

1 January – Global Family Day

Key Points:

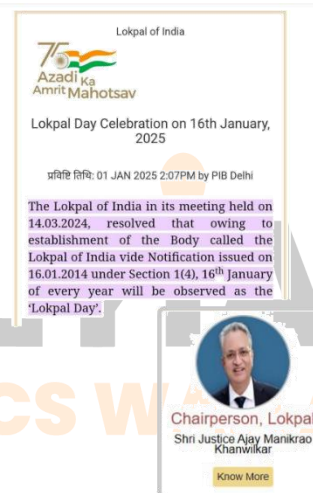
- ❖ Global Family Day is observed annually on 1 January to promote peace, unity, and a sense of shared humanity across the globe.
- Theme 2025 – Let's Start The Year With Love, Unity, Appreciation.** The day emerged from the United Nations Millennium celebration in 2000, emphasizing the need for global unity and fostering a sense of family among people worldwide.

Manish Singhal appointed Secretary General of ASSOCHAM

- ❖ Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), an apex business chamber, has a new Secretary General in Manish Singhal. Singhal succeeds Deepak Sood, who recently after a five-year stint stepped down to pursue other interests.
- ❖ Singhal, an industry leader with over 35 years of experience in Chamber and Corporate India, had earlier worked as Deputy Secretary General of The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ❖ He had also worked with various Indian transnational companies, including Tata Motors, Eicher (Volvo), Tata Auto Comp Systems, Moser Baer India and BEML to name a few.
- ❖ About Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) ASSOCHAM is a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group.
- ❖ This organization represents the interests of trade and commerce in India. Established -1920 Headquarters – New Delhi Secretary General – Manish Singhal (replace Deepak Sood) ASSOCHAM has more than 200 chambers and trade organizations across India. It has more than 450,000 members.

Lokpal Day Celebration on 16th January, 2025

- ❖ The Lokpal of India has designated January 16 as “Lokpal Day”. This decision was made during a meeting on March 14, 2024. The first commemoration is scheduled for January 16, 2025. Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna will be the chief guest at this inaugural event.
- ❖ The event will take place at Zorawar Auditorium, Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. Lokpal is a national-level institution that investigates and addresses corruption among public officials in India.
- ❖ It acts as an “Ombudsman” body, handling complaints of corruption and grievances.



Maharashtra government launches 15 day reading campaign amongst Student

Key Points:

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has launched a 15 day “reading campaign amongst students” starting 1 January 2025. The scheme was announced by the Minister for Higher and Technical Education Minister of Maharashtra government Chandrakant Patil.

- ❖ The state government has also set up committees at various levels that will oversee the reading campaign across the state.
- ❖ The state government has also announced that it will honour the winners of the various activities conducted by the state government as part of the reading campaign.

Higher and Technical Education Department to lead the Campaign

- ❖ The 15 day reading campaign will be under the Higher and Technical Education Department of the Maharashtra government. It will be held every year from 1-15 January.

Target of the Reading Campaign

- ❖ According to the Maharashtra government the 15 days reading campaign will target college and universities students.
- ❖ Students of all the state or private run colleges /universities in the states will participate in the campaign..
- ❖ The college and universities will hold events and competitions related to reading.

Aim of the Reading Campaign

- ❖ It is part of the state government's effort to nurture a generation that values reading as a crucial aspect of intellectual and personal growth. Apart from this the other aim of the campaign are as follows;
- ❖ To motivate the students to read books other than their textbooks.
- ❖ Discourage the excessive use of mobile, laptop etc.
- ❖ Conduct group reading sessions, story-telling, book discussions, workshops, competitions, and book reviews.
- ❖ Chief Minister of Maharashtra : Devendra Fadnavis
- ❖ Governor of Maharashtra: C P Radhakrishnan.

Romania & Bulgaria become full member of EU's Schengen area

Key Points:

- ❖ Romania and Bulgaria have officially become the full member of the European Union's (EU) Schengen area at the stroke of midnight on 1 January 2025. Until now both countries had partial membership of the Schengen area.
- ❖ Now 25 out of the 27 member countries of the European Union are members of the Schengen area except Cyprus and Ireland.
- ❖ Schengen areas facilitate free travel for the nationals of the member countries to travel to another country for work, business, tourism, etc purposes without any checks and border restrictions.

Romania and Bulgaria Joins Schengen after 13 years

- ❖ Romania and Bulgaria joined the European Union in 2007. They partially joined the Schengen area in March 2024 and their citizens were allowed to enter the Schengen area through air or sea freely.
- ❖ However, they were not allowed to enter the Schengen area through land borders freely and were subjected to the usual procedure of checking.
- ❖ The main reason for the land checking was the opposition of Austria which felt that these two countries were not doing enough to prevent illegal migrants from entering the Schengen area. After Austria dropped its objection both the countries were finally integrated with the Schengen area.

