

December - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ PV Sindhu, India's two-time Olympic medallist, has been elected to the Chair of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Athletes' Commission for the term 2026–2029.
- ❖ Anu Garg, IAS officer of Odisha cadre, will become Odisha's first woman Chief Secretary from January 1, 2026.
- ❖ Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), a new greenfield airport developed by Adani Airports, has commenced commercial flight operations.
- ❖ VoxelGrids, a Zoho-backed start-up, has developed India's first Indigenous Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise (RPREX-2025) to test oil spill preparedness held off the Mumbai coast.
- ❖ China opened the 22.13-km-long Tianshan Shengli Tunnel in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, making it the world's longest expressway tunnel.
 - It passes through the Tianshan Mountain range, which separates northern and southern Xinjiang.
- ❖ The Param Rudra supercomputer was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna.
 - It is the first supercomputer facility in Bihar, under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- ❖ Aishi Prisha Borah, from Jorhat, Assam, received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2025 for her work in the science and technology promoting sustainability and waste reduction.
 - She has earlier won the INSPIRE MANAK (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research – Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) State Award in 2022.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's First National Weapon Database

- ❖ The Central Government launched India's first national weapon database to strengthen internal security systems.
- ❖ The database is named the Lost, Looted and Recovered Firearm (LLRF) database and focuses on tracking missing weapons.

- ❖ It was officially launched during the Anti-Terror Conference 2025.
- ❖ The database has been developed and hosted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ It contains details of government-owned firearms belonging to the State Police and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).
- ❖ The system allows real-time data sharing among police, paramilitary forces, and investigation agencies across all States and Union Territories.



India's Rabies Crisis



- ❖ India accounts for nearly one-third of the world's rabies deaths.
- ❖ This was making the country with the highest number of fatalities from this preventable disease.
- ❖ Rabies is caused by a neurotropic virus that travels along nerves to the brain and spinal cord.
- ❖ Around 20,000 people die from rabies in India every year, with most victims living in rural areas and low-income communities.

- ❖ Children under 15 years old are at high risk, and free-roaming dogs, estimated at 80 million, cause about 20 million bites annually.
- ❖ India produces about 50 million anti-rabies vaccines (ARV) doses each year, but needs 60 million, leading to shortages and treatment delays in hospitals.

President's Submarine Voyage

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu undertook a submarine sea sortie from Karwar Harbour, Karnataka.
- ❖ She became the second President of India, after A P J Abdul Kalam, to travel in a submarine.
- ❖ Karwar Harbour was one of India's most strategic naval bases on the western coast.
- ❖ Murmu had also flown in Rafale and Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets, marking historic Presidential engagements with the armed forces.
- ❖ She attended Ol Chiki centenary celebrations and NIT Jamshedpur's 15th convocation in Jharkhand.



India Approves 3 New Airlines

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation granted no-objection certificates (NOCs) to Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, and FlyExpress.

- ❖ Shankh Air, based in Uttar Pradesh, planned to operate from Noida International Airport and connect Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities.
- ❖ Al Hind Air, based in Kerala, aimed to launch as a regional commuter airline with ATR 72-600 aircraft and expand internationally later.
- ❖ FlyExpress, based in Telangana, focused on connecting Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and leveraged government schemes like UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).
- ❖ The airlines sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Civil Aviation for operational and regulatory compliance.
- ❖ The initiative aims to boost regional connectivity and make domestic air travel affordable.

**INDIA TO GET 3 NEW AIRLINES SOON –
SHANKH AIR, AL HIND AIR AND FLYEXPRESS**

GOVT CLEARS 3 NEW AIRLINES

- **Civil Aviation Ministry grants NOCs to Shankh Air, Al Hind Air, FlyExpress**
- **Announcement by Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on X**
- **Move aims to boost regional connectivity**
- **Aligned with govt schemes like UDAN**

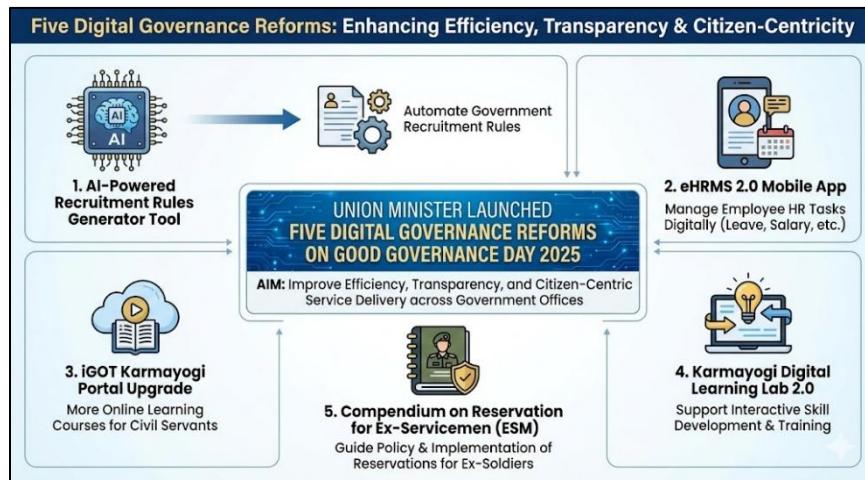
National Conference of Chief Secretaries

- ❖ The fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The PM of India headed this conference.
- ❖ The conference aimed to strengthen the Centre-State partnership through structured dialogue on national development priorities.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was “Human Capital for Viksit Bharat”.

