

December - 31

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment's Expert Appraisal Committee approved the 260-megawatt Dulhasti Stage-II hydroelectric project in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM announced that the Ukkadam–Athupalam flyover in Coimbatore will be named after Bharat Ratna awardee and former Union Minister C. Subramaniam, honouring his Green Revolution legacy.
- ❖ The Vice President of India, released Mahamana Vangmay, the final 12-volume series of the collected writings and speeches of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, in New Delhi.
- ❖ Jayshree Ullal, CEO of Arista Networks, has been ranked the richest Indian-origin professional manager in the world in the Hurun India Rich List 2025.
- ❖ For the first time a clouded leopard was spotted in Kakoi Reserve Forest, Assam.
 - It is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Chokhone Krichena, from Senapati district, Manipur, is known as the 'Flower Lady of Manipur' and promotes floriculture by blending traditional agricultural knowledge with modern business practices.
 - She was recognised nationally by the Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat for her work in women's leadership, self-reliance, and economic empowerment in Northeast India.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Funds for CMCHIS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has significantly improved access to high-end medical procedures through its state health insurance scheme.
- ❖ More than 18,000 patients have undergone high-end procedures such as organ transplantations under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS).
- ❖ Total of 18,182 persons have benefitted from January 11, 2012, to November 30, 2025.
- ❖ The total amount approved under the scheme standing at ₹1,556.35 crore.

- ❖ Renal transplants accounted for the highest number of beneficiaries (6,524), followed by cochlear implants (6,276).
- ❖ In terms of the amount spent, liver transplants incurred the highest expenditure (₹515.83 crore).
- ❖ Under the CMCHIS, ₹22,00,000 is allotted for liver transplantation.

Prioritising health

Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) in Tamil Nadu has improved access to high-end procedures including organ transplants. Eight high-end procedures are covered under the scheme

**OK AT THE PROCEDURES
THEIR COST**

Renal transplant: ₹4,00,000
Liver transplantation: ₹22,00,000
Heart transplantation: ₹15,00,000
Heart and lung transplantation: ₹20,00,000
Lung transplantation: ₹15,00,000
And ₹20,00,000 (Single and Double)
Cochlear implantation: ₹6,39,000
Auditory brainstem implantation: ₹8,24,120
Bone marrow transplantation
And stem cell transplantation: ₹8,00,000 to ₹17,00,000 [depending upon type]

**HIGH-END PROCEDURES UNDER CMCHIS FROM
JANUARY 11, 2012 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

Procedure	Number of patients approved	Amount approved (₹ in crore)
Cochlear implant	6,276	437.7
Renal transplant	6,524	257.7
Liver transplant	2,366	515.8
Bone marrow transplant	2,625	274.5
Heart transplant	247	41.7
Heart and lung transplant	37	8.8
Double lung transplant	50	10.6
Auditory brainstem implantation	57	9.3
TOTAL	18,182	1,556.3

Source: Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme

Vijayanagara-era Gold Coins

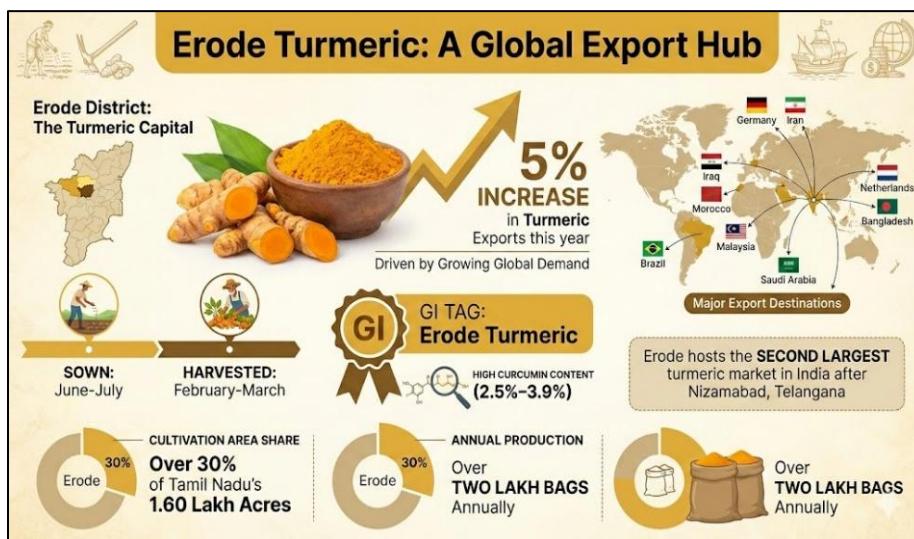


- ❖ Eighty-six punch-marked gold coins belonging to the Vijayanagara period were found near Jolarpet in Tirupattur district.
- ❖ The gold coins were found inside an iron pot buried below the surface of the farmland.
- ❖ The coins bear a pig emblem, which was commonly used by Vijayanagara rulers.

