

Bima Sakhi Yojana

The Chief Minister of Goa launched the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in the state on 7 January 2025 with the aim to provide "insurance for all".

Key Points

- ❖ Goa has become the **second state after Haryana** to launch this flagship scheme envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ❖ **Eligibility:** According to the central government, the Bima Sakhi Yojana initiative of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is designed to empower women in the age group of **18-70** years who have **passed Class 10**.
- ❖ **Training provision:** To promote financial literacy and insurance awareness, special training and stipend will be provided for the first three years.
 - After training, they can work as LIC agents.
- ❖ **Relief fund:** They will be given a stipend of Rs 7,000 per month in the first year, Rs 6,000 per month in the second year, and Rs 5,000 per month in the third year.
 - In total, these Bima Sakhis will receive **Rs 2.16 lakh** over a period of three years.
- ❖ **Importance:** This scheme will provide financial assistance to women.

ISRO Space Mission, 2025

The Union Minister for Science & Technology chaired a high-level review of ISRO's upcoming major space missions for 2025.

Key Points-

- ❖ With ambitious projects announced, including the first "**unmanned**" orbital mission under "Gaganyaan", India's space exploration efforts are poised for unprecedented achievements.
- ❖ ISRO is gearing up for the first half of 2025 with several important missions showcasing **technological prowess** and international collaboration.
 - One of the key missions is the launch of the **unmanned orbital test mission of Gaganyaan**. This **crucial effort will pave the way for India's human space flight programme**, aimed at validating systems for crew safety and recovery.
 - In addition, two **GSLV missions**, a commercial launch of LVM3 and the much-awaited ISRO-NASA collaboration on the NISAR satellite are scheduled in the coming months.
 - The **GSLV-F15 mission in January will carry the NVS-02 navigation satellite**, strengthening India's positioning and navigation capabilities with indigenously developed atomic clocks.
 - In February, the GSLV-F16 mission will launch NISAR, a sophisticated **earth observation satellite** developed in collaboration with NASA.
 - ✓ It is equipped with advanced radar imaging technology, which will provide vital data on agriculture, natural disasters and climate monitoring.

- The commercial LVM3-M5 mission, scheduled for March, will deploy **Bluebird Block-2 satellites** under a contract with U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile.

India's GDP Growth Rate

According to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2025 report, India's economy is projected to grow at **6.6 percent in 2025**.

Key Points of the report

- ❖ The Indian economy is projected to grow by 6.6% in 2025, supported mainly by strong private consumption and investment.
- ❖ In addition, India's strong export growth in services and some manufactured goods will boost economic activity.
- ❖ The near-term outlook for South Asia is expected to remain strong, with growth forecast at **5.7% in 2025 and 6.0 per cent in 2026**, driven by "strong performance in India as well as economic recovery in some other economies, including Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka".
- ❖ The report expects **global growth to be at 2.8 per cent in 2025**.

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue was organised under the leadership of Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment.

Key Points -

- ❖ It was organized from **10-12 January 2025** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- ❖ **Objective:** The event, which is a revamped version of the National Youth Festival, aims to provide a unique platform to the youth to present innovative solutions for a developed India.
- ❖ **Participants:** Young leaders from across the country have participated in various events to express their ideas for a developed India, with around 30 lakh youth participating.
- ❖ Different topics were discussed in this three-day program-
 - **January 10, 2025** – Launch of Samvaad Yatra with thematic presentations, excursions and cultural experiences
 - **January 11, 2025** – Day of intellectual engagement and cultural celebration
 - **January 12, 2025** – Shaping the future: Youth present groundbreaking ideas and visions for India's future to the Prime Minister

Pravasi Bharatiya Express

On 9th January, Prime Minister of India flagged off the special tourist train "Pravasi Bharatiya Express" for NRIs at **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Key Points -

- ❖ Through this, NRIs will be given an opportunity to visit many famous tourist places and religious places of the country by train for three weeks.

- ❖ **Main sponsor:** This train is being run under the '**Pravasi Tirtha Darshan Yojana**' of the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Through which the **central government will bear all the expenses** related to the train journey.
- ❖ **Places to be covered:** Starting its journey from New Delhi, during the journey, it will cover famous tourist places and religious places of Ayodhya, Patna, Gaya, Varanasi, Mahabalipuram, Rameswaram, Madurai, Kochi, Goa, Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Ajmer, Pushkar and Agra.
- ❖ **Total passengers:** This train is going to travel for **three weeks with about 156 passengers**.
- ❖ **Focus category:** The train has been specially designed for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) aged 45 to 65 years from the low income group.
 - The Government of India will also bear 90% of the return flight ticket for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) aged between 45 and 65 years from their native countries to India.
- ❖ **Objective:** Its objective is to connect Indian migrants with the culture of the country.

Har Ghar Connectivity Scheme

The Haryana State Government has started a pilot project.

Key Point-

- ❖ Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited (GFGNL), under the **Gujarat Science and Technology Department**, is planning to provide **25,000 fibre-to-the-home (FTH)** connections to rural households in collaboration with various agencies.

➤ These connections will include value-added services (VAS) such as Wi-Fi, cable TV (free-to-air and paid channels), OTT (over-the-top television) and gaming.

