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## Uttarakhand Renames Raj Bhavans as Lok Bhavans

### Why in News?

Uttarakhand has renamed the Raj Bhavans in Dehradun and Nainital as 'Lok Bhavans' following a Union Home Ministry directive encouraging states to drop the colonial-era title and adopt a more people-centric name.

### Key Points

- 🔦 **Change of Name:** The Governor's Residences in Dehradun (main capital) and Nainital (summer capital) are now officially called Lok Bhavans instead of Raj Bhavans.
- 🔦 **Directive:** Home Ministry urged all States and Union Territories to replace 'Raj Bhavan' with 'Lok Bhavan' and 'Raj Niwas' with 'Lok Niwas' to promote a democratic and people-centric identity.
- 🔦 **Rationale:** Government officials said that the revised nomenclature highlights the **people-centric role of these institutions**, moving away from colonial or royal symbolism.
- 🔦 **Implementation:** Signage, official stationery and digital platforms will be updated to reflect the new name in the coming weeks.
- 🔦 **Wider Trend:** Many other states and UTs, including West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, have also adopted the Lok Bhavan nomenclature following the central guideline.

## Finance Commission Grants ₹94 Crores for Uttarakhand PRIs

### Why in News?

The Union Government has released ₹94.236 crore as XV Finance Commission grants for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in Uttarakhand for FY 2025-26.

### Key Points

- 🔦 **Grant Release:** The government allocated ₹94.236 crore as XV Finance Commission grants to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)/PRIs in Uttarakhand for FY 2025-26.

🔦 **Untied Grants:** This includes the second installment of Untied Grants for FY 2024-25 covering 13 District Panchayats, 95 Block Panchayats, and 7,784 Gram Panchayats.

🔦 **Additional Release:** An amount of ₹13.60 lakh, previously withheld from the first instalment of FY 2024-25, was released to 15 newly eligible Gram Panchayats.

🔦 **Role of Ministries:** The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation) recommend the grants, which are released by the Ministry of Finance in two installments during the financial year.

🔦 **Purpose of Untied Grants:** Untied Grants allow RLBs/PRIs to address local needs under the 29 subjects of the Eleventh Schedule, excluding salaries and establishment expenses.

🔦 **Tied Grants:** Tied Grants are earmarked for essential services like sanitation, ODF maintenance, waste management, drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, and water recycling.

🔦 **Finance Commission:** It is a constitutional body constituted under Article 280 of the Constitution of India, responsible for recommending the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the States, including tax devolution and grants-in-aid.

## Elephant Safaris Resume in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

Elephant safaris have resumed in Uttarakhand's [Jim Corbett](#) and [Rajaji Tiger Reserves](#) after seven years.

### Key Points

- 🔦 **Background:** Safaris were halted in 2018 due to a High Court ban under the [Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#) and [Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960](#); however, the Supreme Court later lifted the ban, permitting resumption after regulatory preparations.

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- 💡 **Tourism Experience:** Elephant safaris provide a **slow-paced, elevated forest experience**, enabling better wildlife observation and promoting **biodiversity awareness**.
- 💡 **Economic Impact:** The safaris are expected to **boost eco-tourism revenues** and benefit **local communities** dependent on tourism.
- 💡 **Challenges and Concerns:** Concerns include **animal welfare, habitat disturbance, and ethical use of elephants**, requiring strict **welfare protocols, limited rides, and veterinary monitoring**.
- 💡 **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve:** Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand is India's first national park and a major tiger conservation site under **Project Tiger**.
  - ✦ **Ancient Name:** Hailey National Park (1936), renamed after Jim Corbett (1957).
  - ✦ **River:** Ramganga flows through the park.
  - ✦ **Location:** Spread across Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, and Almora districts.
  - ✦ **Significance:** India's **first national park**, part of **Project Tiger**.
  - ✦ **Wildlife:** Known for tigers, elephants, leopards, deer, and birds.

## Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN Concludes in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of Joint Military Exercise **SURYAKIRAN** between **India and Nepal** concluded in **Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Location:** The exercise was held at **Foreign Training Node in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand**.
- 💡 **Operational Focus:** Joint **counter-terrorism operations** in difficult terrain reflecting strong operational coordination and interoperability.
- 💡 **Symbolic Conclusion:** The Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Nepal

planted a '**Tree of Friendship**', symbolising mutual trust, and the enduring strength of bilateral defence cooperation.

