

# ನಮ್ಮ FORESIGHT

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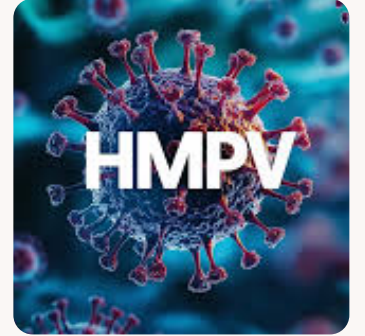
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

JANUARY-2025

## NEWS-INSHORTS



- Human metapneumovirus (HMPV)
- Project VISTAAR
- India has joined the Eurodrone
- Exercise 'Devil Strike'
- Uttarakhand is poised to become the first Indian state to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)
- The first bird census in Karnataka
- Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025, launched by NITI Aayog
- first wolf sanctuary in Karnataka
- Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh, and Praveen Kumar were awarded the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna by President Droupadi Murmu
- Indore and Udaipur in Global Wetland Cities list.



KARNATAKA/INDIA/INTERNATIONAL-CURRENT AFFAIRS



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January:2025

- The **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)** was signed in April 2022 and ratified in November 2022, marking a significant period of growth in bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two nations.
  - The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) came into force on **December 29, 2022.**
  - The agreement is expected to boost economic growth in both countries by facilitating increased trade and investment.
- **E-waste generation in India** has grown significantly, showing a **72.54%** rise over five years, increasing from 1.01 million metric tonnes in 2019-20 to 1.751 million metric tonnes in 2023-24.
  - **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has pioneered in initiating pan-India awareness programme on e-waste management since March 2015.
- **Myanmar** shares a 1,643 km long unfenced border with the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated the implementation of a name lookup facility for **NEFT&RTGS** transactions by April 1, 2025.
- - **The National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT)** system was introduced in India in November 2005.
  - **RBI launched the Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** system in India on March 26, 2004.
- The **Defence Ministry** has declared 2025 as the '**Year of Reforms**' to prioritize modernization and enhance the combat readiness of India's Armed Forces.
- **Shri Bhuvnesh Kumar**, a distinguished IAS officer of the 1995 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has taken charge as the CEO of UIDAI.
- **Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra**, a decorated fighter pilot with over 3000 flying hours and 38 years of distinguished service, has taken command of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command WAC covers crucial aspects of India's military strategy and defences

- The first photographic evidence of Pallas's cat in India was captured in **Himachal Pradesh**, specifically during a snow leopard survey in the Kinnaur area.

- The Pallas' cat (*Otocolobus manul*) is a small wildcat known for its unusual, and adorable look.



- The **e-Shram portal**, aimed at helping unorganised workers access welfare schemes, has expanded to support all 22 scheduled languages in India.

- The e-Shram portal is a flagship program of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) to support unorganized workers in India.

- Microsoft has announced a significant \$3 billion investment to boost AI and cloud infrastructure in India, a move aligned with the Prime Minister's vision for a developed India by 2047.

- **V. Narayanan** has been appointed as the new chairman of ISRO, succeeding S Somanath.

- ISRO was formed on August 15, 1969 and superseded INCOSPAR with an expanded role to harness space technology. DOS was setup and ISRO was brought under DOS in 1972.



- **Bahadur Singh Sagoo**, an Asian Games gold medalist in shot put and a Padma Shri awardee, has been unanimously elected as the new president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) during the Annual General Meeting in Chandigarh.

- **India and the United States** have collaborated to co-produce sonobuoys, advanced devices designed for underwater detection and monitoring.

- India has set ambitious goals to achieve **500 GW** of non-fossil fuel based energy capacity by 2030, demonstrating its commitment to transitioning towards renewable energy sources.

