

MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

DECEMBER 2025

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NEWS IN SHORT

KARNATAKA ISSUES

BWSSB plans to power **Cauvery Stage VI** pumping stations with **solar energy** + ₹20 crore investment ensuring **50% solar share** per station + exploring **own plants vs long-term PPAs** for viability + aims to **reduce ₹60-crore annual power costs** + supports water supply to **Bengaluru's surrounding towns**

CGWB flags **severe over-extraction** in **Kolar, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Chitradurga** + critical zones in **Ramanagar, Tumakuru** + contamination concerns despite recharge works + **28.3% samples unsafe, uranium traces** in 13–15% + extraction slightly reduced to **66.49% (2025)**

Karnataka tiger reserves induct **trained canine squads** + dogs trained at **Bandipur** to track scents and illegal activities + **two per reserve** with expert handlers + improves **anti-poaching vigilance**, monitoring and rapid response + reflects commitment to **modern wildlife conservation**

Bengaluru to set up India's **first Startup & Technology Museum** by **2027** + PPP model at **NGEF campus** + ₹100-crore project with **interactive exhibits** + celebrates **4–5 decades of innovation**, startup ecosystem, digital journey + showcases **future tech trends** and Karnataka's innovation leadership

Karnataka's Transport Department launched new **smart cards** for **DLs and RCs** + valid for **five years**. Made of **polycarbonate**, they feature **laser engraving**, a **64 KB microchip**, and an **NIC QR code** + printing will be done by **Rosmerta Technologies** using a **centralised facility**. Two machines from **Matica Fintech** can print **500–600 cards/hour** + the rollout begins later this month.

The Karnataka Transport Department has launched a new **smart card system for vehicle Registration Certificates and Driving Licences** + came into effect on December 1 + remain in use for the **next five years**.

Karnataka has operationalised **four CCC Units** as part of a **technology-driven + data-guided** upgrade in **wildlife conservation and human-wildlife conflict management**, using **AI analytics + real-time monitoring + GPS mapping** + units—in **MM Hills, Nagarahole, Kali TR, Madikeri** + enable **predictive modelling**, faster response, improved **surveillance**, and integrated **patrolling, incident reporting, animal tracking**+ Will enhance **situational awareness**, staff deployment, conflict prevention, and community outreach via **helpline 1926**.

Karnataka to **expand telescope scheme** to all govt schools + **additional funding request** to be placed before CM + current scheme covers 833 KRIES institutions at **Rs 3 crore** + focus on **effective integration** of telescopes into learning, not just distribution + **teacher training** underway to ensure proper use and maintenance + **2026 Astronomical Calendar**

launched to guide observation sessions + aim to foster **scientific temper** and curiosity among students

Karnataka govt orders **Aadhaar MBU** for ages 5 & 15 + **mandatory biometric updates** to enable mid-day meals/scholarships/scheme benefits + UIDAI to provide school-wise lists + **deadline March 1, 2026** + first MBU at age 5 (fingerprints/iris/photo) + second MBU at age 15 (all biometrics)

Karnataka Cabinet clears two key Bills + **Hate Speech & Hate Crimes Bill** with up to **7 years jail, ₹50,000–₹1 lakh fines, cognisable & non-bailable offences, liability for organisations**, aimed to **curb communal disharmony + Social Boycott Prevention Bill** with up to **3 years jail, ₹1 lakh fine, 19 boycott forms identified, unlawful assembly provisions, Social Boycott Prohibition Officer** for enforcement.

Bengaluru launches **'Hygiene on Go'** mobile sanitation initiative + aimed at **safe, accessible hygiene for traffic police**, especially **women officers** + addresses long-standing issues of dehydration & urinary infections due to lack of facilities + project runs till **March 2028** + CSR by **RNTBCI** implemented by **Hand in Hand India** + features include **separate washrooms, handwash facilities, sanitary napkin incinerator, utilities, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, GPS & CCTV**, and LED safety display.

BMTC wins 19th National Digital Transformation Award 2025 + recognised for empowering **visually impaired passengers** through the **'Onboard' assistive technology system** + system solves challenges in identifying bus arrivals, boarding/alighting cues and route guidance + **multiple states show interest** in adopting this model.

BWSSB wins Geospatial Excellence Award for Water Management + honoured at **GeoSmart India 2025** for its GIS-based asset management platform **Jalapatha** + recognised for **geospatial mapping, asset digitisation and real-time data integration** that centralise thousands of water & sewerage assets + boosts **planning, monitoring and maintenance efficiency** + next phase to include **advanced geospatial analytics, predictive maintenance, and real-time project monitoring**.

Bengaluru sees **41% drop in cybercrime cases** + Reason - **awareness & enforcement rise** + there could also be **possible under-registration of FIRs** + Karnataka still **tops nation** + shift to **investment/part-time job/digital-arrest frauds** + DoT suggest **AI measures, stricter KYC, SIM blocking** + banks flagging transactions + **MHA follow-ups**

Only **26.73%** Karnataka deaths have **certified causes** + State issues **strict MCCD directives + Form 4/4A mandatory** for all hospital/non-hospital deaths + **e-JanMa digital submission** required + **monthly & nil reports** from hospitals + **registrars must match every death with cause certificate** + priority to **treating/known doctors** for non-hospital cases + **medico-**

legal deaths certified post-inquest/autopsy + all certifications within 21 days

Venkatesh Prasad emerged as the new Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) president

Karnataka's plan to develop a **Unified Digital Heritage Portal** + integrates **manuscripts, rare books, archival documents, historical records** + led by **ORI Mysuru & Karnataka State Archives** + supports **Digital India Mission** + digitisation of **70,000+ manuscripts & 45,000 rare works** with ₹2.15-crore projects + uses **AI-enabled tools** for script recognition/metadata/restoration + builds **capacity through training & facility expansion** + protects **fragile palm-leaf/paper manuscripts** on Ayurveda/astronomy/literature + enhances **research access** globally + reinforces India's mission to preserve **ancient knowledge systems**.

Namma Metro to get **India's tallest stations** + **Goraguntepalya (33 m)** and **Mysuru Road (32 m)** to surpass **Jayadeva Hospital** + part of **Phase 3** with **Orange Line** (JP Nagar–Kempapura) & **Silver Line** (Hosahalli–Kadabagere) + includes **multi-level double-decker structures** + **Mysuru Road** to feature **six levels** exceeding Jayadeva's rail height + **BMRCL** confirms these will be the **tallest stations** in the network

Karnataka lost **Rs 5,474 crore** to **cyber fraud** in 3 years + only **Rs 627 crore recovered** + **57,733 cases** reported (2023–2025) with rising **money lost** despite fewer cases + **2023:** 22,255 cases, **Rs 873 cr** lost + **2024:** 22,478 cases, **Rs 2,562 cr** lost + **2025:** 13,000 cases, **Rs 2,038 cr** lost + state has **43 cyber police stations** & a **DGP-led cyber vertical** + online gaming ban struck down in 2022; case now before **Supreme Court** on Dec 19

Karnataka Govt plans to introduce **Black Soldier Fly (BSF) composting** in Bengaluru + success already seen in **Mangaluru** gaining national appreciation + new waste-processing sites in **Doddabelavangala (134 acres)** and **Gollahalli (84 acres)** identified + **BSF larvae** convert organic waste in **7–10 days** producing **protein-rich larvae & nutrient-rich frass** + reduces waste volume by **60–80%** with **low odour & low cost** + cuts **methane emissions** and supports **circular, sustainable waste management**

Karnataka Govt drafts legislation to give **statutory backing** to **Kutumba social registry** + aims to streamline welfare delivery through a **unique Kutumba ID** for every household + consolidates **demographic, caste, income, landholding data** + establishes **Kutumba (Access & Management) Authority** chaired by **Chief Secretary** with powers for **data security & management** + **Kutumba ID** allows document-free eligibility verification + government may mandate it for **subsidies, benefits, licences, certificates & disaster management** + citizens gain rights to know **how their data is processed, used & shared** + eligibility can be verified separately for those without an ID (with possible fee) + builds on earlier **2022 efforts** supported by **Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy**.

Karnataka Social Boycott Bill proposes **3-year jail** + **Rs 1 lakh fine** for **unlawful social boycott** by caste panchayats + lists **19 forms of ostracization** (denial of business/opportunities/access) + makes assemblies discussing boycott **unlawful** + creates **Social Boycott Prohibition Officer** + **GBG Bill** adds **MPs/MLAs/MLCs** + senior officials to **Greater Bengaluru Authority**

Karnataka remains India's **services-export powerhouse** + **Bengaluru** drives ~35% of national services exports + India hits **\$387.54 bn** in FY25 with Karnataka contributing ~40% + strong **IT-ITES ecosystem** + deep **talent base in AI/Cloud/R&D** + **500+ GCCs** employing 35% of India's GCC workforce + services sector forms **68.1% of GSV** + growth led by **IT services, GCC transformation, engineering/ER&D**, and rising **AVGC-XR & healthcare exports** + future driven by **GCC 2.0/3.0** + **AI innovation** + challenges include **urban infrastructure strain, global demand volatility, and high compliance burden**.