- ❖ As per the Indian Treasure Trove Act of 1878, the recovered treasure legally belongs to the government.

Turmeric Exports

- ❖ Turmeric exports from Erode district in Tamil Nadu increased by 5% this year due to growing global demand.
- ❖ Erode turmeric is known for high curcumin content (2.5%–3.9%) and has a GI tag.
- ❖ The crop is sown in June–July and harvested in February–March.
- ❖ Erode hosts the second-largest turmeric market in India after Nizamabad, Telangana.
- ❖ It exports to countries like Germany, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, the Netherlands, and Bangladesh.
- ❖ Turmeric cultivation in Erode covers over 30% of Tamil Nadu's 1.60 lakh acres under the spice, producing more than two lakh bags annually.



NATIONAL NEWS

NATGRID–NPR Link

- ❖ The Indian government has integrated the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) with the National Population Register (NPR).
- ❖ This integration allows real-time access to verified demographic and family-linked data.

- ❖ NATGRID was created after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (2008) to improve intelligence coordination.
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs and consolidates over 20 categories of civil and commercial databases.
- ❖ Gandiva, NATGRID's analytics tool, performs the facial recognition and links disparate data points to identify suspects.
- ❖ The integration enhances counter-terrorism efforts and accelerates criminal investigations across India.



Bomb Disposal Systems



- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has notified India's first national standard for bomb disposal systems.
- ❖ The newly notified standard is titled IS 19445:2025.

- ❖ The standard was developed at the request of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory (TBRL).
- ❖ It lays down clear guidelines to test bomb disposal systems against blast loads and splinter effects.
- ❖ The standard is intended for voluntary adoption by procurement agencies, manufacturers, and testing bodies.
- ❖ It aims to bring uniform testing practices and improve the safety of bomb disposal operations in India.

Ayushman Bharat Expansion

<p>What is Ayushman Bharat?</p> <p>Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is a scheme to provide health cover or health insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year.</p>	<p>How are claims checked/verified? </p> <p>Typically, the patient or one of her relatives approaches the Ayushman Bharat Counter, where the patient's identity is verified. The information provided by the treating doctor is fed into an online portal and sent to State Health Authorities (SHA) for approval. The completed indent form is dispatched to Amrit Pharmacy, which offers free treatment/implants at no cost to the patient.</p>
<p>Who is eligible? </p> <p>PM-JAY has been rolled out for the bottom 40% of the poor and vulnerable population, targeting approximately 12 crore households. The inclusion of households is based on the criteria mentioned in the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 for rural and urban areas.</p>	

- ❖ Odisha and Delhi joined Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), bringing most Indian states under the scheme.
- ❖ Since 2018, 42.48 crore Ayushman cards have been issued, with 10.98 crore hospital admissions authorized and claims worth ₹1.60 lakh crore approved.
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) created 84.35 crore ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) accounts and linked 80.66 crore health records, enabling digital health record sharing.
- ❖ Ayushman Vay Vandana provides free treatment up to ₹5 lakh per year for citizens aged 70+, with 94.19 lakh senior citizens enrolled.
- ❖ AI-driven healthcare reforms were introduced at AIIMS Delhi, PGIMER Chandigarh, and AIIMS Rishikesh, including AI tools for disease surveillance, TB detection, and clinical decision support.

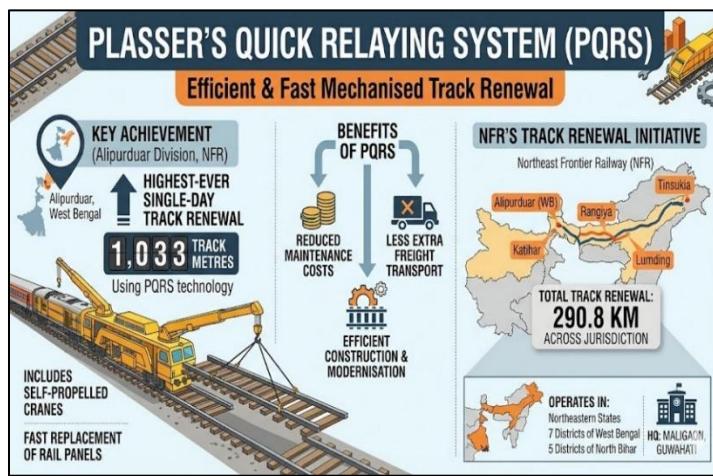
REPM Scheme

- ❖ India launched the REPM (Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets) to build the country's first integrated domestic manufacturing ecosystem for high-value magnets.

