

UP- New Export Policy

The Uttar Pradesh government is drafting a new export policy.

Key Points

- ❖ Under the **2020-2025 export policy**, the state government provides comprehensive hand-holding support to the exporters.
- ❖ In the **last financial year (FY24)**, UP's **merchandise exports were worth nearly \$20.67 billion, contributing 4.71 per cent to India's total exports.**
- ❖ With the new policy, the government targets to increase this share to 7.5 per cent. For the first six months of FY25, the state logged exports worth \$10.56 billion, raising its share in the country's total exports to 4.89 per cent.
- ❖ **Purpose:** It is to boost the state's share in India's exports. The move aims to provide additional incentives to exporters.

Key Features:

- ❖ **Incentives for exporters:** The proposed policy would introduce several incentives for exporters, especially in the **food processing, handicrafts, and One District One Product sectors.** UP is known for its traditional industries, such as Banarasi silk sarees, carpets from Bhadohi, chikan embroidery from Lucknow, Kanpur's leather goods, and leather footwear from Agra.
- ❖ **Job Creation:** The policy would emphasise job creation and offer incentives, including marketing development support, air freight subsidies, international certification subsidies, and gateway port freight subsidies, the official added.

- ❖ **Increasing exports:** The state government is aiming to **achieve merchandise exports worth Rs 3 trillion in the next two to three years.** Being a landlocked state, UP is also focusing on creating infrastructure to support its export supply chain.
- ❖ **Potential export hubs:** The state plans to develop all 75 districts into potential export hubs by building a robust network of warehouses, cargo terminals, and trucking hubs. These facilities will be located in industrial zones and near expressway projects.

Nascent Galaxy

A new ultra-diffuse galaxy has been discovered to be under formation at the end of the tidal tail of galaxy NGC 3785.

Key Points

- ❖ The galaxy is located **about 430 million light years from Earth in the Leo constellation.**
- ❖ The discovery of the **galaxy formation was driven probably by the gravitational interaction between NGC 3785 and a neighbouring galaxy.**
- ❖ It marks a major milestone in understanding galaxy evolution.
- ❖ NGC 3785 galaxy is known to possess the longest tidal tail discovered so far.
- ❖ Tidal Tail is a long, thin stream of stars and interstellar gas
- ❖ The tail extends from the galaxy and is formed due to gravitational forces ("tidal forces") when two galaxies interact closely, essentially pulling material away from each other during a close encounter or merger process.

- ❖ The research has been published in the November issue of the European journal, **Astronomy & Astrophysics Letters**. It is authored by Chandan Watts, from IIA and Pondicherry University, Dr. Sudhanshu Barway from IIA, Dr. Omkar Bait from SKA, U.K., and Dr. Yogesh Wadadekar from National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune.

Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has drafted the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 to facilitate the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act).

Key Points

- ❖ It aims to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of digital personal data by providing necessary details and an actionable framework.
- ❖ The draft DPDP Rules, 2025, introduce a framework to safeguard personal data and uphold privacy rights. Below is an overview of key provisions:
- ❖ **Notice requirements for data fiduciaries:** Data fiduciaries must issue clear, standalone notices to data principals (individuals whose data is being collected).
- ❖ **Consent managers:** The consent managers (third-party entity or platform), responsible for facilitating data principals in managing their consent.
- ❖ **Data processing by the state:** The state government and its agencies can process personal data to provide subsidies, benefits, services, certificates, licenses, or permits as defined by law or funded through public resources.

- ❖ **Data retention policies:** Entities like e-commerce platforms with over 20 million users, online gaming intermediaries with over 5 million users, and social media platforms with over 20 million users must delete user data after three years unless the user actively maintains their account.

Nadi Tarangini

The first ayurvedic diagnostic device, gets CDSCO nod.