Kalaburagi may get **Karnataka's first Leopard Conservation Reserve** + **2,877 acres** of undisturbed **Ashnal forest** in **Chittapur taluk** identified from a **6,410-acre dry deciduous forest** + **camera trap study** confirmed **4–5 leopards** along with **blackbuck, spotted deer, wolf, wild dog, hyena, fox and jackal** + proposal aims at **landscape-level wildlife management and umbrella conservation** led by leopards + scope to add **contiguous forests in Yadgir division** + strong emphasis on **people's participation, gram sabha consultations, and local conservation management committee** + plans include **anti-poaching camp, awareness programmes and research projects** + **State Board for Wildlife Standing Committee** deferred approval, seeking a **comprehensive, technically assessed proposal**

Nehru STREAM Labs across **41 public schools** in **Kalyana Karnataka** + include **'user-friendly' app** for **students & teachers** + aim to address **fear of science** through **experiential learning** + offer **videos, virtual experiments, simulations, real-time data visualisation** + provide **bilingual (Kannada/English) content, lesson plans, quizzes, progress tracking & performance reports** + feature **separate logins** for **students, teachers, administrators** + apply to **Classes 6–10** with **50+ explorations per class** + implemented with **KKRDB** over **5 years** at **₹8.01 crore** + target **higher engagement, attendance & academic performance**, especially for **rural students**, supported by **25% engagement rise & 15% science performance improvement** + include **end-to-end teacher training** for effective classroom integration

BWSSB leverages **robotic inspection technology** in **Bengaluru** + avoids **digging at 38 sites** to fix **sewer leakages** + saves **several lakhs in repair costs** + initiative launched on **November 12** enables **accurate underground fault detection without excavation** + addresses **67 of 75 service requests** + identifies **93+ issues** including **blockages, structural defects & internal damage** + eliminates **trial-and-error digging** + reduces **road closures, traffic snarls, dust &**

noise + improves **public convenience** and enhances **worker safety** by limiting **manual entry into confined spaces**

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) wins **National Energy Conservation Awards 2025** + awarded under **State Energy Efficiency Performance Award (SDA Group-1)** category + **second place secured by Maharashtra**

Digital Podiatry Clinic (D-PoC) inaugurated at IISc Health Centre, Bengaluru + focuses on **early detection & prevention of diabetic foot complications** + established by AI-powered health tech firm **StrideAide** + integrates **diagnostic devices** to assess **plantar pressure, neuropathy & vascular insufficiency** + uses **AI-driven algorithms** for **risk stratification & automated clinical reporting** + aims to prevent **foot ulcers, infections & amputations** through **standardised screening & digital workflows** + screens **30–40 patients daily** with potential to assess **10,000+ diabetics annually** + follows **plug-and-play deployment model** for **scalable adoption** + supported by IISc expertise in **smart engineering, predictive analytics & clinical validation** + marks a shift from **reactive treatment to preventive care** in **diabetic foot management**

Kannada Shabdārtha Kosha formally unveiled at Indian Institute of Culture + monumental **dictionary by late scholar T K Anantanarayana** + work authored between **1930s–1960s** reflecting **decades of dedication to Kannada language** + release attended by **Dr Go Ru Channabasappa, Dr Na Someshwara & Aarathi H N** + dictionary hailed as **capstone scholarly contribution**

Karnataka Legislative Assembly adopted **Karnataka Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2025** + aims to curb **social boycott, discrimination and social disabilities** enforced by **caste/community panchayats** + **criminalises denial of social, religious, economic, civic rights** + provides **imprisonment up to 3 years or ₹1 lakh fine** + appoints **Social Boycott Prohibition Officer** + reinforces **Articles 14 & 21** + counters **extra-constitutional justice systems** + aligns with **Maharashtra Social Boycott Act, 2016** + Assembly also passed **Private Medical Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025** including **mental health establishments, IMA & AYUSH representation** for stronger **healthcare regulation**.

Cruise Season 2025–26 begins at **New Mangalore Port** with **MS Seven Seas Navigator** + marks push for **coastal tourism, port-led development and Blue Economy** + **450 international passengers welcomed** with **Karnataka cultural heritage, Yakshagana, and curated tours** + upgraded **Wi-Fi, AYUSH wellness, and smooth port services** + boosts **local employment, Sagarmala vision, and India's global cruise positioning** while highlighting need for **sustainable infrastructure and eco-sensitive tourism**

Bengaluru-based **Sarla Aviation** begins **ground testing of SYLLA SYL-X1 eVTOL** + India's **largest private electric flying taxi demonstrator** with **7.5 m wingspan** + validates

structure, propulsion, and safety systems at aircraft scale + bridges toward **full-scale 15 m certified eVTOL** + backed by **\$13 million funding** + aligns with **urban air mobility, BIAL partnership, and vision to cut congested city commute times**

Rural Leadership Awards 2025 celebrated at **Krishikara Vandana Sambhrama, Bengaluru on National Farmer's Day (23 Dec)** + organised by **IAT and ICAR–KVK Dakshina Kannada** + honoured **grassroots changemakers** from coastal Karnataka + **Sathyanarayana Beleri** recognised for conserving **650+ traditional paddy varieties**, promoting **agrobiodiversity, climate-resilient farming, and free seed sharing** + **Harekala Hajabba** honoured for transforming **rural education** through **community-funded schooling**, mobilising **₹1.5 crore** and empowering **nearly 200 students**.

Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Rules notified + **eases conversion norms** for agricultural-to-non-agricultural land + **exempts prior approval** for renewables & small/agro industries + **allows up to 2 acres industry on farmland** without conversion + **online system + auto-conversion in master-plan areas + 30-day time-bound clearance with deemed approval + penalties for misuse recorded in RTC + webcasting for transparency + boosts Ease of Doing Business, rural industrialisation, investment while raising concerns of land-use conflict, fragmentation & environmental safeguards**

Karnataka plans **human milk banks in all district hospitals** + aims to fight **infant malnutrition** + supports **preterm & underweight babies** whose mothers cannot breastfeed + currently **12 banks functional + 8 more coming under NHM** + already helped **~3,800 infants** + banks **collect, screen, pasteurise, store milk safely up to 6 months** + prevents **infections & GI disorders** + aligns with **SDG-2, SDG-3 & National Nutrition Mission** + key **public health intervention** improving **child survival & development**

POLITY

Supreme Court clarifies that an **ICC of one department** can hear a **POSH complaint** against an employee of **another department** + interpretation of **Section 11** rejects restrictive reading that ICC must belong to respondent's workplace + protects complainants from **alien workplaces, intimidation & procedural hurdles** + mandates **inter-departmental cooperation** under **Section 19(f)** for providing documents & assistance + ruling arose from case involving **IRS officer (2010 batch) and IAS officer (2004 batch)** + strengthens **victim-centric justice, enhances POSH compliance, addresses lapses like underreporting & poor ICC formation + promotes safer workplaces, administrative accountability and improved governance**.

SC sets aside Patna HC order in *Amlash Kumar v. State of Bihar (2025)* + rules **involuntary narco tests unconstitutional** for violating **Article 20(3)** (self-incrimination) + **Article 21** (bodily integrity + mental privacy) + reaffirms **Selvi (2010)** guidelines + narco test = **sedation using barbiturates** to lower inhibitions + results have **no**

standalone evidentiary value and require corroboration + permissible **only with voluntary informed consent** recorded before magistrate + **BNSS 253 allows voluntary testing** but **no right to demand** or impose such tests.

Union Cabinet decisions + ₹11,718 cr Census 2027 (India's first fully digital & all-caste census, 30 lakh enumerators, self-enumeration) + **Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2025** enabling **100% FDI with domestic investment safeguards** + **MGNREGA renaming to Poojya Babu Grameen Rozgar Yojana** with **workdays raised to 125** + **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhikshan Bill** creating single higher-education regulator + **SHANTI Bill** opening nuclear energy to private sector & **CoalSETU** for transparent coal allocation to drive **data-led reforms, growth & welfare**

Union government proposes VB-G RAM G Bill to replace **MGNREGA (2005)** + signals shift in **rural employment framework** + **guaranteed workdays raised to 125** + applies only to **Centre-notified rural areas** + aligned with **Viksit Bharat @2047** + programme **pausable during peak agricultural seasons** + shifts from **demand-driven, rights-based model to supply-driven, budget-capped scheme** + introduces **fixed allocations** + changes funding to **60:40 Centre-State (90:10 for NE/Himalayan States)** + expands **Central control over allocation, geography and planning** + codifies **Aadhaar payments, app attendance, geotagging** + criticised for **weakening rural livelihood guarantees**.

