Weekly One Liners 12th to 18th of December 2026

ISRO's Successfully Lift Off Anomaly in PS3 Stage of PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 Mission

India's PSLV-C62 rocket carrying the EOS-N1 satellite encountered an anomaly during the final phase of its third stage on January 12, 2026. The launch took place from Sriharikota after a 22.5 hour countdown. While initial stages performed normally, deviations in roll rate and flight path were observed, prompting ISRO to begin a detailed technical analysis.

Why in News?
The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission faced a technical anomaly near the end of the PS3 stage. ISRO confirmed that the issue led to deviations in the rocket's trajectory, and further assessment of mission data is in progress.

Mission Overview and Launch Details
The PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 mission followed a 22.5-hour countdown before lifting off from Sriharikota, marking the 105th launch from the spaceport and the 64th flight of the PSLV. The mission used the PSLV-DL variant, which features two strap-on boosters, and was the fifth flight of this configuration.

EOS-N1, an Earth observation satellite built for strategic applications, was the primary payload. The launch was a commercial mission executed by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm. Alongside EOS-N1, 15 co-passenger satellites developed by startups and academic institutions from India and abroad were onboard, reflecting India's growing role in the global small satellite launch market.

Planned Mission Profile
Under the original mission plan, EOS-N1 and 14 of the co-passenger satellites were to be injected into a Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO). The remaining payload, the KID capsule developed by Orbital Paradigm (Spain) in collaboration with RIDE (France), was intended for a re-entry experiment.

Following satellite deployment, the PS4 stage was scheduled to restart to de-boost itself and enter a re-entry trajectory. Both the PS4 stage and the KID capsule were expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere and impact the South Pacific Ocean. ISRO has not yet confirmed whether these objectives were achieved.

What Did ISRO Say About the Anomaly?
ISRO Chairman V Narayanan stated that a deviation was noticed during the third stage of the rocket. He clarified that mission data is currently being analysed and that ISRO will share detailed findings soon. At present, the mission has not been officially declared a success or failure.

Key Payloads and Strategic Importance
One of the major satellites onboard was Anvesha, a surveillance satellite developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization. Anvesha is designed to provide advanced imaging capabilities, enhancing India's ability to monitor and map strategic locations with high precision, which is vital for national security and disaster management.

Role of the Private Space Sector
The mission marked a milestone for India's private space ecosystem. For the first time, a single private company, Dhruva Space from Hyderabad, contributed seven satellites to a PSLV mission. This highlights the growing collaboration between ISRO and private players following space sector reforms.

Key Summary At Glance

Aspect	Details
Why in News?	Anomaly during PSLV-C62 third stage
Launch Vehicle	PSLV (64th mission)
Launch Date	January 12, 2026
Launch Site	Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
Main Payload	EOS-N1
Strategic Satellite	Anvesha (DRDO)
Private Sector Role	Dhruva Space (7 satellites)
Current Status	Data under analysis

WEF Global Risks Report 2026

The **World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report 2026 (21st edition)** paints a worrying picture of the coming decade. The report suggests that the world is moving into an **"Age of Competition"**, where rivalry between countries is intensifying—not only in the military space, but also through **trade restrictions, sanctions, technology controls, and information warfare**. This shift is creating a global environment where shocks spread faster, cooperation becomes harder, and societies become more vulnerable to instability.

The report ranks risks across **two key time horizons**—the near future (2 years) and the long term (10 years). Its core message is straightforward: the global landscape is becoming **more fragmented, more unpredictable, and more exposed to multiple overlapping risks**.

1) What Does WEF Mean by "Global Risk"?
WEF defines a **global risk** as a threat or event that can cause major negative impact on a large scale, affecting:
- **the world's population**
- **the global economy**
- **natural resources and ecological systems**

This definition matters because it places emphasis on threats that cross borders, spread rapidly, and create ripple effects across regions.

2) How the Report Is Built
The report is primarily based on expert perceptions collected through global surveys of leaders and specialists across sectors. It then organizes risks into categories such as:

- **Geopolitical**
- **Economic**
- **Societal**
- **Technological**
- **Environmental**

It also studies how risks connect with each other, showing that crises rarely happen in isolation. Instead, one major event often triggers several others.

3) Global Mood: Instability Is Rising

A major finding of the report is that a large share of experts expects the world to experience **turbulence** in both the short and long term. This suggests that many see current tensions as part of deeper structural changes rather than temporary fluctuations.

Main reasons behind the growing instability include:

- rising rivalry between major powers
- shrinking space for international cooperation
- economic pressures such as high debt and uneven growth
- rapid technological disruptions
- intensifying climate impacts

4) Most Likely Crisis Trigger in 2026: Geoeconomic Confrontation

The report identifies **geoeconomic confrontation** as the most likely risk to trigger a global crisis in 2026.

What geoeconomic confrontation means

It refers to the use of economic tools as instruments of strategic power, such as:

- sanctions and counter-sanctions
- tariffs and trade barriers
- restrictions on technology exports
- control over supply chains
- manipulation of critical resources (oil, gas, rare earth minerals, chips)

Why it is dangerous

Geoeconomic rivalry:

- disrupts global trade networks
- increases inflationary pressures
- reduces investment confidence
- weakens global supply chains
- creates uncertainty for industries and jobs

In today's world, economic rivalry is becoming as destabilizing as direct military confrontation.

5) Conflict and Security: The Risk of Armed Escalation

Along with economic rivalry, the report highlights **state-based armed conflict** as a leading risk. Conflicts today have grown more complex because they often combine:

- conventional warfare
- cyberattacks
- economic sanctions
- information manipulation

Key concerns linked to armed conflict

- damage to infrastructure and energy networks
- global commodity price instability
- increase in displacement and migration
- rising military expenditure at the cost of development spending

6) Information Crisis: Misinformation, Disinformation, and Polarization

One of the strongest warnings in the report is the growing influence of **misinformation and disinformation**, especially through digital platforms. The report links false information with **social unrest and political division**.

How misinformation becomes a global threat

- spreads confusion during crises (pandemics, wars, disasters)
- reduces trust in governments and media
- creates fear and anger among communities
- influences elections and public decision-making

Societal polarization: a connected risk

Polarization means deep social division where people move into rigid groups and stop trusting each other.
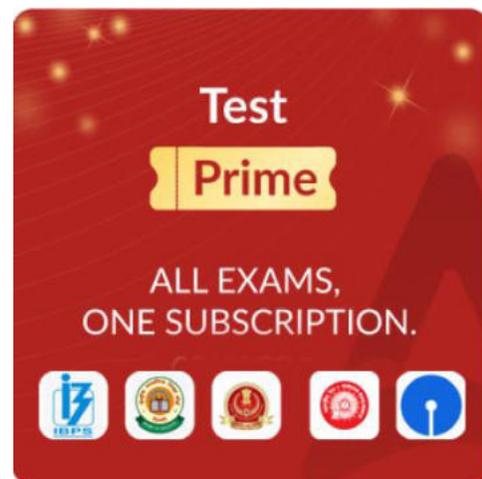
It leads to:

- frequent protests and instability
- weaker policymaking and governance
- rising hostility between communities
- breakdown of social harmony

7) Economic Risks: Signs of a Possible Reckoning

The report notes that economic risks are rising sharply in importance.

Major economic risks highlighted

- **economic downturn**
- **inflation resurgence**
- **asset bubble risks**
- widening gap between rich and poor

Why these risks are increasing
Some key drivers include:

- high public and private debt
- unstable trade flows
- pressure on currencies and interest rates
- financial market volatility

A prolonged downturn could amplify societal anger, unemployment, and political instability.

8) Cyber Insecurity: A Direct Threat to Critical Systems
In the digital era, cyber insecurity has become one of the most immediate global risks.

