

**28 January 2025**

## Former Odisha DGP Prakash Mishra appointed as advisor to chief minister

### Key Points:

- ❖ The Odisha government on Monday appointed former director general of police (DGP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Prakash Mishra as advisor to chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi. In a notification issued on Monday, the General Administration and Public Grievance department said, "Prakash Mishra, retired IPS officer, has been appointed as the advisor to the Chief Minister."



- ❖ Mishra has also been accorded the rank of a cabinet minister, it added. A 1977-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Mishra held the post of the DGP from 2012 to 2014.
- ❖ Before he retired from service, he had served as the director general (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) from 2014 to 2016 and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- ❖ Following his retirement, he joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the state in 2019 and unsuccessfully contested as BJP candidate from Cuttack Lok Sabha constituency in 2019 elections.
- ❖ Mishra was appointed DGP of Odisha in 2012 and he was credited with quelling Maoist violence in southern Odisha districts of Rayagada, Malkangiri and Koraput.
- ❖ During 2014 elections, his force seized several ambulances that were reportedly ferrying unaccounted campaign cash for the ruling party.

## Odisha Chief Secy Manoj Ahuja to Continue as Chief Resident Commissioner

### Key Points:

- ❖ Odisha Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja will continue to hold the additional responsibility of Chief Resident Commissioner for the Government of Odisha in New Delhi.
- ❖ He will also continue as Chairman of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri. He will also continue with In this connection, a notification has been issued by the General Administration & Public Grievance Department of the Government of Odisha on January 24 confirming the development.
- ❖ The notification stated, "Shri Manoj Ahuja, IAS (RR-1990), Chief Secretary, Odisha, who also holds the additional charge of Chairman of the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA), Puri, will continue to serve as the Chief Resident Commissioner of the Government of Odisha in New Delhi."



## First Technology Dialogue 2025 held in IISc Bengaluru

### Key Points:

- ❖ The first edition of the Technology Dialogue was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, Karnataka on 24 January 2025.
- ❖ The Technology Dialogue was held on 24 & 25 January 2025 in a hybrid mode with both virtual and physical presence.
- ❖ The Technology Dialogue will bring together the senior policymakers, industry leaders, scientists and scholars to discuss and deliberate on key issues relating to the technology domain including India's international technology engagements.

- ❖ The inaugural session was addressed virtually by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Professor Ajay Kumar Sood ,Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.

#### **Organiser of the Technology Dialogue**

- ❖ The Technology Dialogue has been organised by the External Affairs Ministry in partnership with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. The venue of the Technology Dialogue is at the Indian Institute of Science campus in Bengaluru and it will be held on 24 & 25 January 2025.

#### **Theme of the first Technology Dialogue**

- ❖ The theme of the Technology Dialogue is "Exploring New Frontiers in Technology Diplomacy". The theme highlights the focus of the Technology Dialogue on technology policy and partnerships.

#### **Aim of the Technology Dialogue**

- ❖ The Technology Dialogue is a kind of Track 1.5 Dialogue of the External Affairs Ministry.
- ❖ Track 1.5 Dialogue in diplomacy refers to the meeting that includes government officials—who participate in an unofficial capacity—and non-governmental experts sitting together.
- ❖ In international relations Science and Technology has increasingly emerged as a tool of strategic significance in cooperation between countries.
- ❖ The Technology Dialogue aims to capitalise on this trend and seeks to promote India's interest in the Science and Technology sector.
- ❖ It will encourage discussion on critical emerging technologies focused on - Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Advancements, Space, Semiconductors and Bioeconomy.

- ❖ The Dialogue seeks to enhance the world's collaboration and cooperation with India in these sectors.

#### **New Delhi hosts 2nd BIMSTEC expert group on Cyber Security Cooperation**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ The second meeting of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation was held in New Delhi on 21 January 2025. This was the second time that India was hosting the meeting having hosted the first edition in New Delhi in 2022.

#### **Organiser of the BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation**

- ❖ The BIMSTEC Expert Group on Cyber Security Cooperation was organized by the National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India.

#### **Aim of the Meeting**

- ❖ The main aim of the meeting was to formulate an Action Plan to bolster coordination and collaboration amongst the BIMSTEC member countries for strengthening Cyber Security in the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

#### **About the National Security Council Secretariat**

- ❖ The National Security Council Secretariat was set up by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1998.
- ❖ The government of India has made the National Security Council Secretariat the nodal agency to deal with the cyber security threat in India.
- ❖ The National Security Council Secretariat is the country's apex body that deals with issues related to internal and external national security.