- **China** is facing a significant outbreak of Human metapneumovirus (HMPV), along with other respiratory illnesses like influenza A, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and Covid-19. The surge in cases has overwhelmed hospitals and crematories.
  - The HMPV virus, or Human **Metapneumovirus**, is a respiratory virus discovered in 2001.
- **ISRO** is set to launch a United States communications satellite in early 2025 using the GSLV.
- IIT Madras, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, launched **Project VISTAAR** to modernize India's agricultural extension system.
  - It will empower farmers communities by providing them with timely, and relevant information to improve their productivity and ensure that they can benefit from new technologies and innovations.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** was founded in 1958 and celebrated its **67th Foundation Day on January 2, 2025**.
  - DRDO is responsible for the indigenous design, development and production of state-of-the-art weapon systems required by the Armed Forces
- Researchers from IIT Bombay have developed innovative bacteria, including **Pseudomonas and Acinetobacter**, to tackle soil pollution.
- **N Space Tech**, a start-up based in **Andhra Pradesh**, achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing UHF communication technology via SwetchaSat on ISRO's POEM-4 platform.
  - PS4-Orbital Experiment Module, designated as POEM, refers to the usage of the spent fourth stage of the Polar Synchronous Launch Vehicle.
- **West Bengal**, particularly the Sundarbans region, faces severe human trafficking challenges exacerbated by socio-environmental vulnerabilities.
  - The **Sundarbans region**, spanning India and Bangladesh, is vulnerable to human trafficking due to its socio-economic challenges, including poverty, lack of education, and limited livelihood opportunities.



- The dense mangrove forests and remote locations make it easier for traffickers to exploit vulnerable communities, particularly women and children.
- **Telangana** has expanded its RythuBharosa scheme to offer ₹7,500 per acre to approximately 70 lakh farmers for each crop season, beginning January 2025.
- **Assam** recorded an elephant population of 5,828 in the 2024 Elephant Population Estimate, reflecting an increase of 109 elephants since 2017.
  - As per the 2017 census, The total estimated wild population ranges from 23,000 to 41,000 individuals across the range
- **India** has reached the milestone of over 1,000 km of metro network, making it the **3rd largest in the world**.
  - The first metro system in India was the Kolkata Metro, which opened on October 24, 1984.
  - The Delhi Metro is the longest metro system in India, with a length of about 391 kilometers. It's also the busiest metro system in India.
- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** is tracking cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in **Karnataka**.
  - The Government of India funds ICMR. It comes under the Department of Health Services (DHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW). The headquarters of ICMR is in New Delhi.
- In 2024, the United States ranks first globally in **cyberattacks**, with India following as the second most targeted nation.
  - A **cybersecurity** threat is a malicious and deliberate attack by an individual or organization to gain unauthorized access to another individual's or organization's network to damage,
- The **Uttar Pradesh** government has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Google Cloud (India)** to launch the Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture (UPONA).



- **National Bird Day** is observed every year on January 5 to celebrate the significance of birds in our ecosystems and to promote their conservation.
- **Ecuador** declared a 60-day state of emergency in seven provinces, including Guayas and Manabí, to address rising crime and organized armed groups.
- The **Banded Royal butterfly (Rachana jalindra)** was first discovered in Tripura, specifically within the Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary.



- **Rachana jalindra**, the banded royal, is a lycaenid or blue butterfly found in the Indomalayan realm. The species was first described by Thomas Horsfield in 1829.
- **Assam** launched **Gunotsav 2025**, a flagship education evaluation program aimed at assessing and enhancing the quality of education for 14.11 lakh students across 16,056 schools. Themed **“Ensuring Quality Education,”** is conducted in three phases, involving external evaluators and stakeholders.
- **Israel** has launched an e-visa system for Indian citizens, allowing them to apply online for travel authorization.
- **Earth’s Rotation Day** is celebrated on **January 8** to commemorate Léon Foucault’s 1851 pendulum experiment, which conclusively proved Earth’s rotation on its axis.
  - The day commemorates when French Physicist, Leon Foucault, demonstrated the Earth rotates on its axis in 1851.
- **India’s National Highway** network has achieved a remarkable **60%** growth over the past decade, expanding from 91,287 km in 2014 to 146,195 km in 2024.
- India’s first Generation Beta baby, **Frankie RemruatdikaZadeng**, was born in Mizoram on January 1, 2025.
- India has set an ambitious goal to achieve **500 GW of clean energy by 2030**.