Cyber threats impact:

- banking and financial systems
- electricity grids
- railways and aviation networks
- hospitals and healthcare data
- government databases
- military systems

Why cyber risk is rising

- increasing digital dependence
- growth of ransomware attacks
- state-sponsored cyber operations
- weak cybersecurity capacity in many sectors

Cyberattacks can cause economic loss and also shake national security.

9) AI Risk: Powerful, Fast—and Hard to Control
The report emphasizes that **adverse outcomes of AI technologies** are among the most significant long-term threats.

What AI-related risks include

- deepfakes and automated misinformation
- job displacement in multiple industries
- algorithmic bias and discrimination
- surveillance and privacy violations
- autonomous weapons and AI-driven warfare
- concentration of AI power in few hands

AI is described as a double-edged technology—it can boost productivity, but without strong safeguards it can weaken trust, stability, and accountability.

10) Environmental Risks: The Most Dangerous Long-Term Threat
The long-term risk ranking is dominated by environmental dangers. The report highlights that climate risks are not only continuing but intensifying.

Top environmental risks (long-term)

- **extreme weather events**
- **biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse**
- **critical changes to Earth systems**
- pollution
- resource shortages (water, food, minerals)

Why this is alarming
Environmental damage creates chain reactions:

- crop failures and food insecurity
- water stress and conflicts
- forced displacement
- economic shocks
- increased health emergencies

The report warns that climate stress can become a multiplier—making economic and political risks even worse.

11) Inequality: The Most Interconnected Global Risk
A very important insight of the report is that **inequality** is one of the most "connected" risks, meaning it triggers or strengthens several other threats.

Inequality fuels:

- political dissatisfaction
- crime and insecurity
- social unrest
- polarization
- migration pressures
- weakening of trust in institutions

This shows that inequality is not just a social problem—it is also a governance and stability issue.

12) The World Order Ahead: Multipolar and Fragmented
The report suggests that the world is shifting away from a single dominant power structure. Instead, it sees the future as:

- **multipolar** (many major powers)
- or **fragmented** (regions setting different rules)

What this could lead to

- competing trade blocs
- multiple technology ecosystems
- inconsistent global regulations
- reduced effectiveness of international institutions

This fragmentation makes collective action harder—especially on climate, global health, and conflict prevention.

Golden Globes 2026

The Golden Globes 2026 delivered a night dominated by powerful storytelling and standout performances. Held on January 12, 2026, the 83rd edition of the awards honored the best in film and television from the past year. With politics largely absent from the ceremony, the spotlight remained firmly on creative achievement, as One Battle After Another and Adolescence emerged as the biggest winners.
Why in News?
The **83rd Golden Globe Awards 2026** concluded with One Battle After Another and Adolescence dominating major film and television categories, while actors Wagner Moura, Jessie Buckley, and Timothée Chalamet won top acting honours.

Major Film Winners at Golden Globes 2026

- In the film categories, Hamnet won Best Film – Drama, while One Battle After Another secured Best Film – Musical or Comedy, establishing itself as the evening's most successful film.
- The film also earned accolades for Best Director and Best Screenplay for Paul Thomas Anderson.
- In acting categories, Wagner Moura won Best Male Actor (Drama) for The Secret Agent, while Jessie Buckley claimed Best Female Actor (Drama) for Hamnet.
- In musical or comedy roles, Timothée Chalamet won Best Male Actor for Marty Supreme, and Rose Byrne took Best Female Actor for If I Had Legs I'd Kick You.

Here Is The Full Winners List

Sr. No	Category	Winner
1	Best Film Drama	Hamnet
2	Best Film Musical or Comedy	One Battle After Another
3	Best Male Actor Film Drama	Wagner Moura (The Secret Agent)
4	Best Female Actor Film Drama	Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)
5	Best Television Series Musical or Comedy	The Studio
6	Best Television Limited Series Anthology/TV Film	Adolescence
7	Best Television Series – Drama	The Pitt
8	Best Female Actor – Television Series	Drama Rhea Seehorn (Pluribus)
9	Best Standup Comedy on Television	Ricky Gervais (Mortality)
10	Best Supporting Female Actor – Television	Erin Doherty (Adolescence)
11	Best Film Non-English Language	The Secret Agent
12	Best Film – Animated K Pop	Demon Hunters
13	Best Director – Film	Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
14	Cinematic and Box Office Achievement	Sinners
15	Best Female Actor – TV Limited Series/Anthology/TV Film	Michelle Williams (Dying for Sex)
16	Best Male Actor – TV Limited Series/Anthology/TV Film	Stephen Graham (Adolescence)
17	Best Male Actor – Film Musical or Comedy	Timothee Chalamet (Marty Supreme)
18	Best Female Actor – Film Musical or Comedy	Rose Byrne (If I Had Legs I'd Kick You)
19	Best Screenplay – Film	Paul Thomas Anderson (One Battle After Another)
20	Best Original Score – Film	Ludwig Göransson (Sinners)
21	Best Original Song – Film	Golden (K Pop Demon Hunters)
22	Best Podcast	Good Hang with Amy Poehler
23	Best Male Actor – TV Series Musical or Comedy	Seth Rogen (The Studio)
24	Best Supporting Male Actor – Television	Owen Cooper (Adolescence)
25	Best Female Actor – TV Series Musical or Comedy	Jean Smart (Hacks)
26	Best Male Actor – TV Series Drama	Noah Wyle (The Pitt)
27	Best Male Actor – Supporting Role in a Film	Stellan Skarsgård (Sentimental Value)
28	Best Female Actor – Supporting Role in a Film	Teyana Taylor (One Battle After Another)

Henley Passport Index 2026

The **Henley Passport Index 2026** once again highlights the sharp divide in global travel freedom, ranking passports based on how many destinations their holders can visit without needing a visa in advance. India's global travel access has seen a modest improvement in 2026. According to the latest passport rankings, Indian travellers can now visit more countries without lengthy visa procedures than last year. However, significant limitations remain for popular destinations like Europe and North America, shaping how Indians plan international trips.
Why in the News?
The Henley Passport Index 2026 has ranked **India at 80th position globally.** Indian passport holders get visa free, visa-on-arrival or e-visa access to 55 destinations, up from last year's rank of 85.

India's Rank in the Henley Passport Index 2026

- India is ranked 80th in the Henley Passport Index 2026. Indian passport holders currently enjoy visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 55 destinations.
- India shares this position with Nigeria and Algeria, while regional neighbours Bangladesh and Pakistan rank even lower.
- The data reflects a significant mobility gap within South Asia and between India and leading global economies.

World's Most Powerful Passports in 2026

- At the top of the rankings, Singapore holds the number one position, with its citizens enjoying visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 192 destinations, the highest in the world.
- Japan and South Korea jointly occupy the second position with access to 188 destinations, reflecting their strong diplomatic networks and stable international relations.
- Europe continues to dominate the upper ranks, with multiple EU countries offering access to over 185 destinations, highlighting the strength of European diplomacy and integration.

Which Country Has the Weakest Passport in the World?

- Afghanistan (Rank 101) – 24 destinations
- Afghanistan holds the weakest passport globally, allowing access to just 24 destinations without a prior visa.
- It is followed closely by Syria and Iraq, underscoring how conflict, political instability, and security concerns sharply limit international mobility.
- The gap between the most powerful passport (Singapore) and the weakest (Afghanistan) now stands at 168 destinations.

