

January 2025 Current Affairs

National News

- **Ujala Scheme and Street Lighting National Program:** These programs have completed 10 years, having been launched in January 2015 to promote energy efficiency and distribute LED bulbs.
- **Hydrogen Train Engine:** India has developed the world's most powerful hydrogen train engine, with the first trial run scheduled in Haryana.
- **Waqf Amendment Bill:** The Joint Committee of Parliament has adopted the Waqf Amendment Bill after reviewing it.
- **Anji Khad Bridge:** The Anji Khad Bridge, connecting Katra and Reasi, will link the Jammu and Kashmir valley. It is 359 meters above the riverbed, supported by 96 cables, and supervised by the Italian company Italferr.
- **Uniform Civil Code (UCC):**
 - Goa was the first state to implement the UCC, followed by Uttarakhand.
 - Article 44 of the Indian Constitution suggests a UCC for all citizens.
 - A committee led by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai was formed to draft the UCC for Uttarakhand.
 - The UCC was implemented on January 27, 2025.
 - It bans practices like 'Halaala', 'Iddat', and 'Triple Talaq'.
 - Mandatory online registration for marriage, divorce, and live-in relationships has been introduced.
 - The legal marriage age is 21 for men and 18 for women.
 - Polygamy is prohibited.
 - The UCC ensures equal inheritance rights for daughters.
 - Children born out of live-in relationships are considered legitimate and have legal rights.
 - Live-in relationships must be registered within one month. If a pregnancy occurs, information must be provided within 30 days of the child's birth.
 - Landlords cannot refuse accommodation to couples in live-in relationships on that basis.
- **Adivasi Mela:** Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated an 11-day Adivasi Mela and announced the Shahid Madhav Singh Hath Kharcha Scheme, which provides a ₹1,000 allowance to Scheduled Tribe students in grades 9 and 11.
- **Arunachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act 1978:** The Arunachal Pradesh government will implement this Act to prevent forced conversions.
- **Natural Calamity Declaration:** The Odisha Chief Minister declared the unseasonal rains in December a natural calamity, which will enable compensation for crop damage.
- **Mahakumbh 2025:** Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched special songs for Mahakumbh 2025. The theme song was produced by Doordarshan.
- **Mauryan and Gupta Periods:** Historical texts suggest that the Kumbh Mela began as a small gathering during these periods. In Prayagraj, it is believed to have been started by King Harshavardhana.
- **Cashless Treatment for Road Accidents:** A new scheme by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways provides cashless treatment for road accident victims up to ₹1.5

lakh.

- **Bharat-Pol:** Launched by Amit Shah, this portal was developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to facilitate faster sharing of real-time information between Indian law enforcement agencies and Interpol.
- **Government of India's 2025 Calendar:** The new calendar was published in 13 Indian languages, released by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Its theme was "Jan Bhagidari se Jan Kalyan" (Public Welfare Through Public Participation) with the motto "Sarvekshan Mangalam Bhuya" (Welfare of All). It was designed and produced by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC).
- **World Economic Forum's Global Landscape:** The World Economic Forum released a report stating that the global economic landscape is fragile due to ongoing conflicts and crises.
- **HSBC Hurun Global Indian List 2024:** Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella topped this inaugural list.
- **India's Passport Index:** India's rank in the Henley Passport Index has dropped five places to 85. Japan and Singapore hold the top position.

Important Days

- **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (January 9):** Celebrated to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915. The first convention was held in New Delhi in 2003. Since 2015, the convention has been held biennially. The 2025 theme was "Diaspora Contribution to Viksit Bharat." The 18th edition was held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, with the President of Trinidad and Tobago, Christine Carla Kangaloo, as the chief guest. President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to 27 recipients.
- **Lokpal of India:**
 - Established on January 16, 2014, as an anti-corruption authority.
 - Justice A. M. Khanwilkar is the second chairperson, not the first.
 - The term "Lokpal" was coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi.
 - The concept of the ombudsman system began in Sweden in 1809.
- **January 1:** DRDO Day and Global Family Day.
- **January 3:** International Mind-Body Wellness Day.
- **January 4:** World Braille Day.
- **January 5:** National Birds Day.
- **January 10:** World Hindi Day.

Important Appointments

- **Manish Singhal** has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of ASSOCHAM.

Books and Authors

- **"How India Scaled Mount G20: Inside Story of G20 Presidency"** by Amitabh Kant.
- **"The World After Gaza"** by Pankaj Mishra.
- **"Middle Class India Driving Challenge in the 21st Century"** by Manisha Pandey.
- **"The Tamil: A Portrait of a Community"** by Nirmala Lakshman.
- **"Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Through the Ages"** published by the Indian Council

of Historical Research and National Book Trust India, launched by Home Minister Amit Shah.

- **"Indian Genius: The Meteoric Rise of Indians in America"** by Meenakshi Ahmed.

Sports

- **Australian Open 2025:** Madison Keys (USA) won the Women's Singles title, and Jannik Sinner won the Men's Singles title.
- **National Games:** The 38th National Games will be hosted by Uttarakhand.
- **Spanish Super Cup:** Real Madrid defeated Barcelona to win its 15th Spanish Super Cup.
- **FIDE World Cup 2025:** India will host this chess tournament.
- **Exercise Varuna:** A bilateral naval exercise between India and France. The latest edition was held off the west coast of India in the Arabian Sea.

Science and Technology

- **Wetland Cities Accreditation:** Udaipur (Rajasthan) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) are the first two Indian cities to receive international accreditation as Wetland Cities. The accreditation is valid for six years.
- **Mission Mausam:** The government has launched "Mission Mausam" with a budget of ₹2000 crore to improve weather and air quality understanding. Cloud chambers will be established at IITM Pune.
- **ISRO's 100th Launch:** ISRO successfully launched the NVS-02 satellite using the GSLV-F15 rocket. This was ISRO's 100th mission launch. The satellite is part of the NavIC program. The current chairman of ISRO is Dr. V. Narayanan.
- **ISRO's CROPS Experiment:** This experiment successfully germinated cowpea seeds under microgravity conditions in just four days, not more than a week. The experiment was part of the POEM-4 mission.

Other News

- **Third Largest Metro Network:** India has surpassed Japan to boast the third-largest metro network in the world, with over 1000 km of operational lines.
- **Henley Passport Index 2025:** India's rank dropped to 85. Top positions are held by Singapore and Japan, followed by a group of countries including France, Germany, Italy, and Spain.
- **Fiscal Health Index:** NITI Aayog released the Fiscal Health Index 2025. The top five "achiever" states are Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jharkhand, and Gujarat. The bottom five "aspirational" states are Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana.
- **Blue Flag Certification:** Kappad beach and Chal beach in Kerala have received Blue Flag certification. The certification is not provided by the WHO.