About Schengen Area

- ❖ The Schengen area was established by the European Union in 1985 to permit documentfree travel by the citizens of the member countries.

Benefits of Schengen Area

- ❖ It guarantees free movement of European Union citizens, and non-European Union nationals living in the European Union or visiting the European Union as tourists, exchange students, or for business purposes without any border checks or verification.
- ❖ It guarantees every European Union citizen to travel, work, and live in a European Union country without special formalities.

Members of the Schengen Area

- ❖ Initially, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands joined the Schengen area in 1985. Over a period of time, its membership expanded, and presently it consists of 29 countries .
- ❖ European Union member countries that are members of the Schengen area are as follows: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Portugal, Latvia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Croatia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.
- ❖ **Non European Union Members** - Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein.

Government extends Agriculture Crop insurance scheme till 2025-26

Key Points:

- ❖ In a boost to the agricultural sector in the country, the government of India has approved several policy decisions including the extension of the major crop insurance scheme Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- ❖ The decision was taken in a meeting of the Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 January 2025.

- ❖ The government has also approved the creation of FIAT to fund research and development projects in the agricultural sector like YES-TECH, and WINDS.

Extension of the Crop Insurance Scheme

- ❖ The central government has extended the central sector crop insurance scheme - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme by one year till 2025-26.
- ❖ The total allocation for both the schemes from 2021-22 to 2025-26 is now Rs.69,515.71 Crore.
- ❖ Both schemes are a crop insurance scheme in which the insured farmers are compensated in case of crop failure under certain terms and conditions.
- ❖ The only difference is that in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the farmer is compensated for the crop loss due to unforeseen conditions.
- ❖ In the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme the farmer is insured against the loss of crops due to the incidence of adverse conditions of weather parameters like rainfall, temperature, frost, humidity, etc.

Creation of Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet also approved the establishment of the Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT).
- ❖ The total corpus of the FIAT is Rs.824.77 crore.
- ❖ The fund will be used to promote research and development and provide funding for YES-TECH, WINDS, etc.

Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH)

- ❖ The Yield Estimation System using Technology (YES-TECH) uses remote sensing technology to assess the yield of the standing crops. The government uses the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES) to estimate the yield of standing crops.

- ❖ The weightage of the YES-TECH in the GCSE will be a minimum of 30 percent.
- ❖ At present, the YES-TECH project is being implemented in 9 states -Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu & Karnataka
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh is the only state in India that has adopted 100 % technology-based estimation.

About Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS)

- ❖ Under the Weather Information and Network Data Systems (WINDS), Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) will be set up at the block level and Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at the panchayat level to collect data.
- ❖ WINDS is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Puducherry, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ For the first year, the funding pattern of the WINDS will be - the central government will bear 90 % of the cost while the state will bear 10% cost.

Vaishali bags bronze in 2024 World Blitz Championship Women's section

Key Points:

- ❖ R. Vaishali of India won the bronze medal in the women's section of the 2024 FIDE World Blitz Championships, adding to the gold won by Koneru Humpy in the 2024 World Rapid Championship.
- ❖ The 2024 FIDE World Blitz Championship was held in New York City, the United States of America on 30&31 December 2024.
- ❖ It was held just after the conclusion of the 2024 FIDE World Rapid Championship at the same venue.

- ❖ For the time in the history of the World Blitz Championship, the title of the Open section was shared between two players- Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi. It was the seventh title for Magnus Carlsen while the first for Ian Nepomniachtchi. The women's section was won by Chinese chess player Ju Wenjun.

Bronze for Vaishali and Gold for Ju Wenjun

- ❖ R. Vaishali won the bronze medal in the women's section of the 2024 FIDE World Blitz Championship. In the quarterfinal, she defeated Zhu Jiner of China but lost to the eventual winner Ju Wenjun in the semifinal. The event was dominated by Chinese chess players. The title was won by Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun who defeated her compatriot Lei Tingjie in the final. Lei Tingjie was awarded the silver medal.

Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi share the Open Title

- ❖ Magnus Carlsen of Norway and the Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi clashed in the finals of the Open section of the 2024 FIDE World Blitz Championship. In the four-game final match both the players won two matches each and the score was tied at 2-2.
- ❖ In the tiebreak also both the players were at 3.5-3.5 points. Then Magnus Carlsen suggested to the Chief Arbiter to end the match and both the players be declared as joint winners as they both were exhausted.
- ❖ Under The FIDE rule, the President of FIDE can make such a decision. The FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich approved the proposal and both the players were declared as winners.

