

December - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ East Bengal FC won the inaugural SAFF Women's Club Championship 2025, defeating Nepal and claimed India's first international women's club title.
- ❖ Malayalam publisher Ravi Deecee, Publisher and Managing Director of DC Books, was conferred the French honour Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters).
- ❖ Former Secretary of BCCI Jay Shah received the "Transformational Leader of the Year" award at NDTV Indian of the Year 2025.
- ❖ Brazil handed over the BRICS presidency to India during the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting held in Brazil, and India will lead BRICS in 2026.
- ❖ Veteran Malayalam actor, writer, and director Sreenivasan passed away at the age of 69.
- ❖ World War II Navy veteran Ira "Ike" Schab, one of the dwindling number of survivors of the 1941 Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, has died recently.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister released a commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha at the Second World Health Organization (WHO) Global Summit on Traditional Medicine held in New Delhi.
 - Ashwagandha is a medicinal plant used in Ayurveda, and its scientific name is 'Withania somnifera'.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Victoria hall Renovation



- ❖ CM of Tamil Nadu inaugurated restored Victoria Public Hall in Chennai, the hall, named after Queen Victoria.

- ❖ It was Built in 1888 in the Indo-Saracenic architectural style.
- ❖ Victoria Public Hall was designed by renowned architect Robert Chisholm and constructed by Namberumal Chetty and opened to the public by Lord Connemara.
- ❖ This hall was also the site where the Justice Party was formed in 1916, paving the way for Dravidian politics in the State.
- ❖ About 120 musical instruments that were used in the Sangam period were also lined up, including the tutari, kuzhal, kinnaram, kokkarai and several others.
- ❖ It was taken up under the Singara Chennai 2.0 programme.

NATIONAL NEWS

VB-G RAM G Bill

- ❖ The President of India has given assent to the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025.
- ❖ The Act replaces the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005.
- ❖ Under the Act, the Government has listed four focus areas for works.
- ❖ These focus areas are water security and water-related works, core rural infrastructure, and livelihood-related infrastructure.
- ❖ The fourth focus area under the Act is works to mitigate extreme weather events.
- ❖ Wage employment under the Act is linked to the creation of durable public assets in rural areas.

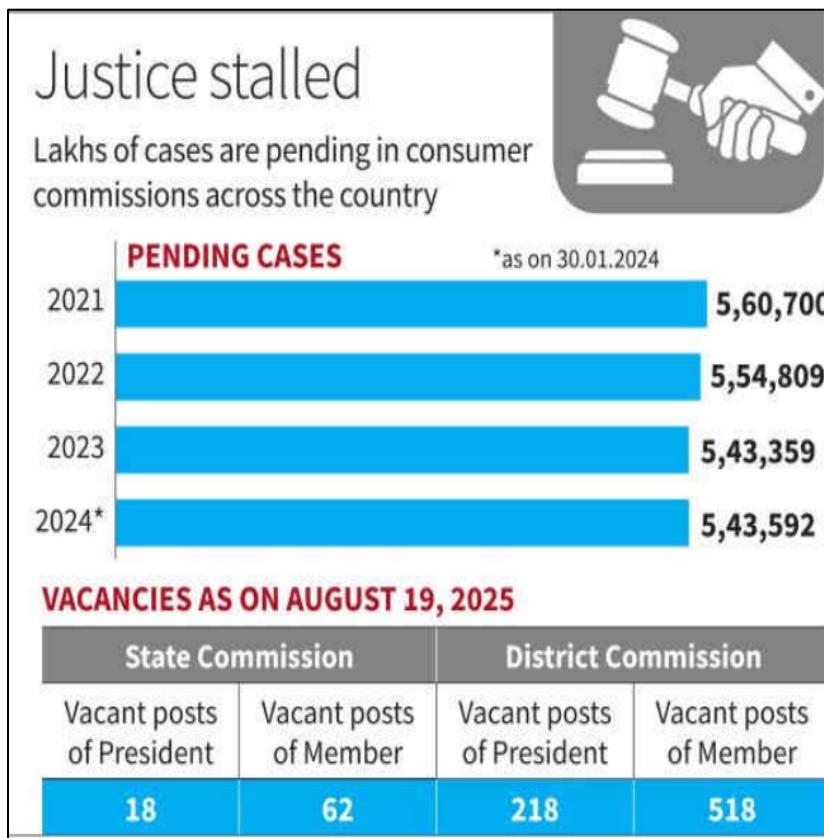
Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) :VB – G RAM G (विकसित भारत – जी राम जी) Bill, 2025

