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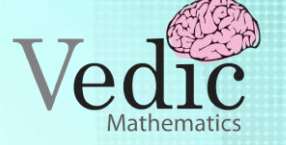
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HISTORICAL AND TECHNICAL EVENTS OF 3RD DECEMBER 2025

1796: Accession of Bajirao II as the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire

On December 3, 1796, Bajirao II acceded to the position of **Peshwa** (Prime Minister) of the **Maratha Empire**. Bajirao II was the **eighth and final** Peshwa of the Maratha confederacy, serving until his defeat in 1818. He was the son of the former Peshwa, **Raghunathrao**, often known as **Raghoba**.

- **Period of Decline:** His tenure is historically recognized as the period during which the Maratha Empire experienced a pronounced decline in power and influence.
- **Conflict with the British:** The reign of Bajirao II was marked by the initiation of significant conflicts with the **British East India Company**, culminating in the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
- **The Power Vacuum:** The political landscape of the time was highly unstable, particularly following the death of his influential Prime Minister, **Nana Phadnavis**. This event triggered a massive power struggle and a scramble for the deceased minister's vast property and influence, further destabilizing the Peshwa's authority.
- **Deposition:** Ultimately, these factors led to the **removal** of Peshwa Bajirao II from his post, marking the end of the Peshwa rule.

1959: Signing of the Gandak Irrigation and Power Project Agreement

In December 1959, a bilateral agreement was formally signed between the governments of **India and Nepal** for the **Gandak Irrigation and Power Project**. This joint venture was designed to harness the waters of the Gandak River for mutual benefit,





specifically focusing on irrigation and hydroelectric power generation.

- **Barrage Location:** The project centers around the construction of a **740-meter-long barrage** situated near **Valmiki Nagar** on the Indo-Nepal border.
- **Eastern Main Canal (Tirhut Canal):** A critical component is the **Eastern Main Canal**, also known as the **Tirhut Canal**. This canal system is instrumental in providing irrigation to several districts within India, including **Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Vaishali, and Samastipur** in the state of Bihar, as well as the **Parsa and Rautahat** districts in Nepal.

1967: Launch of India's First Indigenous Sounding Rocket, 'Rohini RH-75'

On December 3, 1967, India achieved a significant milestone in its space program with the successful launch of its first indigenous sounding rocket, the **Rohini RH-75**.

- **Development and Organization:** The RH-75 (an abbreviation for **Rohini-75**) was completely developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- **Launch Site:** The launch was conducted from the **Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS)**, located in Thumba, Kerala.
- **Strategic Location:** Thumba was chosen as the ideal site for this program due to its unique geographical proximity to the **magnetic equator**, a location that provides optimum conditions for atmospheric and ionospheric research using sounding rockets.

1924: Inauguration of the Gateway of India

The **Gateway of India**, a monumental archway located in Mumbai, was fully constructed and inaugurated in December, 4th 1924.

- **Construction Details:** Prior to the main construction, a **sea wall** was necessary to protect the foundation of the structure from the sea.
- **Architecture and Material:** The structure stands at a height of **26 meters (85 feet)**. It is constructed entirely of local **basalt stone** and is designed in the style of a triumphal arch, symbolizing victory.
- **Official Opening:** The formal inauguration ceremony was presided over by the then **Viceroy of India, Rufus Isaacs**, who held the title of the 1st Marquess of Reading.
- **Current Use:** Today, the Gateway of India serves as a major tourist attraction and a primary point of embarkation for **boat services** that transport visitors to islands in the Arabian Sea, such as Elephanta Island.

1952: First Flight of the Grumman XS2F-1

In December 1952, the **Grumman XS2F-1**, a prototype for an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft, successfully conducted its **first flight**.

- **Initial Procurement:** The aircraft's development was commissioned with an order placed on June 30, 1950, which included two **XS2F-1 prototypes** along with a concurrent order for **15 S2F-1 production aircraft**.
- **Service Entry:** Following the testing phase, the production models, designated **S2F-1**, officially entered service with the **VS-26 squadron** of the U.S. Navy in February 1954.





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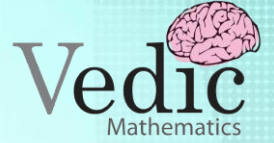
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- **Follow-on Variants and Standardization:** The initial design led to the development of several follow-on versions, including the **WF Tracer** (an Airborne Early Warning variant) and the **TF Trader** (a Carrier Onboard Delivery transport variant). These aircraft were later redesignated in the **1962 tri-service designation standardization** as the **Grumman E-1 Tracer** and **Grumman C-1 Trader**, respectively.

