



December - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Alia Bhatt received the Golden Globes Horizon Award at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ Vigyanika Science Literature Festival 2025 was held in New Delhi to promote science through literature, poetry, Indian languages, and creative communication.
- ❖ Nnena Kalu won the Turner Prize 2025, one of the most prestigious contemporary art awards, and became the first artist with a learning disability to win the prize.
- ❖ Bank of Baroda was recognised as the 'Best Bank in India' at The Banker's Bank of the Year Awards 2025.
- ❖ Indian Railways will roll out India's first hydrogen-powered train as a pilot project, operating on broad-gauge tracks and emitting only water vapour, producing zero carbon emissions.
- ❖ The U.S. has launched a "gold card" program offering legal status and a path to citizenship, replacing the EB-5 visa.
 - Individual applicants can apply for \$1 million, while corporations pay \$2 million per foreign-born employee.
- ❖ India hosted the 3rd Council Session of the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation (IALA) in Mumbai.
 - A digital ticketing portal was launched for tourism at 75 lighthouse sites, and all these lighthouses are now fully solar powered, supporting easier online access and clean, sustainable tourism.
- ❖ Google and the Telangana government launched the Google for Startups Hub at T-Hub (Technology Hub) in Hyderabad.
 - The Hub gives free coworking space for one year to selected AI-first startups.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Palmyrah Seed Plantation

- ❖ Under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, over 2.24 crore (22.4 million) Palmyrah seeds have been planted across Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Palmyrah palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) is a drought-resistant tree commonly found in Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia.

- ❖ The plantation drive is part of a statewide environmental effort to increase green cover and ecological restoration.
- ❖ All planted seeds are geo-tagged and monitored through a mobile application for tracking purposes.
- ❖ The initiative aims to support soil conservation, water retention, and sustainable rural livelihoods.



NATIONAL NEWS

India's New Co-Firing Policy



- ❖ The Union Ministry of Power has issued a new policy mandating the co-firing of biomass pellets and municipal solid waste (MSW)-based torrefied charcoal in coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).

- ❖ The policy aims to use surplus agricultural residue and unmanaged MSW to reduce emissions and support the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ TPPs in Delhi-NCR must blend 5% biomass pellets and 2% MSW charcoal from 2025–26, while other plants must co-fire 5% biomass or MSW charcoal.
- ❖ The policy allows tariff pass-through of additional fuel costs under the Energy Charge Rate and provides case-by-case exemptions.

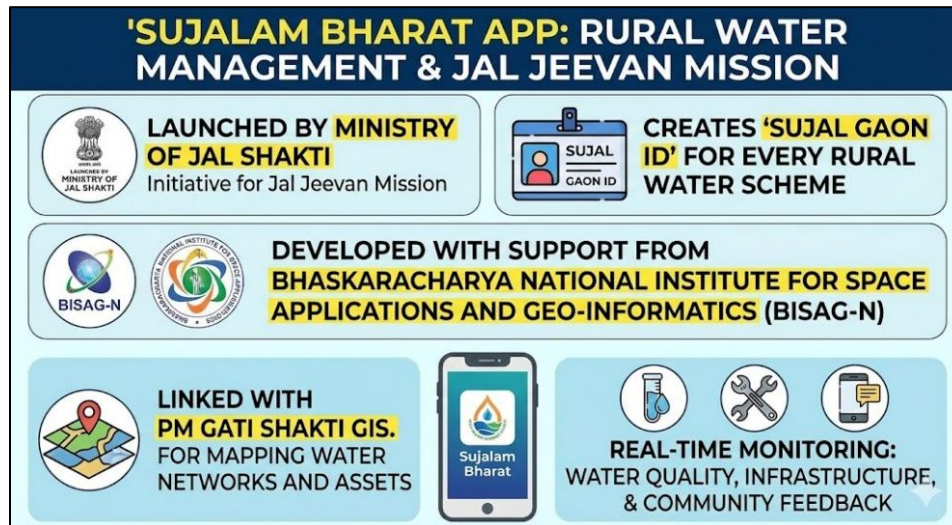
Grain Storage Reforms



- ❖ The Government started the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in 2023 to build more food-grain storage at Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).
- ❖ The plan builds godowns and other facilities using schemes like Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure Scheme (AMI), Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), and Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME).
- ❖ Loan rules were made easier with AIF repayment extended to 2+8 years and AMI construction cost raised to ₹7,000/MT (plains) and ₹8,000/MT (northeast).
- ❖ PACS now get a 33.33% subsidy, plus extra help for roads, weighbridges, and other support work.
- ❖ The Food Corporation of India (FCI) gives a 9-year hiring assurance for godowns of 2,500 MT and above.