A resolution to enhance the legal guarantee of wage employment from **100 to 125 days** per financial year for anchoring rural asset creation through the enactment of an appropriate Act

Delay in Consumer Justice in India

- ❖ As of January 30, 2024, a total of 5.43 lakh consumer complaints were pending before district, State and national consumer commissions.

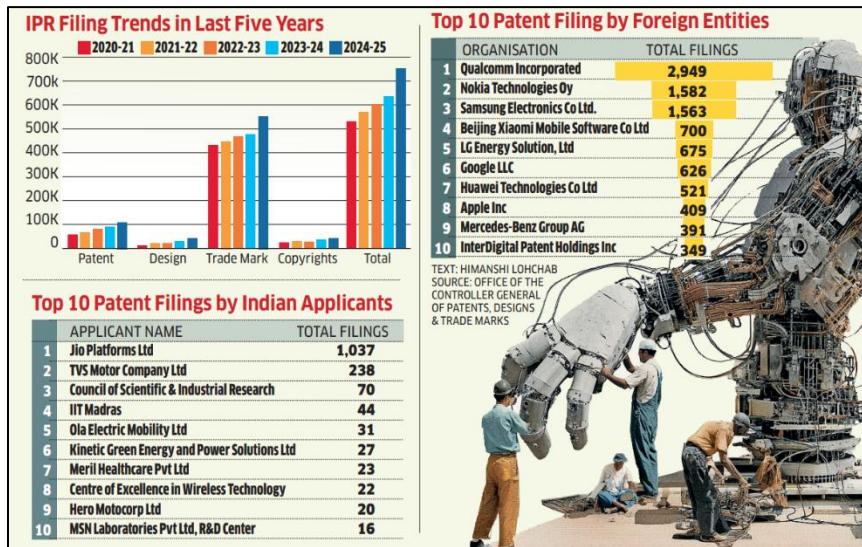
- ❖ In 2024, the commissions received 1.73 lakh fresh cases but disposed of only 1.58 lakh, leading to a net increase of nearly 14,900 cases.
- ❖ Up to July 2025, 78,031 new complaints were filed, while 65,537 cases were disposed of.
- ❖ As of August 19, 2025, 18 posts of President and 62 posts of Member were vacant in State Consumer Dispute Redressal Commissions.
- ❖ At the district level, 218 posts of President and 518 posts of Member remained vacant.



