

## # CURRENT AFFAIRS

Violence broke out in Bangladesh's capital after a youth leader of the country's 2024 pro-democracy uprising who was injured in an assassination attempt died in a hospital in Singapore. Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Dhaka early on Friday after the death of Sharif Osman Hadi, 32, was announced, to demand that his killers be arrested. Several buildings in the capital, including those housing the country's two leading newspapers, were set on fire, according to authorities, with staff trapped inside.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Saturday that the country's Jewish community was "completely unbreakable" after attending a memorial at a Sydney synagogue for the victims of a mass shooting attack on a seaside Hanukkah celebration. The mass shooting at Bondi Beach, Australia's worst in nearly 30 years, is being investigated as an act of terrorism targeting Jews. Authorities have ramped up patrols and policing across the country to prevent further antisemitic violence.

China's special envoy for Asian affairs visited Phnom Penh this week to push for Cambodia and Thailand to de-escalate their fierce border fighting, Cambodia's foreign ministry said on Saturday. Deng Xijun's visit comes as the U.S. and China renew efforts to bring the two countries to a ceasefire, ahead of a special meeting on Monday of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.



Displaced people walk after receiving food at a temporary shelter amid clashes between Thailand and Cambodia along a disputed border area, in Buriram province, Thailand, December 16, 2025. REUTERS/Amir Perawongwongthai/Photo Photo Dutchback/Contrasto/Bettas C2

## # FEED FORWARD

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Hey everyone! 🙌 We are four teenagers from a boarding school in the foothills, who believe change begins with us. The newsletter, a fortnightly, explores stories, events and ideas that shape our world. From happenings to global issues, we'll dive into it all. Join us, collaborate, critique and voice your opinions as we share our perspectives, insights, and creativity with you!

Your feedback and contributions would be a game changer! Do write to us, [@theworldthisweek4@gmail.com](mailto:@theworldthisweek4@gmail.com)

## # CURRENT AFFAIRS INDIA

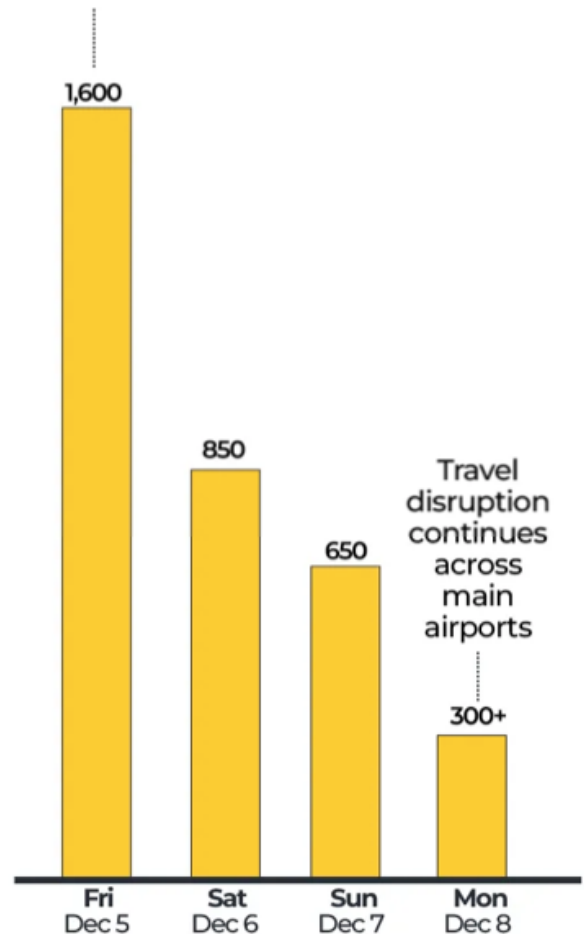
### IndiGo chaos: Why is India's largest airline canceling hundreds of flights?

Indian media report between 2,000 to 4,000 flights cancelled, stranding thousands of passengers in one of the biggest aviation crises in years. Air travel across India has been in chaos in the past week after the country's largest airline, IndiGo, cancelled thousands of flights since December 2, stranding thousands of passengers at airports across the country.

