



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 26, 2025

TAMILNADU

- **Gramam Thorum Puthozhil (GTP) scheme**
- ✓ Startup TN has launched rural startup communities in eight villages under the Gramam Thorum Puthozhil (GTP) scheme, aimed at decentralizing tech-based entrepreneurship beyond tier-II cities.
- ✓ In the first phase, the Trichy and Thanjavur satellite hubs have identified four villages each to support rural entrepreneurs through financial assistance and regular workshops to validate startup ideas pitched by local youth.
- ✓ At present, three startup communities are operation-al in Pudukottai district, two in Tiruvarur, and one each in Mayiladuthurai and Thanjavur districts.
- ✓ Under GTP, each recognized rural startup community will be eligible for a subsidy of up to Rs. 1 lakh.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Cyclone Ditwah**
- ✓ India has announced a \$450 million humanitarian and reconstruction assistance package for Sri Lanka following the large-scale devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah.
- ✓ The assistance was announced during high-level meetings in Colombo, reinforcing India's role as a first responder and trusted neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region.

- ✓ The announcement was made during the visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who travelled to Sri Lanka as a special envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The assistance is being provided under Operation Sagar Bandhu, launched by India in response to Cyclone Ditwah.

STATE

- **Newspaper reading now a must for students in UP govt schools**
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh govt has made newspaper reading compulsory for students of all state-run secondary and basic schools to cultivate reading habits, reduce screen time and develop critical, and logical thinking skills.

PAPER'S POWER	
The Benefits	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newspaper reading to strengthen students' GK and understanding of current affairs; prepares for competitive exams ➤ To improve language & vocabulary; develop critical, logical thinking ➤ Reading physical newspapers to increase focus & patience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To strengthen community connection by helping understand local and global news ➤ Human interest stories to develop empathy, guide students to become responsible citizens ➤ Problem solving through puzzles to entertain & train students' brains for logical challenges
How To Do It	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Schools to keep reputed, high quality English, Hindi newspapers in libraries ➤ Allocate 10-minute slot for "news reading" during morning assembly ➤ Select 5 new/difficult words from newspapers everyday, and explain their meanings during morning assembly ➤ Mandatorily display these words, along with 'Thought of the Day' on school's display board/blackboard ➤ On lines of newspaper, students to prepare a monthly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> or quarterly 'school newspaper' or 'magazine' for their school ➤ Once a week, classes IX to XII students to write their original thoughts on an important editorial topic, participate in a group discussion ➤ Organise competition to solve Sudoku, crossword puzzles, or informative quizzes published in newspapers ➤ Junior students to prepare scrapbook by cutting out interesting news clippings based on science, environment, and sports topics

- ✓ An order issued by additional chief secretary (basic and secondary education) Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma on Dec 23 says newspapers, both English and Hindi, should be made an integral part of the daily reading culture of schools.

SPORTS

➤ Khelo India Tribal Games

- ✓ India has taken a major step towards inclusive sports development with the unveiling of the logo, theme song, and mascot of the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games at the Late B. R. Yadav Sports Stadium, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ The Games will begin on 14 February 2026 and mark the first-ever national-level sporting event dedicated exclusively to tribal athletes.
- ✓ The inaugural Games will feature seven competitive sports disciplines: archery, athletics, football, hockey, wrestling, swimming, and weightlifting, chosen to match both traditional strengths and Olympic pathways.