- 💡 **Defence Diplomacy:** The exercise highlights defence engagement between **India and Nepal**, enhancing mutual preparedness for contingencies in the challenging **Himalayan terrain** and strengthening cooperation in military affairs.
- 💡 **India–Nepal Boundary Dispute:** The dispute mainly concerns the **Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura region**.

## Incentive to Uttarakhand for Mining Sector Reforms

### Why in News?

The **Central Government** has approved a **₹200 crore incentive** for **Uttarakhand** for its effective implementation of **mining sector reforms** for the financial year **2025–26**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **National Ranking:** Uttarakhand achieved **second place nationally** in mining reforms.
- 💡 **Scheme:** Allocated under the "**Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)**" scheme.
- 💡 **Reform Measures:** Implementation of mining reforms through
  - ✦ E-auction system for mineral allocation.
  - ✦ Satellite and digital monitoring of mines.
  - ✦ Transparent licensing and compliance mechanisms.
  - ✦ Measures to curb illegal mining.
- 💡 **Impact on Revenue:** Mining revenue in the state rose significantly due to reforms, enhancing its contribution to the state economy.
- 💡 **Key Minerals:** Limestone, magnesite, gypsum, copper, graphite, soapstone (steatite) and dolomite are the major minerals found in Uttarakhand.

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## National Current Affairs

### India to Host 2<sup>nd</sup> WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

#### Why in News?

India will host the **Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi** from 17–19 December 2025, building on the inaugural summit held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in 2023.

#### Key Points

- 🔦 **Organiser:** Jointly organised by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Ministry of Ayush** to advance global dialogue on health and well-being through traditional medicine.
- 🔦 **Theme:** The summit will be held under the theme **"Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being,"** focusing on equitable, sustainable health systems.
- 🔦 **Global Focus:** Policymakers and leaders from over 100 countries will participate **to shape the future role of traditional medicine.**
- 🔦 **Vision:** The event aims to reaffirm the relevance of traditional medicine while promoting its integration into **national health systems** based on science, evidence and responsible practice.
- 🔦 **WHO Strategy:** Discussions will align with the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034** to advance people-centred healthcare and planetary well-being.
- 🔦 **Plenary Sessions:** Key deliberations will cover **restoring balance in health systems, scientific investment, governance, biodiversity stewardship, and Indigenous rights.**
- 🔦 **Innovation & Evidence:** The summit will emphasize innovative approaches to elevate traditional medicine responsibly **through ethical use of digital technologies,** including AI.
- 🔦 **Diverse Issues:** Over 25 sessions will address regulation, integration, protection of biodiversity, and intellectual property rights.

#### WHO

- 🔦 **Founded:** 7 April 1948, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- 🔦 **Type:** Specialized agency of the **United Nations** for global public health.
- 🔦 **Membership:** **194 member states** (as of 2025).
- 🔦 **Objective:** Promote **health**, achieve **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, and respond to **global health emergencies.**
- 🔦 **Current Director-General:** Dr **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** (since 2017).

### Nuclear Energy Transformation Bill, 2025

#### Why in News?

Dr **Jitendra Singh**, Minister of State for **Science and Technology**, introduced the **Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025**, in Parliament to modernise India's nuclear energy legal framework.

#### Key Points

- 🔦 **New Legal Framework:** The Bill proposes a comprehensive law for nuclear energy by repealing the **Atomic Energy Act, 1962** and the **Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010.**
- 🔦 **Energy Security:** It aims to expand nuclear installed capacity to ensure **reliable, clean and round-the-clock power** for future needs such as **data centres.**
- 🔦 **Decarbonisation Goal:** The Bill aligns with India's long-term climate commitments, including a target of **100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047** and **net-zero emissions by 2070.**
- 🔦 **Private Participation:** It encourages greater involvement of the **domestic industry and the private sector** in **nuclear power development.**
- 🔦 **Regulatory Mechanism:** The Bill introduces updated provisions for **licensing, safety authorisation, suspension and cancellation** to strengthen regulatory oversight.