- ❖ The Prime Minister is the overall head of the National Security Council Secretariat and its day-to-day work is handled by the National Security Advisor who is its Director.

#### About BIMSTEC

- ❖ BIMSTEC was founded as BIST-EC (Bangladesh India Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation) on 6 June 1997 to promote cooperation amongst the member countries.
- ❖ Later its name was changed to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation after Myanmar joined it on 22 December 1997
- ❖ Members: seven members - India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar.
- ❖ Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh

#### Nation celebrates 76th Republic Day at Kartavya Path

##### Key Points:

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu led the nation to celebrate the 76th Republic Day on 26 January 2026 with an impressive parade and cultural extravaganza at the Kartavya Path (earlier Janpath) in New Delhi. Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto was the Chief Guest at the 76th Republic Day celebration of 2025. Republic Day has been observed on the 26th of January since 1950 to mark the promulgation of the Indian constitution on this day in 1950. The President of India unfurls the National Flag at the Republic Day Parade. The Union Ministry of Defence organises and manages the Republic Day celebration.

#### Republic Day Celebration

- ❖ Since 2022, the Republic Day celebration of the government of India in New Delhi starts on 23rd January and continues till 30th January. 23rd January is observed in the country as the Parakram Diwas which

is the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

- ❖ The first Parakram Diwas was observed in 2021. On 26th January an impressive parade and cultural programmes are held on the Kartavya Path.

#### Beating Retreat Ceremony

- ❖ The Beating Retreat ceremony is held on 29th January at the Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. The ceremony features a musical performance by the bands of the Indian Armed Forces - Army, Navy, Air Force, Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), and the Delhi Police.
- ❖ The Beating Retreat ceremony marks the end of the Republic Day parade and it is presided over by the President of India.
- ❖ 'Beating Retreat' marks a centuries-old military tradition. At sunset, the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms, withdrew from the battlefield, and returned to the camps.
- ❖ During the Beating Retreat ceremony, the Armed Forces ask the permission of the President to go back to their barracks.
- ❖ The President is the Commander in Chief of the Indian Armed Forces.



#### Martyrs Day

- ❖ Martyr's Day, observed on 30th January to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, will officially mark the end of the Republic Day festivities.

#### Highlights of the 2025 Republic Day Parade

- ❖ The Commander of the 2025 Republic Day Parade was Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar, the General Officer Commanding of the Delhi Area.

- ❖ The 152-member Indonesian National Armed Forces and 190-member Military Band of Indonesia's Military Academy also participated in the parade.
- ❖ The first foreign military contingent to participate in the Republic Day parade was the French Army band which participated in the 67th Republic Day parade in 2016.
- ❖ Assistant Commandant Aishwarya Joy M. led the 148-member all-women marching contingent of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ❖ Deputy Commandant Manohar Singh Kheechee led the Camel contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF).

#### **Tableaux and its Theme**

- ❖ Every year the historical and cultural diversity achievements of the country are displayed through tableaux. The Theme of the Republic Day tableaux is chosen by the Union Ministry of Defence. The theme of the 2025 Republic Day tableaux was **Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas**. 15 States/Union Territories and 10 Ministries/departments of central governments displayed their tableaux.

#### **Jayati Jaya Maman Bharatam**

- ❖ 5,000 artists from different parts of the country performed over 45 dances titled 'Jayati Jaya Maman Bharatam'.
- ❖ For the first time, the performance covered the entire Kartavya Path to ensure that all guests get the same viewing experience.

#### **Bharat Parv**

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tourism organises the 'Bharat Parv' festival from 26-31st January 2025 to coincide with the Republic Day celebrations at the Red Fort in New Delhi.
- ❖ During the Bharat Parv the various Tableaux displayed at the Kartavya Path will be displayed along with cultural performances, Military Bands (Static), etc.

#### **Jannik Sinner & Madison Keys wins 2025 Australian Open Singles Titles**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Jannik Sinner of Italy and Madison Keys of the United States of America won the men's and women's singles titles of the 2025 Australian Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament, respectively. The 2024 Australian Open singles winner, Jannik Sinner successfully defended his Australian Open title. It was the first Australian Open title for Madison Keys.
- ❖ It was the third Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner and the first Grand Slam title for Madison Keys.
- ❖ The Australian Open was the first Grand Slam Tennis tournament for the 2025 season with the French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open to follow in succession. The 120th edition of the Australian Open was held from 6-26 January 2025 at Melbourne Park in Melbourne City, Australia.