The airline, which operates about 2,200 flights a day, has been facing pilot shortages after it failed to adapt to the new pilot rest and duty rules introduced by the government early last year.

Mass cancellations of flights amid the busy travel season have caused a public outcry, forcing the government to intervene. The airline has been granted exemptions from the new rules, but the disruption has continued, with more than 300 flights cancelled at Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru airports on Monday. The crisis is the biggest blow to the carrier in its 20-year operation.

### The worst single-day collapse



The Golden Globe nominations unveiled the awards season, as always, offer one of the earliest and most influential snapshots of where industry momentum is heading, setting the tone for the Critics' Choice Awards, SAG Awards, and ultimately the Oscars.

This year's field is defined by ambitious filmmaking, a strong international presence, and a competitive television slate that reflects the evolving tastes of global audiences.

At the forefront is *One Battle After Another*, which emerges as the most nominated film of the year. Its dominance across categories—including Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy), Best Director, and multiple acting nominations—positions it as the clearest early front-runner. The breadth of its support suggests widespread enthusiasm from voters, a crucial factor in the Golden Globes' often unpredictable outcomes. Close second is *Sinners*, Ryan Coogler's dark, genre-bending drama, which has solidified itself as a heavyweight in the Best Motion Picture - Drama race. *Hamnet* has drawn attention for its literary roots and emotionally restrained storytelling, while Guillermo del Toro's *Frankenstein* continues his streak of awards-season relevance, earning nominations that highlight its craftsmanship and performances.

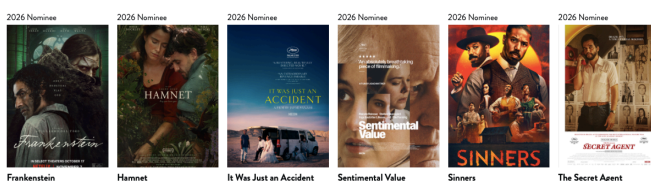
International and auteur-driven titles such as *The Secret Agent*, *Sentimental Value*, and *It Was Just an Accident* further underscore the Globes' increasingly global outlook. One of the season's most talked-about moments has been the notable snub of *Wicked: For Good* from the Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy lineup, despite recognition in other categories. The omission has fuelled debate and reminded observers that Globe nominations can still defy expectations.

The Golden Globe Awards, remain a crucial early indicator of broader awards-season trajectories. Films and series that perform strongly here often gain valuable momentum heading into subsequent ceremonies. While Globe voters are known for occasional curveballs, nomination leaders like *One Battle After Another*, *Sinners*, and *The White Lotus* now carry the advantage of visibility, narrative, and industry validation. As campaigning intensifies and critics' groups weigh in, the landscape may shift—but for now, these front-runners have clearly established themselves as the titles to watch.

## GOLDEN GLOBES

### The 2026 Nominations

#### Best Motion Picture - Drama



No longer a peripheral tool of science, AI has become the central engine of some of the 21st century's most important discoveries. This is particularly evident for fields whose most important progress depends on large, complicated data sets. In structural biology, DeepMind's AlphaFold system demonstrated that AI alone can predict correct protein structures from amino-acid sequences—a task previously requiring many years of painstaking laboratory experimentation. Providing structures for essentially all known proteins, the technology has quickened the pace of drug development while giving scientists unprecedented speed in their attempts to study the molecular mechanisms of diseases such as Parkinson's and cystic fibrosis.

In climate science, AI models are now being combined with Earth-system simulators to enhance the resolution and accuracy of climate forecasts. Classic climate models are poor at resolving small-scale processes, such as cloud formation or ocean eddies, that significantly impact global temperature. The machine-learning-enhanced models ingest decades of satellite data to refine these processes and make forecasts that can better inform policy decisions about sea-level rise, extreme weather, and carbon-emission targets, revolutionized particle physics, especially in experiments at the LHC. While billions of particle collisions occur every second, physicists depend on machine-learning algorithms that filter out noise and search for the rarest events. These systems helped physicists narrow down signatures consistent with the Higgs boson and continue to support ongoing searches for dark-matter candidates. Without AI-driven event classification, a great deal of this data would go unanalysed, with critical discoveries buried in raw detector outputs.

