

December - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kuwait signed a \$4.1 billion deal with China to construct the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Port on Boubyan Island, aiming to boost its role in regional and global trade as part of its economic diversification strategy.
- ❖ Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel authored a book named, “The Great Sanctions Hack” about the growing use of economic sanctions worldwide.
- ❖ Team Alpine SG Pipers clinched the 3rd edition of the Global Chess League (GCL) 2025, also known as Tech Mahindra Global Chess League (TechM GCL) 2025.
- ❖ The Government of Delhi has launched “Atal Canteen Scheme to provide meals at subsidized price at just Rs.5 per plate at 100 locations across New Delhi (Delhi).

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Keezhadi Flood Sediments



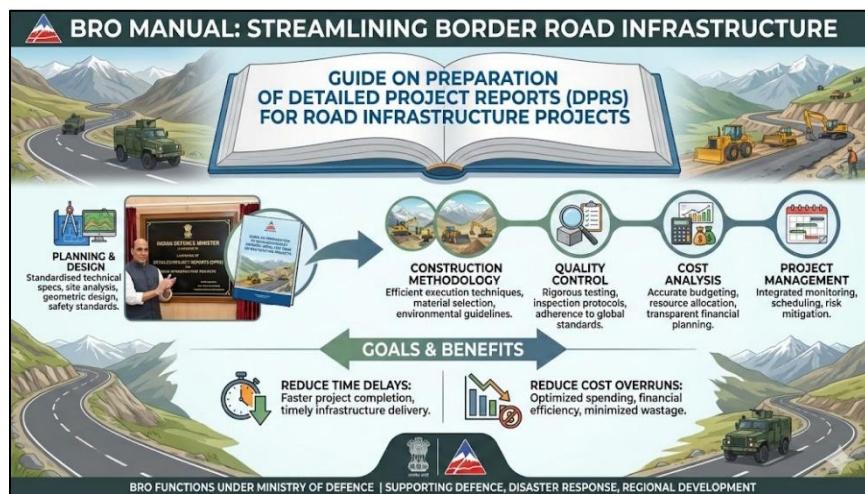
- ❖ Archaeological evidence shows that floods buried the Keezhadi settlement on the Vaigai floodplain in Tamil Nadu around 1,155 years ago.
- ❖ Keezhadi is located in the Sivagangai district and lies on a mound within the Vaigai river floodplain.
- ❖ Excavations have revealed brick structures, canals, floors, and pottery reflecting urban life described in Sangam literature.

- ❖ The sediment layers indicate repeated flooding, with coarser sand below brick structures and silty clay above, suggesting high-energy flood events.
- ❖ These findings help understand late Holocene climate variability and how environmental forces shaped human settlements in South India.

NATIONAL NEWS

BRO Manual

- ❖ The defence minister launched a Border Roads Organisation (BRO) manual to streamline road construction in border areas.
- ❖ The manual is titled “Guide on Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for Road Infrastructure Projects”.
- ❖ It standardises planning, design, construction methodology, quality control, and cost analysis for road projects.
- ❖ The guide aims to reduce time delays and cost overruns in border and remote region infrastructure.
- ❖ BRO functions under the Ministry of Defence and builds roads supporting defence, disaster response, and regional development.



Anti-Terror Conference

- ❖ The Anti-Terror Conference was inaugurated by the union home minister in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference is organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- ❖ The conference aims to strengthen coordination among agencies through a 'Whole of Government' approach for counter-terrorism.
- ❖ Discussions focus on disrupting terror financing, collecting evidence from foreign jurisdictions, digital forensics, and countering radicalisation.
- ❖ The event also provides recommendations for future counter-terrorism policies and strategies to enhance national security.



Constitution in the Santhali Language



- ❖ The President of India released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Constitution has been published in the Ol Chiki script, used for writing Santhali.
- ❖ The release coincides with the centenary year of the Ol Chiki script.

- ❖ Santhali was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution through the 92nd Amendment Act, 2003.
- ❖ Santhali is spoken in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Bihar.

India's First Anti-Terror Policy

- ❖ The Union government is finalising India's first National Counter Terrorism Policy under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ The policy is being drafted with operational and intelligence inputs from the National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ❖ It aims to provide a uniform framework for States to prevent, combat, and respond to terrorist incidents.
- ❖ Key focus areas include digital radicalisation, misuse of open borders, Aadhaar spoofing, and foreign-funded conversion networks.
- ❖ The National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) will support intelligence sharing among authorised law enforcement agencies.



Kimberley Process - Vice Chair

- ❖ India became Vice Chair of the Kimberley Process.
- ❖ India will assume the Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process from 1st January 2026.
- ❖ The Kimberley Process is a tripartite international initiative involving governments, the diamond industry, and civil society organizations.
- ❖ It aims to prevent the trade in conflict diamonds used to finance armed conflicts.

- ❖ The process currently has 60 participants, covering over 99% of the global rough diamond trade.
- ❖ India's leadership role focuses on strengthening rule-based compliance, ethical sourcing, and inclusivity in the global diamond trade.