#### **Jannik Sinner -First Italian man to win 3 Grand Slam Titles**

- ❖ World No.1 Jannik Sinner became the first Italian in the open era to win three Grand Slam singles, having won 2 Australian Open (2024 & 2025) and the 2024 US Open.
- ❖ In the final played at the Rod Laver Arena on 26 January 2025, Jannik Sinner defeated Alexander Zverev of Germany 6-3 7-6(4) 6-3.
- ❖ The 23-year-old Sinner became the first man to successfully defend a maiden Grand Slam title since Rafael Nadal at Roland Garros (French Open) in 2006.

#### **First Grand Slam title for Madison Keys**

- ❖ 29-year-old Madison Keys of the United States of America defeated World no.1 ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-3 2-6 7-5 in the final.
- ❖ The final was played at the Rod Laver Arena on 25th January 2025.



- ❖ This was the first Grand Slam title for Madison Keys, having lost in the 2017 US Open finals to fellow American Sloane Stephens.

### Winners of the 2025 Australian Open

- ❖ Following are the winners of the 2025 Australian Open along with their nationalities.

Event	Winner (Nationalities)	Runners-UP (Nationalities)
Men's Single	Jannik Sinner (Italy )	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
Women's Single	Madison Keys (USA)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Double	Harri Heliövaara (Finland) Henry Patten (Britain)	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (Both Italian)
Women's Double	Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) and Taylor Townsend (USA)	Su- Wei Hsieh (Taiwan) Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)
Mixed Doubles	Olivia Gadecki and John Peers (Both from Australia)	Kimberly Birrell and John Patrick Smith (both from Australia)

### About the Australian Open

- ❖ The Australian Open is the first Grand Slam tournament of a calendar year.
- ❖ The first Australian Open was first held in 1905 as the Australasia Open.
- ❖ It was renamed the Australian Championships in 1927 and finally into the Australian Open in 1969.
- ❖ It was held on grass courts until 1987 before switching to hard courts in 1988.

### Most successful player since 1969

- ❖ Novak Djokovic of Serbia has won the titles 10 times
- ❖ Serena Williams of the United States of America has won it seven times.

### Uttarakhand becomes the first state to implement a Common Civil Code

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Uttarakhand became the first state in India after the promulgation of the constitution, to implement the Uniform Civil Code. The state government issued a notification to this effect on 27 January 2025.
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also launched the Uniform Civil Code Portal, where marriages can be registered under the provisions of the Uniform Civil Code. Registration of

marriage is compulsory under the Uniform Civil Code.

- ❖ Goa implemented the uniform civil code in 1869 but it was under Portuguese rule at that time.
- ❖ The Uniform Civil Code seeks to promote legal equality across people of the state irrespective of their castes or religions. The Uniform Civil Code will apply to all the residents of Uttarakhand, except Scheduled Tribes and protected authority-empowered persons and communities.



### About the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code

- ❖ The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code simplifies and makes a single uniform law on matters relating to marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance. It means that whether a person is Hindu or Muslim or of different castes the laws on these four matters will be the same.
- ❖ It makes the registration of marriage compulsory.
- ❖ Marriages solemnized before March 26, 2010, or those outside the state will be eligible for registration if the legal conditions are met.
- ❖ It sets a common marriageable age for men (minimum 21 years) and women (minimum 18 years) and provides for common grounds and procedures to be followed in case of divorce across all religions.
- ❖ It banned triple talaq (practiced amongst the Muslim community), polygamy (a man having more than one wife), and 'halala' (a practice where a woman must marry another man and then divorce him before remarrying her previous husband).

- ❖ It also provides for equal rights in case of succession and inheritance.
- ❖ It recognises Live-in Relationships but it requires compulsory registration.
- ❖ On May 27, 2022, the Pushkar Singh Dhami government set up a committee to frame a draft Uniform Civil Code for Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The committee was headed by the Retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana P Desai.
- ❖ Based on the recommendation of the committee a bill was introduced in the Uttarakhand legislative assembly in 2024 which was subsequently passed by the assembly on 17 February 2024.
- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill on 13 March 2024.

#### **Constitutional provision regarding the Uniform Civil Code**

- ❖ Article 44 of the Indian constitution under Chapter IV entitled Directive Principle of State Policy (DPSP) provides that the State shall endeavour to secure a uniform civil code for the citizens of India throughout the territory of India"
- ❖ Uttarakhand is the first state in India to enact a law under the provision of Article 44.