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- 💡 **Civil Liability:** A revised civil liability framework for nuclear damage is proposed to enhance **safety, accountability and compensation mechanisms**.
- 💡 **Institutional Setup:** The Bill provides for bodies such as the **Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council**, Claims Commissioners and a **Nuclear Damage Claims Commission**.
- 💡 **Technology Coverage:** Nuclear energy and radiation-based technologies are brought under a **modernised regulatory structure**.
- 💡 **National Transition:** The Bill reflects India's intent to modernise nuclear governance while balancing **clean energy expansion, safety and public interest**.

#### Nuclear Energy

- 💡 **First Plant:** Tarapur, Maharashtra (1969)
- 💡 **Largest Site:** Rajasthan – maximum nuclear power generation.
- 💡 **Other Key Sites:** Kakrapar (Gujarat), Kudankulam & Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu), Narora (U.P.).
- 💡 **Reactor Types:** PHWR (majority), BWR (Tarapur), Fast Breeder Reactor (Kalpakkam).
- 💡 **Fuel:** Uranium & Thorium (India has largest Thorium reserves).

- 💡 **Defence Estates Role:** The Department manages the largest landholding of the Government of India under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- 💡 **Digital Transformation:** Modernised land management with projects like **E-Chhawani**, providing 100% municipal services online to ~20 lakh cantonment residents.
- 💡 **Awards Recognition:** Won the **National Water Awards for Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari** for efforts in water conservation and rejuvenation of water bodies.
- 💡 **Digitisation:** Complete **digitisation of legacy land records**, ensuring preservation, easy retrieval, and secure archival.
- 💡 **Raksha Bhoomi Platform:** A centralised software 'Raksha Bhoomi' serves as a unified repository of all **defence land records** on secure servers.
- 💡 **Advanced Survey Tools:** Uses Differential **GPS**, **GIS** tools and high-resolution satellite imagery to improve **land accuracy** and management.
- 💡 **Tech Innovation:** Centre of Excellence on Satellite and Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative leverages **AI/ML** and emerging technologies for next-generation **defence land management solutions**.

## Defence Estates Day Celebrations of 100th Year

### Why in News?

Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh** will preside over the **Defence Estates Day celebrations** at Raksha Sampada Bhawan, Delhi Cantonment, on **16 December 2025**, marking the **100th year** of the Defence Estates Department.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Celebrations & Awards:** Raksha Mantri will confer the **Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence in public service** for **Defence Land Management and Municipal Administration** across **61 Cantonment Boards**.
- 💡 **Centenary Significance:** The event marks the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the **Defence Estates Department**, with origins tracing back to Barrackpore in 1765 and formalisation on **16 December 1926**.

## India, ADB Sign \$2.2 Billion Development Loans

### Why in News?

The Government of India and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed agreements for **five loans totalling over \$2.2 billion** to support various key development projects across multiple sectors.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Regional Impact:** Projects span **three states (Assam, Meghalaya and Tamilnadu)**, boosting development across sectors and regions.
- 💡 **Loan Value:** Agreements worth **over \$2.2 billion** signed between India and ADB.
- 💡 **Projects Covered:** Includes programmes for **skilling, rooftop solar deployment, healthcare, metro rail, and ecotourism**.

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- 💡 **Skilling Initiative:** Supports Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs Programme.
- 💡 **Solar Programme:** Funds Accelerating Affordable and Inclusive Rooftop Solar Systems Development under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY).
- 💡 **Healthcare Project:** Includes Assam State Tertiary Health Care Augmentation Project (ASTHA).
- 💡 **Urban Transport:** Supports Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project (Tranche 2).
- 💡 **Ecotourism & Livelihoods:** Financing for Integrated Ecotourism and Sustainable Agri-based Livelihood Development in Meghalaya.
- 💡 **Flagship Programmes:** Loans will further India's national flagship programmes in renewable energy, healthcare, urban infrastructure and skill development.

#### ADB

- 💡 **Established:** 1966, headquarters at Manila, Philippines.
- 💡 **Type:** Multilateral development bank for Asia-Pacific region.
- 💡 **Members:** 68 members (49 regional, 19 non-regional).
- 💡 **Objective:** Promote economic growth, poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- 💡 **India-ADB:** India is a founding member and one of the largest borrowers from ADB.