- ❖ The scheme aims to reduce import dependence and support strategic sectors like electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence.
- ❖ Approved outlay for the scheme is over ₹7,000 crore, and it targets 6,000 metric tonnes per year of magnet production.
- ❖ Rare earth minerals required for the magnets are found in Indian states including Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The government signed international agreements with countries like Australia, Argentina, and Zambia to secure raw materials.
- ❖ The REPM scheme strengthens India's domestic industrial capability and supports the clean energy transition.



Plasser's Quick Relaying System



- ❖ The Alipurduar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) achieved its highest-ever single-day mechanised track renewal of 1,033 track metres using Plasser's Quick Relaying System (PQRS).

- ❖ PQRS includes self-propelled cranes and allows fast replacement of rail panels, reducing maintenance costs and the need for extra freight transport.
- ❖ NFR is renewing a total of 290.8 km of track across its jurisdiction, including divisions in Katihar, Alipurduar (West Bengal), Rangiya, Lumding, and Tinsukia.
- ❖ NFR operates in the Northeastern states, seven districts of West Bengal, and five districts of north Bihar, with headquarters at Maligaon, Guwahati, Assam.

Ex-Agniveers in CAPFs

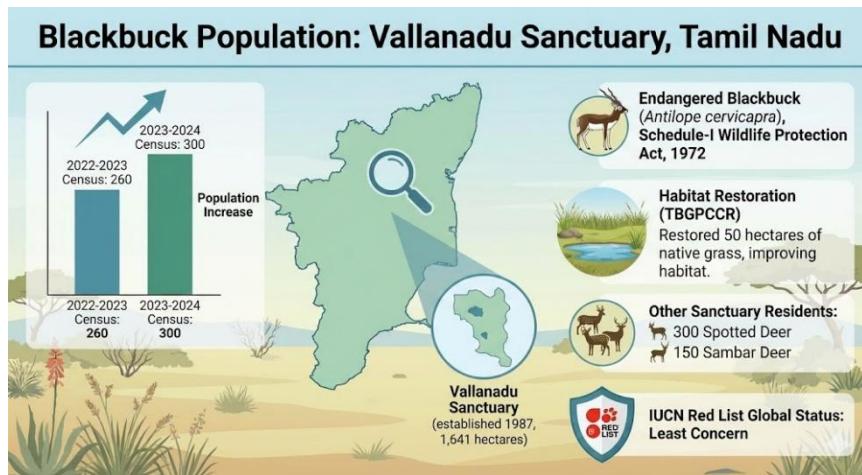


- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has increased reservation for ex-Agniveers in Group C posts of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from 10% to 50%.
- ❖ 50% of vacant constable posts in the Border Security Force (BSF) will now be reserved for ex-Agniveers.
- ❖ Ex-Agniveers are exempted from Physical Standard Test (PST) and Physical Efficiency Test (PET) but must appear for written examinations.

- ❖ Recruitment rules for all CAPFs, including Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), BSF, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), and Assam Rifles, will be amended gradually.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Blackbuck Population



- ❖ The blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra) population in Vallanadu sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, increased to 300 in the 2023–2024 census, up from 260 in 2022–2023.
- ❖ Vallanadu sanctuary, established in 1987, spans 1,641 hectares and is a natural habitat for the endangered blackbuck, listed in Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ Grassland restoration under the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response (TBGPCCR) has restored around 50 hectares of native grass, improving habitat conditions for blackbucks.
- ❖ The sanctuary also houses 300 spotted deer, 150 sambar deer.
- ❖ The Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra) is listed as Least Concern globally by the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ It is located on an isolated hillock in Vallanadu Village of Srivaikundam Taluk, Thoothukudi.
- ❖ It is the southernmost place in India where a natural population of blackbuck exists.