- **Karnataka** has introduced the "Garudakshi" online FIR system to improve the management of forest and wildlife crimes.
  - 'Garudakshi', the software reduces the time taken by officials in filing an FIR and generates the multiple documents except Mahajar, required to be submitted before the court in the cases.
- In the 2025 **Henley Passport Index**, India's ranking has fallen to 85th, down from 80th in 2024.
  - The Henley Passport Index is a ranking of the world's passports based on how many destinations passport holders can visit without a visa. The index is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- The **Karnataka** High Court invalidated the Green Energy Open Access (GEOA) Rules, 2022, citing overreach by the Central Government.
  - It is a mechanism that allows consumers to buy electricity directly from generators or the open market.
- The government has prioritized the development of **Inland Waterways** with a massive investment of ₹50,000 crore over five years.
  - a system that provides real-time data and information about navigational conditions on inland waterways like rivers and canals
- **HIMKAVACH** is a multi-layered cold weather clothing system developed by DRDO to enhance the operational efficiency of military personnel in extreme climates, from +20°C to -60°C.
- **Anti-Tank Guided Missile** were conducted at the Pokhran Field Range in **Rajasthan**. The field trials of the indigenously developed **NAG MK 2**
  - The trials validated the missile's firing range and made it ready for induction into the Indian Army
  - The Nag Mk-2, a third-generation anti-tank guided missile.



- The NAMICA Mk-2, the second generation launch platform for the Nag missile
- The **Lokpal Act**, aimed at addressing corruption through the establishment of an ombudsman, was enacted in 2014.
  - Under **Section 20(7)**, the Lokpal will take comments of the public servant as well as his competent authority on the investigation report, before passing any further order for grant of sanction for prosecution or any other appropriate action against the public servant.
- **Kappad beach** in Kozhikode and **Chal beach** in Kannur have been awarded the Blue Flag certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).
  - The Blue Flag certification is an eco-label given to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating operators.
- **Odisha** has become the state to 34th implement the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**, aligning it with the state's own Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana.
  - **The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**, also known as Ayushman Bharat, is a government-backed health insurance scheme designed to provide financial protection for secondary and tertiary healthcare to economically vulnerable families in India
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** launched the multi-purpose vessel INS Utkarsh for the **Indian Navy from its Kattupalli Shipyard**.
  - The MPV Utkarsh measures 106 meters in length and 18.6 meters in width, with a displacement exceeding 3,750 tonnes.
- The **Boda Tyohar**, or **Magho ko Tyohar**, Celebrated by over three lakh community members, this month-long festival marks the conclusion of the '**Magha**' month.
  - Three lakh community members, this month-long festival marks the conclusion of the '**Magha**' month.
- **Indian Army Day** is observed every year on **January 15** to commemorate the historic occasion when the Indian Army's leadership transitioned to Indian hands in 1949.

- **M. Rajeshwar Rao**, a seasoned Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been entrusted with the responsibility of heading the **Monetary Policy and Economic Research Departments**.
- **NATO**, led by **Secretary-General Mark Rutte**, has announced a new mission aimed at safeguarding undersea cables in the Baltic Sea region.
  - The mission includes surveillance, deterrence, and response to threats to undersea cables and pipelines.
- The **Gaan-NGai festival**, the largest post-harvest celebration of the Zeliangrong community, takes place in Manipur.

- In this festival where people thank their deity "**Tingkao Ragwang**" for a good harvest through rituals, dances, feasts, and the symbolic creation of a "new fire" signifying the start of a fresh cycle;



- Scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have discovered a new species of pangolin, named the Indo-Burmese pangolin (*Manisindoburmanica*), in Arunachal Pradesh.

- Genetic analysis has shown that the Indo-Burmese pangolin is 3.8% different from the Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*).



- **India** is in the final stages of a \$450 million **BrahMos** missile deal with Indonesia. This deal is expected to be officially announced during the **Indonesian President's** visit for Republic Day 2025.
- India has joined the **Eurodrone (MALE RPAS)** programme as an observer, marking a significant step in international defence cooperation.
  - The Eurodrone program, a European initiative, aims to develop or intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions



- **The International Day of Education** is celebrated annually on January 24, recognizing the crucial role of education in fostering peace and sustainable development.

- It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 to celebrate the role of education in peace and development, and to highlight the importance of inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all.