Lok Sabha passed SHANTI Bill, 2025 + marks **major policy shift** by allowing **private sector participation** in India's **state-dominated nuclear sector** + repeals **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and **Civil Liability to Nuclear Damage Act, 2010** + grants **statutory status to AERB** + aims to expand **nuclear capacity from 8.7 GW (24 reactors under NPCIL) to 100 GW by 2047 (~10% power mix)** + justified by **rising energy demand, clean baseload needs, and net-zero & energy security goals**, despite **Opposition protests and walk-out**.

Rajya Sabha passed Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill + allows **100% FDI in insurance** (from 74%) + mandates **premiums retained in India** + requires **foreign insurers' participation in social security schemes** + strengthens **IRDAI regulation** + aims to boost **competition, capital inflows, insurance penetration and financial inclusion** + amid **opposition concerns on data privacy, profit repatriation and foreign control** + alongside passage of **Repealing and Amending Bill scrapping 71 obsolete laws**.

Securities Markets Code Bill, 2025 introduced by **Nirmala Sitharaman** + consolidates **SCRA 1956, SEBI Act 1992, Depositories Act 1996** + creates **unified, principle-based, tech-friendly framework** + expands **SEBI Board (9 to 15)** with **conflict disclosure** + enhances **SEBI powers, SRO/MII delegation, regulatory sandbox** + **decriminalises minor violations, classifies civil vs serious offences** + boosts **inter-regulatory coordination, investor protection, capital mobilisation, and ease of doing business**.

Right to Disconnect Bill introduced as **Private Member's Bill** + seeks **employee autonomy** by allowing refusal of **after-hours digital communication** + responds to **WFH-era boundary erosion** + operates alongside **four labour codes** + highlights **employer control via emails/calls** + aims at **work-life balance and mental well-being** + suffers from **undefined "work" concept, no overtime clarity, and weak integration with OSH Code, 2020** + draws from **EU/France/Germany models** + linked implicitly to **Article 21 autonomy**, yet remains **normative, not enforceable**

President Droupadi Murmu released the **Constitution of India** in the **Santhali language** at Rashtrapati Bhavan + spoken widely in **Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar** + edition written in **Oi Chiki script** + marks **pride and cultural recognition** for the Santhal community + enables **better understanding, accessibility and awareness** of constitutional values in their own language

Delhi High Court restrains **unauthorised commercial use of R. Madhavan's name-image-likeness** + orders **takedown of obscene/AI deepfake content** + reflects rising **AI impersonation disputes** + **India lacks dedicated personality rights law** so protection via **Copyright Act + Trademarks Act + Article 21 (privacy-dignity-identity)** + courts granting **urgent injunctions**, blocking URLs, enforcing intermediaries + challenges: **free speech balance, fragmented remedies, weak digital enforcement, AI deepfakes** + need **dedicated law, consent-based digital likeness rules, stronger platform accountability**

MoRTH issues comprehensive tunnel safety guidelines after **Silkyara Bend-Barkot (2023) collapse** + addresses **multiple tunnel failures, poor DPRs, weak geotechnical study & risk monitoring** + mandates **GBR, Risk Register, site-specific studies** + stronger **ground investigation** for squeezing zones, rock bursts, gases, water ingress + balanced **NATM/TBM use with continuous monitoring** + robust **emergency preparedness with escape pipes, rescue/survival containers, ERP updates** + crucial for **Himalayan terrain, border projects & expanding national tunnel network**

SCHEMES

DHRUVA is a proposed **digital addressing framework** of **Department of Posts** using **UPI-like labels** + consent-based access to full addresses + interoperable **address-management system** + digital labels issued by **Address Service Providers** + **DIGIPIN** as a precise geolocation layer (10-character code mapping 14 sq m) + boosts logistics efficiency + strengthens **India's DPI ecosystem** + enhances **privacy, standardisation, and delivery accuracy**.

Prime Minister Professorship under **ANRF (Act, 2023)** selects eminent scientists like **Dr Kishore M Paknikar** + embeds **research-active experts in teaching-strong but research-weak universities** + **5-year full-time tenure** + **₹2.5 lakh/month fellowship** + **₹24 lakh/year research grant** + **institutional overheads** + **21 professors in first phase** +

focuses on **institution-building, mentoring, decentralised excellence + strengthens India's higher education research ecosystem** in line with NEP.

"Your Money, Your Right" campaign (launched 4 Oct 2025) urged by PM Narendra Modi (10 Dec 2025) to reclaim ₹1 lakh+ crore unclaimed assets + covers bank deposits (₹78,000 cr), insurance (₹14,000 cr), mutual funds (₹3,000 cr), dividends/shares (₹9,000 cr) + 100% digital, free, fraud-proof process + coordinated by RBI, IRDAI, SEBI, MCA + ₹2,000 cr returned in 2 months + supports financial inclusion, transparency & Viksit Bharat @2047.

NITI Aayog roadmap on internationalisation of higher education + proposes **Vishwa Bandhu scholarships and fellowships, Erasmus+ like programme, and eased regulations for foreign campuses** + aims to correct **inbound-outbound student imbalance (1:28 in 2024)** + projects **7.9-11 lakh international students by 2047** + suggests **Bharat Vidya Kosh \$10 bn fund**, updated curricula, and expanded **NIRF criteria** to meet **NEP 2020 goals**

SOCIAL ISSUES

India's doctor-population ratio of **1:811** shows progress + exposes major **healthcare disparities**; modern medicine and **AYUSH** widen the workforce + access remains weak in **rural/remote areas**; **hard-area allowances** try to attract specialists + challenges - poor **infrastructure**, uneven distribution, and heavy patient loads persist; bridging this gap needs **sustained investment** + stronger **primary healthcare** + equitable deployment to ensure **universal, quality care** for all.

The **Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA)** marks a major shift toward **integrated governance** by linking **health + nutrition + sanitation + welfare** through **20-ministry collaboration**, while large-scale community mobilisation via **Panchayats + SHGs + students** strengthens women as **active rights-claiming agents**. Rapid uptake of **digital health tools** (e.g., eSanjeevani, MCTS, breast cancer screening) expands access, though **digital gaps + privacy risks + Aadhaar failures** persist. A **gender-just digital health future** requires **low-tech solutions + co-design + stronger consent + empowered frontline workers**.

Recent government assessment shows **secondary retention remains weak + GER falling at middle and secondary levels** + boys leaving due to **financial pressure/work** + girls leaving for **domestic responsibilities + 72% dropouts aged 14-18** + exam failures increasing exclusion + govt using **NIOS outreach, incentives, fee waivers, flexible open schooling** + risk of **missing NEP 2020 100% GER**, widening **inequality** without stronger psychosocial and livelihood support for vulnerable students, address regional gaps, and stabilise long-term human capital outcomes in India

India recorded **45 bus fire incidents (2021-2025)** + **64 deaths + 145 injuries** + causes include **overheating engines + electrical failures + illegal fuel modifications + rear-end collisions** + despite **mandatory fire extinguishers, exits,**

detection & suppression systems, poor enforcement, unsafe private bus construction, combustible interiors, and untrained drivers worsen casualties + experts stress **stricter certification, crash testing, audits, ban unsafe modifications + driver fire-safety training, real-time vehicle monitoring, and strong penalties** essential for **passenger safety reform**

ECONOMY

Dakshina Kannada of Karnataka - designated a **District Export Hub (DEH) + seafood + cashew** export base and supporting **balanced + Focus - sustainable regional development + District Export Action Plan (DEAP)** focuses on improving **logistics + first-mile port connectivity**, expanding **warehousing**, and strengthening **processing infrastructure** + A **District Export Promotion Committee (DEPC)** coordinates action among **administration + exporters + port/customs agencies** to resolve bottlenecks

Bengaluru leads India as the Ethereum hub + ETH trading surges 6.6x to 230M while Bitcoin declines + **Ethereum becomes most-traded token** among tech investors + rising **Tier-2/3 participation (40%)** + persistent **gender gap** but improving + industry sees growth via **institutions, regulation, education** + calls for **unified regulatory framework** + capacity building boosted by CoinSwitch's **VDA Decoded** handbook.

RBI cut **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.25%** + cumulative **125 bps cuts** since Feb + inflation at **decadal low (CPI 0.25%)** + GDP growth strong at **8.2% six-quarter high** creating a **"rare Goldilocks period"** + lower EMLs & improved credit flow + ₹1 lakh crore **OMO bond purchase** + **\$5-billion sell swap** to stabilise rupee + policy stance **neutral**.