- ❖ The conference focused on Early Childhood Education, Schooling, Skilling, Higher Education, Sports, and Extracurricular Activities.
- ❖ Six special sessions were held on Deregulation in States, Technology in Governance, Agri Stack for Smart Supply Chains, Tourism, Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) and Swadeshi, and strategies for a Post-Left-Wing Extremism Future.



Digital Governance Reforms



- ❖ Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh launched five digital governance reforms on Good Governance Day 2025.
- ❖ The reforms aim to improve efficiency, transparency, and citizen-centric service delivery across government offices.

- ❖ The AI (Artificial Intelligence) Powered Recruitment Rules Generator Tool was introduced to automate government recruitment rules.
- ❖ The eHRMS (Employee Human Resource Management System) 2.0 Mobile App was launched to manage employee HR tasks digitally.
- ❖ iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi Portal was upgraded to provide more online learning courses for civil servants.
- ❖ Karmayogi Digital Learning Lab 2.0 was launched to support interactive skill development and training for government employees.
- ❖ Compendium on Reservation for Ex-Servicemen (ESM) was released to guide policy and implementation of reservations for ex-soldiers.

Child Marriage in India

**ERADICATING
CHILD MARRIAGE**



A Global Commitment

- ▶ **India has committed to achieve SDG* 5**
- ▶ **SDG* 5 aims to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, & forced marriage, by 2030**

- ❖ India has pledged to end child marriage by 2030 under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- ❖ The government launched the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and marked its first anniversary with a 100-day awareness campaign against child marriage.
- ❖ National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data show child marriage among women aged 18–29 declined from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 23.3% in 2019-21.

- ❖ Highest rates of child marriage are in West Bengal, Bihar, and Tripura, while Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan also show significant cases.
- ❖ 40% of girls from the poorest households marry before 18, compared to 8% from the wealthiest households.
- ❖ 48% of girls with no education are married before adulthood, compared to only 4% among educated girls.
- ❖ The Prevention of Child Marriage Act was enacted to prevent this in 2006

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Recognition of Republic of Somaliland

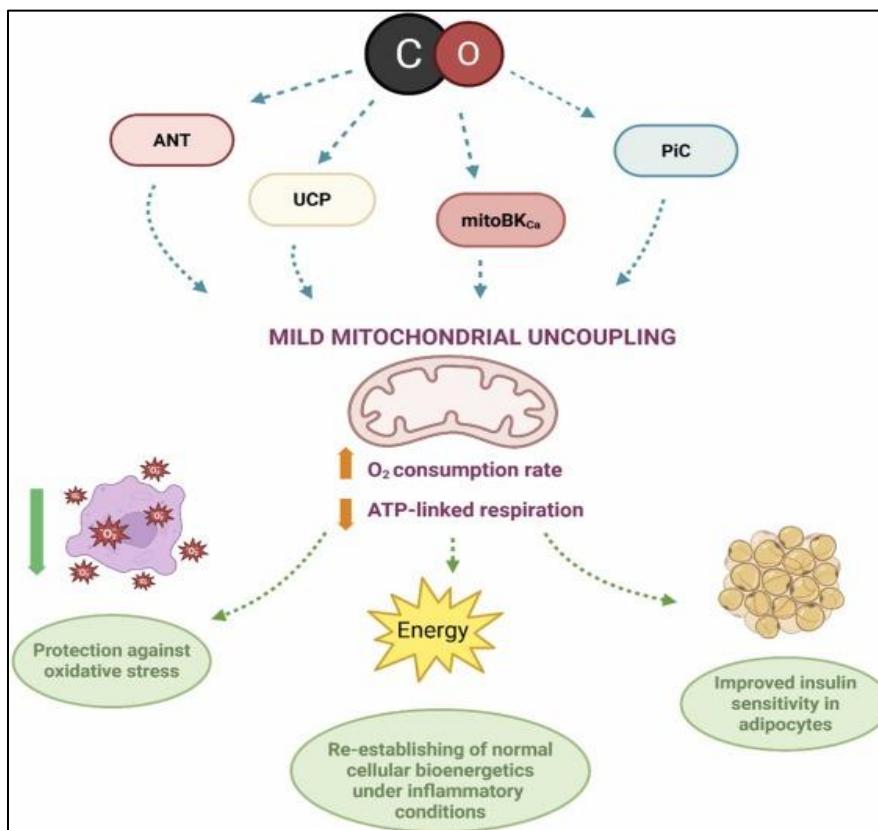


- ❖ Israel became the first country to formally recognise the Republic of Somaliland as an independent and sovereign state.
- ❖ Somaliland is a self-declared state in the Horn of Africa that has operated separately from Somalia since 1991.
- ❖ The recognition was formalised through a joint declaration of mutual recognition between Israel and Somaliland.

