

December - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM announced that an additional allocation of ₹400 crore has been made under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam scheme, launched to construct one lakh houses in the State.
 - For the fiscal year 2024-25, a sum ₹3,500 crore was allocated for the project, and each beneficiary would get ₹3,50,000.
- ❖ The tourist (both domestic and foreign) inflow into Tamil Nadu has increased to a record 28.71 crore in 2023 from 14.18 crore in 2020.
- ❖ TN Chief Minister announced the establishment of a chess academy, Home of Chess, under the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT).
- ❖ Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) supremo and former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala passed away recently.
- ❖ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to allowing members to withdraw funds (50%) and insurance claims directly from ATMs from 2025.
- ❖ The NLC India Ltd's first supercritical 1,980 MW Ghatampur Thermal Power Plant (GTPP) in Uttar Pradesh has begun commercial operation.
- ❖ India and France signed a MoU for the development of the new National Museum named Yuga Yugeen Bharat, on the lines of the Louvre in Paris.
 - Once the museum completed, it would be the largest in the world.
- ❖ Tata Steel has made history by launching India's first-ever all-women shift at its Noamundi Iron Mine.
- ❖ Uber has launched a pilot program in the city called 'Moto Women', exclusively for women two-wheeler riders.
- ❖ The celebration of Ladakhi Losar, marking the New Year in the Tibetan calendar, is being held with great enthusiasm across Ladakh.
- ❖ The International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers is observed every year on 17th December.

TAMIL NADU

Search committee for vice chancellor

- ❖ TN Governor had asked the state government to recall its notification over a search committee constituted for the post of vice chancellor for Annamalai University.

- ❖ He said that it does not include a nominee from UGC and it violates directions of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ As per the acts of universities of Tamil Nadu, the search committees will consist of three members — the nominee of the chancellor-governor, govt nominee, and syndicate or senate nominee.
- ❖ Six of 13 state universities have been functioning without vice-chancellors.
- ❖ The extended tenure V-Cs of Bharathidasan University and Periyar University will also end in Feb and May.
- ❖ The Supreme Court also said in 'Jagadish Prasad Sharma Vs Bihar govt' that states need not follow all the guidelines of UGC and they can follow whatever they want to accept.

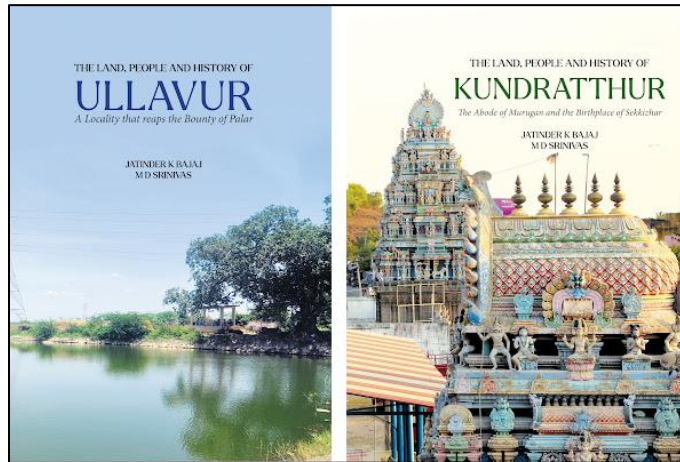
**GOVERNOR ORDERS TN GOV'T TO
REVOKE VC APPOINTMENT
NOTIFICATION, CITING SC NORM
VIOLATIONS**



Self-governing systems in Tamilnadu

- ❖ It was a recent study by the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), a not-for-profit research organisation, on two villages of north Tamil Nadu — Kundrathur and Ullavur.
- ❖ It highlights how elaborate self-governing administrative systems existed at the village level for many years before the arrival of the British.
- ❖ This study was based on a survey conducted by Thomas Barnard, a British military officer, in about 2,000 locations in the erstwhile Chengalpattu Jagir between 1767 and 1774.
- ❖ The British had obtained this area from the Nawab of Arcot in 1762.
- ❖ The functioning of these villages was in the Jagir from Tamil inscriptions on palm leaves kept by traditional account keepers called 'Kanakkupillais.'
- ❖ As many as 55 inscriptions from the Chola period to the Mughals have been recorded from Kundrathur, which throws light on the history of the village over several centuries.