India's Construction Equipment industry growing **10-15% CAGR** + aims to become **2nd largest globally by 2030** overtaking **China** + targets **\$25B market size & global export hub** status + sells **1,40,000 machines** with **20% exports to 140 countries** + rapidly adopting **IoT/telematics, AI/ML, drones/robotics, digital twins, electrification, AR/VR, 3D printing** + aligned with **mega infrastructure & smart city** goals

Seven States contribute **more to total taxes** than their share in **devolutions** + **Maharashtra** shows biggest **negative gap** (36.1% taxes vs 6.65% devolutions) + other negative-gap States: **Karnataka, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Goa + Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan** receive **higher devolution** than their tax share + data based on **2020-21 to 2024-25** Finance Ministry figures

World Inequality Report 2026 edited by **Lucas Chancel, Ricardo Gómez-Carrera, Rowaida Moshrif & Thomas Piketty** highlights rising **income & wealth inequality in India** + top **10% earn 58%** of national income while bottom **50% get 15%** + wealth gap sharper with **top 10% owning 65%** and **top 1% owning 40%** + majority of Indians now in **bottom 50% globally + gender pay gap** stark as women earn **61% of men's hourly income** (32% incl. unpaid labour) + climate

inequality severe with **top 10% causing 77%** of private capital emissions vs **bottom 50% only 3%** + globally top 10% own **75% of wealth** while bottom 50% own **2%** + **Gini Index 25.5** indicates moderate inequality (scale 0–100) + rising inequality harms **social cohesion, growth & sustainable development** + demands **progressive taxation, redistribution, social spending & gender-sensitive policies** to ensure **inclusive development**.

India faces a structural **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** + surpluses occurred only in **2001–04** and **2020–21** + **current account covers goods, services, remittances & investment income** while **capital account covers FDI/FPI, ECBs, external assistance & NRI deposits + merchandise trade deficit** large at **\$286.9B (2024–25)** but **invisibles (software, services, remittances)** keep CAD manageable + CAD peaked at **\$78.2B (2011–12)** and **\$88.2B (2012–13)** + recent **rupee depreciation** driven by **capital account pressures**, not CAD + foreign capital inflows fell to **\$18B (2024–25)** vs **CAD \$23.1B** with **FDI/FPI dropping to \$4.5B** from **\$54.2B** + despite **~8% GDP growth**, investor inflows weakened + policy must target **FDI attraction, service exports & BoP stability** since **capital account shortfall**, not trade deficit, is causing rupee volatility.

Lok Sabha approval on December 15, 2025 of first batch of **Supplementary Demands for Grants (2025–26)** + enables **government spending beyond February 2025 Union Budget estimates** + authority derived from **Article 115 of the Constitution of India** allowing **additional fund requests** + procedure requires **Lok Sabha passage** followed by **Appropriation Bill** to withdraw from **Consolidated Fund of India** + **relatively low fiscal impact** due to **record ₹2.69 trillion RBI surplus transfer** earlier in the year

Finance Ministry unveiled a **new unified logo** for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** + reinforcing **single brand identity** under **‘One State One RRB’** + **Department of Financial Services** consolidated **26 RRBs** across **11 States/UTs** effective **May 1, 2025** + reform aims at **stronger, efficient RRBs** + supporting **policy and security goals**

India’s **startup ecosystem** raised **\$10.79 bn** in **2025 (15% decline YoY)** per Tracxn, signalling **structural correction not collapse** + **DeepTech, Manufacturing, AI, EnergyTech** drove growth + shift from **consumer apps to AI infrastructure** + **FinTech resilient** + **late-stage funding fell** while **IPOs rose** + **unicorn creation slowed**, indicating **maturity and profitability focus**.

India’s **exports** are increasingly **regionally concentrated** + **Top five States** account **~70%** with rising **HHI** + **Western–Southern coastal hubs** integrate into **GVCs** while **northern–eastern hinterlands lag** + **Global trade slowdown** + **capital favouring complexity** shrinks **labour-intensive windows** + **Capital deepening > labour absorption** with **stagnant manufacturing jobs (~12%)** + **Employment elasticity of exports falling** + **Credit–human capital gaps** widen regional divide + **Exports now reflect existing capacity, not inclusive**

development, demanding investment in skills, logistics, finance, and state capacity across lagging regions.

Arvind Subramanian argues **India’s manufacturing stagnation** + **unusual Dutch Disease** where **high public sector wages** raised costs, **appreciated real exchange rate**, hurt **competitiveness and exports** + **imports displaced local industry** under **freer trade** + **manufacturing failed to upgrade technologically** despite theory of **induced innovation** + **private sector dynamism without wage growth**, reliance on **cheap labour platforms**, weak **productivity leap** + outcome: **limited industrialisation, weak job creation**, rising **inequality**, and **services overshadowing manufacturing** in growth trajectory.

India’s **exports** projected at **~\$850 billion** in **FY 2025–26** + still **below \$1 trillion target** + despite active **FTA engagements (~18 FTAs)** + **services may cross \$400 bn** while **merchandise remains flat** + trade pressures from **weak global demand** + **rising protectionism** + **US tariffs** + **EU CBAM 2026** + limited gains from **FTAs** without **competitiveness, technology, diversification** + need stronger push for **manufacturing productivity** + **supply-chain resilience** + **infrastructure & logistics efficiency**

ENVIRONMENT

Cyclone Ditwah, formed south of Sri Lanka on **26 November**, caused **unusual large-scale damage** + Causes - **rare genesis near the equator** ; **slow, parallel track** along Sri Lanka’s east coast prolonged impact + country’s **low cyclone exposure**, limited **evacuation capacity**, and geography intensified losses.

The Government has approved the **National Coral Reef Research Institute (NCRRI)** in **South Andaman** + India’s **nodal monitoring agency** for **coral research, conservation, restoration** + **Coral reefs - 450-million-year ecosystems**, support **high biodiversity**, provide **\$375-billion ecosystem services**, and act as **natural coastal barriers** + Rising temperatures cause **coral bleaching**, as seen in **1998 + 2010 + 2014–17** + **ongoing global events** + India’s reefs span **2,375 sq km** (Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep, A&N), protected under **CRZ 2019** + **WPA 1972** + **EPA 1986**.

The **26th Hornbill Festival** began in **Nagaland** on **1st December** + known as the **“Festival of Festivals”** + named after the **Great Hornbill** found in **evergreen and moist deciduous forests** + classified as **Vulnerable** by **IUCN** + protected under **Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972** + **Greater Hornbills** found in **Western Ghats and Himalayas** + **state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala**

Five products from **Tamil Nadu** secured **GI tags**, taking the state’s total to **74** + these are **Woraiyur cotton sari, Kavindapadi nattu sakkarai (jaggery powder), Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware), Thooyamalli rice variety, and Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys)**

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Every year, **December 4** is marked as **International Cheetah Day** to raise awareness about the shrinking Cheetah population.

On **December 1**, **Madras High Court** ordered **temple authorities** to light the ceremonial **“Karthigai Deepam” lamp** at the **Deepathoon** stone pillar on **Thirupparankundram Hill** + lamp to be lit **near but not within** the **Sulthan Sikkandar Avulia Dargah** premises + **Thirupparankundram Hill** historically symbolizes **religious coexistence and communal harmony**, housing **Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Kasi Viswanathar Temple, and Sikkander Badusha Dargah**, a **17th-century mosque** + hill was **controversial earlier in 2025** after some **Muslim groups** demanded **renaming** it **Sikkandar Hill**

Quarrying paused in Telangana to protect **endangered Rock Eagle Owl eggs** + species under **Schedule I** + **IUCN population decreasing** + threats include **poaching worth ₹35–40 lakh/bird** + incubation **6–8 weeks** + **human access restricted** to avoid abandonment + shows **community-led conservation success** in industrial zone.

Govt says offshore mining blocks exclude Marine Protected Areas + 130 MPAs & 106 ICMBAs already notified for conservation + Kerala saw **major protests** over proposed sand, lime mud & polymetallic nodule mining + **no companies selected yet** after 2024 auction proposal + operations require **environmental management plans** under 2024 rules + **Offshore Areas Mineral Trust** to fund research & mitigation for ecological impacts

Western tragopan (Critically Endangered Himalayan pheasant & Himachal’s state bird) now survives in **fragmented pockets** with only **3,000–9,500 individuals** + climate change & human disturbance worsen decline + surveys from **Kazinag & Limber (J&K)** and rare sightings in **GHNP** show habitat persists but is threatened + **Sarahan Pheasantry** achieved world’s first captive breeding success with **46 captive birds** today, retaining **87% genetic diversity** + captive breeding acts only as an **insurance policy**, not a substitute for **in-situ conservation** + climate variability disrupting **breeding–insect synchrony** risks chick starvation + **rewilding stalled since 2023** due to budget & protocol gaps after initial promise in 2020–21 + long-term survival requires **habitat protection, climate-adaptive models, phased rewilding, and community-led conservation** through eco-tourism + overall, the species remains **on the edge of survival** despite ex-situ successes.