NATIONAL NEWS ON 3RD DECEMBER 2025



National News: SIM-Linking Mandate for Messaging Applications

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has introduced a significant regulatory measure aimed at enhancing **telecom cybersecurity** and combating digital fraud. This decision, formalized under the **Telecommunication Cybersecurity Amendment Rules, 2025**, makes it **mandatory** for all messaging applications, including major platforms like **WhatsApp, Telegram, and Arattai**, to maintain a **constant link to a SIM card** installed on the user's device.

Key Points:

- **Active SIM Requirement:** Messaging services will only be accessible when the application is actively and persistently linked to a specific, functioning **SIM card** present within the user's handset.
- **Web Version Security:** The web-based counterparts of these applications are now required to enforce **periodic logouts** of users, with a maximum session duration of **six hours**. Re-login is strictly restricted to a secure process involving **QR code scanning**

that must be linked back to the actively registered SIM card.

This amendment is designed to eliminate loopholes in mobile application identification systems, providing a more robust mechanism for tracing and addressing illicit digital activity.



National News: Record Foodgrain Production Achieved in India

In a historic milestone for the agricultural sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India's **foodgrain production** reached an all-time high of **357 million tonnes** in the year 2025. This achievement, highlighted during the **128th edition** of his monthly radio address 'Mann Ki Baat,' underscores the nation's increasing trend toward **food self-sufficiency** and sustained growth in agriculture.

Key Points:

- **Output Surge:** Foodgrain production demonstrated a substantial decadal growth of nearly **40%**, escalating from approximately **257 million tonnes** in 2015 to the current record of 357 million tonnes in 2025.
- **Drivers of Growth:** This remarkable increase is attributed to a strategic combination of factors, including:
 - Expansion and improvement of **irrigation facilities**.
 - The adoption of **enhanced seed varieties**.
 - Increased **mechanization** in farming practices.
 - Direct financial and logistical **support schemes for farmers**.





International News:

India Re-Elected to the IMO Council

India secured a significant diplomatic victory on the maritime front by being **re-elected to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council in Category B** on November 28, 2025. India garnered **154 out of 169 valid votes**, achieving the **highest vote tally** in its category.

Key Points:

- **Global Maritime Recognition:** This re-election marks the **second consecutive term** that India has been the top-voted nation in Category B, reaffirming its progressively influential status as a **global maritime power**.
- **Focus Areas:** India's renewed mandate is expected to focus on global maritime agenda items, including:
 - Enhancing **maritime safety** and **seafarer welfare**.
 - Driving **decarbonization** and **sustainability** initiatives in the shipping industry.
 - Promoting **technological integration** and **digital shipping systems**.
 - Advancing **port-led development** and the **blue economy**.



Appointment: Paschal Donohoe Joins the World Bank Group

The **World Bank Group** formally announced the appointment of **Paschal Donohoe** as its new **Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer (CKO)**. Donohoe, who will assume his role in

November 2025, is a highly experienced European policymaker and public servant.

Key Points:

- **Experience:** He brings over **two decades of expertise** from both public administration and the private sector to the institution.
- **Role:** As MD and CKO, his leadership is expected to be pivotal in advancing the World Bank's core mission of eliminating global poverty and fostering shared prosperity worldwide.



Sports: Virat Kohli Breaks ODI Century Record

In a monumental sporting achievement, cricketer **Virat Kohli** surpassed **Sachin Tendulkar's** long-standing record by scoring his **52nd One-Day International (ODI) century**. This historic knock occurred during the first ODI match against **South Africa** in Ranchi in November 2025. This feat solidifies Kohli's legacy as one of the most dominant batters in the history of the sport, setting a new benchmark for centuries in the ODI format.



Banking/Economy:

UPI Transactions Continue to Surge

India's digital payments ecosystem maintained its strong growth trajectory in November 2025, with the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** registering significant growth, according to data from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.

Key Points:

- **Growth Metrics:** UPI transactions demonstrated a year-on-year growth of **23%**





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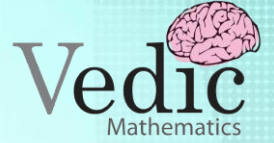
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in volume and an increase of nearly 14% in transaction value.

- **Transaction Volume:** As of November 28, UPI successfully processed over 19 billion transactions.
- **Transaction Value:** The total value of these processed transactions reached ₹24.58 lakh crore.