Global Climate Disasters in 2025

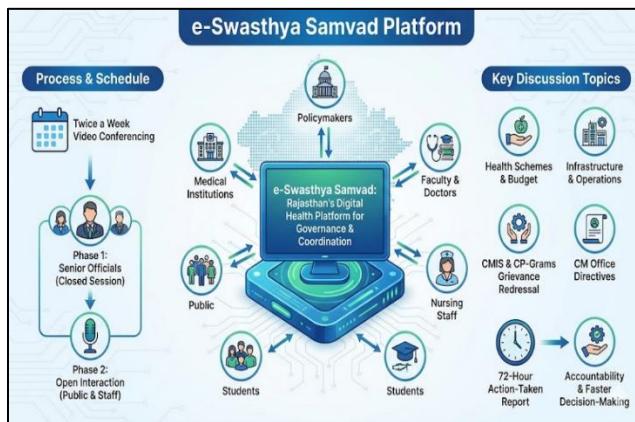
- ❖ In 2025, wildfires, floods, cyclones, heatwaves, and droughts caused over \$120 billion in economic losses worldwide.

- ❖ The California wildfires were the costliest single disaster, causing \$60 billion in damage and over 400 deaths.
- ❖ Cyclones and floods in Southeast Asia caused nearly \$25 billion in damage and over 1,750 deaths.
- ❖ Floods in China, India, and Pakistan caused millions of people to be affected, with damages in India and Pakistan reaching up to \$6 billion and over 1,860 deaths.
- ❖ Asia experienced four of the top six costliest disasters in 2025.



STATES' NEWS

e-Swasthya Samvad Platform



- ❖ The Rajasthan government launched “e-Swasthya Samvad”, a digital platform to improve governance, transparency, and coordination in medical education.

- ❖ The platform connects policymakers, medical institutions, faculty, doctors, nursing staff, students, and the public for faster decision-making.
- ❖ Meetings are held twice a week via video conferencing in two phases: senior officials first, then open interaction.
- ❖ Discussions cover health schemes, infrastructure, budget, Chief Minister's Office directives, grievance redressal through CMIS and CP-Grams, and operational issues.
- ❖ Action-taken reports are required within 72 hours, reinforcing accountability across Rajasthan's medical education system.

'Green to Gold' Initiative



**HIMACHAL'S 'GREEN TO GOLD' PUSH:
INDUSTRIAL HEMP TO
POWER BIO-ECONOMY**

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh has launched regulated industrial hemp cultivation under the 'Green to Gold' initiative to boost the rural economy and sustainable development.
- ❖ The initiative aims for a self-reliant Himachal Pradesh by 2027 and positioning the state as a leader in India's bio-economy.
- ❖ Hemp cultivation is strictly regulated, with tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content capped at 0.3%, making it non-intoxicating and unsuitable for drug misuse.

- ❖ Hemp applications include textiles, bioplastics, medicine, cosmetics, biofuel, and hempcrete, a low-carbon, eco-friendly construction material.
- ❖ Hemp is climate-resilient, requires 50% less water than cotton, and grows well in marginal and degraded soils, making it ideal for Himachal's hill regions.
- ❖ The initiative is expected to generate ₹1000–2000 crore annually, create livelihoods for farmers, startups, and rural youth, and reduce dependence on imports.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

2,000-Year-Old Buddhist Site in Kashmir



- ❖ Archaeologists have discovered a 2,000-year-old Buddhist site in Zehanpora village, Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Excavations revealed stupas, monastic buildings, and structural remains dating to the Kushan period, showing organised Buddhist activity.
- ❖ Zehanpora may have been an important Buddhist centre linked to the Kushan capital Huvishkapura.
- ❖ Architectural features resemble Gandharan layouts, indicating cultural and religious connections between Kashmir and north-western Buddhist regions.

- ❖ The village lay on an ancient trade and pilgrimage corridor connecting Gandhara with Kashmir, aiding the movement of monks, traders, and ideas.

140th Foundation Day of INC

- ❖ The Indian National Congress (INC) marked its 140th Foundation Day on 28 December 2025.
- ❖ INC was founded on 28 December 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume, along with Indian leaders Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee, Pherozeshah Mehta, and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- ❖ The first session was held at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay (Mumbai), and W. C. Bonnerjee was the first president.
- ❖ INC played a key role in India's freedom struggle through movements like Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, Quit India, and Purna Swaraj (1929).
- ❖ After Independence, INC contributed to secularism, parliamentary democracy, planned economy, and non-alignment in India.
- ❖ The party helped frame the Indian Constitution and establish democratic institutions.

