



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**JAN  
2025**

**VOL 1**

**JANUARY 2025  
VOL 1  
16TH JAN - 31ST JAN**

## **IMPORTANT EVENTS**

**DETAILS OF IMPORTANT  
EVENTS**

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## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**IMPORTANT DATES  
RELATED TO JANUARY**

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## **EXPLANATIONS**

**DETAILED  
EXPLANATION OF  
EACH EVENT**

# 16TH JAN 2025

- The Government of India has recently established eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) around the Shikari Devi Wildlife Sanctuary in Mandi district. This initiative aims to mitigate the adverse effects of urbanisation and development on the sanctuary, which spans 29.94 square kilometres and was created in 1962 to protect wildlife.
- Recent reports have raised alarm over Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), also known as “zombie deer disease,” and its potential to jump to humans. This incurable prion disease primarily affects deer and has recently been detected in feral pigs. Experts warn that if CWD evolves to infect humans, it could lead to severe neurological symptoms and even death.



- The Extraordinary African Union Summit on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) concluded in Kampala, Uganda, on January 11, 2025. The summit adopted the Kampala Declaration, which sets a transformative agenda for Africa’s agri-food systems from 2026 to 2035. This declaration succeeds the Malabo Declaration, marking shift towards a comprehensive agri-food systems approach to tackle food security and agricultural productivity challenges across the continent.

# 17TH JAN 2025

- Recently, changes to the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) were implemented to facilitate cross-border transactions in Indian rupees (INR) and other foreign currencies. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in collaboration with the government, introduced these amendments amid increasing pressure on the rupee, driven by global economic factors. The reforms aim to enhance international trade and investment opportunities for Indian exporters and foreign investors.



Govt. of Tripura



- Recently, the Twipra Student Federation (TSF) protested in Agartala, Tripura, demanding the adoption of the Roman script for the Kokborok language. This movement marks the ongoing struggle for linguistic recognition and cultural justice among the Borok people.
- Recent advancements in space agriculture have emerged as critical for long-duration human missions to celestial bodies. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully germinated black-eyed pea seeds in space as part of its Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS). This milestone marks the potential for sustainable food sources during extended space travel, addressing both nutritional needs and psychological well-being of astronauts.



# 18TH JAN 2025



- In late December 2025, the Maharashtra Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) issued a directive allowing homeopathic practitioners with a certificate in modern pharmacology to prescribe allopathic medications. This decision has sparked considerable controversy and legal challenges, particularly from the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which questions the safety and legality of the directive.

- In 2024, India successfully phased out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in manufacturing, aligning with its commitments under the Montreal Protocol. This initiative is crucial for protecting the ozone layer and addressing climate change. The Montreal Protocol, established in 1987, has been very important in reducing ozone-depleting substances globally. India's actions mark a step towards sustainable environmental practices.



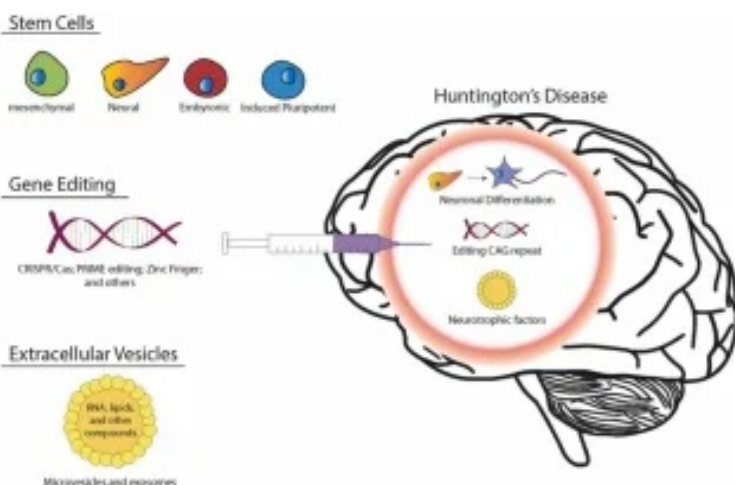
- The Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024, aims to transform India's aviation sector by enhancing the leasing framework. This legislation is expected to lower costs, improve accessibility to air travel, and attract investment as India anticipates a surge in aircraft acquisitions.

# 19TH JAN 2025

- Recent studies reveal that the Sanjiangyuan area in China's Qinghai province is a critical habitat for snow leopards, hosting approximately 1,000 individuals. This region is vital for the conservation of this endangered species, as it comprises portion of their global population. The findings tell the importance of understanding snow leopard dynamics for effective conservation strategies.