- Exercise '**Devil Strike**' will be conducted by the **Indian Armed Forces** from January 16 to 19, 2025.
  - Exercise '**Devil Strike**' is showcasing seamless integration and operational readiness to operate in challenging environments
  - Its main focus on Precision troop insertion, complex airborne operations, logistical sustenance in extreme conditions.
- **India** is on track to become the '**GCC Capital of the World**,' with an impressive 1,700 global capability centres (GCCs) currently in operation, employing around 2 million people.
- **India and Spain** have jointly declared 2026 as a 'dual year' to focus on cultural exchanges, tourism promotion, and advancements in **artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- **India ranks 2nd** globally in the QS Future Skills Index 2025, showcasing its strong preparedness in AI, digital, and green industries, only behind the US.
- The **Archaeological Experiential Museum** has been inaugurated in Vadnagar, highlighting its 2,500-year-old history.
- The **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** has been declared near the **Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary** in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
- **India ranks as the 3rd largest** start-up ecosystem in the world, with more than 100 unicorns, which highlights the country's strong entrepreneurial culture.

- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of the **Third Launch Pad (TLP) at ISRO's SatishDhawan Space Centre located in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.**

- signifying a significant step towards enhancing India's space launch capabilities and potentially supporting future human spaceflight missions;



- The **World Bank** projects **India's economic growth rate at 6.7%** for the next two fiscal years (2025–2027), reflecting an increase from the current fiscal year's growth rate of **6.5%**.
  - India shows the fastest-growing large economy globally, as detailed in the January 2025 edition of the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report.
- The **Bharat Ranbhoomi Darshan App, launched** during the 77th Army Day celebrations, aims to promote battlefield tourism.
  - The app is designed to guide visitors to over 70 significant battleground locations across India.
  - It provides detailed information about: War memorials and museums. Stories behind pivotal battles.
- **Odisha**, in partnership with Singapore's Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a FinTech hub in Bhubaneswar.
- PM Modi inaugurated the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 **in New Delhi, India's largest mobility expo**
  - The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 was a six-day event held in January 2025 that showcased India's automotive industry and mobility sector.
- **ISRO** achieved a groundbreaking milestone in space agriculture by germinating black-eyed pea (lobia) seeds aboard its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS).
  - CROPS stands for Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies which is an unmanned experimental module designed to develop ISRO's capabilities for growing and sustaining plants in space.

- **NITI Aayog** organized a workshop on **Carbon Capture, Utilization & Storage (CCUS)** focusing on the Indian cement sector, which contributes 5.8% of the nation's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
  - NITI Aayog emphasizes Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) as crucial for India's emissions reduction goals, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, aiming for a low-carbon energy economy and achieving net-zero by 2070, with a proposed CCUS capacity of 750 million metric tons per year by 2050
- The Lokpal of India celebrated its inaugural Foundation Day on January 16, 2025, marking 11 years since its establishment under **the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**.
  - The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, aims to combat corruption by establishing a central anti-corruption body (Lokpal) and state-level counterparts (Lokayuktas) to investigate allegations against public officials and take necessary action.
- **Gyanendra Pratap Singh**, a 1991 batch IPS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been appointed as **the Director General of the CRPF**, with tenure extending till November 30, 2027.
- **India and the United States** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation and information sharing on cyber threat intelligence and digital forensics, specifically in criminal investigations
- On January 17, 2025, **China successfully launched Pakistan's first indigenous Electro-Optical Satellite (PRSC-EO1)** from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center using the Long March-2D rocket.
- **Mission SCOT**, launched by **Digantara**, focuses on enhancing Space Domain Awareness by enabling precise object tracking and imaging in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
  - **Digantara's Mission SCOT** (Space Camera for Object Tracking), launched on **January 14, 2025**, aboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 mission, is a commercial space surveillance satellite designed to enhance tracking and monitoring of Resident Space Objects (RSOs), a key step in Space Situational Awareness (SSA).
- **Uttarakhand** is poised to become the first Indian state to implement **the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** after its government approved the UCC rules manual.