#### **Reliance Consumer acquires Sil Foods brand**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Reliance Consumer Products has acquired packaged foods brand SIL Food India, which offers a range of products including cooking pastes, jams, mayonnaise, baked beans, and Chinese sauces.
- ❖ Pune-based company SIL Food India primarily operates in the Western and Southern markets, and Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL) plans to expand its distribution nationally to compete with

FMCG majors like HUL, Tata Consumer, and Cremica. Reliance Consumer is aiming to reac DPIIT signs MoU with Bhaane Group to promote startup ecosystem in manufacturing sector.

- ❖ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed a MoU with the Bhaane Group, a subsidiary of Shahi Exports Pvt Ltd, the largest manufacturer of apparel.
- ❖ This collaboration will launch incubation programs for startups specialising in manufacturing, along with other production areas and foster relationships with international startup ecosystems.
- ❖ The private firm will support upcoming startups by providing access to market insights. The firm will facilitate them to create a holistic understanding of the workings of foreign markets, along with guidance on operational knowledge throughout the startup lifecycle.

#### **DPIIT signs MoU with Bhaane Group to promote startup ecosystem in manufacturing sector**

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- ❖ This collaboration serves a greater good – to nurture a thriving entrepreneurial spirit and strengthen India's manufacturing landscape.

#### Recent MoU

- ❖ DPIIT signs MoU with Bhaane Group to promote startup ecosystem in manufacturing sector
- ❖ DPIIT partners with Apna to boost startup talent and create job opportunities for youth
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh signs MoU with Infosys for skill census pre-validation
- ❖ NSDC partners with Axis My India to map skill demand and supply across India
- ❖ DPIIT signs MoU with HDFC Bank to strengthen startup ecosystem and foster innovation
- ❖ Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya and Indian Navy sign MoU for Logistics related Education, Research and Training.

#### Microsoft's Satya Nadella tops HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024

##### Key Points:

- ❖ Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella has claimed the top spot in the inaugural HSBC Hurun Global Indians List 2024, which ranks 226 leaders of Indian origin heading the world's most valuable companies.
- ❖ Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and YouTube CEO Neal Mohan secured the second and third spots, respectively.
- ❖ According to Hurun, the list was created based on a survey of 400 respondents, including wealth creators featured in its lists. The combined value of companies led by these leaders is estimated at \$10 trillion.
- ❖ Companies in the list were ranked according to their market capitalization or valuations in the case of non-listed companies, with the cut-off date being November 29, 2024.

- ❖ According to the survey, Nadella and Pichai were identified as the most influential global Indians, with over half of the respondents voting for them.
- ❖ The list features 12 women, leading with Reshma Kewalramani of Vertex Pharmaceuticals, followed by Jayshree Ullal of Arista Networks, and Leena Nair, Global CEO of fashion brand — Chanel, who is also recognised as the most influential woman of Indian origin.

#### Rajnath Singh flags-off 'SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System' from New Delhi

##### Key Points:

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-off 'SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)' from South Block, New Delhi. SANJAY is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors, processing them to confirm their veracity, preventing duplication and fusing them to produce a Common Surveillance Picture of the battlefield over secured Army Data Network & Satellite Communication Network.



- ❖ The BSS is equipped with state-of-the-art sensors and cutting-edge analytics. It will monitor the vast land borders, prevent intrusions, assess situations with unparalleled accuracy and prove to be a force multiplier in Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance.

- ❖ This would enable commanders to operate in both conventional & sub-conventional operations, in a Network Centric Environment. SANJAY has been indigenously & jointly developed by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) creating a conducive ecosystem towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta' as a follow up to the Indian Army's 'Year of Technology Absorption'.

### 24 January – National Girl Child Day

#### Key Points:

- ❖ National Girl Child Day is celebrated every year on January 24. The day also marks the anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) scheme, launched on January 22, 2015.
- ❖ Established in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, this day highlights the importance of empowering and protecting girl children. Theme 2025 – Empowering Girls for a Bright Future.



### National Voters' Day

#### Key Points:

- ❖ National Voters' Day is celebrated annually in India on January 25 to mark the foundation of the Election Commission of India (ECI), which was established on this day in 1950. The day is observed to encourage and increase voter participation, especially among the youth, and to highlight the importance of voting in a democracy. Theme 2025 – **Nothing like voting, I vote for sure.**