India to Chair The Kimberley Process in 2026

India has assumed the role of Vice Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2025 and will take over as Chair in 2026. India's leadership will focus on strengthening Kimberley Process governance, reinforcing rule-based compliance, and enhancing trust in the global rough diamond trade.

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill 2025

- ❖ The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill proposes a single regulator for higher education in India.
- ❖ It aims to simplify regulation, reduce overlaps among multiple bodies, and improve transparency.
- ❖ The Bill includes verticals for standards-setting, accreditation, and funding.
- ❖ Institutes of National Importance, like IITs, IIMs, and IISc, will be included under the regulator.
- ❖ These institutions have historically enjoyed high statutory and academic autonomy.
- ❖ Concerns exist that uniform standards may restrict academic flexibility and innovation.
- ❖ The Bill does not formally amend the internal governance structures of IITs or IIMs.
- ❖ The reform balances regulatory consolidation with maintaining excellence in premier institutions.

Regulatory Reforms

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill, 2025

- Clear functional separation of Standard Setting, Regulation, and Accreditation
- Harmonised benchmarks for regulation to ensure uniform quality standards while allowing flexibility and diversity
- Objective, transparent, technology-enabled, faceless Single Window systems, open to public scrutiny
- Public disclosure-based, responsive, and minimalistic regulation to enable institutions to focus on academic excellence
- Transparent and robust accreditation framework to strengthen quality assurance mechanisms.
- Enhanced autonomy for well-performing HEIs

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

AI Lab Assistant – AILA



- ❖ Researchers at IIT Delhi have developed an AI system called AILA.

- ❖ AILA stands for Artificially Intelligent Lab Assistant.
- ❖ It is designed to conduct real laboratory experiments with very little human help.
- ❖ AILA works using an Agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI) framework that can think and make decisions like a scientist.
- ❖ The system was tested using an Atomic Force Microscope, a tool used in nanotechnology research.
- ❖ AILA can reduce experiment time from hours or days to just a few minutes.

Russia's Lunar Power Plant Plan

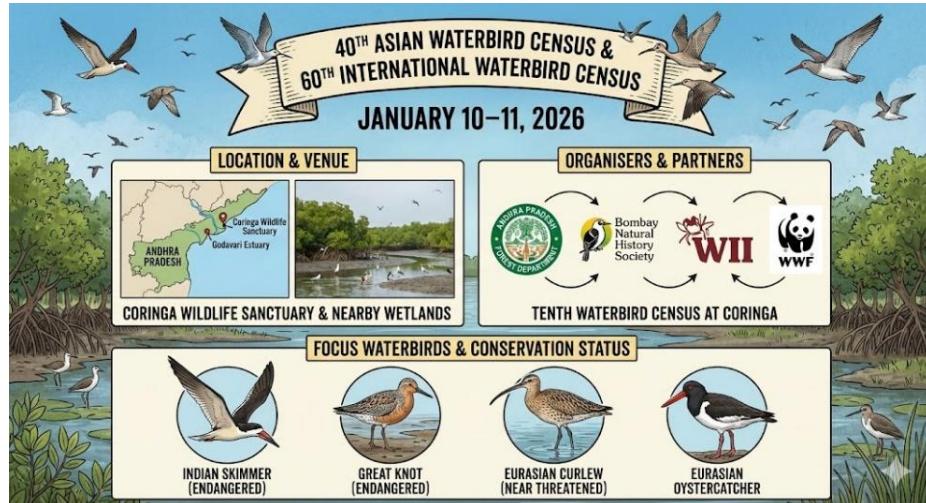


Russia Plans Lunar Power Plant by 2036 to Support Moon Programme and Joint Base with China

- ❖ Russia has announced plans to install a power plant on the Moon to support long-term lunar missions.
- ❖ The project is being developed by Roscosmos, Russia's state-owned space agency.
- ❖ The lunar power plant is planned to become operational by the year 2036.
- ❖ It will provide energy for lunar rovers, scientific observatories and research infrastructure.
- ❖ The project is linked to the joint Russian-Chinese International Lunar Research Station (ILRS).
- ❖ Rosatom and the Kurchatov Institute are involved, indicating the use of nuclear power.
- ❖ Nuclear energy is considered suitable for the Moon due to its reliability for long-duration missions.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Asian Waterbird Census 2025



- ❖ The 40th Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) and the 60th International Waterbird Census (IWC) will be held on January 10–11, 2026.
- ❖ The census will take place at Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary and nearby wetlands in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It is organised by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department with Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ❖ This is the tenth waterbird census conducted at Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, near the Godavari estuary.
- ❖ The survey will focus on Indian Skimmer (Endangered), Great Knot (Endangered), Eurasian Curlew (Near Threatened), and Eurasian Oystercatcher.
- ❖ Coringa is a rare site where Indian Skimmer and Great Knot are seen together during winter.

New Springtail Species - Sikkim

- ❖ Scientists discovered a new species of Collembola (springtails) in the high-altitude region of Sikkim.
- ❖ The new species is named Neelus sikkimensis.
- ❖ This is the first time the genus Neelus has been recorded in India.
- ❖ Collembola are very small soil insects that live in soil and moss.
- ❖ They act as bio-indicators, helping scientists understand soil and environmental health.