Top 10 Most Powerful Passport List

Rank	Country/Countries	Visa Free Destinations
1	Singapore	192
2	Japan, South Korea	188
3	Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland	186
4	Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway	185
5	Hungary, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Arab Emirates	184
6	Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Malta, New Zealand, Poland	183
7	Australia, Latvia, United Kingdom, Liechtenstein	182
8	Canada, Iceland, Lithuania	181
9	Malaysia	180
10	United States	179

Bottom 5 Countries With Weakest Passport

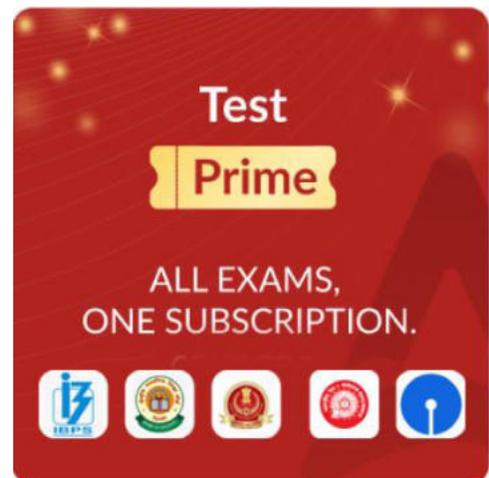| Rank	Country/Countries	Visa Free Destinations
101	Afghanistan	24
100	Syria	26
99	Iraq	29
98	Pakistan, Yemen	31
97	Somalia	33

Where Indians Can Travel Easily in 2026

Indian passport holders enjoy easier access mainly to,

- **Asia:** Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Maldives
- **Middle East:** UAE, Qatar, Oman
- **Africa:** Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda
- **Islands & Caribbean**: Mauritius, Seychelles, Barbados

National Affairs

- **Prime Minister Modi inaugurates International Kite Festival 2026** at Sabarmati Riverfront with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz as Chief Guest, celebrating **Uttarayan traditions** during his Gujarat visit.
- **India-Germany bilateral trade crosses USD 50 billion** with 19 strategic agreements signed covering **healthcare migration, visa-free transit, clean energy**, and maritime heritage.
- **India's non-fossil fuel capacity reaches 266.78 GW in 2025**, marking **22.6% increase** with solar contributing 131.81 GW and aligning with **500 GW target by 2030**.
- **India added 48 GW renewable energy in 2025** including hydropower, achieving **over 50% progress** alongside China and USA toward clean energy goals.
- **Ministry of Textiles released "India's Textile Atlas: State Compendium 2025"** at National Conference highlighting **textile sector growth** and **District-Led Textiles Transformation (DLTT) Plan**.
- **DLTT Plan aims to transform 100 high-potential districts into Global Export Champions** and elevate **100 Aspirational Districts** into self-reliant hubs.
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched Speed Post 24 and Speed Post 48 services**, ensuring **24-hour and 48-hour delivery** respectively, modernizing India's postal system.
- **PM Modi inaugurated Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar Metro Phase 2** by flagging off services from **Mahatma Mandir Metro Station** in Gandhinagar.

- **NITI Aayog released 4th Export Preparedness Index 2024** with **Maharashtra topping large states** (68.01 score), followed by Tamil Nadu (64.41) and Gujarat (64.02).
- **Union Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled India's BRICS Chairship 2026 logo and theme** "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" with lotus-inspired design.
- **India's BRICS Chairship (Jan-Dec 2026)** marks **fourth tenure** and coincides with **20th BRICS anniversary** with four priority pillars.
- **National Startup Day observed as Startup India completes 10 years** (since January 2016), strengthening **innovation-led entrepreneurship**.
- **GeM's Womaniya Initiative completes 7 years** with **2 lakh+ women-led MSEs registered** and procurement orders worth **₹80,000 crore+**.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled ₹629 crore development projects in Mansa, Gujarat**, including **₹267 crore sports complex** and **₹362 crore BSL-4 bio-lab**.
- **World Bank upgraded India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 7.2%** from 6.3%, citing **strong domestic demand and economic resilience**.
- **Rakesh Aggarwal (IPS 1994 batch) appointed as NIA Director General** with tenure extending until **August 2028**.
- **Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima launched** for **CGHS beneficiaries** providing cashless treatment and **AYUSH therapy coverage**.
- **ICAR-NDRI developed Karan Fries cattle breed** through **Holstein Friesian-Tharparkar crossbreeding**, offering **high milk yield in hot-humid climates**.
- **Responsible Nations Index launched** by World Intellectual Foundation (January 19) to evaluate countries on **citizen well-being and ethical governance**.
- **Union Budget 2026-27 to be presented February 1, 2026** focusing on **welfare, infrastructure, and defence** priorities.
- The **Lokpal of India**, established in **2014**, observed its Foundation Day by reaffirming its **anti-corruption mandate** and commitment to **clean and accountable governance**. Rising complaints, growing **public trust**, and the launch of an **IT Data Centre** highlight increased transparency and citizen participation.
- The Government blocked **242 illegal betting and gambling websites**, taking total action against over **7,800 platforms** nationwide. Strengthened by the **Online Gaming Act**, the drive aims to protect **youth**, prevent addiction, and ensure **digital ecosystem safety**.
- India's first **NAMO Book Fest** was launched, where **Dr. Jitendra Singh** released **'Gen V Bano'** and **'Mahatma'**. The two-day event promoted **youth engagement**, intellectual dialogue, and books on **Narendra Modi**.

- The **Supreme Court** ruled that **unreserved (general) category seats** are open to all candidates purely on **merit**, including reserved-category candidates qualifying without concessions. Based on **Articles 14 and 16**, the judgment clarifies recruitment rules nationwide.
- **GAIL** completed the **694-km Mumbai–Nagpur Natural Gas Pipeline**, with **96%** laid along the **Samruddhi Mahamarg** corridor. The project reflects the **PM GatiShakti** model and advanced engineering in the **Western Ghats**.

States in the News

- **Tamil Nadu launches India's first state-backed Quantum Computing Programme** in partnership with German firm **XeedQ GmbH**, implementing in **two phases** (remote access and on-premises).
- **Justice Soumen Sen sworn in as 40th Chief Justice of Kerala High Court**, succeeding **Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar**, bringing **20+ years of practice** experience.
- **Karnataka Cabinet approved 'Akka Pade' (Elder Sister Force) scheme** to strengthen **women and minor girls protection**, with phased rollout across **31 districts**.
- **Akka Pade scheme involves patrolling sensitive areas (7 AM-8 PM)** and public awareness campaigns on **child marriage, trafficking, and legal protection**.
- **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved Dagadarthi Greenfield Airport** in Nellore district, becoming **AP's 8th airport**, handling **1.4 million passengers** in Phase-I.
- **Justice Revati Mohite-Dere sworn in as first woman Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC**, strengthening **gender inclusivity in higher judiciary**.
- **MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched 'Swachh Jal Abhiyan'** (Clean Water Campaign) with **technology-driven monitoring** and **GIS-based pipeline mapping**.
- **Swachh Jal Abhiyan conducted in two phases** (Jan 10-Feb 28, Mar 1-May 31) with weekly **'Jal Sunwai' hearings** and **CM Helpline (181)**.
- **Rajasthan's Bamanwas Kankar village declared first fully organic village** after adopting **chemical-free farming** and **sustainable agricultural practices**.
- **Kerala renamed Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary as Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary**, recognizing region's **rich biodiversity** and **endemic butterfly species**.
- **Uttar Pradesh hosted Regional AI Impact Conference (Jan 12-13)** focusing on **population-scale AI deployment** for governance and healthcare.
- **IndiaAI Mission signed MoU with UPDESCO** to establish **65 Data & AI Labs across UP**, with **two labs already operational** at NIELIT centers.
- **APEDA inaugurated Raipur regional office** to boost exports of **GI-tagged rice, fortified kernels**, and **minor forest produce**.