- Recently, the Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet approved the construction of a flood protection wall along the Krishna River. This initiative aims to mitigate recurring flooding issues affecting local communities. The decision follows previous efforts to address soil erosion and flooding on the river's banks, particularly in Vijayawada and surrounding areas.
- Recent studies have shed light on Huntington's disease, a genetic disorder leading to the degeneration of brain cells. Despite the known genetic mutation, its delayed onset remains puzzling. New research indicates that the mutation, initially harmless, becomes harmful over time, ultimately causing neurological damage. This disease typically manifests between the ages of 30 and 50, with symptoms worsening over a period of 10 to 25 years.

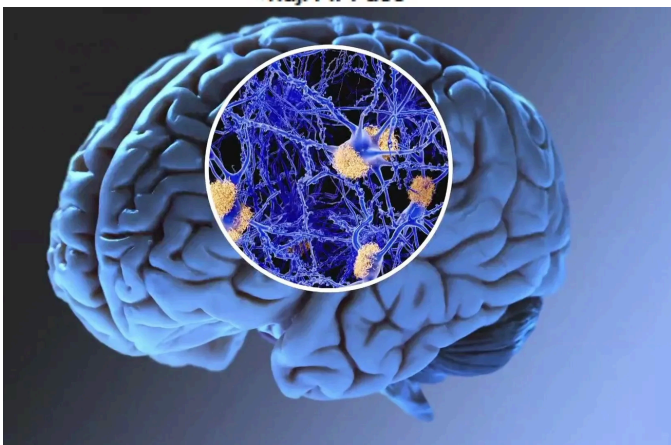


# 20TH JAN 2025

- On January 17, 2025, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann paid tribute to the Kuka martyrs at the Namdhari Shaheed Smarak in Malerkotla. This event marked the anniversary of the execution of 66 Namdhari Sikhs in 1872, denoting their struggle against British colonial rule.



Haji Pir Pass



- The 1965 India-Pakistan War remains conflict in South Asian history. Recently, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh brought into light that strategic advantages gained during the war were not fully exploited in negotiations, contributing to ongoing infiltration issues. This page explores the war's context, key events, and the strategic importance of Haji Pir.
- Recent breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research offer new hope for effective treatments. A team led by Professor Anirban Bhunia at the Bose Institute has explored innovative approaches to combat neurodegenerative disorders, particularly focusing on amyloid proteins, which are central to Alzheimer's pathology.

# 21ST JAN 2025

- In early 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought into light the achievement of Bengaluru-based startup Pixxel, which launched India's first private Earth imaging satellite constellation, named 'Firefly'. This milestone marks a very important moment in India's space sector, showcasing advancements in satellite technology and imaging capabilities.



- Recently, nine Indo-Pacific nations participated in the La Perouse naval exercise, hosted by France. This exercise took place in the strategic straits of Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok, crucial for maritime trade between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The Indian Navy contributed with its guided-missile destroyer INS Mumbai. The exercise aimed to enhance maritime safety and interoperability among participating navies amid rising Chinese naval activities in the region.
- Recently, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) officially renamed the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) in Rajahmundry to the National Institute for Research on Commercial Agriculture (NIRCA). This change reflects a broader research mandate that now includes turmeric, chilli, castor, and ashwagandha, alongside tobacco.



# 22ND JAN 2025



- Recently, President Donald Trump returned to the White House and signed a number of executive orders, marking a very important moment in American governance. He signed approximately 80 executive orders on his first day, including a national emergency declaration at the [US-Mexico border](#) and withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and WHO.



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- The T-72 Bridge Laying Tank (BLT) is an asset for the Indian Army, enhancing its operational capabilities. Recently, the Ministry of Defence signed a contract for the procurement of 47 units, emphasising India's focus on self-reliance in defence manufacturing. This acquisition is part of the Make-in-India initiative, aimed at boosting the economy and creating jobs.



- The Neutral Expert (NE) under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT) recently stated that he has the authority to resolve disputes between India and Pakistan about the design of hydroelectric projects on Indus Treaty rivers. India stated that it “welcomed” this decision.



# 23RD JAN 2025

- Recently, President Donald Trump unveiled Project Stargate, an initiative aimed at establishing a robust artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in the United States. Backed by a \$500 billion investment, it is designed to enhance the country's global leadership in AI technology and create over 100,000 jobs. The announcement, made in collaboration with key industry leaders, marks step in the US's race against global competitors, particularly China.



