

6. Short News

1. Mahaparinirvan Diwas (Dr. B.R. Ambedkar)

Occasion- Observed on 6 December to mark the 70th death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Significance- Commemorates his role as the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and his lifelong fight against caste oppression.

The Term 'Mahaparinirvan'- Derived from Buddhist philosophy. Refers to "complete liberation" (Nirvana) from the cycle of birth and death. Ambedkar converted to Buddhism in 1956, viewing it as a path to equality.

Legacy- A Day to reaffirm commitment to social justice, dignity, and fraternity.

2. 20th UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Session

Event- India is hosting the 20th Session of the UNESCO ICH Committee.

Venue- Red Fort, New Delhi (Dec 8-13, 2025).

India's Nomination- India has nominated Diwali for inclusion in the Representative List of ICH. Traditions, skills, and knowledge passed down through generations (e.g., festivals, crafts, performing arts).

India's Current ICH List (15 Elements)- Includes Garba, Durga Puja, Kumbh Mela, Yoga, Vedic Chanting, etc.

3. Shingles Vaccine & Dementia Link

New Discovery- A study from Wales found that the Shingles vaccine (Zostavax) significantly reduces the risk of death from dementia (by 30%).

About Shingles

Cause- **Varicella-zoster virus** (same as Chickenpox).

Mechanism- The virus remains dormant in nerve cells after chickenpox and reactivates later when immunity drops.

Symptoms- Painful rash/blisters, usually on one side of the torso.

Vaccine- Recommended for adults above 50.

Dementia- A syndrome of cognitive decline (Alzheimer's is the most common type).

4. Africa Heading for a Continental Breakup

Prediction- Africa may split into two separate landmasses in 5-10 million years, creating a new ocean.

Geological Driver- The East African Rift System (EARS). Tectonic plates are pulling apart from Northeast to South.

Key Spot- The Afar Region (Ethiopia) is a "Triple Junction" where the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and East African Rift meet.

The Split

Western Landmass- Current major bulk (Egypt, Nigeria, etc.).

Eastern Landmass- Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique.

5. Earth Summit 2025

Launched By- Amit Shah at Gandhinagar.

Organizers- NABARD + IMAI (Internet and Mobile Association of India).

Focus- Boosting the rural economy through digital cooperative frameworks.

Key Platform- 'Sahakar Sarathi' – A digital platform to unify cooperative banks for KYC, legal docs, and recovery.

Strategy- Replicate the "Gujarat Model" (Cooperation Among Cooperatives) nationwide to generate low-cost deposits.

6. Hepatitis B

Disease- A viral infection attacking the liver.

Transmission- Contact with infected blood/body fluids. Mother-to-child during birth. Unsafe needles/tattooing.

Severity- Chronic infection can lead to liver failure or cancer; there is no cure for the chronic form.

Prevention- Vaccination is the key defense (especially the birth dose within 24 hours).

7. Exercise Harimau Shakti

Bilateral Joint Military Exercise between India and Malaysia.

Edition- 5th Edition.

Location- Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan.

Participants

India- Dogra Regiment.

Malaysia- Royal Malaysian Army.

Objective- Enhance cooperation in counter-terrorism and UN Peacekeeping operations.

8. DRDO's Rocket-Sled Ejection Test

DRDO successfully conducted a high-speed test of a fighter aircraft escape system.

The Technology (Rocket Sled)

A ground-based testing system propelled by rockets on rail tracks.

It accelerates to 800 km/h to simulate real flight conditions.

Objective- To test if the pilot's seat ejects safely during emergencies (canopy severance and ejection sequencing).

Collaborators- Conducted with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and HAL.

Location- Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh.

Significance- Places India in an elite club of nations with this indigenous capability. Reduces reliance on foreign facilities and cuts testing costs significantly.

9. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

DGCA granted a one-time exemption to an airline regarding Flight Duty Time **Limitations (FDTL)** rules (which limit pilot working hours to prevent fatigue) following mass flight cancellations.

About DGCA

Role- India's primary regulator for civil aviation safety and airworthiness.

Status- A Statutory Body (since 2020, under the Aircraft Act).

Ministry- Functions under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Goal- Ensures compliance with global standards (like ICAO norms).

10. Goldilocks Economy

RBI Governor termed the current Indian economy a "Goldilocks moment" while cutting the repo rate to 5.25%.

Goldilocks Economy

An ideal economic state that is "just right".

Not too hot- No high inflation.

Not too cold- No recession.

Features- Steady growth + Low inflation + Low unemployment.

Inflation- Dropped well below the 4% target.

Growth- Real GDP is robust at approx 8% despite global challenges.

11. Streamlining Public Communications (IIS)

The Plan- The Centre is revamping its information network and considering a new Board on media communications.

Focus- Restructuring the Indian Information Service (IIS).

About Indian Information Service (IIS)

Type- Central Civil Service (Group A & B).

Role- They are the "Media Managers" of the Government.

Function- They act as a bridge between the Govt and the public, disseminating policies and collecting feedback.

Deployment- They work in units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (e.g., DD News, All India Radio, PIB).