- ❖ The annual production of foodgrains in the whole of the Chengalpattu Jagir amounted to as much as one tonne per capita.
- ❖ It is five times the average of India today.
- ❖ The Considerable shares from the produce were allocated for the maintenance of water bodies that abound in this region and for the sustenance of high scholars, teachers, musicians, and dancers.



NATIONAL

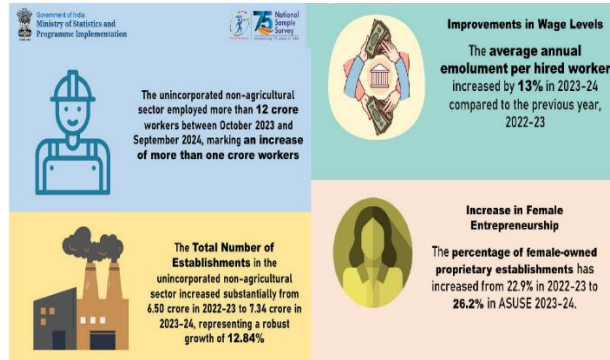
‘Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi’ Initiative



- ❖ The union govt launched on Good Governance Day and commemorates the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Vajpayee.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions through enhanced governance tools and knowledge.
- ❖ The initiative is part of the ‘Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur’ campaign.

- ❖ It will empower elected representatives and officials in effective governance.
- ❖ The focus is on grassroots-level reforms to create lasting change.

Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2023/24

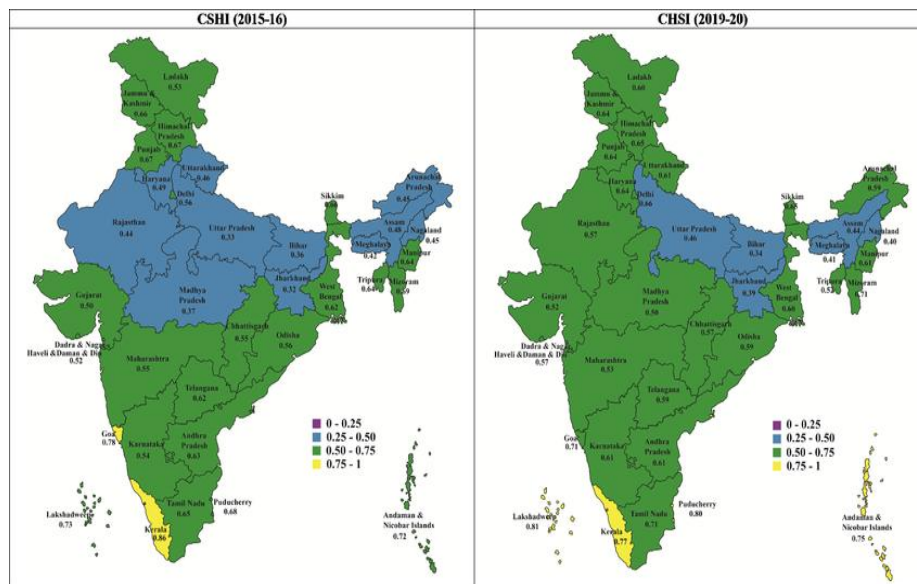


- ❖ The ministry of statistics and program implementation (MoSPI) will launch the next Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) in January.
- ❖ The last survey was conducted between October 2023 and September 2024.
- ❖ The next survey will try to capture district-wise data also to help provide details on how unincorporated enterprises fuel local economies across districts.
- ❖ Additionally, GDP figures, which are currently available at the national and state level, will be extended to the district level.
- ❖ Unincorporated establishments are non-agricultural enterprises, which are not registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The last survey covered 498,024 establishments, of which 273,085 were from rural areas and 224,939 from urban areas.
- ❖ Its results, released this week, have highlighted a 12.8% increase in the number of unincorporated establishments to 73.4 million in 2023-24 from 65.1 million in the year before.
- ❖ The services sector alone is accounted for the largest share at 30.4 million establishments.
- ❖ It is followed by trade at 22.8 million and manufacturing at 20.1 million.

Child Survival and Health Index 2024

- ❖ A team of Indian researchers have built a Child Survival and Health Index (CSHI) for the Indian States and Union Territories by using the data from the National Family Health Survey.