## National Geospatial Workshop on Geospatial Mission

### Why in News?

The Survey of India (under Department of Science & Technology) will host a **National Workshop on Strengthening of Geospatial Ecosystem** titled "Geospatial Mission: An Enabler of Viksit Bharat."

### Key Points

- 💡 **Inauguration & Venue:** The workshop will be inaugurated by Dr Jitendra Singh on 17 December 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

- 💡 **Objective:** To strengthen India's geospatial ecosystem and advance the **National Geospatial Mission**.
- 💡 **Participants:** Will bring together policymakers, technologists, industry leaders and domain experts.
- 💡 **Announced:** The **National Geospatial Mission** (announced in the Union Budget 2025–26) aims to modernise geodetic frameworks, enhance geospatial infrastructure, standardise data, and adopt emerging technologies.
- 💡 **Significance:** A key step in realising the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision through enhanced geospatial capabilities.

## 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2027

### Why in News?

The Government has set a new target to increase the number of **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (JAKs)** in India to **25,000 by March 2027**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Current Status:** As of 30 November 2025, a total of **17,610 Janaushadhi Kendras (JAKs)** have been opened nationwide, compared to only **80 in 2014**, showing significant expansion of the scheme.
- 💡 **Target Set:** The Government has set a target of increasing JAKs to **25,000 by March 2027** to further improve access to low-cost quality generic medicines.
- 💡 **About Jan Aushadhi Kendra:** It is a **government-supported retail outlet** scheme that sells **quality generic medicines at affordable prices** to the public.
- 💡 **Growing Awareness:** Rising **sales volumes** and an expanding **product basket** under the scheme indicate increasing public confidence and awareness about Janaushadhi medicines.
- 💡 **Entrepreneur Participation:** Enhanced viability and attractiveness of JAKs have led to a **37% increase in outlets** and a **38% increase in MRP sales value** in the last financial year.

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- 💡 **Application Process:** JAKs are opened by inviting online applications from **individual entrepreneurs, NGOs, societies, trusts, firms, and companies** through the official Janaushadhi website.

## Sahakar Sarathi

### Why in News?

The **Government of India** has established **Sahakar Sarathi**, a **Shared Service Entity (SSE)**, to modernise and digitally empower **Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs)**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Establishment of Sahakar Sarathi:** Sahakar Sarathi (SSE) has been set up with the approval of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to strengthen the technological and service capabilities of **Rural Cooperative Banks**.
- 💡 **Date of Registration:** The entity was **registered on 21 July 2025** with the aim of providing shared infrastructure for cooperative banking digitalisation.
- 💡 **Authorised Capital & Shareholding:** Sahakar Sarathi has an **authorised capital of ₹1,000 crore**, with equal **33.33% shareholding** each for **NABARD, NCDC**, and **Rural Cooperative Banks**.
- 💡 **Services Provided:** It offers **shared modern banking infrastructure** and digital services including: **Common Core Banking Solutions (CBS)**, **Digital payments** like AePS and UPI, **Cybersecurity**, **IT governance** etc.
- 💡 **Purpose & Impact:** The initiative seeks to help RCBs provide **modern, standardised, and digital banking services**, enhance customer reach, and improve **operational efficiency** comparable to other regulated financial institutions.

## NAMASTE Scheme: Nationwide Survey of Sewer and Septic Tank Workers

### Why in News?

A **nationwide survey** covering over **4,800 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** was conducted under the **National Action**