Astronomy presents another compelling example: AI-based image-processing software was crucial in the creation of the Event Horizon Telescope's first picture of a black hole in 2019. Neural networks helped to bring together data from numerous radio observatories, reconstructing a coherent image out of fragmented signals scattered across continents. Such a breakthrough underscores how AI can handle problems that have incomplete or noisy scientific data—a problem widely spread across research disciplines.

By amplifying computational power and surfacing patterns buried in enormous datasets, AI redefines the pace and scope of scientific progress on a global scale.

## # HEAL THE WORLD

### US, Egypt, Qatar, Turkiye urge restraint in Gaza as Israeli attacks continue

The talks between the four countries lauded the first stage of the truce, including expanded humanitarian assistance, return of captives, force withdrawals and reduction in hostilities. The United States, Egypt, Qatar and Turkiye have urged the parties to the Gaza ceasefire to honour their commitments and show restraint, the chief US envoy says after talks in the US city of Miami.

Senior officials from the four mediator countries met Steve Witkoff, US President Donald Trump's special envoy, on Friday to review the first phase of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which took effect on October 10, according to a joint statement released

## # SEASON TO BE JOLLY

### The anti-carollers

In Latvia, revelers go from house to house singing abroad or grotesque songs, in a bid to scare away evil spirits. They are paid with warm drinks, delicious treats and muffled wine.

The scariest thing about the revelers, think mummy-like wrappings of ragged cloth, heads of horses, bees or cats.

The revelers turn up at the door in groups, to sing loudly, dance wildly and dance wildly. Some processions even drag a log along. It is said to absorb the negativity from each house, and is burned at the end of the day.

The most-anticipated part of the proceedings is trying to guess which neighbour is hidden beneath the garb. Is that you, Uncle Valdis?

### Spiderwebs of silver and gold

In Ukraine, they say a local folk tale gave the world all its tinsel.

One year, the story goes, a hardworking widow and her children decided to make the most of what they had, and brought a tree in for the celebrations. But they realised with sadness that it wasn't really Christmas without any decorations.

As this sad family slept, a kind spider spun its large, glistening web around the tree, hoping to add to the festivities. At dawn, a miracle. As the first rays of the sun touched the tree, the cobwebs turned into threads of gold and silver; the family never lived in poverty again.

The web became a symbol of the season's spirit, and of good luck and prosperity. Trees in Ukraine are still decorated with tiny spider ornaments made of paper and wire. The webs, made of golden and silvery threads, are, they say, how the world got tinsel.

### A giant, horned creature that steals children

In the village of Krasnoyarsk, a woman had a horned, two-eyed creature that stole her children. The creature had a long, pointed horn and a long, pointed tail. It was said to be a devil, and it was said to be a devil. It was said to be a devil, and it was said to be a devil.

### The lantern showdown

In the Philippines, people take to the streets to celebrate the season. They carry lanterns that glow in the dark. They carry lanterns that glow in the dark. They carry lanterns that glow in the dark.

### Letters from Santa

In Canada, one can write to Santa, and expect to hear back.

In a heart-warming tradition that stretches back more than 50 years, "postal elves" have been combing through over a million letters a year from around the world, for Canada Post's Santa Letter Program, one of the oldest and most extensive such initiatives in the world.

No stamps are required within the country, just the right postal code: "Santa Claus, North Pole, H0H 0H0, Canada".

The programme began informally, in the 1970s, when postal workers in Montreal began to respond to children. By 1982, Write to Santa was a national initiative, and the non-geographical postal code had been assigned. Both current and retired employees now work on the programme, responding in multiple languages, including Braille.

## # SPORTS NEWS

The TATA IPL Auction was held in the Etihad Arena, Abu Dhabi, on Tuesday, December 16. The highest bidder were the Kolkata Knight Riders, for overseas player Cameron Green, at ₹25,20,00,000. The highest bid for an Indian player by CSK (Chennai Super Kings) for Kartik Sharma, at ₹14,20,00,000.

Argentine footballer Lionel Messi finished his India tour on Monday, December 15, after visiting 4 cities, namely Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi. Fans erupted at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on failing to glimpse him. Upon concluding his tour, the icon claimed, "Football has a bright future in India,".