- ❖ The composite CSHI provides a platform to evaluate the performance of India and its various States, both retrospectively, and in the future.
- ❖ 11 major indicators as representing the child survival and health:
 - 3 from population and household profile,
 - 1 each from infant/child mortality rates, maternal care, delivery care, child vaccination and anaemia among children and
 - 3 from child feeding practices and nutritional status of children.
- ❖ Equal weightage was assigned to each parameter to enable comparisons.
- ❖ Their evaluation showed India's CSHI value increased from 0.49 to 0.52. in 4 years, pushing it into a better performer category.
- ❖ But if the current trend continues, India needs about 30 years to increase its CSHI value to 0.75 and reach the top slot.
- ❖ Out of 35 regions, 5 - Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands - were classified as best-performing.
- ❖ 25 regions were ranked as good-performing, and 5 as low-performing.



India's Mobile Subscriptions 2024

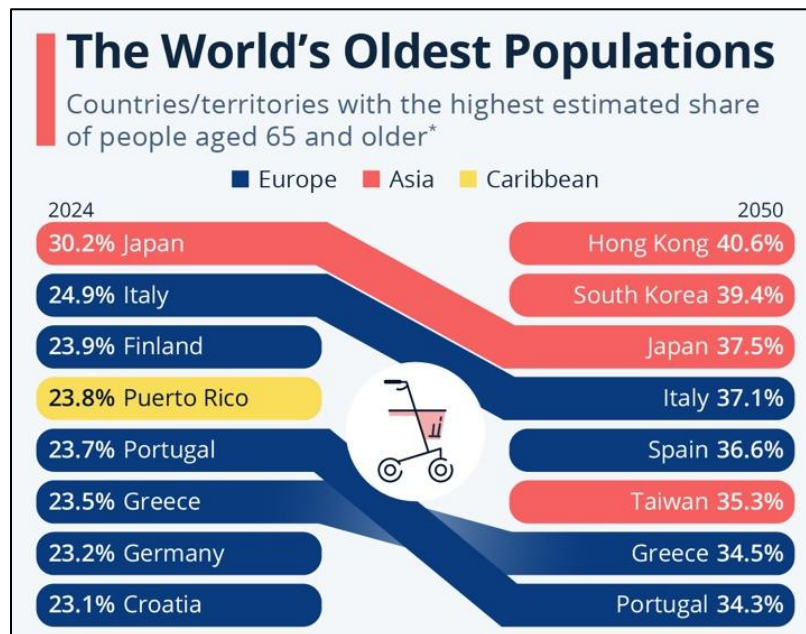
- ❖ The total number of mobile subscriptions in the country now stands at 115.12 crore (as on October 31).
- ❖ Out of 6,44,131 villages in the country, around 6,23,622 villages now have mobile coverage.
- ❖ The mobile network coverage in rural India has reached nearly 97 per cent and at least 6,14,564 villages are covered with 4G mobile connectivity.

- ❖ 5G services are now available in 779 districts out of 783 districts in the country (as of October 31).

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	896.81	44.66	941.47
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	625.56	34.86	660.42
Net Addition in October, 2024 (Million)	-2.56	0.83	-1.73
Monthly Growth Rate	-0.41%	2.44%	-0.26%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	524.86	2.93	527.79
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1150.42	37.79	1188.20

