

18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention started at Bhubaneswar in Odisha on 8th January 2025.

Key Points

- ❖ This is the first time Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is being organised in Odisha.
- ❖ **Organiser** : It is jointly organised by the Odisha government in partnership with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ **Theme of the Divas** : 'Diaspora's Contribution on a Vikshit Bharat'.
- ❖ **Aim** : It aims to celebrate and strengthen the bond between India and its overseas Indian community.
- ❖ President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo will participate virtually as the chief guest of this edition of the convention.

- ❖ PBD was **first time celebrated in 2003** to honor the role of overseas Indians in shaping India's progress, both socially and economically.
- ❖ The decision to celebrate the PBD was taken by the former **PM of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
- ❖ The date of **January 9th** is significant as it marks the **return of Mahatma Gandhi to India in 1915**, after his time in South Africa, which was a turning point in India's freedom movement.
- ❖ **Since 2017**, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions have been held once every two years.
- ❖ The **last Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held at Indore in January, 2023**, in partnership with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The **15th PBD Convention was held in 2019 in Varanasi in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh**.

Government of India Calendar for 2025

On 7th January 2025, the Information and Broadcasting Minister unveiled the Government of India Calendar for 2025 in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ **Theme** : The government has chosen **"Janbhagidari se Jankalyan"** as the central theme for its 2025 calendar, underscoring the ethos of transformative governance.
- ❖ **Designed** : The calendar is designed and produced by the **Central Bureau of Communication**.
- ❖ The calendar is not just a guide to the days and months but also a reflection of the government's commitment to inclusivity, transparency, and participatory governance.
- ❖ The Government of India's 2025 calendar also acknowledges the **traditional knowledge system as a mantra of transformative governance**, driving the nation's progress.
- ❖ **Published languages** : It is published in **13 Indian languages**, the calendar's inclusivity mirrors the government's vision of connecting with citizens from every linguistic and cultural background.



Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

Uttar Pradesh has achieved the highest number of hospital registrations in the country under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, both at government and private hospitals.

Key Points

- ❖ The state has a total of **5,834 hospitals operating under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, of which 2,949 are government-run and 2,885 are private facilities**, the highest in India.
- ❖ **All state-run medical colleges, district hospitals and community health centres** have been enlisted under the scheme.
- ❖ As of December 10, 2024, **Uttar Pradesh issued Ayushman cards to 5.13 crore beneficiaries out of 7.43 crore** identified eligible individuals, putting the state in the top spot nationally.
- ❖ The government is focused on ensuring that at least one member from the 92 per cent eligible families receives the 'golden card' under the scheme.
- ❖ To facilitate the beneficiaries and address the claims efficiently, the government has appointed a **Beneficiary Facilitation Agency (BFA) besides deploying Ayushman Mitras at hospitals to assist the patients**.
- ❖ The scheme has also significantly improved access to healthcare by providing treatment opportunities closer to beneficiaries' homes.

Indusfood 2025

Union Minister of Food Processing Industries inaugurated the 8th Edition of the Indusfood 2025 at India Exposition Mart Ltd, Gautam Budh Nagar, Greater Noida on 8th January 2025.

Key Points

- ❖ **Organiser** : Indusfood is Asia's premier annual F&B trade exhibition organized by Trade Promotion Council of India with the support of the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

- ❖ **Participation** : Indusfood 2025 will be hosting 2,300 exhibitors from over 30 countries with exhibition space of over 120,000 sq. m. in this edition.
- ❖ The integrated trade fair will host over 7,500 international buyers and 15,000 Indian buyers/trade visitors, who are expected to be present during the show.
- ❖ **Asia President Forum** : Indusfood 2025 will also host the prestigious Asia President's Forum for the very first time in India, in partnership with the Indian Federation of Culinary Associations (IFCA). This event will bring together over 30 presidents of national chef associations from across Asia.

Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture

The Uttar Pradesh Government has partnered with Google Cloud to launch a Gemini-powered and Beckn-enabled Uttar Pradesh Open Network for Agriculture.

Key Points

- ❖ The agreement, aimed at revolutionising agriculture in the state, was signed by chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and Google Cloud (India) vice-president Anil Bhansali.
- ❖ **Purpose** : This Open Network will provide millions of farmers with **one-stop access to essential services**, including advisory services, credit, mechanization, and market linkages to sell their produce.
- ❖ **Gemini framework** : Google's Gemini framework will enable the network to enable seamless access and break down barriers to adoption by farmers. Farmers will be able to access the network by voice commands in the language of their choice.

- The languages currently supported include **Hindi, Bangla, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, and Punjabi, with more being added in 2025.**
- ❖ **Beckn Open Network for Agriculture :** The Beckn Open Network for Agriculture in Uttar Pradesh is designed as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and is part of the state's ongoing efforts to digitize the agricultural ecosystem.
 - This is the first-of-its-kind DPI for agriculture by an Indian state.
 - It leverages **Google Cloud's DPI-in-a-box offering and the Beckn Protocol**, an open standard that enables interoperability and decentralized discovery of products and services.