- **NHAI set four Guinness World Records** on Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada corridor, including **9.63 km continuous bituminous concrete laying** in 24 hours.
- **Tripura Gramin Bank launched India's first solar-powered ATM van 'TGB on Wheels'**, operating **3 solar-powered vans** for rural banking access.
- **Karnataka launched 'Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing' portal** at **Karmani Utsav 2026**, enabling women entrepreneurs to sell handicrafts **globally**.
- **Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing portal extension** provides **vocational training and financial support** linked to **₹2,000 monthly assistance scheme**.
- **CBIC inaugurated ICEGATE-LPMS integration** at Agartala's Integrated Check Post, enabling **real-time digital data exchange** for customs operations.
- Karnataka amended its land laws to reform **Jamma Bane land records** in **Kodagu**, resolving long-standing ownership issues. The reform strengthens **digitisation** under the **Bhoomi Project** and aligns with modern land governance.

International Affairs

- **German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on first Asia visit** (Jan 12-13), visiting **Sabarmati Ashram** and attending **India-Germany CEO Forum** in Ahmedabad.
- **Merz visit to Karnataka's Bengaluru** featuring **IISc's CeNSE center** and **Bosch campus** showcasing **scientific research and sustainable mobility** initiatives.
- **Italy conferred Order of the Star of Italy** on Goa industrialist **Shrinivas Dempo** for fostering **India-Italy business and cultural ties**.
- **India-China bilateral trade crossed $155.62 billion in 2025** despite **record $116.12 billion deficit**, reflecting trade imbalance concerns.
- **Israel announces withdrawal from seven UN agencies**, citing **alleged bias**, affecting **humanitarian and development programs**.
- **US freezes immigrant visa processing for 75 countries** with implementation expected from **January 21, 2026**.
- **Yemen's PM Salem bin Breik resigned**, with **Foreign Minister Shaya Mohsen Zindani** appointed to form new cabinet **amid ongoing crisis**.
- **WEF Global Risks Report 2026 flags geoeconomic confrontation** as **top short-term threat** based on **1,300+ expert views**.
- The **University of New South Wales, Australia** is planning a **Bengaluru campus** offering undergraduate programmes in **commerce, media, computer science, and data science**, along with postgraduate programmes in **cybersecurity**.
- The **University of Liverpool** and **Lancaster University** are also planning Bengaluru campuses to expand access to **international higher education** in India.

- India and Germany signed a **Joint Declaration on Telecommunications Cooperation** in January 2026. The agreement covers **policy, regulation, manufacturing, innovation**, and global digital engagement.
- Australia's **Finke (Larapinta) River**, aged **300–400 million years**, is recognised as the world's **oldest flowing river**. Its path through the **MacDonnell Ranges** confirms it predates the mountain formation.
- Although **Maria Corina Machado** symbolically handed her **Nobel Peace Prize medal** to **Donald Trump**, the Nobel Institute clarified that prizes **cannot be transferred or shared**. Machado remains the **sole official laureate**.
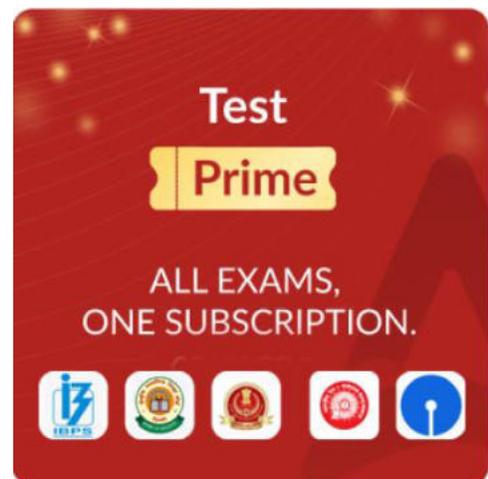
Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Textiles Committee signed MoU with NEHHDC** for **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection** of unique North-Eastern products through **GI registration**.
- **Ministry of Textiles signed MoUs with 15 states** under **Tex-RAMPS scheme** to create **operational framework for data systems**.
- **Bharat Forge and Germany's Agile Robots signed MoU** in Pune for **AI-driven robotics and intelligent industrial automation** collaboration.
- **Partnership targets automotive, healthcare, consumer electronics**, aiming to develop **fully autonomous 'dark' factories** for **production efficiency**.
- **Choice Wealth secured contract from IPPB** to launch **digital investment platform** offering **online mutual fund aggregation and Robo-Advisory services**.
- **GAIL partnered with PNGRB** for **#NonStopZindagi campaign** (Jan 1-Mar 31) promoting **PNG, CNG adoption** to increase natural gas share to **15% by 2030**.
- **Visakhapatnam Port Authority signed MoU with DGLL** for development of **Lighthouse Museum** in Visakhapatnam.
- **Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi signed MoU with TPCI** for **India-UAE Food Corridor** aimed at **strengthening bilateral food trade**.
- **IndiaAI Mission signed MoU with UPDESCO** establishing **65 Data & AI Labs** across Uttar Pradesh.
- **Coromandel International signed MoU with IIT Madras** to establish **Corporate Research Centre** at **IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai**.
- **ICAR signed MoU with NDDB** for collaboration in **multidisciplinary research** covering **dairy production, processing, value addition**.
- **UNSW Australia signed MoU with Karnataka government** to open **Bengaluru campus by August 2026** offering **UG courses and PG cybersecurity program**.
- **Sarvam AI signed MoU with Tamil Nadu** to establish **India's first Sovereign AI Park** in Chennai with **₹10,000 crore investment**.

- **India-Germany 19 strategic agreements** covering **defence technology, critical minerals**, **supply chain resilience**, and **visa-free transit**.
- **TN signed LoI with XeedQ GmbH** for **state-backed Quantum Computing Programme** with **remote access and on-premises phases**.
- **Galgotias University signed MoUs** with **NIT Jamshedpur** and **JUT Ranchi** for **joint research and deep-tech startups**.
- **Indian Olympic Association launched NOEDP** (National Olympic Education & Development Programme) with **International Olympic Academy collaboration**.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and NDDB collaboration** focusing on **climate resilience and value chain development**.
- A **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between **Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi Group** and the **Trade Promotion Council of India** to strengthen the framework of the **India–United Arab Emirates Food Corridor**.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Bank of Baroda received RBI approval** to switch from **Bank PD to wholly-owned Standalone Primary Dealer (SPD) subsidiary**.
- **RBI increased SPD aggregate limit** under Standing Liquidity Facility from **₹10,000 crore to ₹15,000 crore** (effective April 2, 2025).
- **Skydo received final RBI authorization** as **Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB) entity**, enabling **cross-border payment facilitation**.
- **PayG secured RBI approval** for **PA-Physical (PA-P) and PA-CB operations**, completing **full suite of PA licenses**. **PayG facilitates online, offline, cross-border payments** through unified platform with **Point of Sale, QR code capabilities**.
- **Innoviti received RBI authorization** for **online and offline Payment Aggregator operations**, expanding from **online-only authorization** (March 2024).
- **Karnataka Bank enabled Khajane-2 e-Receipts** via **net banking** for seamless **state government tax payments**.
- **PFRDA constituted 15-member high-level committee** headed by **M.S. Sahoo** to formulate **assured payouts framework under NPS**.
- **Tripura Gramin Bank introduced solar-powered ATM van 'TGB on Wheels'**, pioneering **eco-friendly mobile banking** for rural areas.
- **Innoviti runs India's largest offline payments platform** under brand **Innoviti UniPay** serving **enterprise clients nationwide**.
- **TVS Supply Chain Solutions appointed Vikas Chadha** as **Global CEO** (effective Jan 22, 2026) for **global growth and logistics execution**.