INTERNATIONAL

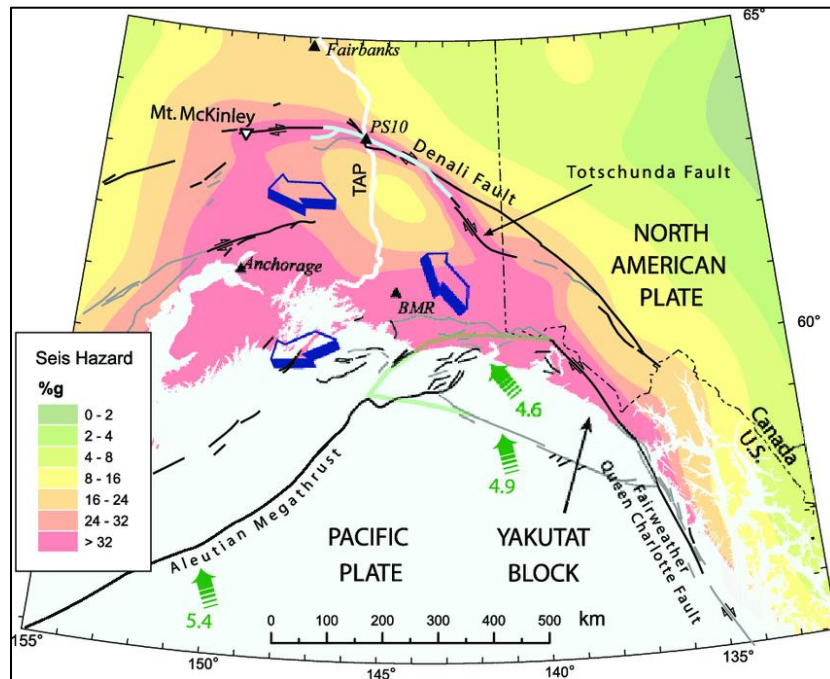
South Korea - Super Aged Society



- ❖ South Korea has now officially entered the category of a "super-aged" society.
- ❖ Individuals aged 65 and older making up one-fifth of its population.
- ❖ 10.24 million people in the country are now aged 65 or above.
- ❖ It represents 20 per cent of South Korea's total population of 51 million.
- ❖ Women in this age group comprise around 22 per cent of the female population.
- ❖ Men aged 65 and older account for nearly 18 per cent of the male population

- ❖ In 2008, the age group comprised 4.94 million individuals and accounted for 10 percent of the population.
- ❖ It reached 19.05 per cent in January this year before surpassing 15 per cent in 2019.

Denali Fault



- ❖ The Denali Fault is a significant right-lateral strike-slip fault in western North America.
- ❖ It is stretching from British Columbia, Canada, to central Alaska, USA.
- ❖ It marks the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate, with the Pacific Plate actively subducting under the North American Plate.
- ❖ This subduction causes significant geological stress and deformation.
- ❖ These three geologic sites along the Denali Fault were once part of a single feature that united two landmasses' millions of years ago.
- ❖ Clearwater Mountains, Kluane Lake, and Coast Mountains linked by 300 miles of horizontal movement.

ECONOMY

India's Crypto Investment

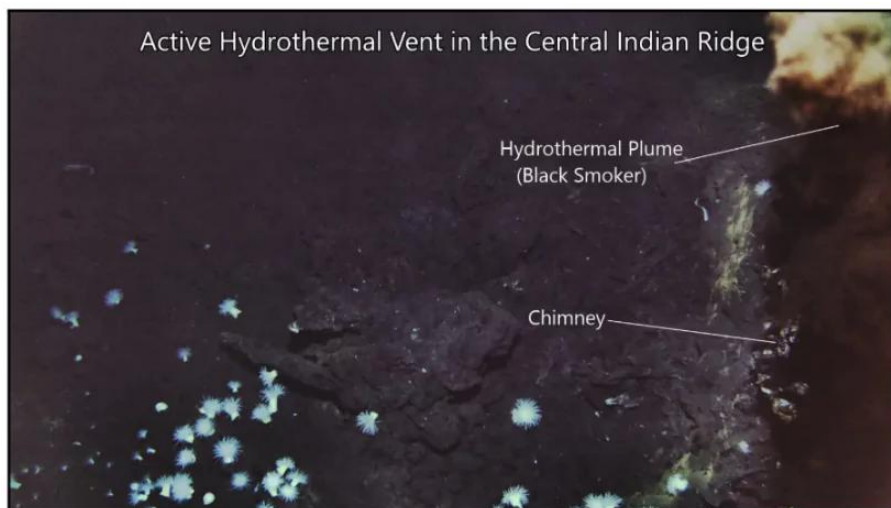
- ❖ Delhi NCR continued to assert its dominance in India's cryptocurrency adoption.

- ❖ This was followed by the Bengaluru and Mumbai.
- ❖ More than 36% of India's total crypto investments are concentrated in the three major metropolitan areas: Delhi (20.1%), Bengaluru (9.6%) and Mumbai (6.5%).
- ❖ Pune ranks fourth, accounting for 3.5% of India's crypto investments.
- ❖ Jaipur takes the fifth position with 3.3% of the total crypto investment value.



