

16th January 2025

Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Program' (FTI-TTP)

On 16th January 2025, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Program' (FTI- TTP) from Ahmedabad.

Key Points

- ❖ **Airports covered:** FTI-TTP has been launched at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin and Ahmedabad airports.
- ❖ **Initial launch:** The Home Minister had earlier launched the 'Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Program' on June 22, 2024, from Terminal-3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in New Delhi.
- ❖ **Objective:** The 'Fast Track Immigration - Trusted Traveller Program' is a significant initiative under the 'Viksit Bharat'@2047 vision. Its objective is to provide world-class immigration facilities to travellers, making international travel seamless and secure.
- ❖ Initially, this facility has been launched free of cost for Indian citizens and OCI cardholders.
- ❖ The FTI-TTP has been implemented through an online portal: <https://ftittp.mha.gov.in>.
- ❖ **Coverage:** FTI-TTP will be implemented at 21 major airports across the country.
 - In the first phase, in addition to Delhi, this facility is being introduced at seven major airports—Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.

Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 3.0)

On 15th January 2025, the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the registration portal for the third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 3.0).

Key Points

- ❖ KTS 3.0 will take place from **February 15 to 24, in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**
- ❖ **Organisers:** It is to be organized by the **Ministry of Education with IIT Madras and BHU as implementing agencies.**
- ❖ KTS 3.0 will feature exhibitions, seminars, workshops, and cultural performances. Registrations via kashitamil.iitm.ac.in are open until February 1, 2025.
- ❖ **Theme:** The event celebrates the **ancient ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi with the theme Maharishi Agasthyar**, honoring the sage's contributions to Tamil culture and India's shared heritage.
- ❖ **Duration:** The duration of the tour will be 8 Days (4 for travel, 4 at site). The first group will leave Tamil Nadu on February 13 and the last group will return to Tamil Nadu on February 26.
- ❖ For the first time, participants will experience the **Mahakumbh and visit the newly inaugurated Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.**
- ❖ **Categories:** This year, the government has decided to bring around 1000 delegates from Tamil Nadu under five categories/groups:
 - (i) Students, Teachers, and Writers;
 - (ii) Farmers and Artisans (Vishwakarma Categories);



- (iii) Professionals and Small Entrepreneurs;
 - (iv) Women (SHG, Mudra Loan beneficiaries, DBHPS Pracharaks); and
 - (v) Start-up, Innovation, Edu-Tech, Research.
- ❖ This year, an additional group of around 200 students of Tamil origin studying in various CUs will be a part of this event to enliven the bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The **first edition of KTS in 2022 lasted a month** and saw overwhelming participation, while the **second edition of KTS in 2023**, inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, introduced real-time app-based Tamil translations for delegates.
- ❖ Both editions attracted nearly 4,000 participants from Tamil Nadu and emphasized cultural exchange and learning.

BHASHINI- at Mahakumbh

Amidst the diversity in Mahakumbh 2025, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) BHASHINI ensures seamless communication and accessibility for all participants.

Key Points

- ❖ **BHASHINI, or the BHASHa Interface for India**, is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at democratizing access to digital content and services across India's linguistic spectrum.
- ❖ It aligns with the **objectives of the Digital India program by fostering inclusivity and accessibility**.

- ❖ BHASHINI (Translation Mission) is implemented by Digital India BHASHINI Division, a division under Digital India Corporation, a Section 8 Company of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ It provides multilingual access in **11 Indian languages**.

How BHASHINI is Transforming Maha Kumbh 2025

- ❖ BHASHINI addresses these challenges through its advanced multilingual capabilities:

1. **Real-Time Information Dissemination :** BHASHINI facilitates translation of announcements, event schedules, and safety guidelines into 11 Indian languages. This ensures that pilgrims, regardless of their native tongue, can access crucial information during the event.
2. **Simplified Navigation:** Language barriers often complicate navigation in large gatherings. BHASHINI's speech-to-text and text-to-speech tools and multi-lingual chatbot, integrated with mobile applications and kiosks, guide pilgrims in their preferred language, enhancing their experience.
3. **Accessible Emergency Services:** In collaboration with the UP Police, Bhashini's CONVERSE feature supports communication with the 112-emergency helpline, with officers trained to assist devotees in overcoming language challenges.



4. **Enabling E-Governance:** With BHASHINI's support, authorities can communicate regulations, guidelines, and public service announcements to a diverse audience, ensuring smooth coordination.
5. **Lost and Found:** Bhashini's 'Digital Lost & Found Solution' is a key feature, enabling visitors to register lost or found items using voice inputs in their native languages, with real-time text and voice translations simplifying interactions.

Kumbh Sah'Al'yak CHATBOT

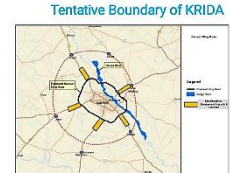
- ❖ It was launched by the Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ The **Kumbh Sah'Al'yak** is an **AI-powered, multilingual, voice-enabled chatbot** designed to assist millions of visitors during Maha Kumbh 2025.
- ❖ The **bot is powered by cutting-edge AI technologies (such as Llama LLM)**.
- ❖ Kumbh Sah'Al'yak aims to redefine pilgrim assistance by addressing their information and navigation needs while creating enduring memories of the Maha Kumbh 2025 experience. The Kumbh Sah'Al'yak chatbot is created to enhance the visitor experience by providing seamless, real-time information and navigation assistance to all.
- ❖ BHASHINI's language translation supports the chatbot in 11 languages, including Hindi, English & 9 other Indian languages.

KRIDA

A committee to be set up for the formation of Kanpur Region Integrated Development Authority (KRIDA).