Key Points

- ❖ Nadi Tarangini is an **indigenously developed pulse diagnostic tool**.
- ❖ It has become **India's first ayurvedic medical device to receive approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**.
- ❖ The device is the brainchild of Padma Bhushan awardee Prof. J.B. Joshi, Chancellor of the Institute of Chemical Technology (formerly UDCT) and President of Marathi Vidnyan Parishad.
- ❖ It has been developed by **Dr Aniruddha Joshi following over six years of research at IIT Bombay**.
- ❖ The **price of Nadi Tarangini is ₹55,000** and its manufacturing company, Atreya Innovations, is based in Hinjewadi, Pune.

- ❖ CDSCO is the national regulator for cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices in the country.
- ❖ It is under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Person In News- Sports

Bahadur Singh Sagoo

- ❖ He has been elected unopposed as the **president of Athletics Federation of India**.
- ❖ He is an Asian Games gold medallist shot putter. He succeeded the long-serving Adille Sumariwalla.
- ❖ The Athletics Federation of India is the apex body for running and managing athletics in India and affiliated to the World Athletics, AAA and Indian Olympic Association.



Species in News

Banded Royal butterfly (Rachana jalindra indra)

- ❖ Banded Royal butterfly (Rachana jalindra indra) has been sighted for the first time in Tripura.
- ❖ It was sighted in **Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary**, and has been documented in the international peer-reviewed journal **Munis Entomology & Zoology**.
- ❖ It is a **rare butterfly species**.
- ❖ The Banded Royal butterfly is protected under Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Important Days/Dates

January 5

National Bird Day

- ❖ National Bird Day, celebrated on January 5 each year, is a **day dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of birds** in our ecosystems and their conservation.



- ❖ It was **first established in 2002 by the Avian Welfare Coalition**.

January 8

Earth's Rotation Day

- ❖ The **day commemorates when French Physicist, Leon Foucault**, demonstrated the Earth rotates on its axis in 1851.
- ❖ In 1851, Foucault accomplished this through an experiment using a pendulum, famously known as the Foucault Pendulum. It provided visual proof of Earth's rotation.



Important News- Other States

Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ According to railway officials, there are currently 68 rail divisions under 17 railway zones and **Jammu will become the 69th division**. The Railway Ministry will set up a new division with headquarters at **Jammu** under the Northern Railway Zone by reorganising the Firozpur division.

Sikkim

- ❖ Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the **country's first organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim on January 6, 2025**. The organic fish cluster in **Soreng District of Sikkim will boost farmer incomes and promote sustainability** in aquaculture. The project aims to sell antibiotic, chemical, and pesticide free organic fish in eco-conscious markets across the globe.

Important News- Worldwide

Dubai

- ❖ Dubai has secured the **eighth spot globally and the top position in the Middle East in the Global Power City Index (GPCI) 2024**, maintaining this ranking for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ The index, **released annually by Japan's Mori Memorial Foundation**, highlights Dubai's leadership in innovation, economic growth, and global connectivity. It is the only city in the Middle East to make it to the top 10, solidifying its status as a global hub for business, talent, and investment.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **Inah Canabarro Lucas**, a nun from **Brazil** has become the world's oldest person at the age of **116 years 210 days**. She has taken the titles of oldest woman living and oldest person living following the death of Japan's Tomiko Itooka in December 2024.
- ❖ **Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) 2025** is set to be held in the Rajasthan capital between **January 17 and 21**. In the festival celebrated filmmakers Yash Chopra and Shyam Benegal will be honored. The gala will bestow the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award on Chopra.

- ❖ Researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati**, in collaboration with **Bose Institute Kolkata**, have developed an advanced injectable hydrogel designed for localised breast cancer treatment.
 - This innovative hydrogel system allows for precise delivery of anti-cancer drugs to tumour sites, minimising side effects commonly seen in conventional treatments like chemotherapy.
- ❖ With the start of the year 2025, **'Generation Beta'** started, India got its first baby of Generation Beta in Mizoram's Aizawl. The baby (boy) has been named **Frankie Remruatdika Zadeng**.

- ❖ The name of the **new generation born after January 1, 2025**, has been revealed to be **Gen Beta**, officially the **world's youngest generation**, according to **Mark McCrindle**, a demographer and social analyst.