- ❖ The plan now includes all cooperative groups, with 704 sites selected and 59,702 MT storage already created.

Sujalam Bharat App



- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Sujalam Bharat App for managing rural drinking water systems under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ❖ The app creates a digital identity called Sujal Gaon ID for every rural water scheme.
- ❖ It was developed with support from Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).
- ❖ The app is linked with the PM Gati Shakti Geographic Information System (GIS) for mapping water networks and assets.
- ❖ It helps monitor water quality, infrastructure, and community feedback in real time.

AI-Copyright Policy

- ❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) published Part 1 of its working paper on the interface between generative artificial intelligence (AI) and copyright law.
- ❖ The paper presents recommendations from an eight-member committee to evaluate whether the current copyright law is adequate for AI-related challenges.
- ❖ It reviews global approaches such as blanket exemptions, text-and-data-mining exceptions, voluntary licensing, and extended collective licensing.

- ❖ The paper proposes a Royalty Model for AI Access to Online Content called “One Nation, One License, One Payment.”
- ❖ Under this model, AI developers receive a blanket licence to train on all lawfully accessed content, while royalties are paid only after commercialisation.
- ❖ Royalty rates would be set by a government-appointed committee, with a central mechanism managing collection and distribution.

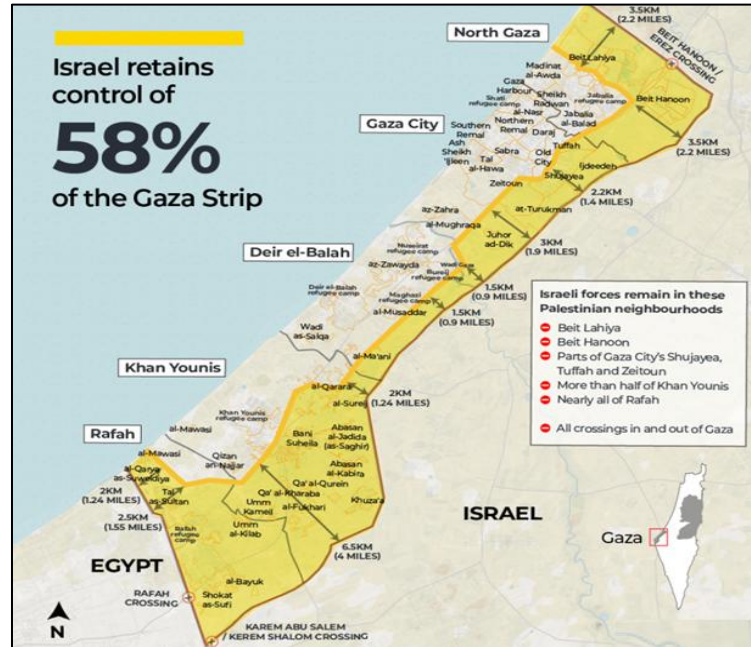


INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israel–Gaza Yellow Line

- ❖ Israel's military chief described the Yellow Line as a “new border” inside Gaza.
- ❖ The Yellow Line marks areas currently held by Israeli forces and functions as a forward defensive line.
- ❖ Israel now controls over half of Gaza, including major agricultural stretches and the Egypt border crossing.

- ❖ The establishment of the Yellow Line conflicts with Phase 2 of the US 20-point ceasefire plan, which requires extensive Israeli withdrawal.
- ❖ Israel has not formally declared the Yellow Line as government policy, while also accusing Hamas of ceasefire violations.



Interpol Blue Notice

What is a 'Blue Notice'?

The Interpol notice is issued to **collect information about a person's identity, location, or activities** in relation to a criminal investigation.



The Blue Notice was issued on the request of the Goa Police. **The police had requested it against Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, owners of the nightclub** where a fire killed 25 people. They are believed to have fled to Thailand.