- ❖ Israel announced plans for cooperation with Somaliland in agriculture, health, technology, and economic sectors.
- ❖ But Somalia rejected the recognition and stated that Somaliland remains part of its internationally recognised territory.
- ❖ The African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) reaffirmed support for Somalia's unity and territorial integrity.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Mild Mitochondrial Uncouplers



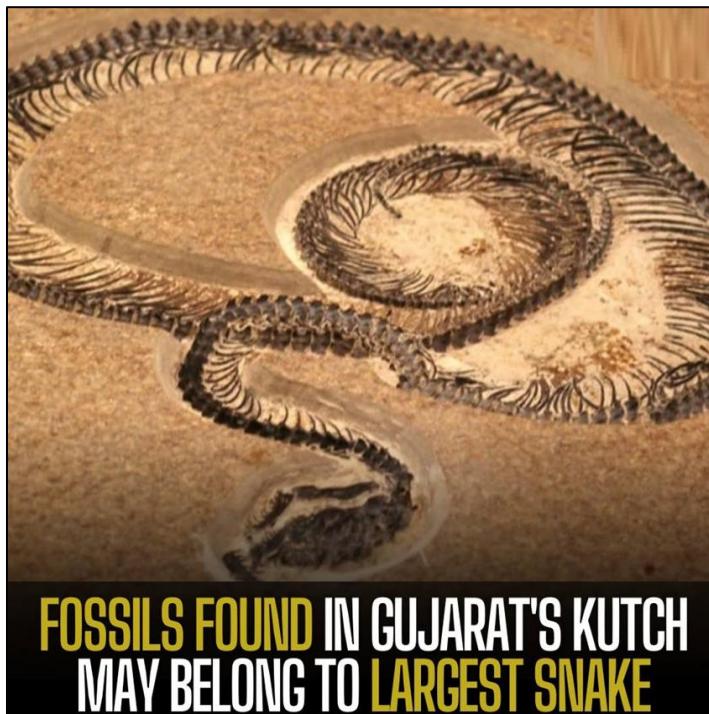
- ❖ Scientists are exploring “mild mitochondrial uncouplers” to help treat obesity by making cells burn more energy as heat.
- ❖ Mitochondria are cell structures that convert food into chemical energy called adenosine triphosphate (ATP), which powers muscles, the brain, and organs.
- ❖ In obesity, people consume more calories than they burn, so increasing energy use in cells may reduce weight.
- ❖ Earlier mitochondrial uncouplers were dangerous, causing overheating, organ failure, and death because they were too strong and uncontrolled.

- ❖ The new “mild” uncouplers increase energy use slowly, burning extra calories safely and reducing oxidative stress in cells.
- ❖ Mild uncouplers may also help prevent ageing, insulin resistance, and neurodegenerative diseases like dementia.

STATES' NEWS

World's Largest Prehistoric Snake

- ❖ Fossil remains found in Gujarat suggest the existence of an exceptionally large prehistoric snake from the early Eocene epoch (around 47 million years ago).
- ❖ The fossils were discovered in sedimentary rock layers formed during the Eocene, one of the warmest geological periods in Earth's history.
- ❖ Scientific analysis places the snake in the madtsoiid group (an extinct family of giant snakes).
- ❖ The discovery may redefine the debate on the world's largest snake, as it highlights body bulk and strength, not just length.



TRRP Recognition for Odisha Villages

- ❖ Twenty-four coastal villages in Odisha have been recognized as Tsunami Ready under the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) by UNESCO.

- ❖ TRRP is a voluntary, community-based programme by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to improve coastal disaster preparedness.
- ❖ The programme uses twelve preparedness indicators to assess risk awareness, evacuation planning, warning systems, and community drills.
- ❖ India's National Tsunami Ready Recognition Board (NTRB), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, implements the TRRP with support from the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- ❖ Recognition is renewable every four years, and villages must maintain high awareness of tsunami hazards, public display of evacuation maps, 24-hour warning systems, and participation in mock drills.

24 Coastal Village in Odisha recognised by UNESCO as 'Tsunami Ready'		
Balasore District:	Kendrapara District:	Puri District:
Jagannathpur	Kantilo	Keutjanga
Jayadev Kasabapahi	Tantiapal Sasan	Narasinghpatana
Sahapur	Kaitha	Khalakatapatana
Kanyanagari		Chhotipada
Bhadrak District:	Jagatsinghpur District:	Ganjam District:
Mohanpur	Bagheipur	Uppulaputti
Adhuan	Dhanuharbelari	Prayagi
Badahabelisahi	Sahadabedi	Kantiagada
Sanakrushnapur	Bhuyanpal	Markandi

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

India's First Agarbatti Standard

- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has notified India's first agarbatti (incense stick) standard to regulate its manufacturing and sale.
- ❖ The standard is titled IS 19412:2025, which provides a uniform national framework for agarbatti products.
- ❖ It was officially notified on National Consumer Day 2025, observed on 24 December.
- ❖ The standard prohibits the use of harmful and toxic chemicals, ensuring safer use inside homes and public places.

- ❖ It lays down quality, safety, raw material, and performance requirements for agarbatti production.