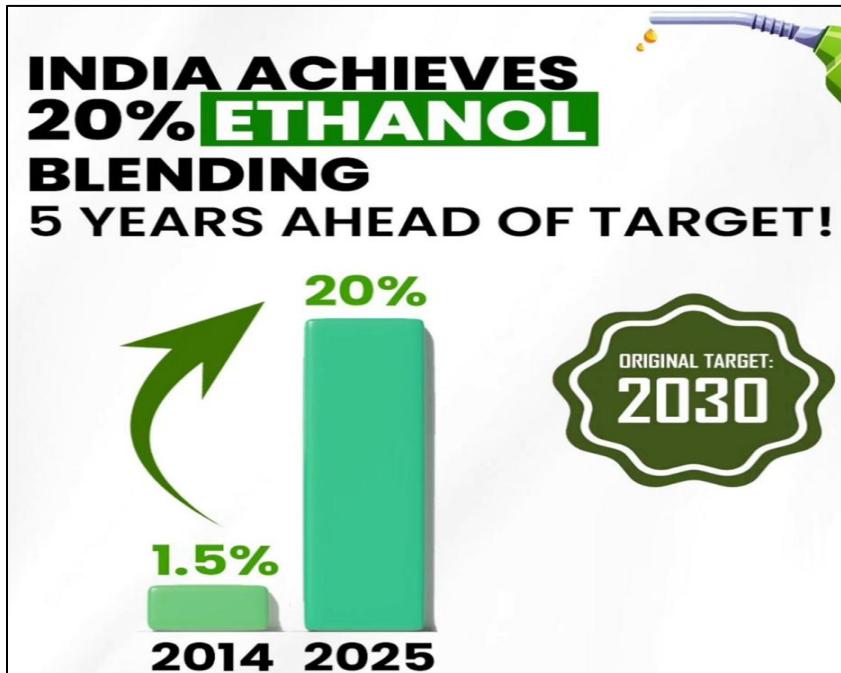
One lakh patent filing in FY25

- ❖ India's patent applications crossed the 1 lakh mark for the first time in the financial year 2024-25 (FY25).
- ❖ Over 1.1 lakh patent applications being filed with the country's intellectual property office.
- ❖ This was against 92,168 patent applications filed in 2023-24, marking nearly 20% growth.
- ❖ Domestic innovators contributed to nearly 62% of these filings.

- ❖ IPR filings clocked over 18% growth with healthy growth across all categories—patents, designs, trademarks, and geographical indications.



20 percent Ethanol in Petrol



- ❖ In November 2025, India reached 20% ethanol blending in petrol.
- ❖ The target for cumulative 20% blending is set for the end of the Ethanol Supply Year 2025-26 (October 2026).
- ❖ The National Policy on Biofuels, amended in 2022, advanced the 20% blending target from 2030 to 2025-26.

- ❖ Public Sector Undertaking Oil Marketing Companies received 45.5 crore litres of ethanol in November 2025.
- ❖ Ethanol blending in October 2025 was 19.97%.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India–New Zealand FTA



- ❖ The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is one of India's fastest-concluded FTAs.
- ❖ India has signed six FTAs in the last five years, the latest being with Oman.
- ❖ India has kept its dairy sector completely closed under the Agreement.
- ❖ No dairy imports are allowed, and no duty concessions have been given on dairy products.
- ❖ New Zealand companies can bring dairy raw materials into India only for processing and 100% re-export.
- ❖ Finished dairy products processed in India cannot be sold in the Indian market.
- ❖ India has never opened its dairy sector under any FTA.

Accra Convention 2025

- ❖ The United Nations Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents was adopted on 15 December 2025.
- ❖ It is also called the Accra Convention on Negotiable Cargo Documents.
- ❖ The Convention was adopted under the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).
- ❖ It creates legal rules for negotiable cargo documents used in international trade.

- ❖ The documents can be in paper or electronic form and represent goods in transit.
- ❖ The Convention supports digital trade and multimodal transport.



UNCAC Conference



- ❖ The 11th session of the Conference of the States Parties (COSP11) was held in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ The aim of the conference was to strengthen global cooperation to prevent and combat corruption.
- ❖ Delegates adopted multiple resolutions and policy decisions for implementing United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) priorities.
- ❖ A resolution on preventing corruption related to environmental crimes was agreed upon.
- ❖ Governments and stakeholders are expected to implement the decisions and follow-up activities.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Bluebird Block-2 mission