These figures reinforce UPI's dominant position as the preferred and most popular mode of digital payment across the country.



State News (Tamil Nadu): New School for Traditional Folk Arts

The Tamil Nadu government has announced a significant initiative to preserve and promote the state's cultural heritage. Land will be allocated for the establishment of a training school for traditional folk-art forms in Valayangulam village, located in the Thiruparankundram taluk of Madurai.

- **Catalyst:** The decision was made after Chief Minister accepted the request from R. Velmurugan, a renowned Parai artiste and recipient of the Padma Shri award.
- **Educational Development:** Furthermore, the government has plans to launch a new postgraduate (PG) course in this domain starting in the academic year 2026-27.
- **Financial Support:** Financial assistance provided to the relevant university for this cultural endeavor will be substantially increased from ₹3 crore to ₹5 crore.



DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RECENT CURRENT AFFAIRS: MULTIPLE CHOICE FORMAT

Q.1. The recent unveiling of the 77-foot statue of Lord Rama in Goa was part of which occasion?

- A. 500th Pran Pratishtha
- B. Sarddha Panchashatamanotsav
- C. Amrit Kaal Mahotsav
- D. Ramayana Amrita Diwas

Answer: 1. B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 77-foot bronze statue of Lord Shri Ram and formally inaugurated the Ramayana Theme Park at the Shree Sansthan Gokarna Paratagali Jivottam Math in Canacona, South Goa. The event marked a grand beginning to the "Saradha Panchashatamanotsav" (550th anniversary celebrations) of the Math, a major centre of India's ancient spiritual heritage. The celebrations were a wonderful confluence of Indian civilisation, spiritual tradition and cultural pride, blending heritage and modern presentation.

Q.2. For which achievement did ICAI recently set a Guinness World Record?

- A. World's largest audit workshop
- B. Largest career guidance program in a single day
- C. Highest CA enrollments
- D. Largest virtual accounting class

Answer: 2. B

In a landmark moment for educational outreach in India, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) set a Guinness World Record for the largest career advice session held in a single day. The event, held in Mumbai, was attended by over 7,400





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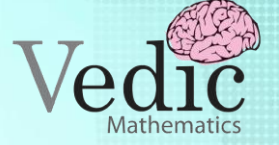
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students, teachers, and principals, with 6,166 students officially counting under Guinness World Records criteria.

Q.3. According to the recent BAHS 2025, India ranks first in the world in which production?

- A. Egg production
- B. Meat production
- C. Milk production
- D. Wool production

Answer: 3. C

India ranks first in milk production worldwide. Total milk production in the country is projected to reach 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25, an increase of 3.58 percent from 239.30 million tonnes in 2023-24. Per capita milk availability is projected to increase from 319 grams/day in 2014-15 to 485 grams/day in 2024-25.

Q.4. Why is Vladimir Putin's recent visit to India considered significant?

- A. First Asian visit after the launch of BRICS
- B. First visit after the Ukraine conflict
- C. Signing of the Space Treaty
- D. Delivery of the S-500

Answer: 4. B

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit India on December 4-5, 2025, for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. This visit is seen as an important step towards elevating the two countries' long-standing, trusted, and multifaceted strategic partnership to a new level. Invited by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this visit will be Putin's first visit to India since 2021 and, notably, the first high-level face-to-face meeting since the 2022 Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Q.5. To which country did India recently send 73 tons of medicines?

- A. Nepal
- B. Iran
- C. Myanmar
- D. Afghanistan

Answer: 5. D

In a show of humanitarian solidarity, India has sent 73 tonnes of life-saving medicines, vaccines, and essential nutritional supplements to Kabul to support Afghanistan's struggling health system. This announcement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) makes it clear that India stands ready to provide continued humanitarian and medical assistance to Afghan citizens facing difficult circumstances.

Q.6. Operation 'Sagar Bandhu' was recently launched to assist which country?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Maldives
- D. Indonesia

Answer: 6. B

Operation Sagar Bandhu is India's rapid humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission in Sri Lanka following the widespread devastation and loss of life. The operation is guided by India's Neighborhood First policy and vision, MAHASAGAR. The mission involved the NDRF, the Indian Air Force, and the Indian Navy.

Q.7. The 'Arctic Express' route recently launched by China connects Ningbo to which country?