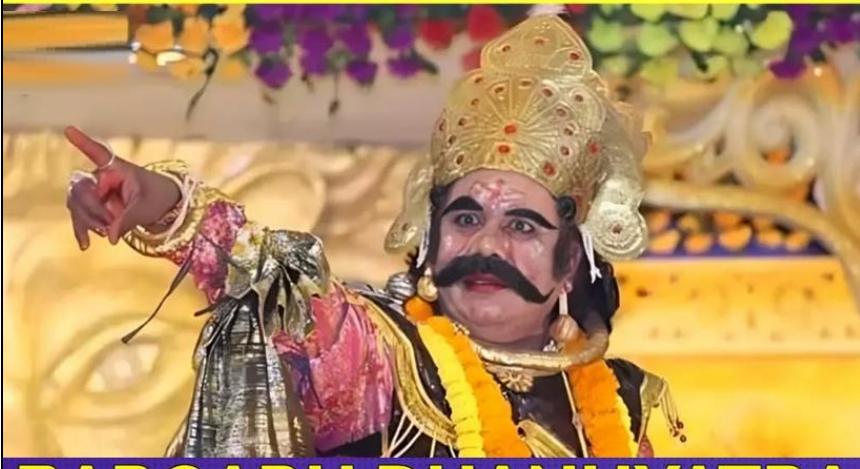


**Zoological Survey of India
scientists discover new springtail
species in Sikkim**

STATES' NEWS

Dhanu Yatra

WORLD'S LARGEST OPEN AIR THEATRE



BARGARH DHANUYATRA

- ❖ Dhanu Yatra was inaugurated at Bargarh in Odisha.
- ❖ It is held annually and is recognised as the world's largest open-air theatre festival.

- ❖ During the festival, Bargarh is shown as the ancient city of Mathura.
- ❖ The event depicts episodes from the life of Lord Krishna, including the defeat of King Kansa.
- ❖ Dhanu Yatra has been given National Festival status by the Central Government.

Smartphone Ban in Rajasthan



- ❖ A caste panchayat in Jalore district of Rajasthan has banned smartphone use for married women of a section of the Jat community.
- ❖ The decision was taken on December 21, 2025, at a meeting held in Ghazipur village.
- ❖ The ban will come into effect from Republic Day in 2026.
- ❖ The order was issued by the Sundhamata Patti panchayat of the Chaudhary clan and applies to 15 villages.
- ❖ Married women are not allowed to carry camera-enabled smartphones to weddings, public places, or neighbours' houses.
- ❖ Only basic keypad phones are allowed for making voice calls, while students may use smartphones at home for education.

SPORTS NEWS

First Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

- ❖ The logo, theme song and mascot of the first Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) were unveiled in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

- ❖ The Khelo India Tribal Games will be held from February 14, 2026.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh is the first state to host the Khelo India Tribal Games.
- ❖ 'Morveer' is the official mascot, reflecting the cultural identity of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The Games are organised under the Khelo India Scheme by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PESA Mahotsav 2025

- ❖ The two-day PESA (Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas) Mahotsav was held in Visakhapatnam on the occasion of PESA Diwas.
- ❖ The Mahotsav aims to empower tribal communities and strengthen recognition of their rights and traditions.
- ❖ It provides a national platform to celebrate, preserve and promote tribal culture.
- ❖ In 1993, India's Constitution was amended (73rd Amendment) to establish Panchayati Raj Institutions or local governance structures at the village, block, and district levels.
- ❖ But, the 73rd Amendment Act did not apply to tribal Scheduled Areas automatically.
- ❖ The PESA Act extends the Panchayati Raj system provisions to the tribal-dominated Fifth Schedule Areas.
- ❖ In 1996, this act came into force.
- ❖ The Act gives Gram Sabhas and Panchayats in these areas additional powers to maintain their traditional governance systems.
- ❖ At present, 10 states have Fifth Scheduled Areas.
- ❖ The Ministry of Panchayati Raj celebrates December 24, 2024, as PESA Day.

Witness the confluence of
Democracy & Tribal Pride at

PESA Mahotsav 2025

Brining together:

- Tribal culture
- Cuisine
- Sports like Kabaddi, Archery
& Marathon from 10 PESA States & more!

**A celebration of democracy
at the grassroots**

Date: 23 & 24 December 2025
Location: Visakhapatnam

Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan 2025

Dedicated to 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji

**150th Shree Baba
Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan
26, 27, 28 Dec 2025**

Organised by
Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Mahasabha (Regd.)
Devi Talab, Jalandhar, Punjab

- ❖ The 150th edition of Shree Baba Harivallabh Sangeet Sammelan started in Jalandhar, Punjab.

- ❖ It is India's oldest Hindustani classical music festival, held annually at Shree Devi Talab Temple.
- ❖ The festival is organised by the North Zone Cultural Centre under the Union Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ This edition is dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru.