ENVIRONMENT

Hydrothermal Vent in Indian Ocean



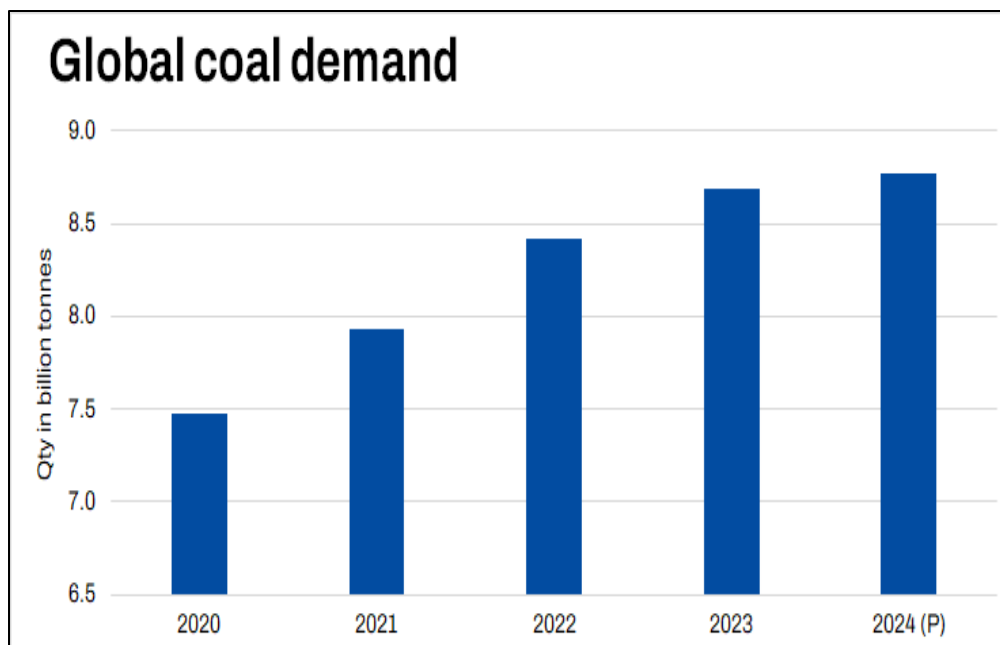
- ❖ India's Deep Sea Mission discovered of an active hydrothermal vent 4,500 metres below the surface of the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The NIOT and the NCPOR captured the first image of an active hydrothermal vent located 4,500 metres below.



- ❖ Hydrothermal vents are like hot springs on the ocean floor.
- ❖ They form along mid-ocean ridges where tectonic plates move apart.
- ❖ The magma from the Earth's mantle rises to fill the gap and cools to form new crust and volcanic mountain chains.
- ❖ When seawater seeps into the cracks in the crust, it gets heated by this magma and shoots back out, carrying dissolved minerals.
- ❖ As the hot water meets the cold seawater, these minerals solidify, creating the chimney-like structures around the vents.
- ❖ The first hydrothermal vent was discovered in 1977 on the Galapagos Rift in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

REPORTS AND INDICES

Coal demands report



- ❖ The report forecasts global coal demand, supply, and trade trends until 2027.
- ❖ The International Energy Agency (IEA) has reported the global coal consumption reached an all-time high of 8.7 billion metric tons in 2024.
- ❖ Currently, coal accounts for around 60% of China's electricity generation.
- ❖ The demands rising in emerging economies like India, China, and Indonesia.
- ❖ Global coal production is expected to hit a record high in 2024 and then stabilize through 2027.

- ❖ India is the largest contributor to global coal production growth, with production exceeding 1 billion tonnes for the first time in 2023.
- ❖ Indian coal production has grown by 10% in 2023 and is expected to rise by 8% in 2024.

STATES

Dolphin Tagging Initiative – Assam

- ❖ A team of wildlife conservationists tagged the almost-blind Ganges River dolphin for the first time.
- ❖ It was executed by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in collaboration with the Assam Forest Department and biodiversity conservation group Aaranyak.
- ❖ It aims to help understand the dolphin's seasonal and migratory patterns, range, distribution, and habitat utilisation.
- ❖ Around 90% of the species' population is in India, historically distributed across the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli river systems.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh

- ❖ The 100th edition of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, the most celebrated classical music festival, was held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ The Eminent tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri was given the Rashtriya Tansen Samman 2023.
- ❖ Indore-based Sanand Nyas Sanstha was awarded with the Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman 2023.



Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

Manmohan Singh, the former PM, was born on Sep 26, 1932

economic Freedom Fighter

Ended Licence Raj and liberalised the economy when he was finance minister from 1991-96

Had **eyesight trouble** as a child because of studying under a kerosene-lit lamp as there was hardly any electricity in his village

Worked for the **United Nations** from **1966-69**

Awarded Padma Vibhushan in 1987

Studied in Cambridge and Oxford University and won the Wright's prize for his performance

"No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come"
– 1991 Budget speech

- ❖ Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, 92, passed away.



- ❖ His journey in the government of India began with the position of an economic advisor in the commerce ministry in 1971.
- ❖ He served as a director of RBI during 1976-1980.
- ❖ During 1980-82 served as a deputy chairman of Planning commission.
- ❖ In 1982, he became the governor of RBI.
- ❖ He introduced a new chapter in the RBI Act and established the Urban Banks Department.
- ❖ He becomes the head of Planning commission for 1985-87.
- ❖ He is awarded the Padma Vibhushan award in 1987.
- ❖ In march 1991, He becomes the chairman of UGC.
- ❖ He was suddenly appointed to become finance minister in June 1991.
- ❖ He was the architect of reforms that saved India's economy from a severe balance of payments crisis and promoted deregulation
- ❖ He had retired as member of the Rajya Sabha, representing Rajasthan, in February this year.
- ❖ Before this, he represented Assam in the Upper House for six terms since 1991.
- ❖ He served as the Prime Minister of India twice, from 2004 to 2014.
- ❖ During 1998-2004 he was the opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ In 2004, he sworn as the first non-Hindu Prime Minister of India.
- ❖ His govt introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005.
- ❖ During his tenure as Prime Minister (2004-2014), India saw robust economic growth, averaging around 7-8% annually.
- ❖ His policies have helped transform India into one of the world's fastest-growing economies.
- ❖ It was his regime that revolutionized the telecom sector at a time when many people were waiting to get a telephone connection.
- ❖ He won the Euro Money Award for Finance Minister of the Year in 1993, the Asia Money Award for finance minister of the year in both 1993 and 1994.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024

- ❖ The 2024 Sahitya Akademi Awards have been announced, recognizing 21 writers and poets from various Indian languages.
- ❖ These awards honor the exceptional works in categories like novels, poetry, short stories, essays, plays, and literary criticism.

- ❖ Hindi poet Gagan Gill received an award for her poetry book Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar.
- ❖ English author Easterine Kire was honored for her novel Spirit Nights.
- ❖ The awards for Bengali, Dogri, and Urdu are yet to announced.

Category	Awardees
Poetry	Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Gagan Gill (Hindi), K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Paul Kaur (Punjabi), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit)
Novel	Aron Raja (Bodo), Easterine Kire (English), Sohal Koul (Kashmiri)
Short Stories	Yuva Baral (Nepali), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi)
Essays	Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), Baishnab Charan Samal (Odia)
Literary Criticism	K.V. Narayana (Kannada), Sudhir Rasal (Marathi), Penugonda Lakshminarayana (Telugu)
Play	Maheswar Soren (Santali)
Research	A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Tamil)

SPORTS

38th National Games 2025



- ❖ Uttarakhand is set to host the National Games from January 28 to February 14, 2025.

- ❖ The mascot for the 38th National Games, along with the logo, jersey, anthem, and tagline, was unveiled in Raipur, Dehradun.
- ❖ The mascot, named “Mauli,” is inspired by the Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The logo, also inspired by the Monal, highlights the natural beauty and diversity of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The tagline for the Games is “Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak” (From Resolve to Zenith),