Unlike a Red Notice (which calls for detention), a **Blue Notice is used to track fugitives and gather information.**

- ❖ Interpol has issued a Blue Notice to help trace Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra, linked to a Goa nightclub fire incident.



- ❖ A Blue Notice collects information on a suspect's identity, location, or activities and is not an arrest warrant.
- ❖ The notice helps authorities get updates on travel records and border crossings to locate the suspects.
- ❖ Interpol uses colour-coded notices to support global police cooperation across 196 member countries.

ECONOMY NEWS

PaRRVA System

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched a new agency called the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA).
- ❖ PaRRVA aims to stop the mis-selling of investment products by verifying risk and return data.
- ❖ The system uses digital audit trails and standardised reporting to improve supervision.
- ❖ SEBI stated that PaRRVA will give investors access to verified performance records of financial services.
- ❖ The regulator is also increasing action against unregistered financial influencers who offer unauthorised advice.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

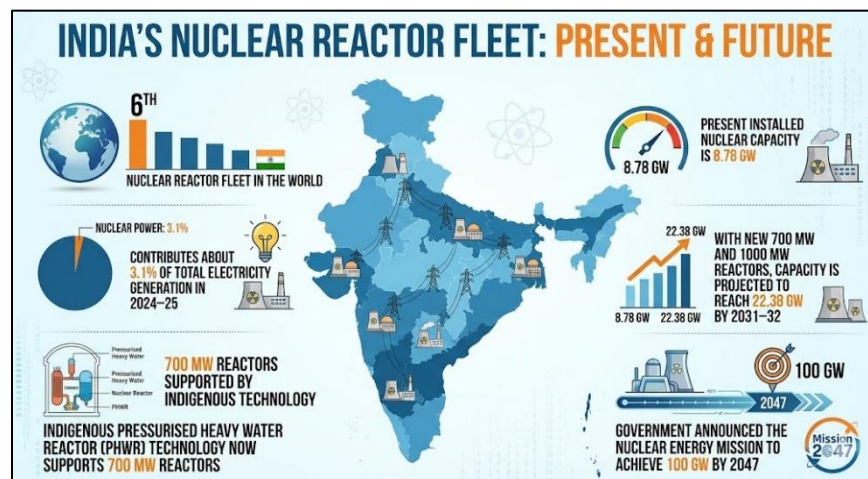
3I/ATLAS Planetary Drill

- ❖ Europe conducted the world's largest planetary-defence drill, centred on tracking the near-Earth object 3I/ATLAS.

- ❖ The exercise was led jointly by the European Space Agency (ESA), NASA, and the United Nations International Asteroid Warning Network (UN-IAWN).
- ❖ The drill tested early-warning systems, tracking networks, emergency coordination, and public communication for asteroid threats.
- ❖ Ground telescopes and space-based sensors monitored 3I/ATLAS travelling at ~60 km/s to refine its orbital path.
- ❖ Simulations included trajectory analysis, impact probability calculations, deflection missions, and civil-defence responses.



India's Nuclear Reactor Fleet



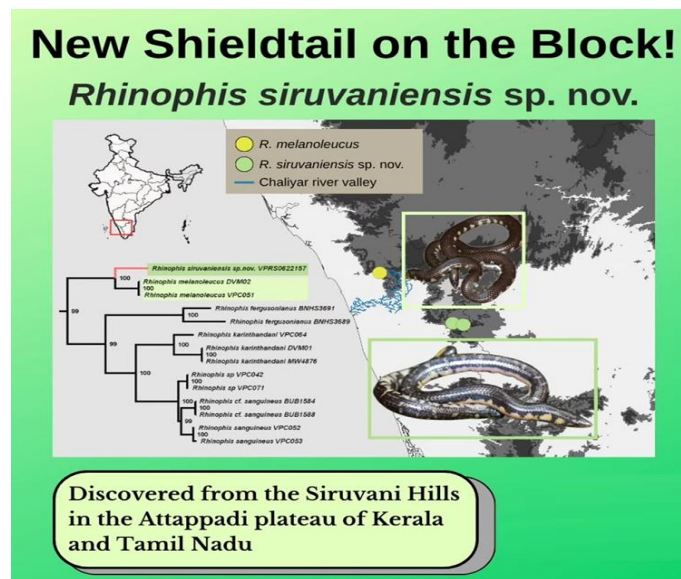
- ❖ India operates the 6th largest nuclear reactor fleet in the world.

