

CURRENT AFFAIRS FROM 29-12-2025 TO 02-01-2026

POCKET INFO

1. President Droupadi Murmu became the second Indian President to undertake an operational submarine sortie, sailing aboard INS Vaghsheer from Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka.
2. Himachal Pradesh has launched the 'Green to Gold' initiative to promote industrial hemp cultivation, aiming to transform the rural economy and advance sustainability.
3. The Centre has granted environmental clearance for the 260 MW Dulhasti Stage-II hydel project on the Chenab River in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir, enabling tenders and construction to proceed.
4. India will establish its first PPP-model medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh's tribal districts of Dhar and Betul, combining government land support with private infrastructure development.
5. Israel has become the first country to formally recognise Somaliland as an independent state, marking a historic shift in Horn of Africa geopolitics.
6. The Supreme Court ruled that the right to a passport flows from personal liberty under Article 21. Pending criminal cases do not automatically prevent passport issuance if courts permit it under law.
7. The Union government has declared Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ), covering 1,084 hectares. The sanctuary hosts migratory birds from Central Asia and Tibet.
8. Former US President Donald Trump will receive the Israel Prize for Peace in 2026, announced by Prime Minister Netanyahu after talks in Florida, marking the first time a non-Israeli receives the prestigious

award and the first-ever Peace category conferral, recognising Trump's role in Middle East peace efforts, US–Israel relations, and diplomatic initiatives.

9. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved defence procurement proposals worth ₹79,000 crore. The acquisitions aim to modernize the Army, Navy, and Air Force with advanced strike, surveillance, communication, and training systems.

10. DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) at Chandipur, achieving a 120 km range with high precision.

11. Delhi Government has partnered with IIT Kanpur to develop an AI-powered Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS). The system will integrate multiple grievance port.

12. India has overtaken Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy with a GDP of \$4.18 trillion, driven by strong domestic consumption, robust reforms, and accelerating growth.

13. The Ministry of Defence signed ₹4,666 crore defence contracts to boost Indian Army and Navy combat capabilities. The deal includes over 4.25 lakh CQB carbines worth ₹2,770 crore for close-quarter and urban warfare, and 48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes worth ₹1,896 crore for Kalvari Class submarines.

14. Deepti Sharma created history by becoming the highest wicket-taker in Women's T20 Internationals, claiming her 152nd wicket during the 5th T20I against Sri Lanka and surpassing Megan Schutt.

15. Gujarat has approved the establishment of the Indian AI Research Organization (IAIRO) at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, making it the first state to set up such an institute under a PPP model.

16. The second edition of the India–UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II concluded with a formal closing ceremony at Al-Hamra Training City in Abu Dhabi, marking the successful completion of intensive bilateral training between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces. Conducted from 18 to 30 December, the exercise reaffirmed the growing defence partnership between India and the United Arab Emirates and their shared commitment to regional peace, security and stability.

17. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted a salvo launch of two Pralay missiles from the same launcher off Odisha coast. The test was part of user evaluation trials by Indian Air Force and Indian Army.

18. Nandini Chakravorty was appointed as the new chief secretary of West Bengal, becoming the first woman to hold the post in the state, a senior official said.

19. Chakravorty replaced Manoj Pant, who was scheduled to assume superannuation on June 30 but was granted a six-month extension from July 1 to December 31 (Pant was appointed as the principal secretary to the Chief Minister in the rank of chief secretary).

20. India Post, also known as Department of Posts (DoP), under the Ministry of Communications, announced the discontinuation of certain outward international letter mail services to improve reliability, tracking, customs compliance, and security from 1 January 2026.

21. Army Hospital (Research & Referral), Delhi Cantt, has performed the nation's first 3D Flex Aqueous Angiography with iStent—a major advancement in glaucoma treatment.

22. Guinea's junta chief Mamady Doumbouya has been elected president after an opposition boycott, securing over 86% votes.

23. "Tamil Nadu government" has granted permission for the first Jallikattu event of 2026 to be held on 3 January at Thatchankurichi village in Pudukkottai district. The approval formally signals the beginning of the annual bull-taming season in the state, which holds deep cultural and traditional significance.

24. The government has notified 1 February as the date from which new fiscal levies on tobacco products and pan masala will come into force. These changes mark a shift in the taxation structure of so-called sin goods, replacing the existing compensation cess regime with product-specific levies outside the Goods and Services Tax framework.

25. The 44th Junior National Kho Kho Championship commenced at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium in Gunjur, Bengaluru, bringing together nearly 1,000 young athletes from states and union territories across India.

Important Days

1. World Television Day is celebrated annually on **November 21st**, a date designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996 to recognize television's significant role in informing, educating, and influencing public opinion globally. It commemorates the first World Television Forum held in 1996, highlighting television as a powerful symbol of communication and globalization. .
2. The International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) is an annual United Nations observance on **December 3rd**, aimed at promoting the rights and well-being of people with disabilities, raising awareness of disability issues, and encouraging inclusive development in political, economic, social, and cultural life. Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1992, it mobilizes support for integrating persons with disabilities, highlighting their valuable contributions, and fostering accessible, inclusive societies for all.
3. World Soil Day is celebrated annually on December 5th to raise global awareness about the importance of healthy soils for food security, ecosystems, and human well-being, encouraging sustainable soil management and protection. This date commemorates the birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, a key advocate for soil science. .
4. International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every year on **December 7th**, marking the founding of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 1944, and highlighting the importance of aviation for global social and economic development. The day promotes awareness of civil aviation's role in connectivity and sustainability, with themes focusing on safety and innovation. .
5. International Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually on **December 9th**, established by the United Nations to raise awareness about corruption and promote integrity, transparency, and accountability. The date commemorates the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003, encouraging global efforts to combat this crime. .