- **Karnataka Bank won IBA Banking Technology Award** for **Best Fintech & Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Adoption**.
- **Choice Wealth platform offers digital investment solutions** through **mobile apps, web platforms, mATM-compatible devices**.
- **Morgan Stanley projects India's nominal GDP growth at 8%** for FY26, lower than **9.7% in FY25**. **Morgan Stanley projects widespread Capex pickup** due to **rising investor confidence** boosting **private investment**.
- **World Bank projects India's FY27 GDP at 6.5%** with **FY28 expected at 6.6%** aided by **services recovery and investment pickup**. World Bank notes domestic demand expected to drive growth amid **continued tariff and global uncertainty**. **World Bank projects global growth at 2.6%** in CY26, down from **2.7% in CY25**.
- **South Asia growth projected at 7.1%** in CY25, moderating to **6.2% in CY26** due to **higher US tariffs**.
- **Indusfood 2026 featured 2,200 exhibitors** from **30+ countries** with **15,000+ buyers from 120+ countries**. **Indusfood added Pet Food and Cookware pavilions** reflecting **changing global demand** for wellness and premium products.
- **APEDA launched BHARATI Startup Challenge** promoting **innovation in agricultural and processed food export** sectors.
- **Saudi exhibitor Alsalan celebrated 75-year legacy** highlighting **long-standing India-Saudi food trade ties**.
- **Female labor force participation reached 35.3%** in December 2025, marking **yearly high** in employment metrics.
- **Morgan Stanley projects India's GDP at 7.6% for FY26** and **6.5% for FY27**, driven by **fiscal-monetary policy support** and rising household incomes.
- **India's fish production doubled in decade to 197.75 lakh tonnes** in FY25, up **106% from 95.79 lakh tonnes** in FY14, making India **world's second-largest fish producer**.

- India's seafood exports hit all-time high of ₹62,408 crore (USD 7.45 billion) in FY25, with value-added exports rising 56% over five years.
- RBI mandates auto-transfer of unresolved bank complaints to Internal Ombudsman within 30 days, strengthening consumer protection.
- RBI recognizes FEDAI as Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for forex dealers, strengthening governance and standard-setting in forex ecosystem.
- RBI proposes revised Forex Position Rules for banks to align with global standards, implementing from April 1, 2027.
- India's retail inflation climbed to 3-month high of 1.33% in December 2025, rising from 0.71% in November but below RBI's 2% threshold.
- Food inflation registers negative growth for 7th consecutive month at -2.71%, while core inflation surges to 27-month high of 4.45%.
- India-China trade deficit hits record $116.12 billion in 2025 despite bilateral trade increase, reflecting heavy dependence on Chinese imports.
- Reliance Industries Limited announced development of the Jio Artificial Intelligence Platform, along with an investment of seven lakh crore rupees in Gujarat over five years, including establishment of artificial intelligence-ready data centres in Jamnagar.
- Ola Electric launched the Shakti Battery Storage System from its Krishnagiri Gigafactory, starting at twenty-nine thousand nine hundred ninety-nine rupees for 1.5 kilowatt-hour capacity. It is India's first domestically designed residential battery storage system, supporting home energy storage and clean energy adoption.
- The RBI will establish a Central Complaints Processing Centre (CRPC) under the revised Integrated Ombudsman Scheme from July 2026. It aims at faster grievance redressal with compensation up to ₹30 lakh.
- SEBI introduced performance-based expense structures for mutual funds effective April 2026. The reforms improve transparency, tighten governance, and align investor costs with fund performance.
- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by $392 million to $687.19 billion, supported by a rise in gold reserves. The strong reserve position enhances external stability and investor confidence.

Appointments/Resignations

- Meta appointed Dina Powell McCormick as President and Vice Chairman as part of AI strategy leadership restructuring.
- Dina Powell brings 25+ years experience in global finance, national security, including 16 years at Goldman Sachs.
- Powell served as Deputy National Security Advisor under President Donald Trump and held senior State Department roles.

- Rakesh Aggarwal (IPS 1994) appointed as NIA Director General with tenure until August 2028.
- TVS Supply Chain Solutions appointed Vikas Chadha as Global CEO effective January 22, 2026.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank appointed Anup Kumar Saha as Whole-Time Director (effective Jan 12, 2026) overseeing consumer banking, marketing, data analytics.
- Shri Praveen Vashista, a 1991-batch IPS officer, was appointed Vigilance Commissioner in January 2026 under the CVC Act, 2003. His experience in CBI and MHA strengthens India's vigilance framework.

Defence News

- L&T signed contract with Indian Army to overhaul and upgrade Pinaka MLRS with long-term support and lifecycle management.
- Pinaka upgrade includes modernizing command-control elements and providing quality assurance and training under PPP model.
- Indian Army launched DIME platform (Depot Integration Management Edition) developed jointly with BISAG-N under MeitY. DIME reduces 70% manual paperwork and streamlines supply operations 33% faster providing real-time logistics visibility. DIME delivers end-to-end real-time visibility from frontline to Headquarters with integrated dashboards and predictive analytics.
- Indian Army ordered ₹168 crore solar-powered MAPSS UAV from NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT). MAPSS UAV features solar recharging enabling long-endurance flights with advanced mission autonomy in GNSS-denied zones. MAPSS designed for Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) particularly for border monitoring with quiet propulsion and low thermal signature.
- Indian Army and HDFC Bank renewed MoU for three more years till 2029 covering Personal Accident Insurance (₹1 crore) and welfare benefits. MoU includes Air Accident Insurance (₹1 crore) and ₹5 lakh support for child education and girl child marriage.
- DRDO conducted long-duration scramjet engine test lasting over 12 minutes, validating sustained supersonic combustion technology. Scramjet engine operates at Mach 5+ speeds exceeding 6,100 km/h with high maneuverability for hypersonic cruise missiles. Scramjet technology supports low-altitude flight complicating enemy interception with advanced combustor design and state-of-the-art infrastructure.
- DRDO successfully flight-tested third-generation MPATGM against moving targets validating top-attack capability and advanced guidance system.

- **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** weighs **14.5 kg**, measuring **1.3 meters** with **120mm diameter**, fire-and-forget capability.
- **MPATGM production partners** include **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** and **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**.
- **Indian Army conducted Exercise Sanjha Shakti** (Jan 8-9) in Pune with **350+ personnel** and **16 civilian agencies** for **civil-military synergy**.
- **Exercise Sanjha Shakti tested disaster response** and **emergency preparedness** validating **MCF (Military-Civil Fusion) framework**.
- **78th Indian Army Day celebrated** (Jan 15) commemorating **General K.M. Cariappa's appointment** as **first Indian Commander-in-Chief** (1949). **78th Army Day Parade in Jaipur** displayed **modern combat capabilities** and reinforced **border security commitment**.
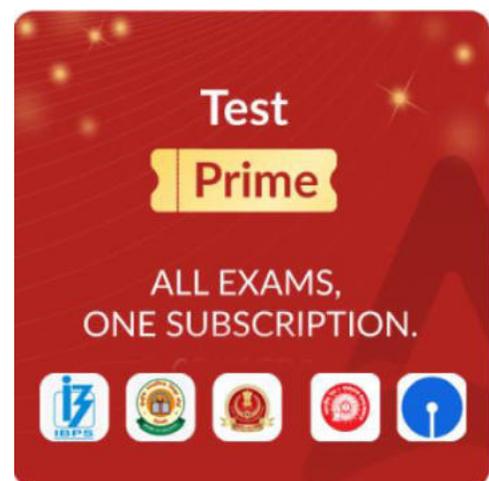
Awards and Recognitions

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw conferred 70th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar** to **100 railway officers** and **26 shields to top railway zones**.
- **Indian Railways unveiled "52 weeks, 52 reforms" roadmap** for 2026 implementing **major reforms** in **customer service, maintenance, quality management**.
- **Indian Railways marked 100 years of rail electrification**, having electrified **68,700+ route kilometers** with **72%+ work completed**.
- **Film "Adolescence"** (dir. Philip Barantini) also won **four Golden Globes** for **Best Limited Series** and supporting performances.
- **Amy Poehler won inaugural Golden Globe for Best Podcast** for **"Good Hang With Amy Poehler"**, expanding Globes' recognition.
- **Brazilian actor Wagner Moura made history** becoming **first Brazilian to win Golden Globe** for **Male Actor in Motion Picture – Drama**.
- **Priyanka Chopra Jonas presented award** at Golden Globes, representing **Indian entertainment presence**.
- **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) won Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026** at Hong Kong Leadership Awards, recognizing **people-first approach** and **professional development**. **BSE award validates HR practices** in **competitive financial services sector** with **inclusive, high-performance environment** commitment.
- **Major Swathi Shantha Kumar won UN Secretary-General's Award 2025** in **Gender Category** for **"Equal Partners, Lasting Peace"** project in South Sudan.
- **Swathi's project supported 5,000+ women** through **female peacekeeper deployment** and **grassroots trust-building initiatives**.

