

#### Information Booster

- Kavach is an **indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP)** system of Indian Railways.
- It prevents **Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD)**, controls **over-speeding**, and avoids **head-on and rear-end collisions**.
- The system works at **Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4)**, the highest railway safety standard.
- Indian Railways has implemented Kavach on **over 2,200 route km** so far.

#### Additional Knowledge

- Kavach uses **RFID tags** and **UHF radio communication** for real-time data exchange between tracks, signals, and locomotives.
- **Kavach 4.0** received approval from **Research Designs and Standards Organisation** in **July 2024**.
- Upgrades include **better location accuracy**, **yard-level signal detection**, **interlocking integration**, and **optical-fibre connectivity**.

**Q10.** In December 2025, the Ministry of Defence signed defence procurement contracts worth ₹4,666 crore. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding these contracts?

1. More than 4.25 lakh Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines were procured for the Indian Army and Indian Navy, with Bharat Forge Limited manufacturing a higher share than PLR Systems.
2. The contract for Heavy Weight Torpedoes was signed with an Italian company for deployment on Kalvari class submarines under Project-75.

3. Delivery of Heavy Weight Torpedoes is scheduled to be completed before 2027.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A). 1 and 2 only
- (B). 2 and 3 only
- (C). 1 and 3 only
- (D). 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a

Solution:

**Correct Answer:(a) 1 and 2 only**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is correct as over 4.25 lakh CQB Carbines were contracted for IA and IN, with **Bharat Forge Limited** manufacturing 60% and **PLR Systems Pvt. Ltd.** 40%.
- Statement 2 is correct because the **Heavy Weight Torpedoes** contract was signed with **WASS Submarine Systems S.R.L. (Italy)** for **Kalvari class** submarines under **Project-75**.
- Statement 3 is incorrect since deliveries of torpedoes are expected to begin from **April 2028** and conclude by **early 2030**, not before 2027.

**Information Booster:**

- The CQB Carbine contract is valued at **₹2,770 crore**, while the torpedo contract amounts to **₹1,896 crore**.
- CQB Carbines enhance **close-combat capability** due to compact design, high fire rate, and improved lethality.
- The torpedoes will significantly strengthen the **underwater combat capability** of the Indian Navy.

**Additional Knowledge:**

- The contracts were signed in the presence of **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, Secretary, MoD, at **South Block, New Delhi**.
- In **FY 2025–26**, MoD signed capital defence contracts worth **₹1,82,492 crore** for armed forces modernisation.
- The Union Minister of Defence is **Rajnath Singh**.