- Since its launch in 2015, India's Smart Cities Mission aimed to transform urban landscapes by developing 100 cities with advanced infrastructure and sustainable practices. However, nearly a decade later, the initiative has faced challenges and criticism, with many projects failing to meet their objectives. The concept of a "smart city" in India has often been confused with simply providing basic amenities rather than integrating advanced technologies.
- Recent studies highlight the intricate relationship between climate factors and dengue fever, particularly in India. A collaborative research effort has revealed that specific temperature, rainfall, and humidity conditions during the monsoon season influence dengue transmission rates.



# 24TH JAN 2025

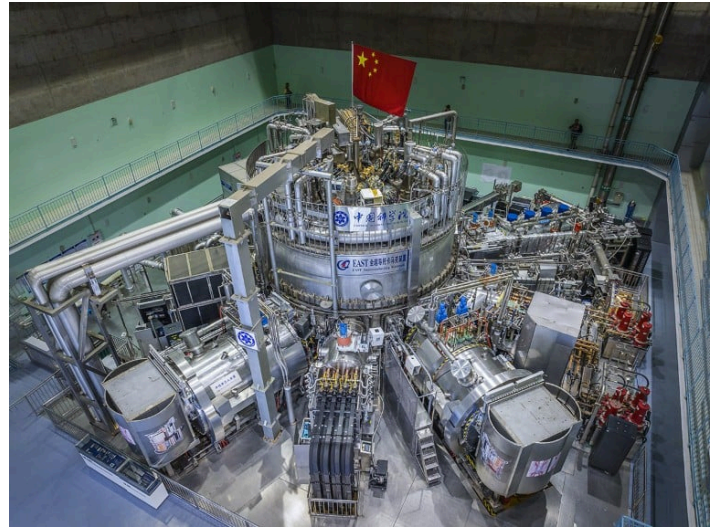
- In the recent Brindavan Hydropower Private Limited Case, 2024, the Karnataka High Court struck down the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy Through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 (GEOA Rules) and related Karnataka Regulatory Commission Regulations, 2022.



- India has recently joined the Eurodrone program as an observer nation. This inclusion marks India as the second Asia-Pacific country to gain such status, following Japan.
- The European Commission is moving towards ban on PFAS, commonly known as “forever chemicals,” in consumer products. This decision arises from growing environmental and health concerns linked to these substances. PFAS are notorious for their persistence in the environment and human body, prompting urgent regulatory action.
- An international team used NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and Chandra X-ray Observatory to discover a unique black hole, LID-568. LID-568 is feeding on matter at a rate 40 times higher than what scientists believed was possible

# 25TH JAN 2025

- China has recently made strides in nuclear fusion research. The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) sustained plasma for 1,000 seconds. This surpasses the previous record of 403 seconds set in 2023. This achievement is vital for the future of fusion energy, paving the way for potential continuous power generation.
- Recent archaeological findings have reshaped our understanding of the Iron Age in India. A new study indicates that iron technology in Tamil Nadu dates back to the early 4th millennium BCE. This discovery challenges previous beliefs that placed the onset of the Iron Age in India between 1500 and 2000 BCE.
- The SANJAY system was recently launched by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on January 24, 2025. This Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army. It integrates ground and aerial battlefield sensors to create a comprehensive surveillance picture. This innovation marks advancement in military technology.



# 26TH JAN 2025

- The Indian Navy's INS Sarvekshak has successfully concluded a major hydrographic survey in Mauritius. This survey covered over 25,000 square nautical miles. The formal handover of the survey results took place on January 23, 2025. High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, Anurag Srivastava, presented the fair sheet and nautical charts to President Dharambeer Gokhool. This event marks milestone in India-Mauritius maritime cooperation.



- Recently, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that Dibrugarh would be upgraded to a full-fledged city and serve as the second capital of Assam. This decision aims to enhance the Ease of Living and improve connectivity within the region. The announcement coincided with the Republic Day celebrations, marking transformation for a city once associated with militancy.
- The corpse flower, scientifically known as *Amorphophallus titanum*, has captivated audiences worldwide with its unique characteristics. Native to Sumatra, this flower attracts attention not only for its size but also for its pungent odour reminiscent of decaying flesh. The recent bloom of a specimen named Putricia at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney has drawn over 20,000 visitors. This flower last bloomed in 2010, making its current display a rare event.