- **UN awards recognize outstanding contributions** by personnel demonstrating **exceptional leadership, innovation, commitment to UN values**.
- **Indian mountaineer Aritra Roy summited Mount Aconcagua** (6,967.15m), **highest peak outside Asia**, achieving **fourth Seven Summits milestone**.
- **Mt. Aconcagua expedition sponsored by HAL** (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), completing **44km climb in -40°C** conditions with **10.5-hour summit push**.
- **Aritra Roy previously summited Kilimanjaro (Africa), Elbrus (Europe), Everest (Asia)** in **Seven Summits challenge**.
- **Toby Kiers won Tyler Prize** for environmental achievement on **fungal networks supporting ecosystem health** and **climate resilience**.
- The **Sukhatme National Award in Statistics** invites nominations from eminent Indian statisticians aged **45 years and above**. The award will be presented on **Statistics Day – 29 June 2026**.

Summits and Conferences News

- **National Textiles Ministers' Conference held in Guwahati** (Jan 8-9) under theme **"Weaving Growth, Heritage & Innovation"** with **state textile ministers**. **Special conclave on North-Eastern textile sector** focused on **silk handloom, handicrafts, bamboo-based textiles** emphasizing **Eri, Muga, Mulberry silk**.
- **3rd Indian Lighthouse Festival held in Visakhapatnam** (Jan 9-10) inaugurated by **former VP Venkaiah Naidu** with **Union Minister Sonowal**. **Indian Lighthouse Festival launched Lighthouse Museum development** at Visakhapatnam Port Authority via **DGLL MoU**.
- **Port infrastructure projects worth ₹230 crore launched** including **LPG berth upgradation (₹52.24 crore)**, **Dry Dock upgradation (₹35.87 crore)**. **Port projects include new AOB construction (₹97.70 crore)** and **Harbour Park residential apartments (₹44.20 crore)**.

- **Indusfood 2026 featured World Culinary Heritage Conference** organized by **Indian Federation of Culinary Associations**.
- **Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference for Kutch-Saurashtra** (Jan 11-12) at **Marwadi University, Rajkot** boosting **investment and industrial growth**.
- **Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue (VBYLD) 2026** (Jan 9-12) at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** with **PM Modi's interaction**.
- **VBYLD focused on ten national priority themes** including **Fit Bharat, Start-up India, Women-Led Development, Cultural Diplomacy, Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **India-Germany CEO Forum attended** by **PM Modi and Chancellor Merz** reviewing **25-year strategic partnership** progress.
- **Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 scheduled** for **March 19-22** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi** focusing on **clean power transition**.
- The **First World Culinary Heritage Conference 2026** was organised by the **Indian Federation of Culinary Associations** as part of **Indusfood 2026**.

Ranks and Reports

- **NITI Aayog released 4th Export Preparedness Index 2024** assessing **export readiness** with **Maharashtra topping large states** (68.01 score).
- **EPI ranks Tamil Nadu second (64.41)** and **Gujarat third (64.02)** among large states, with **Uttarakhand topping smaller states** (52.07).
- **EPI 2024 structured around 4 pillars, 13 sub-pillars, 70 indicators** evaluating **policy support, infrastructure, business ecosystem**.
- **EPI supports India's goal of ₹1 trillion merchandise exports by 2030** through competitive federalism and export ecosystem assessment.
- **Henley Passport Index 2026 ranks India 80th** (up from 85th), accessing **55 visa-free/on-arrival destinations** with Algeria and Niger.
- **Singapore topped Henley Index for third consecutive year** with **192 destinations**, Japan-South Korea second (**188 destinations**).
- **Afghanistan ranked last** with **24 destinations**, creating **168-country gap** in passport power rankings.
- **Europe dominates top 10 with Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland** sharing third-fifth positions.
- **USA ranked 10th** with **179 destinations**, Malaysia ninth (**180 destinations**), Canada-Iceland-Lithuania eighth (**181 destinations**).
- **Least powerful passports include Syria (26), Iraq (29), Pakistan-Yemen (31), Somalia (33), Nepal (35), Bangladesh (37)**.

- **NSO released CPI data for December 2025** showing **retail inflation at 1.33%**, rising from **0.71% in November**.
- **Food inflation registered negative growth for 7th consecutive month at -2.71%**, declining from **-3.91% in November**.
- **Core inflation surged to 27-month high of 4.45%** from **4.23% in November 2025**.
- **Kerala registered highest YoY inflation (9.49%)** followed by **Karnataka (2.99%), Andhra Pradesh (2.71%), Tamil Nadu (2.67%)**.

Sports News

- **Karnataka emerged overall champions of Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2026** securing **11 medals** (3 gold, 2 silver, 6 bronze).
- **KIBG 2026 featured six medal events** including **Beach Volleyball, Beach Soccer, Sepak Takraw, Beach Kabaddi, Pencak Silat, Open Water Swimming**.
- **Tamil Nadu finished second (8 medals)** and **Manipur third (7 medals)** in **KIBG 2026** held at **Ghoghla Beach, Diu**.
- **KIBG mascot 'Pearl'** (cheerful dolphin) welcomed **1,100+ athletes** from **30 states and UTs**.
- **Australian women's cricket captain Alyssa Healy announced retirement** after **India series (Feb-Mar 2026)**, ending **15-year career**. Alyssa Healy won 8 World Cup titles including **six T20 World Cups (2010, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2020, 2023)** and **two ODI World Cups (2013, 2022)**. **Alyssa Healy retired as most successful wicketkeeper** with **269 dismissals** across **3 formats** (**24 Tests, 119 ODIs, 126 T20Is**). **Alyssa Healy scored 7,106 runs** in approximately **300 matches**, third-highest among Australian women behind **Meg Lanning (8,352), Ellyse Perry (7,607)**.
- **MS Dhoni named Goodwill Ambassador** for **Pune Grand Tour 2026** (Jan 19-23), India's **first international multi-stage pro road cycling race**.
- **Virat Kohli became second-highest international run-scorer** surpassing **Kumar Sangakkara's 28,016 runs** with **28,068 runs**, trailing only **Sachin Tendulkar (34,357)**.
- **Kohli scored match-winning 93 runs** against **New Zealand in Vadodara** achieving **second-highest status** in international cricket.
- Indian chess player **Aaryan Varshney** became **India's 92nd Grandmaster** after securing his final GM norm at the Andranik Margaryan Memorial Tournament in Armenia.
- **South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt** was named the **International Cricket Council Women's Player of the Month (December 2025)** for her **record-breaking performances against Ireland**.
- **Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc** won the **International Cricket Council Men's Player of the Month (December 2025)** for his **outstanding all-round impact in the Ashes series**.

- The **Indian Olympic Association** reactivated the **National Olympic Academy** in collaboration with the **International Olympic Academy** in **Olympia, Greece**.
- **Aaryan Varshney** became India's **92nd Chess Grandmaster** after securing his final norm in **Armenia**. His success highlights India's growing **global chess strength**.