**for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme** to identify **Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)** and strengthen their **safety and dignity** in sanitation work.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Survey Objective:** The survey was conducted to identify **Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)** under the **NAMASTE scheme** — **not manual scavengers** — to ensure improved working conditions and safety.
- 💡 **Fatality Data:** According to the **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)**, **471 sanitation workers** have lost their lives due to hazardous sewer and septic tank cleaning between **2019 and October 2025**.
- 💡 **Legal Prohibition:** **Section 7** of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013** prohibits hazardous entry into sewer or septic tanks.
- 💡 **NAMASTE Scheme:** Launched in **2023–24** by the **Department of Social Justice & Empowerment** in convergence with the **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs**.
- 💡 **Scheme Objectives:** The scheme aims to **eliminate manual entry** into sewer and septic tanks and promote **mechanised cleaning** to achieve **zero fatality** and protect workers health.
- 💡 **Scheme Components:** Support includes **safety devices** for Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs), **capital subsidies** for mechanised equipment, **occupational safety training**, and **workshops** on prevention of hazardous cleaning.
- 💡 **SBM-U 2.0 Linkage:** Under **Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0**, the **Used Water Management (UWM)** component focuses on eradicating hazardous sewer/septic tank entry through mechanisation.

## White Spot diseases in Andhra Pradesh

### Why in News?

The **Government of India** informed about **White Spot Disease outbreaks** in aquaculture in **Andhra Pradesh**

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and the measures taken under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** to monitor and control aquatic animal diseases.

### Key Points

- 💡 **White Spot Disease:** In Andhra Pradesh, field teams collected aquaculture samples; **4 samples tested positive under passive surveillance** and **23 under active surveillance** for **White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV)**.
- 💡 **Disease Surveillance:** The **National Surveillance Programme for Aquatic Animal Diseases (NSPAAD)** is being implemented under **PMMSY** with a **₹33.78 crore outlay** to detect and manage aquatic diseases nationwide.
- 💡 **Sample Analysis:** Samples are analysed at the **State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Kakinada**.
- 💡 **Insurance Support:** Under the **Aquaculture Crop Insurance Scheme**, **85 aquafarmers** in Andhra Pradesh are covered; in 2025, **₹5.21 lakh** in claims were disbursed.
- 💡 **Prevention Guidelines:** The **Coastal Aquaculture Authority** has issued guidelines for **SPF shrimp or broodstock centres, hatcheries, farms, health monitoring and SPF certification** to prevent WSSV outbreaks.
- 💡 **Biosecurity Measures:** Mandatory **quarantine of imported shrimp broodstock** and registration of shrimp hatcheries and farms with the **Coastal Aquaculture Authority** are enforced to limit disease spread.
- 💡 **Laboratory Surveillance:** **PCR-based disease surveillance** of shrimp and water samples supports early detection and disease control.
- 💡 **Alternative Farming:** The Government promotes **Biofloc Technology (BFT)** and **Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS)** to reduce disease risk and improve biosecurity and sustainability.

## North East Investors Summit, 2025

### Why in News?

The **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)** highlighted the aims and key focus area of the **Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Event: Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025,** organised by **MDoNER** to attract investments to the **North Eastern Region**.
- 💡 **Focus Sectors:** Tourism & Hospitality, Agro-Food Processing & allied sectors, Textiles, Handloom & Handicrafts, Healthcare, Education & Skill Development, IT/ITeS, Entertainment & Sports, Infrastructure & Logistics, and Energy.
- 💡 **Investment Interest:** The summit and its roadshows collectively garnered **investment interests of ₹4.48 lakh crore** through **MoUs, letters of intent, and investor leads** from private and public sector entities.
- 💡 **Renewable Energy Projects:** Renewable energy schemes in the region, including **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, PM KUSUM, Solar Park projects, off-grid electrification (PM JANMAN), Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)** houses, and bio-gas plant installations across the North East.

## Prestigious National Awards 2025

### Why in News?

The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** under the **Ministry of Culture** has been conferred with **two prestigious National Awards 2025** by the **Public Relations Society of India (PRSI)** for excellence in communication and public engagement.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Awards Received:** NCSM won **two PRSI National Awards 2025** — one for the **“Har Ghar Museum”** initiative in the **Best Use of Social Media in a Corporate Campaign** category and another for the **“Waste to Art”** publication in the **Special/Prestige Publication** category.
- 💡 **Har Ghar Museum Campaign:** A nationwide campaign inviting people to share photos, videos, and stories of personal collections to create a **digital archive of everyday heritage** and boost public engagement.