- A. Hamburg
- B. Rotterdam





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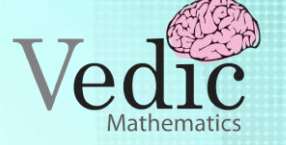
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C. Felixstowe (UK)

D. Oslo

Answer: 7. C

China's newly launched "Arctic Express" route connects Ningbo to European ports such as Felixstowe (UK), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Hamburg (Germany), and Gdansk (Poland). This new route significantly reduces shipping times by utilizing the Arctic Ocean, with the first trip to Felixstowe taking just 18 days.

Q.8. What was India's recent Q2 FY26 GDP growth?

A. 6.1%

B. 5.4%

C. 8.2%

D. 7.6%

Answer: 8. C

India's economy recorded robust GDP growth of 8.2% in the second quarter of FY2025-26. The data was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). This growth is significantly higher than the 5.6% growth recorded in Q2 FY25 at the same time last year, reflecting improved economic activity across key sectors.

Q.9. What was the main reason for the recent decline in India's foreign exchange reserves?

A. Oil imports

B. Gold reserves

C. FDI

D. Market intervention

Answer: 9. B

India's foreign exchange reserves fell sharply by USD 4.472 billion, bringing the total to USD 688.104

billion, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This decline follows an increase of USD 5.543 billion in the previous reporting week and is primarily due to a significant drop in the value of gold reserves and foreign currency assets.

Q.10. What percentage of India's fiscal deficit recently reached the FY26 target?

A. 40%

B. 52.6%

C. 74%

D. 66%

Answer: 10. B

According to official data released by the Ministry of Finance, India's fiscal deficit for April-October 2025 was ₹8.25 lakh crore, representing 52.6% of the full-year target for FY26. This figure reflects the government's increased capital expenditure and a slight decrease in net tax receipts compared to the previous fiscal year.

Q.11. Jay Shah recently received the "Indian of the Year 2025" award for his contributions in which field?

A. Business reforms

B. Cricket administration

C. Foreign diplomacy

D. Education reforms

Answer: 11. B

International Cricket Council (ICC) Chairman Jay Shah has been honored in the Outstanding Achievement category of "Indian of the Year 2025." The award recognizes his transformative leadership in cricket administration, historic reforms, and his significant role in the development of women's cricket.





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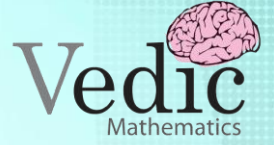
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Q.12. GIFT City's new goal is to become India's hub in which field?

- A. Pharma R&D
- B. Quantum Computing
- C. Intellectual Property Rights
- D. Renewable Energy

Answer: 12. C

GIFT City in Gujarat is now expanding its scope beyond finance and fintech. It aims to become a major hub for intellectual property rights (IPR) in India. Inspired by global models like Guernsey, a small but influential offshore jurisdiction known for hosting IP-holding companies, GIFT City seeks to attract both Indian and foreign businesses to register and hold their IP in India. Its objective is to prevent the continued migration of Indian-owned intellectual property to foreign jurisdictions and to create a domestic ecosystem combining finance, law, and innovation.

Q.13. What is Moody's recent estimate of India's GDP growth in 2025?

- A. 5.9%
- B. 6.4%
- C. 7.0%
- D. 7.8%

Answer: 13. C

Global credit rating agency Moody's has projected that India will remain the fastest-growing country among emerging economies and the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region in 2025, with GDP growth expected to be 7%. India's growth is projected to be 6.4% in 2026, reflecting a continued strong pace of growth. According to Moody's, the Asia-Pacific region is projected to grow at 3.6% in 2025 and 3.4% in 2026, up from 3.3% in 2024. This clearly shows that India's

economic growth is much higher than the regional average.

Q.14. Sipan Garg recently assumed additional charge as CMD of which PSU?

- A. NHPC
- B. THDC India Ltd
- C. NTPC Vidyut Nigam
- D. POWERGRID

Answer: 14. B

In a major development for India's public sector power landscape, Sipan Kumar Garg has officially assumed the position of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of THDC India Limited. The position has gained even more significance following the sudden demise of R.K. Vishnoi.

Q.15. Piyush Gupta was recently appointed Chairman of which company for India?

- A. BlackRock
- B. Temasek Holdings
- C. GIC
- D. UBS India

Answer: 15. B

In a strategic move to expand its presence in India, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, Temasek Holdings, has appointed former DBS Bank CEO Piyush Gupta as its non-executive chairman for India. This is a significant leadership addition as Temasek refines its India-focused investment strategy and strengthens relationships with Indian stakeholders in government and industry.





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