About FIDE World and Blitz Championship

- ❖ The world chess governing body FIDE organises the Rapid and Blitz World Championship annually. It is played in the Open and Women section.

- ❖ First World Rapid and Blitz Championship in the Open section - at Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia in 2013.
- ❖ First women's FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship - Batumi, Georgia in 2012. Since 2017 both the World Rapid and Blitz Championship for Open and Women have been held simultaneously at the same venue by FIDE.

About FIDE

- ❖ FIDE or the International Chess Federation was established in 1924 in Paris, France.. Members: 201 countries national chess federation.
- ❖ Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- ❖ President: Arkady Dvorkovich (Russian)
- ❖ Deputy President: Viswanathan Anand

Bhuvnesh Kumar new CEO of the UIDAI

Key Points:

- ❖ 1995 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Bhuvnesh Kumar has taken over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) on 2 January 2025.
- ❖ He replaces Amit Aggarwal who has been appointed as the Secretary, of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.
- ❖ Bhuvnesh Kumar apart from being the CEO of the UIDAI will also be the Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.



About Bhuvnesh Kumar

- ❖ Bhuvnesh Kumar has held several important posts in the Uttar Pradesh government. He was Principal Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries. Previously he was the Secretary of Finance, Secretary of MSME, Secretary of Technical Education, and Divisional Commissioner, the Department of Land Revenue.

About the UIDAI

- ❖ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was set up in 2009 by the central government under the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog).
- ❖ In 2015 the UIDAI was transferred to the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) of the then Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.
- ❖ Presently it is under the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). It was made a statutory body in 2016 under the provisions of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 ("Aadhaar Act 2016). Nandan Nilekani was the first chairman of UIDAI.

Function of UIDAI

- ❖ It issues Unique Identification numbers (UID), named "Aadhaar", to all residents of India.
- ❖ It is responsible for Aadhaar enrolment and authentication, including operation and management of all stages of the Aadhaar life cycle.
- ❖ It is responsible for developing the policy, procedure, and system for issuing Aadhaar numbers to individuals and performing authentication and the security of identity information and authentication records of individuals.

About Aadhaar

- ❖ Aadhaar is a 12-digit alphanumeric biometric number that is a proof of identity and residence for residents of India.
- ❖ According to the Aadhaar Act, a resident means a person who has resided in India for a minimum period of 182 days or more in 12 months before applying for an Aadhaar.
- ❖ In 2019 the government of India allowed non-resident Indians (NRI) to apply for Aadhaar.
- ❖ A foreign citizen who has been living in India for 182 days in the past 12 months can also apply for Aadhaar.
- ❖ Aadhaar has been made mandatory for the filing of Income tax in India.
- ❖ The first Aadhaar number was issued on 29 September 2010 to a resident of Nandurbar, Maharashtra.

Manu Bhaker to receive Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna

Key Points:

- ❖ Manu Bhakar, Harmanpreet Singh, Gukesh & Praveen Kumar (Para-Athletics) have been selected for prestigious Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ Pistol shooter Manu Bhaker and world chess champion D Gukesh will be honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, which is the highest sporting honour in the country, on January 17.
- ❖ At the Paris Olympics this year, Manu Bhaker made history by becoming the only Indian athlete since Independence — man or woman — to win two medals at a single Olympic Games.
- ❖ The 18-year-old Gukesh, meanwhile, became the youngest ever world champion in chess after defeating Ding Liren in Singapore last month. Gukesh also won the Candidates tournament earlier in 2024 to secure his spot in the World Chess Championship and led the Indian chess team to a team gold at the Budapest Olympiad.
- ❖ In addition to Manu Bhaker and Gukesh, Indian men's hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh, who was a key figure in the Indian team claiming a second bronze medal at a consecutive Olympics, and para-athlete Praveen Kumar are the other two names nominated for the award.
- ❖ "The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organised function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 17th January, 2025 (Friday) at 11:00 hours," the sports ministry said in a press release.
- ❖ "Based on the recommendations of the Committee and after due scrutiny, Government has decided to confer awards upon the following sportspersons, coaches, university and entity," the ministry statement further added.
- ❖ The 22-year-old Manu Bhaker won bronze in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol mixed team events in August. In the same Olympics in Paris, Harmanpreet led the Indian hockey team to its second consecutive bronze medal.
- ❖ The Khel Ratna Award, officially known as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award) or formerly known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, is the highest sporting honour of India. It is awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- ❖ Recipients are selected by a committee constituted by the Ministry and honoured for their "spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports over a period of four years" at an international level.
- ❖ As of 2020, the award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of ₹25 lakh (US\$29,000).
- ❖ The Arjuna Award, officially known as Arjuna Awards given for Outstanding Performance in Sports and Games, is the second-highest sporting honour of India, the highest being the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

- ❖ The award is named after Arjuna, one of the characters of the Sanskrit epic Mahabharata of ancient India. In Hinduism, he has been seen as a symbol of hard work, dedication and concentration. As of 2020, the award comprises "a bronze statuette of Arjuna, certificate, ceremonial dress, and a cash prize of ₹15 lakh (US\$18,000).