- The **SVAMITVA Scheme**, launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, aims to establish clear ownership rights in rural areas by mapping land parcels using advanced drone technology.
  - SVAMITVA, a Central Sector scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj provides a '**Record of Rights**' to village household owners with the issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners by mapping land parcels using drone technology.
- The **World Economic Forum 2025** is being held in Davos, Switzerland.
  - The World Economic Forum (WEF) is a not-for-profit organization that brings together leaders from business, government, and civil society to address global issues.
- The **first astronomical observatory in Eastern India** was inaugurated atop **Panchet Hill** in the **Garpanchkot area of Purulia district, West Bengal**
  - astronomical observatory, any structure containing telescopes and auxiliary instruments with which to observe celestial objects.
  - 8 Observatories in India To Marvel At Astronomy.
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has reduced India's FY25 growth forecast to **6.5%**, citing challenges like an industrial slowdown.
- **Telangana** has signed MoUs for major investments in the energy and space sectors.
- **Moody's** has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 7%, a decrease from the 8.2% growth observed in the previous fiscal year.
  - It reflecting a slowdown in key sectors and overall economic conditions. India's GDP per capita increased by 11% year-on-year to \$10,233 in FY 2023, highlighting improvement in the standard of living.
- **Hyderabad's Musi River heritage sites**, including landmarks like the Telangana High Court, State Central Library, Osmania General Hospital, and British Residency, were added to the **World Monuments Watch**.

- The **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana** was launched on 22nd January 2015 as part of the **BetiBachao, BetiPadhao** campaign to promote financial inclusion for the girl child in India.
  - The Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) is a government-backed savings scheme for girls. It helps parents and legal guardians provide financial security for a girl's higher education or marriage.
- The Flamingo Festival 2025 took place in **Andhra Pradesh**, with a focus on the conservation of biodiversity in **Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary**.
  - This year's event focused on the environmental challenges faced by Pulicat Lake and Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary, such as water pollution, habitat loss, and the impact of human activities.
- The 7th India-France Maritime Cooperation Dialogue was held in New Delhi, where India and France discussed enhancing cooperation in **the Indian Ocean Region**.
- **National Tourism Day** is observed every year on January 25 to promote responsible, sustainable, and accessible tourism across India.

- The theme for this year's National Tourism Day is "Tourism for Inclusive Growth".



- **The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** celebrates its Raising Day annually on January 19. Established in 2006, the NDRF is a specialized rescue force dedicated to disaster response and relief.
  - It provide specialized response to natural and man-made disasters, including chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) disasters.
- **Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura** celebrated their 53rd Statehood Day on January 21, 2025, marking their attainment of full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Reorganization) Act of 1971.



- The **Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (iSNR)** initiative was launched in Kottayam, Kerala, to align with global sustainability principles and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).
  - Aims to promote sustainable and responsible natural rubber production in India, ensuring compliance with global standards like the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and fostering a transparent and traceable supply chain.
- China completed the **TianshanShengli** Tunnel in Xinjiang, which at 22.13 km is the world's longest expressway tunnel.
  - The Tianshan Shengli Tunnel, designed to cut travel time through the Tianshan Mountains from three hours to about 20 minutes, and is expected to open to traffic in 2025.
- The Army Hospital (Research & Referral), located in New Delhi, performed India's first Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) implantation using the **HeartMate 3**.
- The Governor of Manipur reviewed the **NIK-SHAY** and **TB Control Programme** to assess progress and strategies in tackling tuberculosis.
  - The **NIKSHAY - TB Notification incentive** for Private Sector scheme is a Government of India initiative to incentivize private sector healthcare providers for notifying tuberculosis (TB) cases to the government.
  - The scheme was launched in 2018 and is implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- DRDO will showcase its tableau titled '**Raksha Kavach** – Multi-layer Protection against Multi-domain Threats' on Republic Day.
  - It is a multi-layered, multi-domain protection system designed to safeguard military assets, soldiers, and critical infrastructure against diverse threats, showcasing India's growing indigenous defense capabilities.
- **Vision Nxt** is India's first AI and Emotional Intelligence-driven fashion forecasting platform, launched at NIFT's 40<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day in Hyderabad.



- The Government of India launched **Entity Locker**, a secure, cloud-based platform for efficient business document management.

- Entity Locker is a secure, cloud-based platform for organizations to store, share, and verify digital documents, aiming to streamline business operations and enhance digital governance, particularly in the Government-to-Business (G2B) domain.

- **National Girl Child Day** is observed annually on January 24 in India to raise awareness about the issues faced by girls and to promote their rights and welfare.

- Slogan of **National Girl Child Day**  
'Raise a girl with dreams, and watch her conquer the world. Educate a girl, and you educate the future. A girl child today, a leader tomorrow. Let every girl's ambition soar beyond limits'.