IMPORTANT DAYS

Minorities Rights Day 2024 – December 18

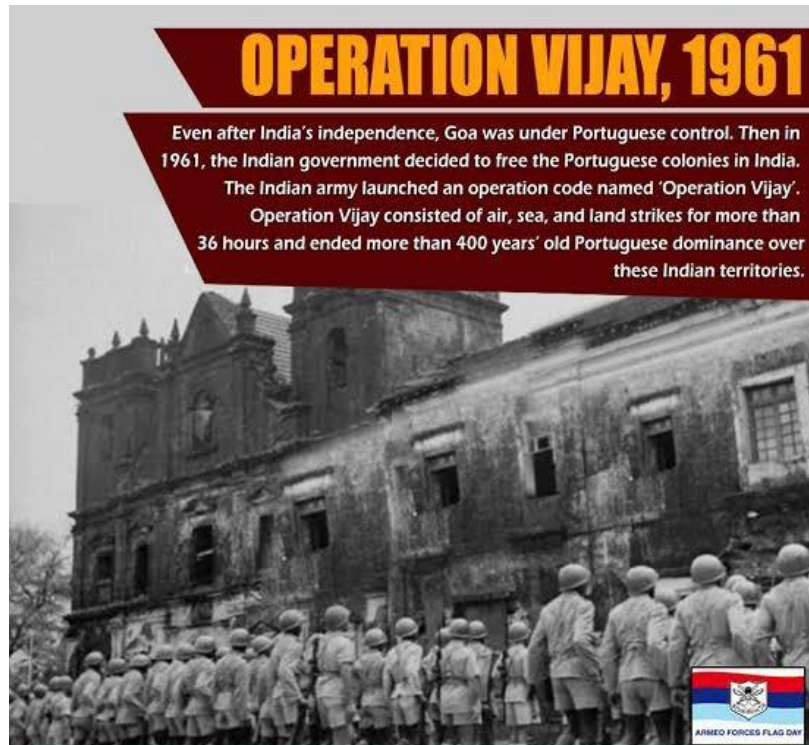
- ❖ This day marks the UN 'Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities' of December 18, 1992.
- ❖ This declaration laid out the principles to protect minorities globally, emphasising their right to preserve their culture, language, and identity.
- ❖ India also established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) in 1992.



Goa Liberation Day 2024 - December 19

- ❖ It commemorates the liberation of Goa in the year 1961, even though India became independent in 1947.
- ❖ Goa was under 450 years of tyranny under Portuguese colonial rule.
- ❖ The Indian Armed Forces have launched the Operation Vijay, a strategic military operation and successfully liberated Goa.

- ❖ On December 19, 1961, the Portuguese Governor-General Vassalo e Silva had surrendered.
- ❖ Thus, Goa became part of the Indian Union and granted full statehood in 1987.



Good Governance Week 2024 - December 19/24



- ❖ The decision to celebrate Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah) was taken in 2021.

- ❖ The “Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore” – Nationwide campaign 2024 for Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery to commence in 700+ districts.
- ❖ The Campaign to focus in Effective Redressal of Public Grievances and Improving Service Delivery.

MISCELLANEOUS

100th year of Belgaum Session

- ❖ Congress leaders commemorate the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi’s presidency of the historic 1924 Congress session.
- ❖ The 1924 session at Belgaum holds a unique place in India’s freedom struggle.
- ❖ It was the only time Mahatma Gandhi served as Congress president.
- ❖ The session came in the aftermath of the 1922 Chauri Chaura incident, which had led Gandhi to suspend the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- ❖ It was causing a split in the party between the Swarajists, led by Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das, and the no-changers who supported Gandhi’s vision of nonviolent resistance.
- ❖ During this session, Gandhi presented his ideas on non-violence, communal harmony, and "swaraj".



100th year of CPI formation Day

- ❖ The Communist Party of India (CPI) is the oldest communist party in India.

- ❖ The CPI was founded in modern-day Kanpur on 26 December 1925.
- ❖ CPI was heavily involved in resistance to British colonisation, the fight against the caste system and for land reform.
- ❖ Malayapuram Singaravelu from madras became one of the founding fathers of the Communist Party of India.
- ❖ He chaired its inaugural convention in Kanpur.
- ❖ The Communist Party of India (Marxist) which split from CPI in 1964.
- ❖ It considers 17 October 1920 as the founding day of Communist Party of India.
- ❖ On this day, M. N. Roy, Evelyn Trent-Roy, Abani Mukherji, Rosa Fitingov, Mohd. Ali, Mohamad Shafiq, and M. P. T. Acharya met in Tashkent, the Capital of Uzbekistan, to form the communist movement in India.

