

The week from 22nd December 2025 to 28th December 2025

Brazil officially handed over the BRICS presidency to India (for 2026) during the 4th Sherpas Meeting. Under India's presidency, BRICS will focus on climate resilience, responsible AI, scientific collaboration, and global governance reforms, including UN Security Council reform.

German aerospace engineer Michaela Benthaus became the first wheelchair-bound person to travel to space aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard NS-37 suborbital mission. Benthaus has used a wheelchair since a 2018 spinal injury but continued her work in space science. Her historic flight will cross the Kármán line, marking a major step toward inclusivity and accessibility in human spaceflight.

Indian star batter Smriti Mandhana created history during the first Women's T20I against Sri Lanka in Visakhapatnam by becoming the first Indian woman to score 4,000 runs in T20 internationals. She is only the second woman globally after Suzie Bates to achieve the feat and the fastest to do so, reaching the milestone in just 3,227 balls. She also crossed the milestone of 10,000 international runs.

The Aravalli range, vital for ecological balance, groundwater recharge and biodiversity, is under judicial scrutiny after concerns that a new 100-metre height-based definition could dilute protection against mining and construction. Amid environmental concerns, the Supreme Court stayed its earlier ruling, took suo motu cognisance, constituting an expert committee to reassess safeguards for the region.

President Droupadi Murmu released the Constitution of India in the Santhali language, written in the Ol Chiki script, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The release coincides with the centenary of the Ol Chiki script and reflects India's commitment to preserving tribal languages and cultural diversity, following Santhali's inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

On December 24, 2025, ISRO successfully launched the Bluebird Block-2 communication satellite from Sriharikota using its most powerful rocket, LVM-3 'Baahubali'. Developed by US-based AST SpaceMobile, the satellite provides direct broadband connectivity to ordinary smartphones without special devices or antennas. The mission marks India's heaviest commercial payload launch.

The United States has launched Operation Hawkeye Strike, conducting coordinated airstrikes on ISIS targets in eastern Syria following a December attack that killed three Americans. The strikes involved advanced aircraft, including F-15s and A-10s, and aimed to degrade ISIS leadership and operational capacity.

U.S. President Donald Trump met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Florida to push forward a 20-point peace plan aimed at ending the Russia Ukraine war, which began in 2022. Trump said the deal was closer than ever, while Zelenskyy sought long-term security guarantees and progress on territorial disputes, especially over Donbas, with key issues still unresolved.



Compiled by
Seema Chari and
Kunal Savarkar



xpress minds