India delivered its most successful campaign yet at the Asian Youth Para Games 2025, finishing with a record 102 medals - 36 gold, 28 silver and 38 bronze - at the continental meet in Dubai, UAE.

India beat China to become the first Asian country to win the Squash World Cup. "Won't be able to play Australia Open," said 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal, after undergoing a surgery on his right hand.

The New York Knicks also beat the San Antonio Spurs to win their first NBA Cup.

In a tense match on Thursday, December 18, Jharkhand beat Haryana to win the Syed Mushtaq Ali Cricket Trophy.

Germany won the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, and now has the most titles. The Netherlands won the Women's Cup.

Stay fit and fierce... until the next edition !

## # REASON FOR CHEER

# Junk diving

A very rare copy of the first Superman comic, from 1939, just was discovered by three brothers in their late mum's attic, along with a stash of pre-World War II comics. They're making a cool \$9 million from it. Were our mums right? Is all Boomer clutter really treasure hiding under dust? Nooooo....

## Being Yourself

Today's world is saliently engulfed in competition, constant noise and futile comparison. As a citizen of such a world, being yourself may seem to be a radical act. Yet, many of us fail to realise the importance of authenticity – the quiet power that defines who we are, the genuine force that sets us apart in a world that often asks us to conform.

While we see the world rapidly evolving, being ourselves not only imbues simplicity but also helps us gain inner peace. In the journey ahead, several people will have great expectations of you. Being submissive to every trivial demand as well as shaping yourself into someone you truly aren't is equivalent to taking immense but redundant pressure on your brain. Conformity after a certain extent gets overwhelming, making you a typical plastic clone of others you see.

Many a times, authenticity is confused with reluctance to improve oneself. Being yourself implies your willingness to do what you like and improve in aspects at your own pace. Everyone subtly grows into distinct individuals, and this is where the stark contrast lies between the two. Moreover, being authentic gives you the power to command yourself, of your own will. Rather than being tugged by everybody to become their ideal person, you stay free from the hassle by listening to your inner self.

The world today is engaged in a race to glory. People often sacrifice their identity and peace for the pursuit of perpetual success. It is paramount to remain obliged to yourself and not become a puppet in foreign hands. Nobody knows you better than yourself; therefore, following your moral conscience over someone's directions is crucial. It is the only way to let yourself grow along your intended path and not deviate from it.

-SWARIT CHOUDHARY  
THE DOON SCHOOL



The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins is a thrilling, fast-paced adventure that will keep readers on the edge of their seats while making them think deeply about the world around them. This trilogy is not just about survival—it's about what happens when power is abused, how societies are controlled, and the price of rebellion. The first book, *The Hunger Games*, introduces us to Katniss Everdeen, a courageous young girl who lives in a future world called Panem, where the Capitol controls the 12 districts with fear. Every year, two children from each district are selected to fight to the death in a televised event known as the Hunger Games. When Katniss volunteers to take her sister's place in the games, she is forced to confront not just the deadly arena, but the harsh reality of a society that thrives on spectacle and violence. It's a story of survival, but also of defiance and the struggle to maintain one's humanity in the face of extreme circumstances. The second book, *Catching Fire*, raises the stakes even higher. Katniss has become a symbol of resistance after surviving the first Hunger Games, and the Capitol is determined to break her spirit. This time, the competition is even more dangerous, and Katniss finds herself fighting not just for survival, but for the future of the rebellion that's beginning to stir across the districts. The story explores how power is maintained through fear, and what happens when one person's actions begin to spark a revolution.

In *Mockingjay*, the final book in the series, Katniss has become the face of the rebellion. *Mockingjay* explores the emotional and psychological toll of living through war and violence, showing that sometimes the hardest battles are fought inside one's own heart. The book asks tough questions about the cost of freedom and the sacrifices required to achieve it.

What makes The Hunger Games trilogy so powerful is not just the action or the thrilling plot twists—it's the way it makes readers think about society, morality, and the consequences of choices. Katniss isn't a perfect hero; she's flawed, conflicted, and at times, unsure of herself. But that's what makes her relatable. She shows us that even in the darkest of times, it's possible to hold onto hope and fight for what's right.