BHARATPOL

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had launched the BHARATPOL portal in New Delhi on 7th January 2025.

Key Points

- ❖ **Developed by :** It is developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Use :** It will streamline the processing of all requests for international assistance through INTERPOL, including the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices.
- ❖ It will significantly facilitate Indian law enforcement agencies enabling real-time information sharing for faster access to international police assistance.

Way Ahead

- ❖ The **growing footprint of transnational crimes including cyber-crime, financial crimes, online radicalization, organized crimes, drug trafficking**, and human trafficking, necessitates rapid and real-time international assistance in criminal investigations.

- ❖ To address this challenge, CBI has developed BHARATPOL Portal, which will bring all the stakeholders on a common platform. By facilitating easier and faster access to international assistance, it will strengthen India's efforts in combating transnational crimes.

Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Gautam Buddh Nagar police conducted '**Operation Talaash**' from **January 2 to January 5** to curb crime. This campaign was launched to curb theft and other crimes in the district in the last five years.
- ❖ The Greater Noida authority said it has decided to develop a **state-of-the-art international hockey turf** and a skateboarding rink in the sports complex. It will be located in Sector 37.
- ❖ Chandigarh University (CU) has announced **establishment of the first-of-its-kind artificial intelligence (AI) enabled next-gen futuristic campus at Unnao** in Lucknow State Capital Region (SCR).
 - The university will provide AI-augmented multidisciplinary education tailored to the evolving needs of 21st century learners.
 - The Uttar Pradesh government had earlier issued an authorisation letter to Chandigarh University for its AI-integrated campus at Unnao in Lucknow SCR.
- ❖ Ayodhya will host the **Pratishtha Dwadashi festival from January 11 to 13**, celebrating the first anniversary of Ram Lalla's installation in the grand temple.

- ❖ In the Maha Kumbh Mela, for the first time, a **water ambulance of the National Disaster Response Force equipped with an ICU facility** has been deployed in the Ganga. This will provide medical assistance to the devotees visiting Sangam if needed.

Person In News- Appointments

V Narayanan

- ❖ He has been **appointed as new ISRO chief and Secretary of the Department of Space.** 
- ❖ He succeeded the current ISRO chairman, S Somanath.
- ❖ Mr Narayanan served as the **Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) of the ISRO in Valiamala, Kerala.** He is a distinguished scientist with nearly four decades of experience in rocket and spacecraft propulsion.
- ❖ He is a rocket and spacecraft propulsion expert, joined ISRO in 1984, and functioned in various capacities before becoming director of LPSC.

Person In News- Worldwide

Sister Simona Brambilla

- ❖ She has been named by Pope Francis to head the **Vatican office that oversees religious orders for both men and women.** 
- ❖ She is the first woman to reach the No. 1 position in an office in the Holy See.

Justin Trudeau's

- ❖ He was the **Canadian Prime Minister** who resigned recently citing a looming trade war with the United States and a divisive political climate at home as a reason for the resignation. 

Important News- Other States

Assam

- ❖ The Assam Government launches the first phase of '**Gunotsav 2025**. It is a state-wide assessment to evaluate the performance of 14 lakh students across 16,000 government schools in 11 districts. The **initiative will cover all government elementary and secondary schools in the state.**
- ❖ To facilitate the assessment process, external evaluators have been deployed throughout the state.

Haryana

- ❖ The Haryana State Biodiversity Board, in a collaborative effort with global not-for-profit Wetlands International, **inaugurated the Asia Bird Census 2025 at the Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary.** It aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting biodiversity and preserving wildlife in the face of growing environmental challenges.

Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Ramayana Experience Park will be built in **Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs 750 crore.**
- ❖ The park will be spread over 80 acres and the main attraction of the park will be a 151 feet high statue of Lord Ram.

New Delhi

- ❖ Delhi's Chief Electoral Office has published the final electoral roll for the National Capital Delhi. **According to the office, more than 1 crore 55 lakh voters are registered in Delhi**, comprising over 83 lakh male voters, more than 71 lakh female voters, and one thousand two hundred 61 third-gender voters. Vikaspuri assembly had the largest number of electors, with over 4 lakhs 62 thousand voters, while the Delhi Cantt assembly had the smallest electorate with 78 thousand eight hundred and 93 electors.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The first meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on two bills related to the One Nation One Election was held on 8th January 2025. The **Bills are officially named as the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024 and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.**
 - The 39-member committee has 27 Members from the Lok Sabha and 12 Members from the Rajya Sabha.

- ❖ Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced a scheme for the pan-India setup of **Driver Training Institutes (DTIs)** which will provide incentives for setting up DTIs and additional incentives for the integrated infrastructure of Automated Testing Stations (ATs) and DTIs.
- ❖ The Government has allocated a designated site within the Rashtriya Smriti complex, a part of the Rajghat precinct for erecting a memorial of former **President Pranab Mukherjee.**