QUIZ

1. Which state government has doubled the pension for ‘JP Senanis’, political activists jailed during the Emergency for supporting Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan’s movement. Pension for those jailed over six months is increased from ₹15,000 to ₹30,000 per month?

A. Bihar

B. UP

C. MP

D. Odisha

Exp –

- The Bihar government has doubled the pension for ‘JP Senanis’, political activists jailed during the Emergency for supporting Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan’s movement.
- The decision was approved in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Nitish Kumar. Pension for those jailed over six months is increased from ₹15,000 to ₹30,000 per month.

2. India has taken a historic step in green maritime mobility with the launch of its first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel, which began commercial operations at Namo Ghat, in which place?

A. Varanasi

B. Haridwar

C. Patna

D. Kanpur

Exp –

- India has taken a historic step in green maritime mobility with the launch of its first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell passenger vessel, which began commercial operations at Namo Ghat, Varanasi.
- The vessel was flagged off by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, marking a breakthrough in India’s transition toward clean, sustainable and self-reliant waterways.

3. Meta has signed a multiyear deal with which multinational technology company worth over \$10 billion to power its artificial intelligence progress ?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Google**
- C. Yandex
- D. Ecosia

Exp –

- Meta has signed a multiyear deal with Google worth over \$10 billion to power its artificial intelligence progress, The Information reports, citing anonymous sources..
- The pact enables Meta to use the search giant's cloud services, including its servers and storage, for six years.

4. India suspends which percentage cotton import duty until September 30, signaling willingness to address U.S. tariff hike on Indian goods?

- A. 11%**
- B. 12%
- C. 13%
- D. 14%

Exp –

- India suspends 11% cotton import duty until September 30, signaling willingness to address U.S. tariff hike on Indian goods.
- The duty suspension is a temporary measure to provide relief to India's struggling garment industry, which faces a significant 50% tariff on its goods in the U.S. market, making Indian apparel exports less competitive against regional rivals.

5. Haryana and which Indian state or UT have signed an MoU to jointly prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Yamuna Water Pipeline Project ?

A. Rajasthan

- B. MP
- C. Punjab
- D. Delhi

Exp –

- Haryana and Rajasthan signed an MoU to jointly prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Yamuna Water Pipeline Project.
- Aiming to transfer 577 MCM of water from Hathnikund to Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, and other Rajasthan districts via underground pipelines during July to October.

6. Which city hosted three major international sports events in 2025 — the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship (Aug 24–30)(started), the Asian Aquatics Championship (Sept–Oct), and the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers (Nov 22–30)?

A. Ahmedabad

- B. Chennai
- C. Mumbai
- D. Kochi

Exp –

- Ahmedabad hosted three major international sports events in 2025 — the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship (Aug 24–30)(started), the Asian Aquatics Championship (Sept–Oct), and the AFC U-17 Asian Cup Qualifiers (Nov 22–30), attracted elite athletes from 29+ countries.
- Gujarat is fast emerging as a multi-sport, high-performance destination. These events attracted elite athletes from across continents and help elevate India's presence in international sporting circuits.

7. Which Railway Zone has partnered with IIT-Guwahati to promote environmental sustainability by replacing conventional plastics with biodegradable and compostable materials ?

A. Northeast Frontier Railway

B. Eastern Railway

C. East Coast Railway

D. South East Central Railway

Exp –

- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has partnered with IIT-Guwahati to promote environmental sustainability by replacing conventional plastics with biodegradable and compostable materials.
- The collaboration aims to curb plastic pollution and create eco-friendly solutions for railway operations and passenger services.

8. Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025, Neeraj Ghaywan's which poignant drama swept the top awards, winning Best Film and Best Director?

A. Homebound

B. Luck by Chance

C. Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi

D. Wake Up Sid

Exp –

- Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2025, Neeraj Ghaywan's poignant drama Homebound swept the top awards, winning Best Film and Best Director.
- The film won Best Film and earned Ghaywan the Best Director award at the festival's awards night held on August 15, 2025.
- Starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jetwa, and Janhvi Kapoor, the film resonated with international audiences for its sensitive portrayal of belonging, displacement, and the emotional complexities of returning home.

9. Which Football Club has been named the world's most valuable football club in 2025 by the Brand Finance Football 50 report, boasting a brand value of €1.921 billion and a near-perfect brand strength score of 94.9?

A. FC Barcelona

B. Real Madrid

C. Manchester City

D. Liverpool

Exp –

- Real Madrid has been named the world's most valuable football club in 2025 by the Brand Finance Football 50 report, boasting a brand value of €1.921 billion and a near-perfect brand strength score of 94.9.
- The 'Football 50-2025' report gives our club a brand value of 1.921 billion euros and a strength rating of 94.9 out of 100.

10.Which Tennis legend made history in her return to the U.S. Open later this month as the oldest singles player to take the court in more than 40 years at age 45?

A. Maria Sharapova

B. Venus Williams

C. Serena Williams

D. Justine Henin

Exp –

- The tennis legend who made history at the 2025 U.S. Open by becoming the oldest singles player in over 40 years at age 45 was Venus Williams, who received a wild card to compete and marked a significant return to Grand Slam tennis. .
- She was the oldest singles participant in the tournament in over four decades, a feat last seen with Renee Richards in 1981..