- ❖ Nuclear power contributes about 3.1% of total electricity generation in 2024–25.
- ❖ The present installed nuclear capacity is 8.78 GW.
- ❖ Indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology now supports 700 MW reactors.
- ❖ With new 700 MW and 1000 MW reactors, capacity is projected to reach 22.38 GW by 2031–32.
- ❖ The government announced the Nuclear Energy Mission to achieve 100 GW by 2047.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

New Shieldtail Species in Siruvani Hills

- ❖ A new shieldtail snake species, *Rhinophis siruvaniensis*, was discovered with help from citizen scientists in the Siruvani Hills.
- ❖ Shieldtail snakes are small, non-venomous, soil-burrowing snakes of the Uropeltidae family, also called uropeltids.
- ❖ They are named “shieldtails” because of their disc-shaped tail tip.
- ❖ These snakes are endemic to India and Sri Lanka, mainly found in the Western Ghats and parts of Peninsular India.



Tiger sighting in Kumaon Himalayas

- ❖ A Bengal tiger has been spotted at nearly 10,000 ft in the Himalayas.

- ❖ The sighting occurred in the Sunderdhunga Glacier Valley of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Camera traps captured the big cat in this remote alpine terrain.
- ❖ This is one of the highest confirmed elevations for the species.
- ❖ Bengal tigers are usually found below 6,000 feet altitude.
- ❖ Recent sightings suggest they may now explore higher Himalayan regions.
- ❖ Prey species like deer and serow are present at these heights.
- ❖ This provides a food base allowing tigers to survive at altitude.
- ❖ Images provide scientists proof of big cats venturing to alpine zones.
- ❖ It confirms tigers can survive and move in colder climates.
- ❖ Experts suggest climate change may push tigers to colder zones.
- ❖ Loss of forest and human pressure in lower habitats is key.
- ❖ Dispersal by younger tigers may also lead to higher-altitude presence.

Bengal Tiger Spotted at an Unusual Altitude in Uttarakhand Himalayas

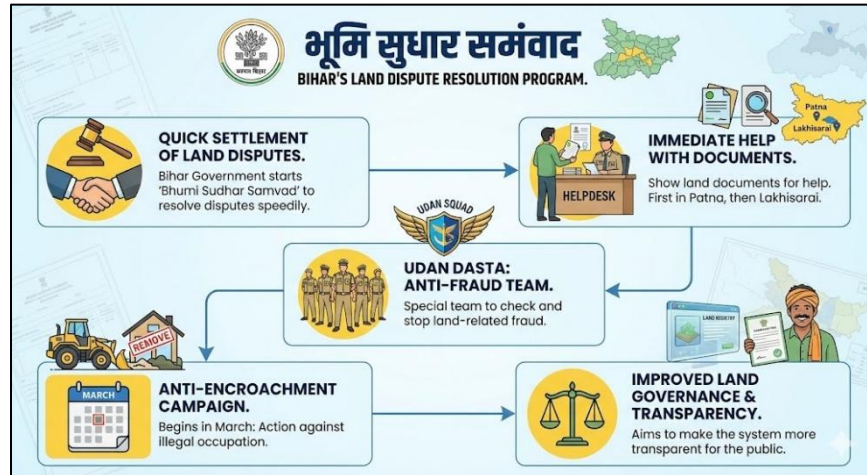


STATES' NEWS

Bhumi Sudhar Samvad

- ❖ The Bihar government will start the 'Bhumi Sudhar Samvad' programme to settle land disputes quickly.
- ❖ People can show their land documents for immediate help in Patna first and later in Lakhisarai.
- ❖ A special team called 'Udan Dasta' will check and stop land-related fraud.