Key Points

- ❖ The Special Secretary of the Urban Development Department has given instructions to form a committee for the formation of **KRIDA (Kanpur Region Integrated Development Authority)**.
- ❖ The committee will be chaired by Kanpur Divisional Commissioner.
- ❖ A blueprint is being prepared to form a KRIDA Regional Development Authority in Kanpur like **Delhi NCR (National Capital Region)**.
- ❖ In this, **health, industrial, transport facilities** of the surrounding districts will be expanded.
- ❖ KRIDA will include these 10 districts: Unnao, Rae Bareli, Fatehpur, Auraiya, Etawah, Hamirpur, Kalpi, Orai, Kannauj and Farrukhabad.



Short News- Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ In the year **1932**, a **flight was operated from Prayagraj to London**, 93 years later, an international flight took off from Prayagraj Airport. This flight **took American billionaire woman entrepreneur Lauren Powell Jobs** to Bhutan.
- ❖ The design of the country's **first Hindi literature language museum** is ready. It is going to be built in Kashi at a cost of approximately ₹25 crores.



- This museum will be the **first museum in the country dedicated to any language.**



वाराणसी में बनने वाले देश के पहले हिंदी साहित्य के भाषा संग्रहालय की डिजाइन • राज्य हिंदी संस्थान

Books, photographs, rare manuscripts, documents etc. of famous Hindi litterateurs will be preserved in it.

- The museum will be built in the State Hindi Institute, UP campus in Varanasi.

- ❖ Over 3.5 crore devotees took the first 'Amrit Snan' formerly known as Shahi Snan (royal bath) on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, which is dedicated to the Sun God and marks the beginning of the harvest season, at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.

- ❖ Secretary of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India inaugurated the Ministry's Pavilion at Mahakumbh-2025. The **theme of the pavilion was 'Divine, Grand, and Digital'.**

- Several key schemes are being promoted at the pavilion, including the Vanchit Ikai Samooch aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayata Yojana (VISVAS), which provides financial support to marginalized groups, and PM-Daksh Yojana, focused on skill development for the socio-economically marginalized.

- Other schemes, including the Senior Citizen Welfare Scheme, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, and the NAMASTE Scheme, are showcasing various activities and spreading awareness among visitors.

Person In News- Appointments

Shri Vineet Joshi

- ❖ He has assumed charge as **Secretary of the Department of Higher Education.**
- ❖ Before this appointment, he served as **the Chief Secretary of Manipur.** He has held several prominent positions in the education sector, including Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education, among others.



M. Rajeshwar Rao

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has assigned **Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao to oversee the Monetary Policy and Economic Research**

Departments

following the end of Deputy Governor

Michael Patra's term on January 15, 2025.



Person In News- Sports

Smriti Mandhana

- ❖ She scored the **fastest ODI century by an Indian women's batter.**



In a match against Ireland she scored a century in 70 balls.

- ❖ She broke the **previous record of Harmanpreet Kaur** of scoring century in 87 balls against South Africa in Bengaluru last year.

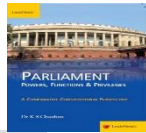
Novak Djokovic

- ❖ He broke the record of Roger Federer by playing his **430th Grand Slam match, the most in tennis history.**
- ❖ He defeated 21-year-old Portuguese qualifier Jaime Faria.



Books in News

- ❖ **Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective**
- ❖ The Vice-President had launched the book "Parliament: Powers, Functions & Privileges; A Comparative Constitutional Perspective".
- ❖ It has been authored by **Senior Advocate Dr. KS Chauhan.**
- ❖ The book emphasizes on the Parliament's role in government accountability.



Important News- Other States

Odisha

- ❖ Odisha joins **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.** The scheme will be implemented in convergence with the existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana in Odisha. It will provide a cover of **₹5 lakh per family per annum with an additional ₹5 lakh for women members.** Approximately 1.03 crore families will come under the converged scheme, with 67.8 lakh families supported by the Union government.

Important News- Worldwide

Unites States of America

- ❖ On 14th January 2025, the Republican-led US House of Representatives **passed a bill severely restricting transgender athletes from participating in girls' and women's sports.**
- ❖ The legislation would bar transgender students from female teams at any school or university that receives federal funding, The bill defines sex as "based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth" and restricts transgender athletes from participating in athletic activities "designated for women or girls."

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **Singapore has conferred Tarun Das, former Director General of industry chamber Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the honorary citizen award for his contributions** to promote bilateral relations between Singapore and India.
- ❖ The award is the highest form of recognition bestowed by the Singapore government for outstanding contributions by a non-Singaporean to the country's growth and development.
- ❖ **India Women set a new benchmark in one-day international cricket on 15th January 2025, by recording their highest-ever total in the format.** India crossed the 370-run mark in the 42nd over of the third ODI against Ireland in Rajkot, rewriting their previous record.
- ❖ India posted a mammoth **435/5 in their allotted 50 overs,** surpassing all previous team totals by both Indian men's and women's teams in ODIs.

- ❖ On 15th January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia's second largest ISKCON temple in Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has achieved a historic milestone on 16th January 2025, after the successful space docking of its two satellites named Chaser and Target under the SpaDex mission.
 - It was indigenously developed Bharatiya Docking System by ISRO.
 - **India has become the fourth country to use this technology after the USA, Russia and China.** Docking technology is critical in assembling the space station and in crewed missions. It provides crucial facilities including in-orbit refueling and assembling heavy infrastructure in microgravity.

- ❖ On 16th January 2025, the government's flagship initiative Startup India completed nine years. The scheme is intended to catalyse startup culture and build a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

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