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- 💡 **Waste to Art Publication:** Demonstrate the transformation of **1,250 kg of waste** into art installations at NCSM, promoting **circular economy** and public engagement in **sustainable creativity**.
- 💡 **Public Engagement:** The Har Ghar Museum campaign has achieved **over 10 million views on social media**, **over 1 million individual engagements**, and **150+ curated entries**, reflecting strong nationwide participation.
- 💡 **Award Ceremony:** The awards were presented at the **47<sup>th</sup> All India Public Relations Conference** held in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand** from **December 13 to 15, 2025**.

## OTT Sector as India's Soft Power

### Why in News?

The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** highlighted the growing role of the **OTT (Over-The-Top) sector** as a key driver of **India's soft power** and **global cultural outreach**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **OTT Platform :** OTT (Over-The-Top) refers to **digital platforms that deliver video, audio, or media content directly to users via the internet**, without relying on traditional cable or satellite television networks (e.g., Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Disney+ Hotstar).
- 💡 **Soft Power Role:** The **OTT sector promotes Indian stories, culture, creativity, and heritage** to audiences **within India and across the world**.
- 💡 **Revenue Growth:** Video subscription revenues in India grew by **11% in 2024**, reaching **₹9,200 crore**.
- 💡 **User Base:** Estimated **9.5–11.8 crore** individuals in India pay for OTT streaming services.
- 💡 **WAVES OTT Platform:** Prasar Bharati's WAVES OTT platform recorded **over 80 lakh downloads** in its first year and provides **free access to Doordarshan and All India Radio archives**, regional arts, documentaries and multilingual content.
- 💡 **Support for Creators:** WAVES OTT has created a framework to support **emerging filmmakers and content creators** with global distribution opportunities.

- 💡 **Anti-Piracy Measure:** The newly added **Section 7(1B)(ii) of the Cinematograph Act, 1952** empowers the government to take action against intermediaries hosting **pirated films** online.

## Anti-Terror Conference to Be Inaugurated in New Delhi

### Why in News?

**Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah** will inaugurate the **Anti-Terror Conference** in **New Delhi** on **26 December 2025**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Inaugurated By:** **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah** will preside over the inauguration.
- ✦ **Aim:** The conference is aimed at strengthening **India's counter-terrorism preparedness and coordination**.
- 💡 **Organiser:** The conference is organised by the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- 💡 **Vision:** Shaped under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of zero tolerance for terrorism**.
- 💡 **Focus Areas:** This include foreign evidence collection, **digital forensics, data analysis in counter-terrorism investigations and disrupting terror-financing networks**.
- ✦ **Counter-Radicalisation:** Preventing radicalisation and recruitment, especially through digital platforms.

## India to Chair the Kimberley Process from 2026

### Why in News?

India has been selected to assume the **Chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process (KP)** from **1 January 2026**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Kimberley Process (KP):** An international **multilateral initiative** aimed at **preventing the trade in conflict diamonds**.

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✦ **Conflict Diamonds:** These are rough diamonds used by rebel groups to finance armed conflicts against legitimate governments.

- 💡 **Tripartite Structure:** The KP is a joint initiative of governments, the international diamond industry, and civil society organisations.
- 💡 **Headquarters:** Not a formal organisation; operates through member states and rotating chairs
- 💡 **Certification Scheme:** The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) came into effect on 1 January 2003 under a UN Security Council mandate.
- 💡 **Global Coverage:** The KP has 60 participants, including the European Union and its Member States.
- 💡 **India's Role:** This will be the third time (2008, 2019, and 2026) India has been entrusted with this leadership responsibility.

## Veer Bal Diwas

### Why in News?

The Ministry of Women and Child Development announced that **Veer Bal Diwas** will be observed nationally on **26 December** to honour the **bravery and values of young heroes**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Veer Bal Diwas:** This day honours the **supreme sacrifice of the Sahibzadas** — the sons of **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, who attained martyrdom in **1705** resisting forced conversion.
- 💡 **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:** The President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, will present this award to children for **exceptional achievements in bravery, arts, science, social service, environment, and sports**.
- 💡 **Awardees:** This year, **20 children** from 18 States and Union Territories have been selected for the award.
- 💡 **Ceremony Details:** The award ceremony is held at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.