(GSLV) LVM3-M6 / BLUEBIRD BLOCK-2 MISSION



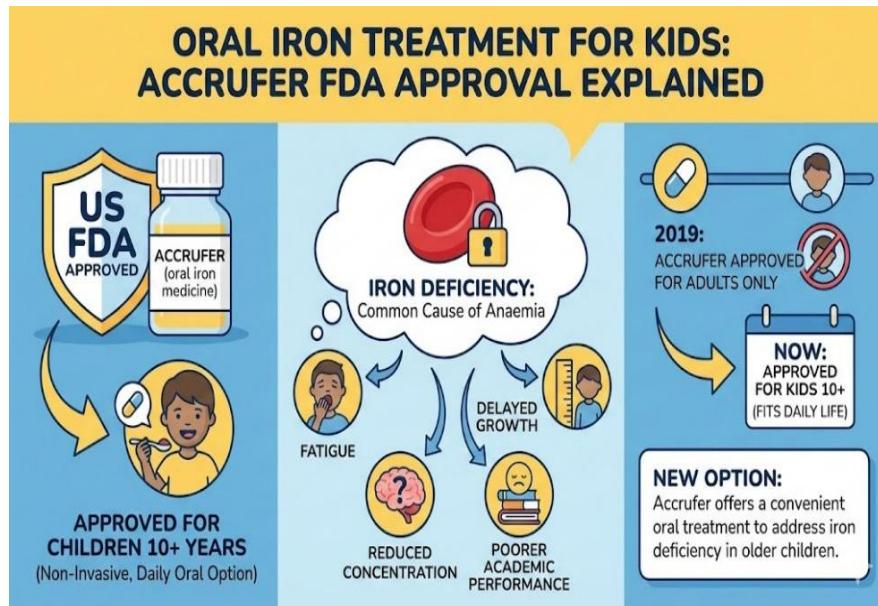
ISRO'S OPERATIONAL HEAVY-LIFT LAUNCH VEHICLE
WITH A PROVEN RECORD OF RELIABLE MISSIONS.
READY TO DELIVER BLUEBIRD BLOCK-2 TO LOW
EARTH ORBIT.

- ❖ ISRO launched a landmark mission - BlueBird Block-2 into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) by using the LVM3 launch vehicle (GSLV-MK III).
- ❖ It carrying a massive 6,100-kilogram communication satellite of US's AST Space Mobile.
- ❖ This launch being popularly described as 'Baahubali' to highlight its scale.
- ❖ This is AST Space Mobile Inc's largest-ever satellite from India.
- ❖ It is the first in a series of deployments to help the company compete against Elon Musk's Starlink.
- ❖ The previous heaviest was the LVM3-M5 Communication Satellite 03, weighing about 4,400 kg that was launched by ISRO in the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

Oral Iron Treatment for Kids

- ❖ The US FDA has now approved Accrufer, a prescription oral medicine, for children aged 10 years and older with iron deficiency.
- ❖ This offers a new, non-invasive treatment option that fits better into daily life.
- ❖ Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anaemia.

- ❖ This can result in persistent fatigue, reduced concentration, delayed growth, and poorer academic performance.
- ❖ Until now, Accrufer was approved only for adults, starting in 2019.



Ghost Pairing warning

Cyber Alert: New WhatsApp "GhostPairing" scam

If you receive a message saying:

Facebook post
photobox.life

Hey, I just found your photo!
<https://photobox.life/login/post.com>

DO NOT click it!

This is a GhostPairing scam.

Scammers can pair with your WhatsApp account

The link takes you to a **fake WhatsApp Web page** that tricks you into pairing your WhatsApp account with a **hacker's device** – **without OTPs, SIM swap, or alerts**.

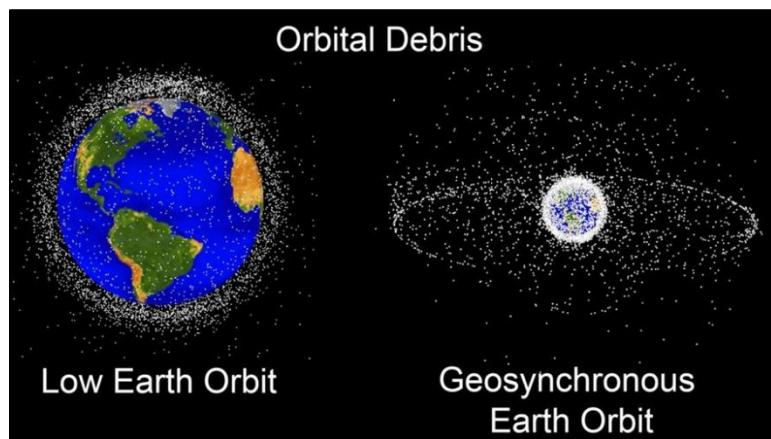
Once paired, scammers can:

- ✓ Read your private chats
- ✓ Access photos, videos & contacts
- ✓ Send messages pretending to be you
- ✓ Lock you out of your own account

- ❖ The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued an advisory about an active threat campaign targeting WhatsApp users.