- ❖ This will be done under the 'Har Ghar Connectivity' (Fibre to Family) initiative, which was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day (December 25, 2024).
- ❖ After the pilot project, the initiative will be scaled up to benefit **more rural households**.
- ❖ **Significance:** The initiative will provide government-to-citizen (G2C) services and IoT solutions for agriculture, animal husbandry and telemedicine and empower rural communities with digital tools.

Parth Yojana

Madhya Pradesh government has launched Parth Yojana for the youth.

Key Points

- ❖ **Full name:** Police Army Recruitment Training and Hunar
- ❖ In this scheme, the youth of the state will be given pre-recruitment training to provide employment opportunities in **Indian Army, Police, Para Military** etc.
- ❖ In this training, preparation will be done from physical to examination.
- ❖ In the initial phase, this scheme is being started in **all the divisions** of the state.

WEP Launch EmpowerHER Biz

WEP Launches EmpowHER Biz - Sapno ki Udaan.

Key Points-

- ❖ NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) launched EmpowHER Biz – Sapno Ki Udaan in partnership with New Shop, India's largest 24/7 convenience retail chain, under its Earn to Reward (ATR) programme.
- ❖ **Objective:** It aims to empower women entrepreneurs by equipping them with the skills and resources required to succeed in the organised retail sector.
- ❖ EmpowHER Biz will provide mentorship and comprehensive training to aspiring women entrepreneurs covering retail management, digital tools, financial literacy and business development.
- ❖ **Beneficiaries:** Under this initiative, fifty participants in the age group of **18-35 years** will be selected. Out of these, the top twenty participants will get 100% discount on New Shop franchise fees.
- ❖ **Regions:** The programme is being launched for women from Delhi NCR, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

Short News - Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Recently, Akashvani, the radio division of public broadcaster Prasar Bharati launched an **FM channel called 'Kumbhvani'**, dedicated to disseminating information related to **Mahakumbh 2025**.
 - The channel, broadcasting on a frequency of 103.5 MHz, will air from January 10 to February 26 daily from 5.55 am to 10.05 pm.

Report/Index

Henley Passport Index

- ❖ This index is released by the firm Henley & Partners.


- ❖ India's ranking in the Global Passport Index, 2025 has fallen **five points to 85** this year.
- ❖ India's ranking in the Henley Passport Index for 2024 was 80 globally.
- ❖ **Singapore** has topped this index for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ Japan's ranking was second this year.
- ❖ This index includes 199 different passports and 227 different travel destinations.

Rank of other countries

- ❖ Pakistan and Bangladesh are ranked 103rd (101st in 2024) and 100th (97th in 2024) respectively.
- ❖ The US ranking will be 9th for 2025 (7th in 2024), while China's ranking has improved from 62nd to 60th in 2024.

Award/Title

Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, 2025

- ❖ Dr **Syed Anwar Khurshid**, an eminent Indian physician based in Saudi Arabia has been conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025.
- ❖ It is the **highest honour conferred by the Government of India** on overseas Indians.
 
- ❖ The award celebrates his remarkable contribution to healthcare, community welfare and strengthening ties between India and Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ With over 45 years of medical experience, Dr Khurshid played a key role during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ He was also the personal physician to King Abdullah.

Person In News

Joseph Aoun

- ❖ Joseph Aoun has been elected as **President of Lebanon**, ending a presidential vacancy that had lasted more than two years.
- ❖ He is 60 years old.



Important Days/Date

10 January

World Hindi day



- ❖ World Hindi Day, celebrated on **January 10**, is dedicated to showcasing the growing global recognition and respect for the Hindi language.
- ❖ Hindi was adopted as the official language of India on January 10, 1949.
- ❖ The Government of India started celebrating this day as World Hindi Day in **2006**, so that Hindi can get more recognition at the international level.
- ❖ **The theme for the year 2025 is:** 'A global voice of unity and cultural pride.'

Important News- Other States

New Delhi

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has appointed 24 new judicial and technical members to the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**, the premier body handling corporate disputes and bankruptcy matters.
- ❖ The newly appointed members will serve for **5 years or till the age of 65**.

- ❖ The appointed members include Justice Jyotsna Sharma as judicial member and Hariharan Neelakanta Iyer as technical member.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The length of India's national highway network has grown by 60 per cent in the **last 10 years from 91,287 km in 2014 to 146,195 km in 2024**, making it the second largest road network in the world, according to a year-end review released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- ❖ The National High-Speed Corridor has also expanded from a mere 93 km in 2014 to 2,474 km in 2024, reflecting a massive improvement in the country's infrastructure.
- ❖ According to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the year 2024 is set to become the first year to cross the **1.5 degree Celsius temperature** rise mark. Based on data from six different datasets, the average annual global temperature in 2024 was 1.55 degrees Celsius higher than in **pre-industrial times (the average of the period 1850-1900)**.
- ❖ India will host the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Parliaments of Commonwealth Countries (CSPOC) in 2026. The event will focus on the use of **artificial intelligence** and social media in parliamentary processes.
- ❖ In an unprecedented achievement, India's **indigenous surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra**, successfully performed two robotic heart surgeries through telesurgery across a distance of 286 km. These surgeries were performed by Dr Sudhir Srivastava operating from Gurugram at Manipal Hospital, Jaipur.