Delhi winter AQI deterioration (294–Poor) + **policy misdirection in air pollution control** + overfocus on **PM10** while neglecting **PM2.5 (most lethal pollutant)** that **penetrates lungs & bloodstream** + **NCAP targets only PM10 (40% by 2026)** + weak **CPCB/SPCB capacity** & cosmetic measures like **smog guns** + global lessons show need for **PM2.5-centric, airshed-based, health-linked governance** to make **India’s clean air mission effective**

Siliserh Lake (Alwar, Rajasthan) declared **Ramsar Site under Convention on Wetlands, 1971** + **India’s Ramsar sites rise to 96** (from 26 in 2014) + **5th Ramsar site in Rajasthan** + **freshwater wetland in semi-arid region** supporting **100+ bird species, groundwater recharge & microclimate regulation** + **boosts biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, water security & climate resilience**, marking progress towards **100 Ramsar sites milestone**

Bengal Tiger spotted at 3,010 metres in **Sunderdhunga glacier valley, Bageshwar (Uttarakhand)** under a **government camera-trap project** originally meant for **snow leopard study** + **rare high-altitude subalpine forest presence** raises questions on **tiger movement from Terai to higher Himalayas** + species shows **orange coat with dark stripes** due to **genetic mutation** + **Scientific name: Panthera tigris** + **WPA, 1972: Schedule I** + **IUCN status: Endangered** + **CITES: Appendix I** + inhabits **tropical rainforests, mangroves, grasslands, temperate and evergreen forests** + **Indian distribution** across **Shivalik-Gangetic plains, Central India & Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats, North-East & Brahmaputra floodplains, and Sundarbans**

India’s Ramsar Sites rise to 96 with inclusion of **Siliserh Lake (Rajasthan)** and **Kopra Jalashay (Chhattisgarh)** + **Kopra Jalashay becomes Chhattisgarh’s first Ramsar site** + reservoir located in **upper catchments of River Mahanadi** + supports **60+ migratory bird species** used for **nesting, feeding and stopover** + notable species include **Vulnerable Greater Spotted Eagle (Aquila clanga)** and **Endangered Egyptian Vulture (Neophron percnopterus)** + **Siliserh Lake** is a **human-made wetland** in the **buffer zone of Sariska Tiger Reserve** + located in a **semi-arid region** and acts as a **critical water source for regional biodiversity**

India unveils updated Seismic Zonation Map under BIS Earthquake Design Code 2025 (IS 1893) + introduces **new highest-risk Zone VI** + places **61% landmass and ~75% population** in **moderate-to-high seismic risk** + classifies entire **Himalayan belt uniformly as Zone VI** + upgrades **inter-zonal boundaries to higher risk** + shifts to **Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA)** and **Probabilistic Exposure & Multi-Hazard Assessment (PEMA)** + expands focus from **structural elements to architectural elements & utilities** + strengthens **resilient infrastructure, urban planning and disaster preparedness**.

Study affirms Kerala’s richest butterfly diversity in the **Western Ghats** + documents **328 species** in Kerala, including **41 Western Ghats endemics** + based on monograph **‘The Butterflies of Kerala: Status and Distribution’** published in **ENTOMON** + notes **337 species** across the **Western Ghats**, with Kerala hosting **nearly entire diversity** + covers **six families** led by **Nymphalidae (97), Lycaenidae (96) & Hesperidae (82)** + records **36 migratory species**, highlighting Kerala as a **key seasonal corridor** + identifies **22 species** in **IUCN Red List** (mostly **Least Concern, 2 Near Threatened**) + reports **70 species protected under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, with **4 under Schedule I** + includes

major larval host plant checklist with 1,800+ feeding records, 350 new observations across ~800 plant species, making it one of India's largest region-specific compilations

Supreme Court (Nov 2025) settled uniform legal definition of Aravalli hills (≥ 100 m elevation) + paused fresh/renewed mining leases across Delhi–Haryana–Rajasthan–Gujarat + based on CEC recommendations recognising Aravallis as ecologically fragile national infrastructure + crucial for desertification control, groundwater recharge, climate regulation, biodiversity corridors + linked to UNCCD obligations + addresses four decades of mining-induced groundwater depletion, habitat loss, air pollution + adopts sustainable use over total ban + mandates scientific mapping, macro-EIA, no-go zones, regulated mining, restoration + reinforces inter-generational equity and environmental rule of law.

Southern Ocean carbon anomaly: A October study in Nature Climate Change finds higher CO₂ absorption since early 2000s, defying climate model projections + despite stronger westerlies and upwelling, freshwater stratification from rainfall and Antarctic ice melt formed a “freshwater lid” trapping carbon below + shows models incomplete not wrong + warns this is a temporary reprieve as salinity rises and mixing may resume, reviving carbon sink weakening.

Supreme Court of India reaffirmed non-negotiable conservation of the Great Indian Bustard + held humans as “guests in the bird's abode” while hearing a 2019 Article 32 petition + noted <150 individuals left, endemic grassland species, Schedule I WPA, IUCN Critically Endangered + approved expert panel's balanced approach revising priority habitats in Rajasthan & Gujarat, mandating in-situ/ex-situ conservation, restricting renewables in key areas, recognising Bishnoi ethic, and strengthening long-term recovery programmes, underscoring constitutional duty to protect biodiversity.

Science study on rhino conservation shows dehorning sharply cuts poaching + global rhinos <28,000 with horn trade as key threat + Greater Kruger data reveal huge losses despite massive spending + dehorning removes 90–93% horn humanely + results: 75% fall in poaching, up to 95% lower risk + cost-effective ($\approx 1.2\%$ budgets) using Bayesian analysis + not a silver bullet as governance, justice gaps persist + works best within mixed strategy + community inclusion + demand reduction, not standalone.

Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris launches AI-enabled Command & Control Centre in Gudalur Division + hotspot for human–elephant conflict + uses 46 AI cameras (infrared + thermal) based on 10 years movement data + gives real-time alerts, speaker warnings, SMS notifications + linked to railway safety network + earlier pilot led to zero elephant deaths & 6,000 safe crossings + aims to reduce casualties, protect crops & property, strengthen coexistence + needs scaling, maintenance funding, community participation, national corridor policy

CREA analysis shows ~1/3 of Delhi's PM2.5 comes from secondary ammonium sulfate + forms when SO₂ → sulfate + reacts with ammonia + highest share post-monsoon (49%) + winter (41%) + India is world's largest SO₂ emitter (~11.2 MT) + sources include coal plants + industry + agriculture + regional, transboundary pollution not just local + PM2.5 causes severe respiratory–cardiac health risks + urgent need for FGD enforcement + cleaner fuels + ammonia management + industrial controls + coordinated regional action

NITK develops ML-based landslide early warning system for Western Ghats + region accounts for ~60% of India's landslides, mostly rainfall-triggered + replaces rainfall-only alerts with SVALSA integrating rainfall, soil behaviour, surface deformation, hydrological data + powered by Python, KNN model, 3-stage warnings + aims to reduce false alarms, give reliable community alerts + funded by DST/IMPRINT/National Technical Textiles Mission + addresses residual soil instability + boosts disaster preparedness, community resilience & climate adaptation

India set to lead Indian Ocean Region with 100+ UNESCO-certified ‘Tsunami-Ready’ villages + ensures public awareness, hazard mapping, evacuation routes, 24x7 alerts, mock drills & coordinated response + currently 24 certified, major push from Odisha (72 soon) + others: Gujarat, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar + backed by INCOIS & ITEWC for real-time monitoring + boosts community resilience, local leadership, readiness for tsunamis, cyclones & storm surges + aligns with Sendai Framework and national disaster preparedness

Kashmir's apple industry (75–78% of India's output) + rising concern over occupational pesticide exposure, not consumer risk + SKIMS studies report higher malignant brain tumour incidence, pesticide residues in blood + exposure to Chlorpyrifos, Mancozeb, Captan flagged for neurotoxicity & carcinogenic risk + workers face respiratory issues, skin problems, metabolic impacts + risks worsened by frequent spraying, poor safety gear, low awareness, runoff pollution + experts urge health screening, strict monitoring, training, PPE access, safer alternatives & long-term research

SCIENCE

GPS spoofing - incidents detected at 7 major airports incl. Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai + spoofers send strong fake GPS signals + risk to navigation & landing precision + DGCA mandates reporting, WMO tracking sources + flights safe due to contingency procedures + backup aids like ILS & VOR/DME + authorities boosting cybersecurity & monitoring to ensure aviation safety

The DoT's new directive mandates SIM binding for messaging apps + continuous IMSI verification instead of one-time OTP to curb rising digital fraud + Rule under Telecommunication Cybersecurity Amendment Rules 2025 + aims to prevent impersonation and cloned-number misuse but raises privacy + usability concerns due to frequent logouts and challenges for travellers

Interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS is releasing **high levels of carbon-based chemicals** + observations show unusually high **methanol**, a **key prebiotic molecule** + methanol acts as a **building block for complex molecules linked to origins of life** + comets are **dust, rock, and ice remnants** from the **formation of the solar system 4.6 billion years ago** + **three interstellar comets identified: Oumuamua, 2I/Borisov, and 3I/ATLAS** + **Oumuamua**, meaning “**messenger from afar**” in Hawaiian, was detected by **Pan-STARRS1 telescope in 2017**

C-CAMP launched **Centre of Excellence for Sustainability & Climate Change** + partnership with **Ashraya Hasta Trust** + focus on **climate-ready agriculture, healthcare & environment** + aims for **bioscience-based climate solutions** + scale to **30 innovations in 3 years** + targets **methane-cutting crops, resilient crop strains, disease surveillance** + strengthens India’s **climate-adaptation capacity**.