# 27TH JAN 2025

- Rabies remains public health challenge in India. A recent Lancet study revealed that dogs account for three in every four animal bites. Annually, rabies causes an estimated 5,726 deaths in the country. This alarming situation necessitates urgent action to meet global targets for rabies elimination.
- The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) was officially notified on January 24, 2025. This scheme offers government employees a new choice for retirement benefits. It replaces the National Pension System (NPS), which did not guarantee pensions for employees joining after January 1, 2004. The UPS promises assured benefits, addressing concerns raised by government workers.
- Recently, Georgia was officially certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO). This achievement marks milestone for the country and the WHO European region. Georgia joins 45 other countries and one territory that have reached this status. The certification reflects decades of effort and investment in malaria control and elimination.



# 28TH JAN 2025



- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (eCoO) 2.0 system. This upgrade aims to simplify the certification process for exporters and improve trade efficiency. The new platform incorporates user-friendly features and mandatory electronic filing, marking advancement in India's trade facilitation efforts.

- In 2022, over 7,500 lakes in western Greenland underwent a dramatic transformation from crystal blue to brown. This change was triggered by extreme weather events, including heavy rainfall and warmer temperatures. The lakes, vital for local drinking water and biodiversity, began emitting carbon and suffered decline in water quality.
- The Olive Ridley turtles are an endangered species known for their unique mass nesting behaviour, termed "arribada." In 2024, these turtles skipped the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha, nesting site. However, experts predict a larger number of nesting this year. The Rushikulya river mouth is one of the primary rookeries in India, alongside Gahirmatha and the Deve river mouth.



# 29TH JAN 2025

- Recent developments in Namdapha National Park have sparked renewed interest in wildlife conservation. An adult male elephant was recorded in the park after a 12-year absence. This sighting is for both ecological research and community engagement in conservation efforts.
- India has recently celebrated achievement with Indore and Udaipur becoming the first cities from the country to be accredited as Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention. This recognition marks the importance of wetlands in urban areas and the need for their conservation. The announcement came just before World Wetlands Day, showcasing India's commitment to sustainable urban development.



- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in India has recently addressed the pressing issue of sewage sludge management. With urban areas generating volumes of wastewater, effective disposal and reuse strategies are critical. The ministry has released an advisory aimed at promoting safe practices for handling sewage sludge.



# 30TH JAN 2025



- Recent health guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) suggest that switching from traditional table salt to potassium-based salts, known as K-salts, could aid in managing blood pressure and reducing heart disease risks. This recommendation is particularly relevant in countries like India, where hypertension is a public health concern.

- The Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) have recently completed a study on India's denotified, semi-nomadic, and nomadic tribes. This comprehensive classification effort involved categorising 268 tribes that had previously remained unclassified. The study, spanning three years, has proposed the inclusion of 179 communities in the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes lists, with 85 of these tribes being classified for the first time.



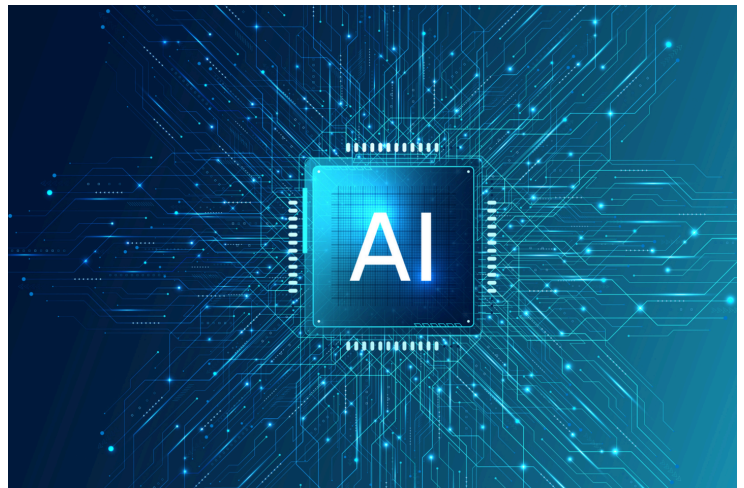


# 31ST JAN 2025



- On January 29, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) marked a milestone by successfully completing its 100th launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The mission involved the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F15), which carried the NVS-02 satellite into orbit. This launch not only represents a technical achievement but also marks India's growing capabilities in space exploration and technology.

- The International AI Safety report, released in 2025, outlines critical challenges associated with rapidly evolving artificial intelligence technologies. This comprehensive document addresses various threats, including job displacement, environmental impact, and security risks.
- Recent events have brought into light the ongoing water crisis affecting Delhi, primarily due to ammonia pollution in the Yamuna River. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has accused the Haryana government of releasing excessive ammonia levels, which jeopardises the water supply for millions of Delhi residents. This situation has sparked a political and environmental debate over the management of the river and its tributaries.





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