- ❖ A campaign to remove encroachments will begin in March with action against illegal occupation.
- ❖ The plan aims to improve land governance and make the system more transparent for the public.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Handicrafts Awards 2023-24



- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu presented the Shilp Guru and National Handicrafts Awards on 9 December 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ The awards were given for 2023 and 2024 during National Handicrafts Week 2025, held from 8 to 14 December.
- ❖ A total of 48 awards were presented, including 12 Shilp Guru Awards and 36 National Handicrafts Awards.
- ❖ Awardees represented various crafts such as metalwork, woodwork, textiles, painting, terracotta, leather puppetry, carpets, and cane-and-bamboo work.



- ❖ 20 women artisans were among the awardees.
- ❖ Some Shilp Guru Award recipients include Ajit Kumar Das, Sudhir Kumar Maharana, D. Sivamma, Kamlesh Sharma, Subhash Arora, and Shaheen Anjum.

SPORTS NEWS

FEI Asian Championships 2025

- ❖ The FEI (International Federation for Equestrian Sports) Asian Equestrian Championships 2025 were held in Pattaya, Thailand.
- ❖ India won a total of five medals: one gold and four silver.
- ❖ Ashish Limaye won India's first Eventing gold, and Shruti Vora earned three silver medals in Dressage events.
- ❖ Thailand topped the medal tally with seven medals.

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Singapore	3 Para Dressage Team Para Dressage Individual Para Dressage Freestyle	2 Para Dressage Individual Para Dressage Freestyle	-	5
Thailand	3 Dressage Team Endurance Team Eventing Team	-	4 Dressage Individual Dressage Freestyle Endurance Individual Eventing Individual	7
China	2 Dressage Individual Dressage Freestyle	-	-	2
India	1 Eventing Individual	4 Dressage Team Dressage Individual Dressage Freestyle Eventing Team	-	5
Japan	1 Jumping Team	-	-	1
United Arab Emirates	1 Endurance Individual	-	-	1
Palestine	1 Jumping Individual	-	-	1
Hong Kong	-	2 Para Dressage Team Eventing Individual	5 Dressage Team Para Dressage Individual Para Dressage Freestyle Endurance Individual Eventing Individual Jumping Team	7
Kuwait	-	2 Jumping Team Jumping Individual	-	2
Bahrain	-	1 Endurance Individual	-	1
Chinese Taipei	-	-	1 Jumping Individual	1

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mountain Day 2025 - December 11

- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about glaciers and their role in water, food, and livelihoods.
- ❖ The United Nations declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation.

- ❖ The theme is “Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond.”
- ❖ Glaciers store about 70 % of Earth’s freshwater and support over 2 billion people.



UNICEF Foundation Day 2025 - December 11

UNICEF FOUNDATION DAY 2025

11 December
Theme: "My Day, My Rights"

- This day is observed on 11 December every year to mark the establishment of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in 1946.
- UNICEF was created to provide emergency food and healthcare to children affected by World War II.
- The theme for 2025 emphasizes inclusive growth and child-centered development.
- With presence in more than 190 countries, UNICEF champions child rights and welfare.
- In India, it partners with the Government to promote immunization, education, sanitation, and gender equality.
- The day reminds us that every child deserves a fair start and a hopeful future.
- The organization's global headquarters is located in New York City, USA.

- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about child rights, health, education, and protection.
- ❖ The United Nations established the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in 1946.
- ❖ UNICEF was created to support children affected by World War II.
- ❖ In 1953, UNICEF became a permanent agency.



- ❖ UNICEF now works in over 190 countries to ensure every child survives, learns, and stays safe.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “My day, My rights”.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Global Network of Learning Cities 2025

- ❖ UNESCO added 72 new cities from 46 countries to the Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).
- ❖ With this expansion, the network now has 425 cities in 91 countries.
- ❖ The goal of the network is to promote lifelong learning for people of all ages at the local level.
- ❖ 11 capital cities joined, including Cairo, Riyadh, Ankara, Hanoi, Lisbon, and Buenos Aires.
- ❖ 12 countries joined the network for the first time, such as the United States, Mongolia, Chile, and Turkmenistan.
- ❖ The Learning Cities initiative supports education in everyday spaces like schools, workplaces, libraries, museums, and homes.

Region	Number of New Cities
Africa	13
Arab States	13
Asia and the Pacific	21
Europe and North America	15
Latin America and the Caribbean	10
Total New Cities	72