- ❖ The attack uses a new technique called Ghost Pairing, which malicious actors exploit to hijack WhatsApp accounts.
- ❖ The threat actors can take over WhatsApp accounts without authorisation by tricking potential victims into entering the pairing codes.
- ❖ It allows cybercriminals to take complete control of WhatsApp accounts without needing passwords or SIM swaps.

Space Debris in Low Earth Orbit



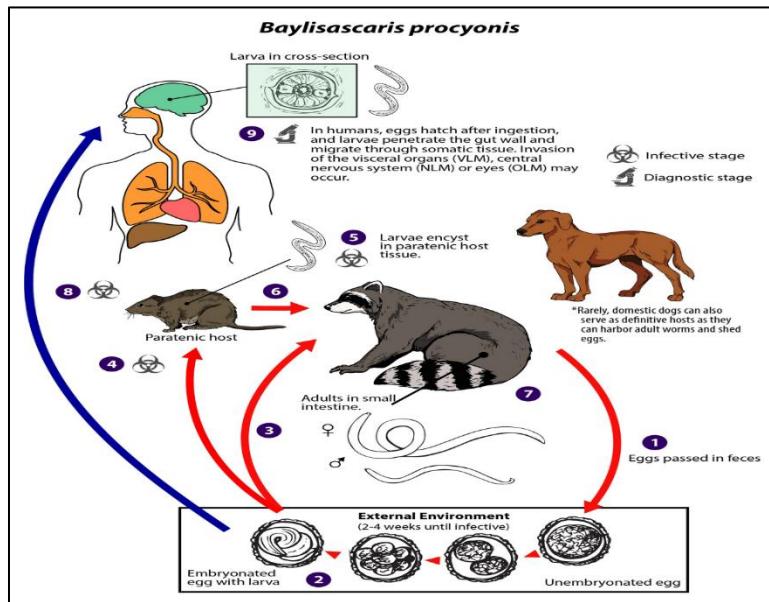
- ❖ Micrometeoroids and Orbital Debris (MMOD) are small natural and human-made objects moving around Earth at very high speeds.
- ❖ Micrometeoroids come from asteroids and comets, while orbital debris comes from broken satellites and rocket parts.
- ❖ Most orbital debris is found in Low Earth Orbit between 200 km and 2,000 km altitude.
- ❖ Even very small MMOD particles can damage satellites and spacecraft due to high speed.
- ❖ Collisions between debris can create more debris, called the Kessler Syndrome.
- ❖ MMOD poses a serious risk to astronauts, space stations, and future space missions.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Raccoon roundworm in Europe

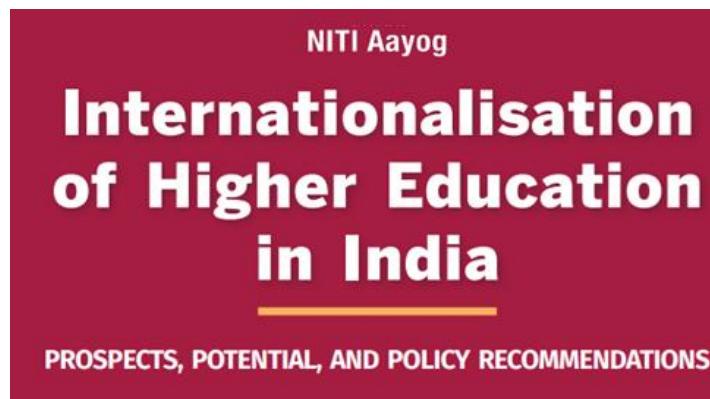
- ❖ Increase of *Baylisascaris procyonis*, commonly known as raccoon roundworm, found across Europe with very high infection rates.
- ❖ Initially introduced with raccoons brought from North America in the early 1900s.