- The Indian Navy conducted a **hydrographic** survey of Mauritius' waters, mapping 25,000 square nautical miles.
  - The Indian Navy ship INS Sarvekshak recently completed the final phase of a hydrographic survey of Mauritius.
- The **International Day of Clean Energy** is observed on January 26 each year, established by the UN in 2009.
  - It is a United Nations initiative aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy, commemorating the founding of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- **Sarla Aviation**, a Bengaluru-based aerospace startup, unveiled '**Shunya**,' India's first electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi.
- **Uttar Pradesh** Foundation Day is celebrated annually on January 24.
  - It's theme "Development and Heritage: Uttar Pradesh on the Path to Progress" .

- Nepal hosted the 1st **International Pashmina Festival**, a 3-day event featuring over 150 stalls and promoting its "Chyangra Pashmina," known for its traditional craftsmanship and use of natural dyes.

- Samples of wool fibres recovered from corroded copper artifacts from Harappa dating back to the Indus Valley Civilisation are believed to be Pashmina and Shahtoosh.
- The material gained prominence through its use in the Kashmir shawl. In Mughal times, this was used as an indicator of rank and nobility.



- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), located in Hyderabad, won the 2025 **Subhash Chandra Bose** Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar in the Institutional Category.

- **National Youth Day** is celebrated every year on **January 12** in India to honor **Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary**. The Government of India declared this day in 1984, recognizing Vivekananda's teachings and ideals as a source of inspiration for Indian youth.



- The very **first bird census in Karnataka**, specifically for the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS), was held from January 10th to 12th, 2014, jointly organized by the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) and Jungle Lodges and Resorts Ltd (JLR).
  - The survey is scheduled to take place on February 1 and 2 at **the Male Mahadeshwara Betta Wildlife Sanctuary**. While tiger and elephant counts are regularly conducted in Karnataka's forest regions.
- **Indian Army Day** is celebrated annually on **January 15th** to commemorate the appointment of Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949, marking the handover of power to Indian leadership after independence.



- **'National Voters' Day** is celebrated annually on January 25, a day before Republic Day. The 15th edition of the event highlights the theme "Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure."

- It encourages the youth to participate in the electoral process also focuses on the fact that the right to vote is a basic right.



- **Odisha** secured the top position in the **Fiscal Health Index (FHI)** 2025, launched by NITI Aayog to evaluate the fiscal health of 18 major Indian states.

- The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) is an assessment tool to evaluate the fiscal health of Indian states and highlights specific areas for improvement.
- FHI ranks states based on five key sub-indices. Quality of Expenditure: Measures the proportion of spending on long-term growth (development)

- Himachal Pradesh celebrates its **Statehood Day** annually on January 25, marking its transition to India's 18th state in 1971.

- **Telangana's** first 24-hour drinking water supply project was launched in Karimnagar Smart City.

- **M. Mohan** was appointed as the Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) in **Thiruvananthapuram** on January 25, 2025. He succeeded Dr. V. Narayanan, who became the ISRO Chairman earlier.

- **Channapatna toy**-inspired artwork was introduced on metro walls in **January 2025**, it would highlight government efforts to promote local heritage.



- Channapatna toys are **traditional wooden toys** and dolls that originate from Channapatna, a town in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka, India.

- These toys are known for their vibrant colors, smooth finish, and eco-friendly nature, as they are made from ivory wood (Hale Mara) and colored with natural dyes.

- The theme for Republic Day 2025 was ‘**Swarnim Bharat: Virasataur Vikas**’, which translates to ‘**Golden India: Heritage and Progress**’.
- ISRO’s 100th mission from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** will launch the GSLV–F15 rocket on January 29, 2025.

- The **GSLV-F15** with indigenous Cryogenic stage will place NVS-02 satellite into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit & the launch will take place from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR**.



- The **Bankapur** Wolf Sanctuary is located in Karnataka and is the state’s first wolf sanctuary.
- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** is observed on January 27 each year to honour the victims of the Holocaust and commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on this date in 1945.
  - commemorates the liberation of **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, and serves as a day to remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust and to reaffirm the commitment to human rights and justice.
- **National Geographic Day** is celebrated every year on **January 27** to honour the foundation of the National Geographic Society, which was established on this date in 1888.
  - It honors the iconic National Geographic magazine and its contributions to education, exploration, and awareness about geography, science, history, and world cultures.
- The **Telangana** government introduced four major beneficiary schemes: Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa, IndirammaIndlu, and New Ration Cards.
- India is preparing to launch its first **human-operated underwater submersible** as part of the Deep Ocean Mission.



