

# Current Affairs: December 31, 2024

## National News

### 1. 116th Mann Ki Baat:



In the 116th episode of *Mann Ki Baat*, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the new year and highlighted India's achievements, particularly focusing on the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution in 2025. He also emphasized the importance of cultural heritage, health, and sports for national development, sharing his vision for a united and prosperous India.

## International News

### 2. China's CR450 Train:



China unveiled its world's fastest high-speed train prototype, the CR450, which reached speeds of up to 450 km/h, surpassing the CR400 Fuxing trains. This advanced train showcases China's innovation in rail technology, setting a new standard in speed, energy efficiency, and passenger comfort, aligning with its goal to expand its high-speed rail network to 70,000 km by 2035.

## Defence News

### 3. Vitul Kumar Appointed Officiating DG of CRPF:



Vitul Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer, was appointed as the officiating Director General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) following the retirement of Anish Dayal Singh. Kumar, who was serving as the Special DG, will lead the CRPF during a crucial time, especially with ongoing challenges in regions like Chhattisgarh and Manipur.

### 4. India's Defence Exports:



India's defence exports have soared to a record ₹21,000 crore, a significant leap from ₹2,000 crore a decade ago. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh set an ambitious target to increase exports to ₹50,000 crore by 2029, reflecting the country's growing defence production capabilities and strategic global partnerships.

## Economic News

### 5. RBI GDP Growth Forecast:

RBI MPC's GDP FORECAST		
ET	CURRENT FORECAST	PREVIOUS FORECAST
FY25	7.2%	7%
Q1FY25	7.3%	7.1%
Q2FY25	7.2%	6.9%
Q3FY25	7.3%	7%
Q4FY25	7.2%	7%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projected a 6.6% GDP growth for FY25, citing factors like rural consumption recovery, government spending, and robust services exports. However, the GDP growth rate moderated to 6.0% in the first half (H1) of FY25, down from 8.2% in the same period last year, indicating some economic challenges.

## Banking News

### 6. RBI's NEFT/RTGS Name Lookup Feature:



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a name lookup feature for the NEFT and RTGS systems, aimed at reducing errors and fraud during electronic fund transfers. The feature, set to be implemented by April 2025, will allow users to verify the beneficiary's name before making transactions, similar to existing facilities in UPI and IMPS.

### 7. DBS Bank India CEO Appointment:



Rajat Verma was appointed as the new CEO of DBS Bank India, effective from March 2025. Verma, with over 27 years of banking experience, will lead DBS India's operations after the retirement of Surojit Shome. His appointment signals a new phase of growth for the bank in one of its key markets.

## Science & Technology

### 8. ISRO's SpaDeX Mission:



ISRO successfully launched the SpaDeX mission, aimed at demonstrating autonomous space docking and undocking capabilities. This mission positions India as the fourth global player, joining the US, Russia, and China in this advanced area of space exploration, enhancing the country's capabilities in space technology.

## Sports News

### 9. Hemanth Muddappa:



Indian motorsport legend Hemanth Muddappa won three national titles in the final round of the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship, extending his record to 15 national titles. Despite a recent injury, Muddappa's resilience and skill were key to his success, reaffirming his dominance in Indian motorsports.

#### 10. Kerala's Handball Victory:



Kerala made history by winning its first-ever Senior National Men's Handball Championship title with a 34-31 victory over Chandigarh in the final. The team's collective effort, along with standout performances from players like Devendar and Rahul, helped them clinch the prestigious title.

#### 11. Haryana Steelers' PKL Title:



The Haryana Steelers won their first-ever Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) title by defeating the Patna Pirates 32-23 in a thrilling final. The Steelers' strategic play, combined with strong performances from their key players, secured their victory, making it a historic achievement for the team.

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