

International

PM Tshering Tobgay extends greetings as Bhutan celebrates 118th National Day.

Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay has greeted people of Bhutan as the country celebrates its 118th National Day on December 17. This day marks the coronation of the first king of Bhutan, Ugyen Wangchuck, in the year 1907. The day is observed with grand celebrations, cultural programs, and displays of national pride.

Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarthak makes first-ever port call at Chabahar, Iran.

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Sarthak, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, has made a port call at Chabahar, Iran. The ship will remain in the port till the 19th of this month. During the port call, ICG Ship Sarthak will engage in a wide range of professional and community-oriented activities with the Iranian Navy and other Iranian maritime agencies.

The port call will also feature joint training activities focusing on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE), and Marine Pollution Response (MPR).

Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine commences in India.

The second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine was inaugurated at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, jointly organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush. The theme of the summit is Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being.

The Summit will focus on how Traditional Medicine systems can contribute meaningfully to people-centred healthcare and planetary well-being.

As a central feature of the Summit, an Ayush Expo is being organised to showcase India's Ayush systems, including Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homoeopathy, alongside traditional medicine practices from around the world.

The inaugural Summit was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in 2023.

National

Prime Minister Modi conferred with Ethiopia's highest award – The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Ethiopia's highest award, 'The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia', by his Ethiopian counterpart, Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali. The award was conferred upon Prime Minister Modi in a special ceremony hosted at the Addis International Convention Centre in Addis Ababa for his exceptional contribution towards strengthening the India-Ethiopia partnership and for his visionary leadership as a global statesman.

Indian Army receives three AH-64E Apache helicopters from Boeing.

The Indian Army has received three AH-64E Apache helicopters from US-based aerospace major Boeing. Earlier in July this year, the company delivered three Apache helicopters. These state-of-the-art platforms, often referred to as tanks in the air, are known for their heavy-duty firepower and advanced battlefield capabilities.

The helicopter is equipped with advanced weapons, sensors, and all-weather operational capabilities, significantly boosting the Indian Army's aerial combat strength.

LS passes the Sustainable Harnessing & Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill.

The Lok Sabha has passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill, 2025, with amendments. The Bill is aimed at the development of nuclear energy and ionising radiation for nuclear power generation for the welfare of the countrymen. It also seeks to provide a robust regulatory framework for its safe and secure utilisation. The Bill seeks to constitute the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and establish the Atomic Energy Redressal Advisory Council. The Bill also provides for the liability of the Central Government in the event of a nuclear incident.

The Central Government has established a Nuclear Liability Fund for the purpose of meeting its liability under the Bill.

The legislation enables the Board to regulate the manufacture, use, export, import, transport, and transfer of any radioactive substances and radiation-generating equipment.

Sai Jadhav breaks 93-year record at Indian Military Academy, becomes first woman officer.

Sai Jadhav has created history by becoming the first woman officer to pass out from the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun. Her commissioning marks the end of a 93-year wait. Since the academy's establishment in 1932, more than 67,000 officer cadets have passed out, but none of them were women. Sai has been commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Territorial Army, becoming the first woman officer from the IMA to join the force, a distinction that sets her apart even in a branch that has previously inducted women.

Indian Navy commissions first indigenous Diving Support Craft DSC A20 in Kochi.

The Indian Navy has commissioned DSC A20, the first of five Diving Support Craft (DSC) being built indigenously by Titagarh Rail System, at a ceremony held at the Naval Base in Kochi. The contract for constructing five Diving Support Craft was signed between the Ministry of Defence and Titagarh Rail System Limited on February 12, 2021.

The catamaran-hull vessel has a displacement of around 390 tonnes and is equipped with advanced diving systems. It is expected to play a critical role in underwater repairs and inspections, harbour clearance operations and specialised diving missions in coastal waters.

NCAER appoints former NHIT chief Suresh Goyal as Director General.

The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has announced the appointment of Suresh Goyal as its next Director General, with effect from January 5, 2026.

Goyal will succeed Poonam Gupta, who headed the economic policy think tank from July 2021 to April 2025.

Prafulla Govinda Baruah, Chairman Emeritus and Editor of The Assam Tribune, passes away.

Prafulla Govinda Baruah, a Padma Shri awardee and a towering figure in Northeast India's media landscape, passed away, marking the end of an era for regional journalism. He was Chairman Emeritus and Editor of The Assam Tribune, the region's oldest and most widely read English daily.

NHAI introduces India's first wildlife-safe road with table-top red marking on NH-45 through Madhya Pradesh.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at balancing road development with conservation, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced innovative 'table-top red road markings' on a key stretch of National Highway 45 in Madhya Pradesh. The project, designed to improve wildlife safety, runs through one of the state's most ecologically sensitive regions, passing the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

Business and Economy

Centre reappoints Ashwini Kumar Tewari as SBI MD for two years.

State Bank of India has stated that the Centre has approved the extension of tenure of its Managing Director, Ashwini Kumar Tewari, till December 31, 2027.

Tewari had taken charge as SBI Managing Director in January 2021 after previously serving as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Card.

B. Sairam takes over as the new chief of Coal India.

State-owned miner Coal India has appointed B. Sairam as their new Chairman and Managing Director, effective from December 15, 2025. He would be succeeding Sanoj Kumar Jha, also the Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Coal, who held the interim charge of the state-owned miner following the superannuation of P.M. Prasad October-end.

Prior to his latest appointment at the Maharatna, Mr. Sairam previously served as the Chairman and Managing Director of Northern Coalfield Limited.

Tesla CEO becomes first person with \$600 billion fortune.

According to a report by *Forbes*, Elon Musk has created history and become the first person in the world to hit \$600 billion net worth. Musk's net worth shot up by \$168 billion in a day on the heels of news that his rocket startup SpaceX was likely to go public at a valuation of \$800 billion. Elon Musk, who was the first person ever to surpass \$500 billion in net worth in October, owns an estimated 42% stake in SpaceX.

Mizuho Financial Group acquires Avendus from KKR.

Japan's Mizuho Financial Group is buying a controlling stake in homegrown investment bank Avendus, giving KKR an exit from its nine-year old investment, as Japanese mega banks continue to pick India to deploy significant growth capital. The deal values Avendus at ₹5,900 crore, translating to a 3.5x return for KKR.

Mizuho Securities, part of Japan's third-largest banking group, Mizuho Financial Group, said it will buy between 61.6% and 78.3% of Avendus and make the firm a consolidated subsidiary.

Rupee breaches 91 level, turns weakest Asian currency in 2025.

The Indian rupee on December 16 had breached one more psychological mark by depreciating beyond 91 to 91.14 on the spot market against the U.S. dollar during intraday trade, making it one of the weakest major currencies globally this year and the weakest in Asia in 2025.

NCLT approves Vedanta's demerger plan.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai has approved the demerger plan of mining to metal firm Vedanta Ltd, paving the way for its split into five sector-specific independent entities across aluminium, oil and gas, power, and iron and steel.

These would include Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power, Vedanta Iron and Steel and Vedanta.

SBI to sign €150-million credit line with Germany's KfW for green energy projects.

State Bank of India will sign a €150-million line of credit with KfW, the German development bank, for financing climate-friendly energy generation projects. This initiative supports India's goals for fighting climate change by making it easier for green energy projects to get long-term international funding.

Eternal's Deepinder Goyal tops Hurun India's 2025 self-made entrepreneurs list.

At a valuation of ₹3.2 lakh crore, Deepinder Goyal of Eternal (formerly Zomato Ltd) has topped the list of self-made entrepreneurs in the IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025. Eternal's valuation has gone up by 27% from last year's report.

Radhakishan Damani of Avenue Supermarts (DMart), last year's No. 1, has slipped to second place with a valuation of ₹3 lakh crore, down 13% from last year.

SEBI reviews decades-old Mutual Fund, brokerage regulations.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had revised the total expense ratio charged by mutual funds, reviewed the two-decade-old brokerage regulations, and proposed to discuss public comments on the high-level committee (HLC) regarding its report on conflict of interest.

The markets regulator, in its board meeting, also announced measures for simplification of IPO documents for the benefit of investors and allowed credit rating agencies (CRAs) to carry out ratings for unlisted debt instruments.

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Sports

National Shooting Championship: Rajasthan's Anantjeet Singh Naruka & Darshna Rathore win Senior Skeet Mixed Team Gold.

Rajasthan's pairing of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Darshna Rathore has produced a consistent performance to win the Senior Skeet Mixed Team gold medal at the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions (Shotgun) at Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. The duo defeated the Uttar Pradesh pair of Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Areeba Khan 45-43 in a closely contested gold medal match to seal the title.

Portuguese Grand Prix — Formula 1 to return to Portugal in 2027 and 2028.

Formula One will return to Portugal after six years, as part of the 2027 and 2028 calendars. The Autódromo Internacional do Algarve, more commonly known as Portimão, last hosted F1 events in 2020 and 2021, and was a key venue in the sport's return to racing during the COVID-19 pandemic.