NATGRID now receives **~45,000 data requests/month** + operational since **2023** + integrates **Aadhaar, bank, DL, travel & limited social media data** + expanded access to **state police & SP-level officers** + enables **real-time multi-agency intelligence** + reduces inter-agency dependence + boosts **early threat detection amid rising cyber-incidents**.

India’s first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel flagged off by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** at **Namo Ghat, Varanasi** + first Indian maritime demonstration of **hydrogen fuel-cell propulsion** using **fully indigenous technology** + powered by **Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (LT-PEM) fuel cell** converting **hydrogen to electricity** with **water as the only byproduct** + marks shift towards **clean, sustainable and self-reliant transport** + vessel capacity **50 passengers, air-conditioned cabin, 8 hours operation on single hydrogen fill** + **Cochin Shipyard Ltd. and Inland & Coastal Shipping Ltd.** signed tripartite agreement for **technical support, operations and oversight**

GlowCas9 developed by **scientists at Bose Institute, Kolkata (DST autonomous institute)** + **bioluminescent Cas9** created by fusing **Cas9 with split nano-luciferase enzyme** derived from **deep-sea shrimp proteins** + enables **real-time visualization of genome editing inside living cells** + pioneers **theratracking**—the emerging field of **tracking molecular gene therapy in motion**

Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced **Project Suncatcher** + long-term research initiative to deploy **solar-powered data centres in space by 2027** + plan involves **solar-powered satellite constellations** equipped with **Tensor Processing Units (TPUs)**—Google’s patented chips for **high-volume, low-precision computation** + use of **optical inter-satellite links** to scale **machine learning and AI workloads in space** + aims to explore **energy-efficient, next-generation computing infrastructure beyond Earth**

Scientists capture first real-time footage of influenza virus entry into human cells + reveals viruses “**surf**” along the cell

membrane by binding to **specific surface molecules** instead of passive entry + **virus glides to receptor-dense clustered sites** that offer **optimal entry points** + host cell actively participates by **forming a membrane pit** beneath the virus + **clathrin protein** deepens the pit, creating a **vesicle via endocytosis** + vesicle is internalised, viral **outer coat dissolves**, and the virus is **released to initiate infection**, reshaping understanding of **early flu infection mechanisms**

ISRO releases RESPOND Basket 2025 aligned with **current & future mission requirements** + unveiled by **ISRO Chairperson V. Narayanan** at **ISRO–Academia Day inauguration** + emphasises **academia’s role** in providing **innovative ideas, advanced research & skilled human resources** + **RESPOND programme** enables **collaborative research** to address **complex technological challenges** + includes **urgent & critical research problems** identified by **ISRO and Department of Space centres/units** + features **technical talks by ISRO scientists** outlining **mission-driven needs & expected outcomes** + invites **research proposals** from **premier universities & recognised R&D institutions** + supports **upcoming missions & national priorities** + **last date for submission: January 31, 2026**

Project Suncatcher announced by **Google CEO Sundar Pichai** + **moonshot research initiative** + aims to deploy **solar-powered space data centres by 2027** + envisions **satellite constellations as AI data hubs** + uses **continuous solar energy, laser optical links and TPUs** + responds to **AI-driven surge in energy, water and carbon costs of terrestrial data centres** + enabled by **reusable rockets** + raises **governance, cybersecurity and space regulation challenges**.

DHRUV64, an **indigenous 64-bit dual-core (1 GHz) RISC-V microprocessor**, launched by **MeitY** and developed by **C-DAC** under the **Microprocessor Development Programme**, supports **industrial automation, telecom, embedded and strategic systems** + strengthens **Atmanirbhar Bharat** via **cybersecurity, supply-chain resilience and strategic autonomy** + aligns with **DIR-V (open-source ISA, no licence fees)** + complements initiatives like **SHAKTI, AJIT, VIKRAM, THEJAS** + backed by **DLI, Chips to Startup and India Semiconductor Mission**, though **benchmarks, fabrication and ecosystem details remain undisclosed**.

ISRO’s LVM3 M6 mission on December 24 + **commercial launch for U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile** + deployment of **BlueBird Block-2 satellite** + **next-generation space-based cellular broadband** delivering **high-speed connectivity directly to smartphones worldwide** + supports **commercial and government use** + builds on **five BlueBird satellites launched in Sept 2024** + **largest commercial communication satellite in low Earth orbit** + backed by **partnerships with 50+ global mobile operators**

Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine + jointly organised by **WHO and Ministry of Ayush, Government of India** + held **17–19 December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** + theme “**Restoring balance:**



The science and practice of health and well-being” + global leaders, policymakers, scientists, practitioners and Indigenous knowledge holders deliberate on equitable, sustainable and evidence-driven health systems

ISRO successfully conducts on-ground & in-air parachute tests for Gaganyaan + mission aims to send Indian astronauts to LEO by 2027 and build indigenous human spaceflight capability + recent tests focused on drogue parachutes under extreme 600 km/h conditions at TBRL Chandigarh + ensured controlled reefed opening, stability, safety, and soft sea splashdown + part of 10-parachute recovery system + places India with USA–Russia–China league + strengthens reliability, astronaut protection, & strategic space capability

ISRO’s LVM3-M6 successfully launches BlueBird Block-2 (~6,100 kg) from Sriharikota + heaviest commercial satellite launched from India + placed in 518 km LEO in 15 minutes + enables direct 4G/5G connectivity, voice–text–internet streaming, internet everywhere vision + mission executed by NSIL with AST SpaceMobile (USA) + boosts India’s commercial launch market standing + shows mega payload capability, strengthens LEO communication infrastructure + reinforces Aatmanirbhar Bharat, heavy-lift leadership, supports Gaganyaan readiness

PNAS study shows high-altitude mosquitoes (West Africa) can carry infectious pathogens + evidence from helium-balloon sampling (120–290 m) + DNA & PCR testing found Plasmodium (8%) + flaviviruses (3.5%) + filarial worms (1.6%) + proves wind-assisted migration across tens-hundreds of km + risk of long-range disease spread without human movement + Dengue, West Nile detected + reveals sylvatic transmission threat + demands monitoring aerial corridors + wind-based forecasting + stronger downwind surveillance & rapid public-health response

RGI’s Annual Report (2023) shows circulatory diseases as leading cause of medically certified deaths (36.4%) + slight fall from 40% in 2022 + only 22% deaths medically certified, big state-wise variation + highest mortality in 70+, followed by 55–64 yrs, worrying rise in 15+ group + heart diseases form majority + linked to sedentary lifestyle, stress, tobacco–alcohol, poor diet + exposes weak certification infrastructure + calls for NCD prevention, screening, lifestyle awareness, stronger medical certification systems

DEFENCE

DRDO successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of an indigenous fighter aircraft escape system at the Rail Track Rocket Sled facility (TBRL, Chandigarh) + validated canopy severance, ejection sequencing, and aircrew recovery + carried out with HAL & ADA, marking a major boost to India’s escape-system capability.

Second edition of the India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE–II, scheduled to be held at Abu Dhabi

Indian Navy commissioned second MH-60R squadron INAS 335 (Ospreys) at INS Hansa, Goa on 11 Dec 2024 + US-made Sikorsky–Lockheed Martin multi-role helicopters + boost ASW, anti-surface warfare, surveillance, SAR + enhance maritime domain awareness in IOR amid Chinese–Pakistani naval activity + align with Aatmanirbhar Bharat via indigenisation + part of ₹15,000+ crore deal (2020) for 24 helicopters, strengthening SLOC protection and deterrence.