- Initial submersible will operate at a depth of up to 500 meters, with a subsequent goal of reaching a staggering depth of 6,000 meters under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).



- **Doordarshan**, India's national broadcaster, was recognized for its exceptional voter awareness and education campaign during the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections.
- Pune, Maharashtra, has recently reported a sudden increase in cases of **Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)**, a rare but serious neurological disorder.
  - The recent surge in **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)** cases in Pune is suspected to be linked to contaminated water, potentially contaminated with *Campylobacter jejuni*, a bacteria that can cause foodborne infections and, in some cases, trigger GBS.
- **Indore** and **Udaipur** have been recognized as part of the **Global Wetland Cities list**, an exclusive group of 31 cities worldwide that integrate wetland conservation into their urban planning.
  - **The recognition highlights the cities'** commitment to preserving wetland ecosystems, which are vital for biodiversity, water management, and climate resilience.
  - By balancing urban growth with environmental sustainability, Indore and Udaipur serve as models for other cities aiming to protect and sustainably manage their wetland resources.
- The loan is being given under the **World Bank's Program-for-Results Financing (PforR)**, where the grant of loans are linked to outcomes. The water resilience project now approved for the city will be carried out during a five-year period (2026-31) and the money will be disbursed in three to five installments and each installment is linked to these DLIs.
- **The Karnataka Water Security and Disaster Resilience Programme (KWSRDP)**, a ₹5,000 crore project, aims to enhance Bengaluru's water resilience, with ₹3,500 crore coming from a World Bank loan, and the remaining from the state government, to be implemented between 2025 and 2031.

- **Manu Bhaker, D Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh, and Praveen Kumar** were awarded the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna by President Droupadi Murmu at the National Sports Awards ceremony in New Delhi on January 17, 2025.

- The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award is **India's highest sporting honor**, given for outstanding performance in sports at the international level.

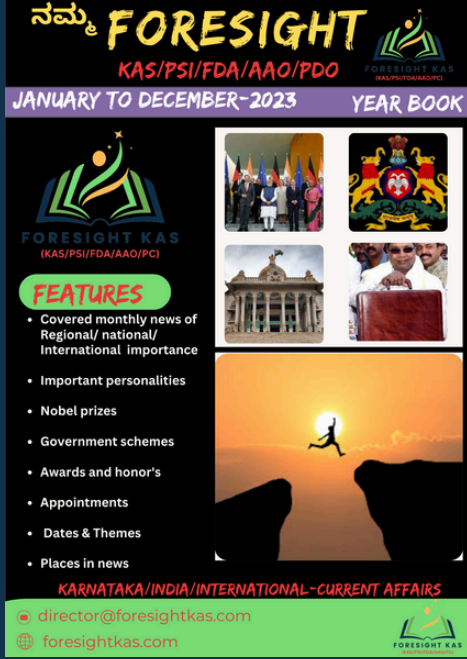
- It was originally called the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award but was renamed in 2021 after Major Dhyan Chand, India's legendary hockey player.



- The new **wildlife sanctuaries** in **Karnataka** include:
  - Uttaregudda wildlife sanctuary: Located in Hiriya of Chitradurga district
  - Arsiikere sloth bear sanctuary: Located in Hassan
  - Bankapura wolf wildlife sanctuary: Located in Koppal
  - Chikkasangama bird conservation reserve: Located in Bagalkot
- **Poovanahalli in Mandya district** has been chosen under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) scheme aimed at bringing people from the tribal community into the mainstream by empowering them socially and economically.
  - the Union Cabinet approved the **PM-JANMAN** programme to cover all the **75 PVTG** communities in India.
- **The International Trade Fair 2025—Organics and Millets** took place at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru from January 23 to 25.
  - Millets are nutrient-rich, drought-resistant, and climate-friendly grains that have been a staple in India for centuries. They are known for their high fiber content, essential minerals, and gluten-free properties.
- The **S. M. Krishna Rashtriya Smaraka Prashasti** is an award named after S. M. Krishna, the former Chief Minister of Karnataka and former External Affairs Minister of India. It is given to individuals for their outstanding contributions to society, politics, administration, or public service.

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