Schemes and Committees News

- **National Sports Governance Rules 2026 notified** establishing **mandatory frameworks for National Sports Bodies (NSBs)** with **athlete representation and transparent elections**.
- **NSB rules mandate at least 4 Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOMs)** with **50% women** and **4 women in Executive Committee**.
- **SOM eligibility requires 25+ years age**, **retirement from active sports**, **no selection-level events for 1+ year**.
- **Tiered system consists of 10 levels** based on **Olympic-Paralympic medals to National Games medallists** covering **all sport types**.
- **PFRDA constituted high-level committee** to frame **assured payouts regulatory framework** under **National Pension System (NPS)**.
- **Committee headed by M.S. Sahoo** (former IBBI Chairperson) with **15 multidisciplinary experts** from **legal, actuarial, finance, insurance sectors**.
- **NPS committee tasked with standardized disclosures** preventing **mis-selling**, clarifying **'assured' vs market-linked returns**.
- **GOI revoked Quality Control Order on Flux Cored Solder Wire** removing **mandatory BIS certification** requirement reducing **costs and delays**.
- **Indian Olympic Association launched NOEDP** (National Olympic Education & Development Programme) supporting **grassroots to elite Olympic movement**.

- **PT Usha appointed NOA President** and **Gagan Narang appointed NOA Director** for **Olympic ecosystem strengthening**.
- **IOA approved NOEDP** focusing on **Olympic values, education-ethics, holistic athlete development, governance strengthening**.

Science and Technology News

- **DRDO conducted long-duration scramjet engine test** lasting **over 12 minutes** validating **sustained supersonic combustion** at **Mach 5+ speeds** (6,100 km/h).
- **Scramjet engine uses air-breathing technology** with **active cooling** enabling **hypersonic flight** with **high maneuverability** and **low-altitude capability**.
- **DRDO's scramjet engine indigenously designed** by **DRDL Hyderabad** with **support from industry and academia** strengthening **regional deterrence**.
- **Progressive scramjet tests** included **120-second run (Jan 2025)** and **1,000-second endurance test (May 2025)** scaling up technology gradually.
- **Indian scientists discovered two new slender-armed frog species** from **Arunachal Pradesh**: **Soman's Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium somani)** and **Mechuka Slender Arm Frog (Leptobrachium mechuka)**.
- **New frog species findings published** in **peer-reviewed journal PeerJ** through **University of Delhi** collaboration with **Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology**.
- **Soman's Slender Arm Frog discovered at Tiwarigaon** in **Lower Dibang Valley**, measuring **55mm**, named after **late journalist E. Somanath**.
- **Mechuka Slender Arm Frog identified near Mechuka town** in **Shi Yomi district**, measuring **60mm**, inhabiting **evergreen forests and grasslands**.
- **Leptobrachium genus comprises 39 species worldwide** with **only 4 previously documented in India** from **family Megophryidae** (366 recognized species).
- **Brahmaputra River acts as major biogeographic barrier** with **new species found north** and **other Indian Leptobrachium species south** of river.
- **ISRO's PSLV-C62 mission encountered critical anomaly** during **third stage (PS3)** after **lift-off from Sriharikota** on **January 12, 2026**.
- **PSLV-C62 carried EOS-N1 (Anvesha) Earth observation satellite** and **15 co-passenger satellites** including **AayuISAT, KID, and Brazilian payloads**.
- **PSLV-C62 marked 64th PSLV flight** and **5th PSLV-DL variant mission** involving **9th dedicated commercial launch by NSIL**.
- **EOS-N1 hyperspectral satellite developed by DRDO** for **advanced surveillance and strategic monitoring** capabilities.

- Secondary payloads included **AayuISAT** from **OrbitAID Aerospace** serving as **India's first on-orbit satellite refueling demonstrator**.
- **PSLV-C62** payload applications include **AI processing in orbit, store-and-forward communications, IoT services**, radiation measurement, agricultural data collection.
- **India Post delivered first ONDC order** enabling **digital logistics expansion** and **last-mile delivery strengthening** for **MSMEs**.
- **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and PSA launched 'Inspiring Innovators – Naye Bharat Ki Nayi Pehchaan'** skilling initiative with **Netflix Fund for Creative Equity**.
- **Skilling initiative featured eight short animated films** created by **26 students from diverse regions** (50% women) from **eight universities across India**.
- **Initiative highlights 8 Indian social-impact start-ups** with **Voicebox Netflix-led collaboration** for **voiceover production** and **NFDC partnership**.
- **TN partnered with Sarvam AI** for **India's first Sovereign AI Park** in Chennai with **₹10,000 crore investment** generating **1,000+ high-skilled jobs**.
- **Sovereign AI Park features dedicated AI district** with **high-performance computing infrastructure, secure data frameworks, research labs, innovation clusters**.
- **AI Park hosts Institute for AI in Governance** developing **public-sector AI applications** with **data security, ethics, accountability** focus. **AI Park supports Tamil-first AI models** reflecting **local language and culture** in **education, healthcare, agriculture, citizen services** projects.
- A **300–400-year-old giant black coral** was discovered in the deep sea near **New Zealand**, the largest recorded in the country. The find emphasizes the importance of **deep-sea ecosystem conservation**.
- Google launched **TranslateGemma**, an open AI translation model supporting **55 languages**, built on **Gemma 3**. It enables efficient multilingual translation across **mobile, local, and cloud platforms**.

Important Days News

- **World Hindi Day observed January 10** promoting **Hindi language awareness** and honoring **contributions of Hindi speakers worldwide**.
- **World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas) established** on **June 8, 2005** by **World Hindi Conference follow-up committee**.
- **January 10 marks first Hindi use in UNGA (1949)** and commemorates **first World Hindi Conference (1975 in Nagpur)** inaugurated by **PM Indira Gandhi**.
- **Hindi officially adopted** as **Government of India language (1950)** under **Article 343** in **Devanagari script**.

- **Hindi ranked among top four most spoken languages globally** with **600+ million speakers** across **Mauritius, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad-Tobago, Nepal**.
- **Fiji only country outside India** where **Hindi is official language** alongside **English and Fijian**, recognized in **1997 Constitution**.
- **Hindi Diwas observed nationally on September 14** marking **1949 Constituent Assembly decision** adopting Hindi as **official language**.
- **Hindi serves as official language** in **Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Hindi listed among 22 languages in Eighth Schedule** of **Indian Constitution** under official language status.
- **National Youth Day observed January 12** commemorating **Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary** (163rd in 2026).
- **National Youth Day established 1984** marking **1949 Constituent Assembly decision** and first celebrated **January 12, 1985**.
- **2nd Viksit Bharat Young Leaders' Dialogue (VBYLD 2026)** held **Jan 9-12** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** with **PM Modi's interaction**.
- **VBYLD focused on ten national priority themes**: **Fit Bharat, Start-up India, Youth in Democracy, Women-Led Development, Cultural Diplomacy, Innovation with Tradition, Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Sustainable Agriculture, Green Viksit Bharat, Future-Ready Workforce**.
- **National Road Safety Week observed January 11-17** marking **37th observance** (2026) raising **road safety awareness** through **responsible driving and pedestrian protection**.
- **First National Road Safety Week introduced 1989** by **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)**.
- **NRSM 2026 theme "Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha" (Road Safety, Life Safety)** promoting citizen awareness.
- **Armed Forces Veterans' Day observed January 14** honoring **courage and sacrifices** of **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force veterans**.
- **10th Armed Forces Veterans' Day in 2026** celebrating **Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa's retirement** (January 14, 1953).
- **34 Rajya Sainik Boards and 434 Zila Sainik Boards** organized **rallies and support activities** for **veterans and families**.
- **SPARSH pension help desks and ECHS healthcare counters** established supporting **veteran assistance** nationwide.
- **Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebrated January 8-11** marking **1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's 1026 attack** and **75th post-independence reconstruction anniversary**.
- **PM Modi participated in Somnath celebrations** with **Omkar mantra chanting** at **Prabhas Patan, Veraval, Gujarat**.