Indian Navy inducted Anjadip, 3rd of 8 ASW-SWCs, built indigenously by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers with L&T Shipyard under PPP + 77-m waterjet-propelled craft optimised for shallow waters + equipped with torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets, sonar, 30-mm gun + boosts coastal ASW, IOR security, maritime domain awareness + >80% indigenous content advancing Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah urges States to adopt uniform NIA-designed ATS framework + ensures standard SOPs, coordinated counter-terror response, national preparedness + launches Organised Crime Network Database + Lost/Looted & Recovered Weapon Database as part of Zero-Terror Policy + strengthens intelligence sharing, inter-agency coordination, operational efficiency + integrates tools like NATGRID & NIDAAN to track terror-organised crime nexus + addresses lessons from recent terror incidents + aims to eliminate siloed policing and build watertight investigation ecosystem

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Myanmar’s opium poppy cultivation hit its highest level in a decade, with the UNODC’s 2025 Opium Survey reporting a 17% rise from 2024 to 53,100 hectares + the country remains the world’s main illicit opium source after Afghanistan’s decline post-Taliban ban + Myanmar is also the largest methamphetamine producer + rising opium prices (now \$329/kg, double 2019) and civil war-driven poverty are pushing farmers deeper into opium harvesting.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar – elected as Chairman of the Council of Member States of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for 2026 + International IDEA - intergovernmental organization + supports and strengthens democratic institutions and electoral processes worldwide + Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden + regional offices across Europe, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa, West Asia, and North America + it also holds the status of an official UN Observer

The interconnected world demands stronger multilateralism + nations collaborate through rules-based institutions to address shared challenges (trade, climate, migration, debt, geopolitics) + 2025 G20 Summit revived debate on its relevance + multilateralism built on shared norms, open markets, institutional cooperation but strained by great-power rivalry, de-globalisation, populist nationalism, institutional paralysis + weakening consensus



on **climate finance, energy transition, health governance** + reforms needed for **inclusive, representative, responsive** global governance.

India & Russia to set up defence joint ventures + key outcome of **Modi–Putin summit** + Russia to enable **local production of spares, components & defence equipment via technology transfer** under **Make in India** + potential localisation of **Su-57** proposed + Foreign Secretary confirms **robust military cooperation** + existing successes include **BrahMos, AK-203 rifles, Su-30 MKI & MiG-21** production + both sides praise **regular military contacts & Indra exercises**, reaffirming commitment to deeper defence collaboration.

US expands social-media vetting to all H-1B applicants & dependents from Dec 15 + part of wider **security-focused scrutiny** already applied to **F/M/J visas** + follows steep **H-1B fee hike** & push for **public social-media disclosure** + impacts **India-US ties** as **Indians receive ~72%** of H-1B visas + H-1B enables hiring in **high-skill specialty roles** with **6-year max stay** under **65k+20k caps** + restrictions affect **talent mobility, tech workforce flows & bilateral economic engagement**

US NDAA 2026 outlines **Indo-Pacific defence priorities** reflecting rising **India–US alignment** amid China’s assertiveness + expands **alliances & partnerships** to strengthen US comparative advantage + deepens engagement with India via **Quad cooperation, military exercises, defence trade, HADR, and maritime security coordination** + supports India’s role in maintaining a **free & open Indo-Pacific** + creates a new **Defence Industrial Base Cooperation initiative** to boost **industrial linkages, supply-chain resilience & interoperability** with partners including **India, Japan, Australia, South Korea, Philippines & New Zealand** + proposes a **joint consultative mechanism** under the **US–India Strategic Security Dialogue** for regular high-level exchanges + enhances India’s **strategic leverage, technology access, and maritime capabilities** in countering China.

Trump’s ‘gold card’ goes live + offers **fast-track US residency** for **\$1M individuals/\$2M corporations** + replaces **EB-5** with a **revamped, stronger path to citizenship** + aims to attract **top global talent** + promises **billions in revenue** for the US government + removes mention of **job-creation rules/caps** while highlighting demand from businesses for **hiring top graduates**

India excluded from US-led Pax Silica + initiative seeks **secure silicon & critical minerals supply chains** amid **China diversification** + members include **Japan, South Korea, EU allies & Australia** + India’s absence reflects **limited semiconductor, AI & advanced manufacturing capacity**, not strategic drift + India already part of **Minerals Security Partnership (2023)** + **National Critical Mineral Mission (2025)** & **QUAD cooperation** keep scope for **future inclusion**

India–Oman CEPA signed in **Muscat** + **Oman zero-duty on 98.08% tariff lines (38% Indian exports)** + **India tariff**

removal on 79% products (94.81% import value) + **100% FDI** in Omani services + **logistics, IT, healthcare boost** + **labour mobility** for Indians + **local currency trade talks** + **energy security (crude, LNG, fertilisers)** + **gateway to West Asia–Africa** + **6th NDA trade pact**, complementing **India–UAE CEPA**.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

World Athletics Awards: Armand “Mondo” Duplantis named **Athlete of the Year** + set **4 pole vault records (2025)** + **6.30m Tokyo, 14th world record**, unbeaten in **16 events** + **Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone** wins women’s title with **2nd-fastest 400m**, championship record + other winners: **Emmanuel Wanyonyi, Nicola Olyslagers, Maria Perez**

Karnataka Sports Boost: CM Siddaramaiah makes **Ekalavya Awards annual** + assures **cash prizes & govt jobs** for **Olympic medalists** + **60 athletes** prepped for **LA 2028** with **₹10 lakh/year** + **32 athletes** honored + **Lifetime Achievement, Karnataka Kreedha Ratna, Sports Patron** awards strengthen **sports ecosystem**

Kashi Tamil Sangamam: focuses on **Tamil language promotion** + celebrates **Kashi–Tamil civilizational ties** + initiatives include **language learning, student exchanges, Sage Agastya expedition** + contextual amid **NEP 2020 three-language debate** + **TN opposes imposition**, Centre says **no forced language** + aligns with **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** promoting **cultural bonding & multilingualism**

The new PMO complex, earlier called the **Executive Enclave**, will now be known as **Seva Teerth** + is in its final construction stage under the **Central Vista redevelopment** + Will house the **Prime Minister’s Office, Cabinet Secretariat, National Security Council Secretariat, and India House** (venue for talks with visiting dignitaries) + is designed to reflect the **spirit of service**.

The Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) has been **renamed** as the **Centre for Badminton Excellence (CBE)** from **October 1** + The academy, founded in **1994** by **Padukone, U. Vimal Kumar, and Vivek Kumar** + trained stars like **Gopichand, Saina, Sindhu, Lakshya Sen**

India’s first comprehensive Silk Museum in Mysuru + **proposed by Central Silk Board** + **to be built on 3 acres inside CSRTI campus** + **cost ₹20 crore** + **partial funding (₹5 crore)** from Culture Ministry under **Silk Scheme** + DPR via tendered agency + completion in **2 years** post funding + showcases full **soil-to-sartorial silk journey** + covers **Mulberry, Tussar, Muga, Eri** + highlights major silk traditions like **Mysore Silk, Kanjeevaram, Banarasi** etc. + includes **Centre of Excellence & Seri-tourism Zone** (cultivation → rearing → reeling → weaving) + raw silk production rising (**38,948 MT → 41,121 MT**) + mulberry cultivation expanding in Karnataka + challenges include **1,500–2,000 MT** raw silk imports + govt support via **Silk Samagra** scheme

Cyclone Ditwah wreaks havoc in Sri Lanka + causing **153 deaths**, massive floods, landslides, and displacement of

200,000 people + crippling infrastructure in Western Province, Kandy, Badulla + India launches **Operation Sagar Bandhu** with IAF and Navy delivering relief supplies + **INS Vikrant** and **INS Udaigiri** assist + IMD warns India's east coast of imminent landfall + highlighting **India's humanitarian diplomacy** and regional disaster cooperation amid record rainfall, widespread power outages affecting millions and prompting school closures and urgent evacuations across multiple districts.

Dr Tessy Thomas, renowned **aerospace engineer** behind India's **strategic missile programme**, honoured with **8th Paulos Mar Gregorios Award 2025** for **outstanding contribution in women empowerment, space, and missile technology** + award instituted in memory of **Paulos Mar Gregorios**, scholar, theologian, and former **President of World Council of Churches**

Siddhi Jain became first **female cadet** awarded **President's Medal for overall order of merit** + selected for **149th NDA course**, second batch of **female cadets** + women's entry into **NDA** enabled after **Supreme Court interim order, August 2021** allowing eligible women to appear for **NDA and Indian Naval Academy exams**

Australia has become the **first country** to impose a nationwide ban on social media access for children under 16.