- ❖ Raccoons are the primary hosts, but they are not the parasite's only targets.
- ❖ Mature worms in raccoon intestines produce up to 1,80,000 eggs daily,



REPORTS AND INDICES

NITI Aayog Report on Higher Education – 2025



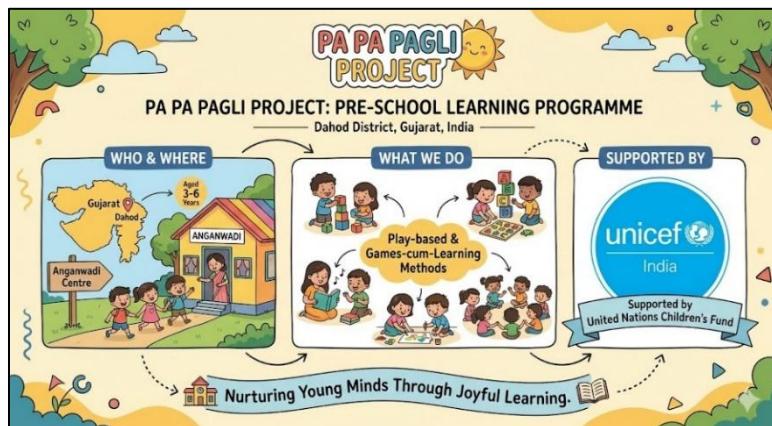
- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report titled “Internationalisation of Higher Education”.
- ❖ The report recommends 22 policy interventions to reduce the gap between Indian students going abroad and foreign students coming to India.
- ❖ It proposes Vishwa Bandhu scholarships and fellowships to attract foreign students and faculty.
- ❖ The report suggests an Erasmus Plus-like academic mobility programme (Erasmus Plus is a European Union student exchange programme).
- ❖ It recommends a 10 billion USD research fund called Bharat Vidya Kosh.

- ❖ The roadmap supports foreign university campuses in India under a “campus within campus” model.

STATES' NEWS

Pa Pa Pagli Project

- ❖ The Pa Pa Pagli Project is being implemented in Dahod district of Gujarat.
- ❖ It is a pre-school learning programme for children aged three to six years.
- ❖ The project is carried out at Anganwadi centres.
- ❖ Children are taught through play-based activities and games-cum-learning methods.
- ❖ It is supported by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

PRSI National Awards



- ❖ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) won eight national awards from the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI).
- ❖ The awards were presented at the 47th All India Public Relations Conference held in Dehradun.
- ❖ SAIL was recognised for excellence in advertising, public relations, digital communication, and event management.
- ❖ Awards included Best Advertising Campaign using AI and Best Use of AI in Public Relations.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Consumer Day 2025 - December 24



- ❖ This day commemorates the presidential assent to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ The Act lists 6 basic consumer rights and five responsibilities that every consumer must follow.
- ❖ The Consumer Protection Act was updated three times in 1991, 1993 and 2002.
- ❖ Then the Consumer Protection Act 2019 replaced the Consumer Protection Act of 1986 in July 2020.
- ❖ The theme for 2025 is “Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice.”

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

India's Largest Circular Stone - Labyrinth



- ❖ Labyrinth, a large circular stone structure, was unearthed in the Boramani grass lands of Solapur district in Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is measuring approximately 50 feet by 50 feet and comprising an extraordinary 15 concentric circuits.
- ❖ This structure dates back to nearly 2,000 years ago and is linked to Indo-Roman trade during the Satavahana dynasty period.
- ❖ Most labyrinths previously recorded in India featured 11 circuits at the most.
- ❖ This new discovery of one with 15 makes it the largest circular one in India.
- ❖ Similar but smaller labyrinths were discovered from districts such as Sangli, Satara, and Kolhapur.
- ❖ Labyrinths may have served as navigational markers or symbolic signposts for Roman merchants and local traders moving goods such as spices, textiles, and precious stones.