## New BIS Standard for Incense Sticks

### Why in News?

The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, **Pralhad Joshi**, released a **new BIS standard for incense sticks**, to enhance **consumer safety and product quality**, on **National Consumer Day 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

### Key Points

- 💡 **Standard Title:** **IS 19412:2025 – Incense Sticks (Agarbatti)** is an **Indian Standard** developed by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**.
- 💡 **BIS:** It is **India's national standards body**, established under the **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016**, responsible for setting and certifying **quality and safety standards**.
- 💡 **Consumer Confidence:** Products complying with **IS 19412:2025** are eligible to carry the **BIS Standard Mark**, enabling consumers to identify **safe, tested, and quality-assured** incense sticks.
- 💡 **Prohibited Substances:** The standard restricts the use of **insecticidal chemicals** such as **alethrin, permethrin, cypermethrin, deltamethrin, and fipronil**.
- 💡 **Product Coverage:** It applies to **machine-made, hand-made, and traditional masala agarbattis**, prescribing norms for **raw materials, burning quality, fragrance performance, and permissible chemical limits**.

## Bronze at 2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship

### Why in News?

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** congratulated Indian chess grandmasters **Arjun Erigaisi** and **Koneru Humpy** for winning **bronze medals** at the **2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship**.

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### Key Points

- 📌 **Venue:** The Championship was held in **Doha, Qatar**.
- 📌 **Medal Winners:** Arjun Erigaisi and Koneru Humpy
- 📌 Arjun Erigaisi won the bronze medal in the **Men's section**.
- 📌 Koneru Humpy secured bronze in the **Women's section**

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- 📌 **2025 FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship:** The FIDE World Rapid Championship features a **13-round Swiss system format** with rapid time controls, testing players' skill at high speed.
  - ✦ Gold – Men's section: **Magnus Carlsen (Norway)**
  - ✦ Gold – Women's section: **Ju Wenjun (China)**

## K-4 medium-range ballistic missile

### Why in News?

India successfully test-fires 3,500-km **K-4 Medium-Range Ballistic Missile** from **nuclear-powered submarines**.

### Key Points

- 📌 **Launch Platform:** The launch was carried out from **INS Arighaat**, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) of the **Indian Navy**, in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- 📌 **Strategic Significance:** Enhances India's **sea-based nuclear deterrence** and contributes to the **nuclear triad** — the ability to deploy nuclear weapons from **land, air, and sea**.
- 📌 **Second-Strike Capability:** The test strengthens India's **second-strike capability**, ensuring that even after absorbing an initial attack, India can respond decisively.
- 📌 **DRDO Role:** The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** developed the

K-4 missile, which uses **solid fuel and advanced navigation systems**.

- 📌 **Ballistic missiles:** They are **rocket-propelled weapons** that follow a **free-fall trajectory** after launch. They can carry **conventional or nuclear warheads** and be launched from **land, sea, or air**.
  - ✦ Based on range, they're classified as **short** (< 1,000 km), **medium** (1,000–3,000 km), **intermediate** (3,000–5,500 km), or **long-range or intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)** (> 5,500 km).
  - ✦ **Agni-V** is India's longest-range missile, an ICBM with a range of over 5,000 km.

## Bharat Taxi Initiative

### Why in News?

The Government of India has launched **Bharat Taxi**, a **first-of-its-kind driver-owned, cooperative ride-hailing initiative**, aimed at providing a fair, transparent and equitable alternative to private taxi aggregators.

### Key Points

- 📌 **Bharat Taxi:** It is a **government-backed ride-hailing platform** developed as a **cooperative model**, where **drivers are shareholders and co-owners** instead of being dependent on traditional private companies.
- 📌 **Objective:** The scheme aims to **empower taxi drivers** by ensuring fair earnings, reduce dependence on private aggregators (like Ola and Uber), and offer **affordable, transparent transport services to passengers**.
- 📌 **Cooperative Structure:** The service is operated by **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Limited**.
- 📌 **Launch:** The service is set to launch across the country from **January 1, 2026**.
- 📌 **Driver Benefits:** Driver-owned model, No commission and Profit sharing.
- 📌 **Passenger Benefits:** Transparent pricing, Affordable rides and Multiple vehicle options.



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## Key Points

## Details

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## Summary

**Summary**

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# Summary