Italian cooking rituals added to **UNESCO intangible heritage** + highlights **cultural traditions** of preparing & sharing food (family lunches, grandmother-taught skills, communal meals) + celebrates **identity & heritage** beyond specific dishes + recognised for **love, care & social bonding** in Italian culinary culture + praised by **Premier Giorgia Meloni**

President Droupadi Murmu meets **India's 2025 women's World Boxing Champions** + boxers praised for **exceptional performances** + **Jasmine & Minakshi** win gold, **Nupur** wins silver, **Pooja Rani** wins bronze at the **Liverpool WBC 2025**

UNESCO inscribes **Deepavali** on its **Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** under the **2003 ICH Convention** + celebrates **victory of light over darkness, regional diversity, and universal values** of hope & harmony + selected for its **mythological depth, community continuity, and cultural significance** + inclusion announced during **UNESCO event at Red Fort, New Delhi** + **Deepavali** becomes **India's 16th ICH element** alongside **Yoga, Garba, Ramlila, Vedic chanting**, etc. + enhances **India's soft power, boosts cultural diplomacy, and promotes heritage preservation, traditional arts, community pride, and cultural tourism.**

Germany's dominance in **FIH Junior Men's Hockey WC = 13 podiums in 14 editions** + only miss in **2005** + **8th title** won in **Madurai/Chennai** vs Spain + success built on **strong club pipeline + mastered fundamentals + structured systems & communication + willpower, self-belief, crunch-time mentality** + shootout heroics from **Jasper Ditzer** + showcases **excellence, not perfection**

International Anti-Corruption Day observed on **9 December (since 2005)** + aims to raise awareness against corruption under **UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)** + **2025 theme: "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity"** + **11th Conference of States Parties to UNCAC** scheduled **15-19 December 2025 in Doha, Qatar**

Human Rights Day observed on **10 December** marking adoption of **UDHR (1948, Paris)** by **UN General Assembly** + **2025 theme: "Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials"**

India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025 held at **Vivekananda Hall, CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi** + jointly organised by **CSIR-NIScPR and CSIR-NPL** + theme **"Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Aatmanirbhar Bharat"** promoting science-led self-reliance and growth

India hosted the **20th session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** from December 8 to 13, 2025, at the **historic Red Fort in New Delhi.**

Artist Nnena Kalu becomes **first artist with a learning disability** to win the **Turner Prize** + **autistic with limited verbal communication** + awarded for **cocoon-like sculptures** made by **twisting, swirling and knotting found fabric and VHS tape** + **Turner Prize** established in **1984**, named after **JMW Turner** + honours a **British artist or one working primarily in Britain / British-born working globally**

Vijay Diwas commemorated in **Assam** at **Assam State War Memorial** by **Directorate of Sainik Welfare** + honours **India's 1971 victory over Pakistan** leading to creation of **Bangladesh** + tribute paid by **defence personnel and veterans** + notable attendees included **Lt Gen Pranab Kumar Bharali (retd), Maj Gen Purnananda Das (retd), Brig Abani Kumar Pait (retd)** sharing **wartime experiences** + '**Amar Swaheed Shradhanjali**' event honoured **widows of fallen soldiers** + **Brig Ajit Kumar Bora**, **Group Commander NCC Group HQ Guwahati**, also present on the solemn occasion

Tripura government's plan to reconstruct Jackson Gate (Agartala) revives debates on **heritage conservation, historical memory and cultural identity** + built in **1929** as the gateway to **Ujjayanta Palace** by **Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya** to mark **Sir Francis Stanley Jackson's visit** + **Charminar-inspired design** symbolised **royal diplomacy & planned urban vision** + demolished in **1981** citing road widening + reconstruction underscores **state responsibility to preserve collective memory.**

Powerlifter Vishwas Gowda P. wins **three gold medals** in **90 kg category** at **WRPF World Championship 2025** + event held in **Moscow, Russia** from **December 4-7** + tops **Full Powerlifting, Bench Press & Push Pull** events + achievement brings **international recognition to Indian powerlifting** through a **dominant performance** at the **prestigious championship**

Rashtrapati Bhavan displays portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees + replaces 96 British Aide-de-Camps portraits + Param Vir Chakra is India's highest military honour for exceptional valour, courage & sacrifice in war + President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates 'Param Vir Dirgha' gallery on Vijay Divas + initiative honours fallen soldiers and educates visitors about national heroes + described as step toward shedding colonial mindset and embracing India's culture, heritage & sanatan values + part of wider decolonisation efforts including Rajpath renamed Kartavya Path, Navy ensign redesign, Indian instruments at Beating Retreat, renaming of islands & places, and Mughal Garden renamed Amrit Udyan

Bengaluru leads India as top founder residence with 88 self-made entrepreneurs + highlighted in IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025 + ranks 200 India-headquartered companies by market cap & valuation + total company value rises 15% to ₹42 lakh crore (\$469 bn) + Bengaluru remains top startup hub with 52 companies, followed by Mumbai (41) and Gurugram (36) + Deepinder Goyal (Eternal) tops list with ₹3.2 lakh crore valuation + Swiggy co-founders rank 5th with ₹1.06 lakh crore + list features young founders, veterans like Ashok Soota (82), and 20 women entrepreneurs led by Falguni & Adwaita Nayar (Nykaa) + InterGlobe Aviation founders enter top-3 with ₹2.2 lakh crore valuation + reflects strong startup growth, rising valuations & increased employee benefits

Former IAS officer Raj Kumar Goyal sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of the Central Information Commission by President Droupadi Murmu + appointment fills vacancy since September after Heeralal Samariya demitted office + CIC heads the Commission, which can have up to 10 Information Commissioners + currently includes Anandi Ramalingam & Vinod Kumar Tiwari

World 25K Kolkata saw Joshua Cheptegei dominate from start to finish to win the men's race in 1:11:49 + sealing his maiden title ahead of Alphonse Felix Siumbu and Tebello Ramakongoana + Degitu Azimeraw delivered a wire-to-wire victory to clinch the international elite women's title in 1:19:36, dethroning Sutume Asefa Kebede + India's Gulveer Singh and Seema rewrote course records in their elite categories, with Gulveer impressing after mixing with the international field to finish in 1:12:06

Rs 6 crore prize announced for gold-winning Olympians + Rs 4 crore silver + Rs 3 crore bronze + Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah at KOA Awards 2025, Bengaluru + sports quota govt jobs from Jan 2026 + 3% reservation in Police & Forest + 2% in other departments + KOA honours top & emerging athletes including Ayush Shetty, SD Prajwal Dev, Pranavi Urs, Divya TS and Unnathi Aiyappa

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted at Hampi that Vijayanagara Empire's model of "Prosperity for All"—combining inclusive agrarian growth + state-backed

trade and artisans + robust irrigation and urban infrastructure + religious-cultural pluralism + decentralised yet accountable governance (Nayankara system) + state as economic enabler not controller—offers enduring lessons for India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision by aligning growth, equity, institutions and culture into a single development framework.

Porunai (Thamirabarani River Civilisation) Museum inaugurated in Tirunelveli by Tamil Nadu government + ₹33 crore, 54,296 sq ft, 6-block museum showcasing path-breaking archaeology of southern Tamil Nadu + Sivakalai evidence (~5300 years BP) proves world's oldest Iron Age, pushing back iron smelting timeline + exhibits from Adichanallur (burial urns) and Korkai (Pandya port) + covers Palaeolithic to Early Historic periods, reinforcing India's deep civilisational antiquity.

Deepti Sharma becomes World No. 1 Women's T20I Bowler in ICC Rankings + first time in her career + rises to top with 737 rating points + overtakes Annabel Sutherland (Australia) + marks India's growing dominance in women's cricket + reinforces Deepti's impact as a match-winning all-rounder + Smriti Mandhana remains India's top-ranked batter, holding 3rd position, underlining India's strong presence across batting and bowling rankings.

Veer Bal Diwas is observed on 26 December + commemorates the bravery at Anandpur Sahib Fort when Guru Gobind Singh and followers were forced to flee + highlights the capture of his young sons Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh by Mughal forces + they bravely refused conversion to Islam + were bricked alive in 1705 on orders of Wazir Khan + the day was officially declared in 2022 to honour their supreme sacrifice, courage, and unwavering faith.

Good Governance Day is observed on 25 December + marks the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee + announced in 2014 to reinforce the spirit of responsible governance + aims to create awareness among citizens about accountability, transparency, and ethical administration + encourages efficient service delivery, citizen-centric policies, and responsive government systems + promotes commitment among civil servants to uphold good governance values and strengthen democratic governance in India.

Punjab grants 'Holy City' status to Amritsar, Anandpur Sahib & Talwandi Sabo + linked to Sikh Takhts & deep historical-religious significance + bans on liquor, tobacco/cigarettes & meat in notified areas + aims to preserve sanctity, boost faith tourism & strengthen cultural identity + plans better pilgrim mobility & infrastructure + concerns include livelihood impact, community differences, implementation challenges + key governance test of balancing religion, economy & diversity under a policy framework

NOTES

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