5	Jyothi Yarraji	Athletics	Arjuna Award
6	Annu Rani	Athletics	Arjuna Award
7	Nitu	Boxing	Arjuna Award
8	Saweety	Boxing	Arjuna Award
9	Vantika Agrawal	Chess	Arjuna Award
10	Salima Tete	Hockey	Arjuna Award
11	Abhishek	Hockey	Arjuna Award
12	Sanjay	Hockey	Arjuna Award
13	Jarmanpreet Singh	Hockey	Arjuna Award
14	Sukhjeet Singh	Hockey	Arjuna Award

15	Rakesh Kumar	Para-Archery	Arjuna Award
16	Preeti Pal	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
17	Jeevanji Deepthi	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
18	Ajeet Singh	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
19	Sachin Sarjerao Khilari	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
20	Dharambir	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
21	Pranav Soorma	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
22	H Hokato Sema	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
23	Simran	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
24	Naydeep	Para-Athletics	Arjuna Award
25	Nitesh Kumar	Para-Badminton	Arjuna Award

26	Thulasimathi Murugesan	Para-Badminton	Arjuna Award
27	Nithya Sre Sumathy Silvan	Para-Badminton	Arjuna Award
28	Manisha Ramadass	Para-Badminton	Arjuna Award
29	Kapil Parmar	Para-Judo	Arjuna Award
30	Mona Agarwal	Para-Shooting	Arjuna Award
31	Rubina Francis	Para-Shooting	Arjuna Award
32	Swapnil Suresh Kusale	Shooting	Arjuna Award
33	Sarabjot Singh	Shooting	Arjuna Award
34	Abhay Singh	Squash	Arjuna Award

35	Sajan Prakash	Swimming	Arjuna Award
36	Aman	Wrestling	Arjuna Award
37	Sucha Singh	Athletics	Arjuna Award (Lifetime)
38	Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	Para-Swimming	Arjuna Award (Lifetime)
39	Subhash Rana	Para-Shooting	Dronacharya Award
40	Deepali Deshpande	Shooting	Dronacharya Award
41	Sandeep Sangwan	Hockey	Dronacharya Award
42	S Muralidharan	Badminton	Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)
43	Armando Agnelo Colaco	Football	Dronacharya Award (Lifetime)

The richest chief minister in India has a net worth of ₹930 crore

Key Points:

- ❖ N Chandrababu Naidu is the richest chief minister in India with an assets worth over

₹931 crore, a data released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) report claimed on Monday. The ADR report claimed that the average asset per CM from state assemblies and Union territories is ₹52.59 crore. According to the report, India's per capita net national income (NNI) was approximately ₹1,85,854 for 2023-2024, the average self-income of a CM is ₹13,64,310, around 7.3 times the average per capita income of India.



- ❖ The poorest CMs On the other end, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee emerges as the poorest among her counterparts, with a declared asset value of just Rs 15 lakh. Jammu and Kashmir's Omar Abdullah follows with assets worth Rs 55 lakh, making him the second-poorest CM. Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, despite his third position on the poorest list, declared assets worth Rs 1.18 crore, significantly higher than Banerjee and Abdullah.
- ❖ The total assets of 31 chief ministers are worth ₹1,630 crores, PTI quoted the ADR report. Arunachal Pradesh's Pema Khandu is the second richest chief minister with total assets worth over ₹332 crores, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah is the third on the list with assets worth more than ₹51 crore.
- ❖ Khandu also has the highest liabilities to the tune of ₹180 crore. Siddaramaiah has liabilities worth ₹23 crore and Naidu more than ₹10 crore, the report said.

- ❖ Talking about educational qualifications, 10 out of 31 CMs are graduates, while two chief ministers have a doctorate degree. Six chief ministers are aged between 71 and 80, while 12 are aged between 51 and 60, the report added.

Criminal cases

- ❖ The ADR report also said 13 (42 per cent) chief ministers have declared criminal cases against themselves, while 10 (32 per cent) have declared serious criminal cases including those related to attempt to murder, kidnapping, bribery, and criminal intimidation.

- ❖ Out of the 31 chief ministers, only two are women - West Bengal's Mamata Banerjee and Delhi's Atishi. The report claimed that two out of 31 chief ministers are billionaires. Three chief ministers have assets worth ₹50 crore or more, while nine own assets worth between ₹11 crore and ₹50 crore, the ADR report claimed.