Obituaries News

- **Former Indian hockey player Davinder Singh Garcha passed away** at **age 73 in Jalandhar, Punjab** (born December 7, 1952 in Amritsar).
- **Davinder Singh Garcha was 1980 Moscow Olympics gold medalist** playing **over 30 international matches** scoring **19 goals in 3 major tournaments**. **Garcha scored 8 goals across 6 matches** in **1980 Olympics**, contributing to **India's record 8th Olympic gold** defeating **Spain 4-3**. **Honored with Major Dhyan Chand Award 2021** recognizing **exceptional contributions to hockey**. **Post-playing career, Garcha promoted hockey** as **President of Olympian Surjit Hockey Society** and **Mohinder Singh Munshi Hockey Tournament**.
- **Former IPS officer and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Punjab Police** serving law enforcement post-retirement.
- **Veteran Kerala Congress(M) leader Thomas Kuthiravattam passed away** at **age 80 in Alappuzha, Kerala** (born June 1, 1945 in Kallissery, Chengannur).
- **Thomas Kuthiravattam served as Rajya Sabha MP (1985-1991)** representing **Kerala** with **State General Secretary and Vice Chairman positions**. **Member of Joint Parliamentary Committee probing Bofors deal** during distinguished parliamentary tenure. **Served 25 years on Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Managing Committee** contributing to charitable work post-politics.

Miscellaneous News

- **Gas Authority of India Limited** and the **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board** launched the **NonStop Zindagi Campaign (1 January to 31 March)** to promote adoption of **Piped Natural Gas** and **Compressed Natural Gas** with a target of achieving **15% share of natural gas in India's energy mix by 2030**.
- The **NonStop Zindagi Campaign** follows a multi-platform strategy including **digital outreach (social media and influencers)** and **on-ground activities** such as **Resident Welfare Association toolkits, mobile vans, and festival-based awareness messaging**.
- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board's "One Nation, One Grid, One Tariff" framework** aims to **standardize natural gas transportation charges** and strengthen integration of the **national gas grid**.
- The campaign targets **domestic households, commercial establishments, industrial users, and Compressed Natural Gas vehicle consumers** to support India's clean energy transition.

- **Indusfood 2026** introduced new **Pet Food Pavilion** and **Cookware Pavilion**, highlighting growing global demand for **wellness-focused and premium lifestyle products**.
- The **India–United Arab Emirates Food Corridor** was launched at **Indusfood 2026** by the **Abu Dhabi Food Hub**, aiming to strengthen **food security and bilateral food trade**.
- The **BHARATI Startup Challenge** was launched by the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority** to promote **innovation and entrepreneurship** in the **agriculture and processed food export sectors**.
- The **Government of Karnataka** extended the **Gruha Lakshmi Scheme** and launched a **Digital Marketing Portal** to help women entrepreneurs reach **global markets**.
- The **Gruha Lakshmi Digital Marketing Portal** provides **vocational training and financial support**, including **two thousand rupees monthly assistance** to eligible households.
- Through the verified platform, women entrepreneurs can sell **handicrafts, food items, jewellery, clothing, and traditional products** globally.
- Registration for the portal is available **online**, through **District In-charge Officers**, and at the **Department Head Office**, with assurance of **product authenticity**.
- The Bengaluru campus is expected to become operational by **August 2026** at **Manyata Tech Park, Bengaluru**, under the **India–Australia Education Cooperation Framework (2025–2030)**.
- **Choice Wealth** launched a **digital investment platform** for **India Post Payments Bank customers**, offering online **mutual fund aggregation** and **Robo-advisory services**.
- The platform can be accessed via **mobile applications, web platforms, and micro automated teller machine devices**, supporting first-time and underserved investors in **semi-urban and rural areas**.
- **Galgotias University** inaugurated the **Indian Institute of Technology Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre** to support early-stage startups, promote **deep-technology innovation**, and bridge research with real-world applications. The centre will serve as an innovation hub offering **mentorship, investor access, market linkages, technology commercialisation, and acceleration support**. **Galgotias University** signed **Memorandums of Understanding** with the **National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur** and **Jharkhand University of Technology Ranchi** for joint research, faculty exchange, and co-creation of deep-technology startups.

Static Takeaways

Topic / Organisation / State	Key Details
Defence Research and Development Organisation	Formed by merging the **Technical Development Establishments of the Indian Army**, the **Directorate of Technical Development and Production**, and the **Defence Science Organisation**; **Chairman:** Samir V. Kamat; **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi; **Established:** 1958
Arunachal Pradesh	**Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu; **Governor:** Lieutenant General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (Retired); **Capital:** Itanagar; **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Talle Wildlife Sanctuary, Eagle Nest Wildlife Sanctuary
Bank of Baroda	**Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer:** Dr. Debadatta Chand; **Headquarters:** Vadodara, Gujarat; **Tagline:** "India's International Bank"; **Established:** 1908
Ministry of Textiles	**Union Minister:** Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar); **Minister of State:** Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha – Assam)
Larsen and Toubro	**Chairman and Managing Director:** S.N. Subrahmanyan; **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra; **Established:** 1938
Ministry of Railways	**Union Minister:** Ashwini Vaishnaw (Rajya Sabha – Odisha); **Ministers of State:** Veeranna Somanna (Tumkur, Karnataka); Ravneet Singh Bittu (Rajya Sabha – Rajasthan)
Andhra Pradesh	**Chief Minister:** Nara Chandrababu Naidu; **Governor:** Justice (Retired) S. Abdul Nazeer; **Capital:** Amaravati; **National Parks:** Rajiv Gandhi (Rameswaram) National Park, Papikonda National Park
Hollywood Foreign Press Association	**President:** Scott Orlin; **Headquarters:** California, United States of America; **Established:** 1943
Trade Promotion Council of India	**Chairman:** Mohit Singla; **Headquarters:** New Delhi, Delhi; **Established:** 2012
Bharat Dynamics Limited	**Chairman and Managing Director:** Commodore A Madhavrao (Retired); **Headquarters:** Hyderabad, Telangana; **Established:** 1970
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	**Union Minister:** Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar, Gujarat); **Minister of State:** Raksha Khadse (Raver, Maharashtra)
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	**Union Minister:** Nitin Jairam Gadkari (Nagpur, Maharashtra); **Ministers of State:** Harsh Malhotra (East Delhi, Delhi); Ajay Tamta (Almora, Uttarakhand)
Indian Space Research Organisation	**Chairman:** Dr. V. Narayanan; **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka; **Established:** 1969
Gujarat	**Chief Minister:** Bhupendra Patel; **Governor:** Acharya Devvrat; **Capital:** Gandhinagar; **Wildlife Sanctuaries:** Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, Gaga Wildlife Sanctuary
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	**Union Minister:** Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh (Munger, Bihar); **Ministers of State:** Professor S. P. Singh Baghel (Agra, Uttar Pradesh); George Kurian (Rajya Sabha – Madhya Pradesh)
World Bank	**President:** Ajay Banga; **Headquarters:** Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America; **Established:** 1944
United Nations	**Secretary-General:** António Guterres; **Headquarters:** New York, United States of America; **Established:** 1945
Ministry of Defence	**Union Minister:** Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh); **Minister of State:** Sanjay Seth (Ranchi, Jharkhand)
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited	Originally established as **Hindustan Aircraft on 22 December 1940** and restructured as **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in 1964**; **Chairman and Managing Director:** Dr. D. K. Sunil; **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka