

CURRENT AFFAIRS JANUARY 2025

1. Indian Navy's Participation in La Perouse 25 Naval Exercise: From January 16 to 24, 2025, the Indian Navy participated in the 5th edition of the La Perouse 25 multinational naval exercise, held in the strategic maritime straits of Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok. The exercise aimed to enhance maritime security and involved naval forces from nine Indo-Pacific nations, including India, Australia, Canada, the USA, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, the UK, and Singapore.

2. Goa Launches 'Bima Sakhi Yojana': On January 7, 2025, Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant launched the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' to provide insurance and financial assistance to women aged 18 to 70. Goa became the second state after Haryana to implement this scheme, which offers training and a monthly stipend to women, along with commissions for completing life insurance policies.

3. National Voters' Day Celebrations: On January 25, 2025, India celebrated National Voters' Day, marking the foundation day of the Election Commission of India. President Droupadi Murmu was the Chief Guest at the national event in New Delhi, where the ECI presented a publication titled "Belief in the Ballot: Human stories shaping India's 2024 elections."

4. Asian Equities Experience Significant Foreign Outflows: In January 2025, foreign investors withdrew approximately \$12.5 billion from Asian equities, driven by increased U.S. Treasury yields and concerns over additional tariffs from the U.S. administration. India faced the most substantial net sales, totaling \$9.04 billion.

5. Middle East Crisis Developments: On January 29, 2025, Israel named three hostages set to be released under a ceasefire deal: Arbel Yehoud, Agam Berger, and Gadi Mozes. Additionally, five Thai nationals were also scheduled for release. The Gaza death toll reached 47,417 since the onset of Israel's operation, with injuries totaling 111,571.

6. Global Nuclear Arms Dynamics: The world has entered a "third nuclear age," characterized by renewed prominence of nuclear weapons in international security. This era involves significant nuclear investments by the U.S. and Russia, China's rapid arsenal expansion, and pursuits by smaller states like North Korea and potentially Iran. Heightened nuclear tensions are evident due to aggressive tactics in Ukraine, China's build-up, and the weakening of key arms control agreements.

7. Republic Day Celebrations: On January 26, 2025, India celebrated its 76th Republic Day with a grand parade at Rajpath, New Delhi. The event showcased

India's cultural diversity and military strength. The Chief Guest was the President of Brazil, highlighting the strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations.

8. Cauvery-South Vellar Linking Project: The government announced the Cauvery-South Vellar Linking Project aimed at addressing water scarcity in Tamil Nadu. This initiative seeks to interlink rivers to improve irrigation and drinking water supply in the region.

9. Global Plastic Action Partnership: India joined the Global Plastic Action Partnership, reinforcing its commitment to reducing plastic pollution. This move aligns with the country's broader environmental conservation efforts.

10. Global Corporate Minimum Tax Agreement: In a landmark decision, over 130 countries, including India, agreed to implement a global corporate minimum tax rate of 15%. This agreement aims to curb tax evasion by multinational corporations and ensure fair tax distribution.

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12. EU's Deportation Plans and Human Rights Concerns: A report by the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency highlighted significant risks to human rights in the proposed "return hubs" for failed asylum seekers. The report emphasized that these hubs could undermine rights such as liberty and human dignity.

India:

13. President: Smt. Droupadi Murmu has been serving as the 15th President of India since July 25, 2022. Prior to this role, she was the Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.

14. Prime Minister: Narendra Modi continues to lead as the Prime Minister. Following the 2024 general elections, he heads a coalition government in New Delhi.

United States:

15. President: Donald Trump was inaugurated as the 47th President on January 20, 2025, with J.D. Vance serving as Vice President.

United Kingdom:

16. Prime Minister: Sir Keir Starmer leads the UK government. Notably, Peter Mandelson has been appointed as the UK's ambassador to Washington under King Charles III.

17. Global Leadership Approval Ratings:

According to a recent report, the approval ratings of selected world leaders are as follows:

- **Narendra Modi (India):** 75% approval
- **Claudia Sheinbaum (Mexico):** 66% approval
- **Javier Milei (Argentina):** 65% approval
- **Karin Keller-Sutter (Switzerland):** 56% approval
- **Donald Trump (USA):** 52% approval

International Awards:

18. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE): Eight early-career researchers at Harvard Medical School received this prestigious award, established in 1996 as the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers at the outset of their careers.

19. APAP Honors 2025: The Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP) held its annual awards ceremony on January 13, 2025, in New York City, recognizing individuals and organizations for significant contributions to the performing arts.

20. NBA Players of the Month: For games played in January 2025, Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks and Nikola Jokić of the Denver Nuggets were named Players of the Month, acknowledging their outstanding performances.

21. Mildred L. Batchelder Award: Yonder, an imprint of Restless Books for Young Readers, received the 2025 Batchelder Award for "John the Skeleton," honoring excellence in children's literature translated into English.

British Honors:

22. 2025 New Year Honours: Announced on December 30, 2024, these honors recognized individuals across the Commonwealth for their contributions to society. Notable appointments included Michael Henry Dunkley, former Premier of Bermuda, appointed as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

23. 2025 Special Honours: Throughout January 2025, special honors were conferred, including appointments to the Royal Victorian Order and knighthoods for distinguished service in various fields.