



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 18, 2025**

### **NATIONAL**

- **India to Establish Maitri II Antarctic Research Station by 2032**
- ✓ India is set to expand its polar research presence with Maitri II, a next-generation research station in East Antarctica, expected to be completed by 2032.
- ✓ Maitri II will replace the existing Maitri I, operational since 1989 in the Schirmacher Oasis, and will provide modern, all-weather facilities to support year-round scientific research.
- ✓ The station will upgrade India's research infrastructure in Antarctica, including state-of-the-art laboratories, ice-core storage systems, and facilities for biological and microbial research.
- ✓ The total estimated cost of Maitri II is ₹2,000 crore, with ₹29.20 crore approved by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for pre-investment activities including architectural design, site planning, and DPR preparation.

### **DEFENCE**

- **India-UAE Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE 2025**
- ✓ Exercise DESERT CYCLONE-II will be held at Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 18 to 30 December 2025.
- ✓ The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen bilateral defence cooperation between the Indian Army and UAE Land Forces.

- ✓ DESERT CYCLONE-II highlights the deepening India-UAE strategic partnership and growing military diplomacy.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Managing Director of State Bank of India**
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) for appointing Ravi Ranjan as Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB).
- ✓ The appointment of Ravi Ranjan as MD of SBI became effective from December 15, 2025.
- ✓ Ravi Ranjan joined State Bank of India as a Probationary Officer (PO) in 1991

## AWARDS

- **Miyana Railway Station Wins National Energy Conservation Award 2025**
- ✓ Miyana Railway Station in Guna district, Madhya Pradesh, has been awarded the National Energy Conservation Award (NECA) 2025 for outstanding energy efficiency and sustainable operations.
- ✓ The award was presented by President Smt. Droupadi Murmu on National Energy Conservation Day (14 December 2025), recognising the station's exemplary contribution to energy conservation.
- ✓ Miyana Railway Station was selected as the Best Performing Unit in the Transport Category (Railway Station) for its systematic efforts in reducing electricity consumption.
- ✓ The award was received by Smt. Shobhana Bandopadhyaya, General Manager, West Central Railway.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Minorities Rights Day - December 18**
- ✓ The day is observed in India every year on 18th December to safeguard the constitutionally guaranteed rights of religious minorities in the country.

- ✓ Minorities Rights Day was first observed on December 18th, 1992 by the United Nations.
- ✓ The UN adopted the statement on the individual Rights belonging to religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.

➤ **International Migrants Day - December 18**

- ✓ International Migrants Day 2025 is observed on 18th December.
- ✓ This year's theme, "My Great Story: Cultures and Development,"
- ✓ On December 4, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly declared December 18 as the day for International Migrants

