

## Daily Current Affairs Quiz 31 December 2025

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### **ExamChamps Daily Insight**

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Date: 30 December 2025

**Focus:** UPSC Prelims & Mains Integrated Briefing

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### **1. POLITY & GOVERNANCE: The Labour Code Reset**

Syllabus: GS-2 (Govt Policies) | GS-3 (Economy/Employment)

News: 2025 marks the "Year of Implementation" for the 4 New Labour Codes, consolidating 29 archaic laws.

### **ExamChamps Prelims Fact-Sheet:**

- **The Quad-Structure:**

1. **Code on Wages (2019):** Universalizes minimum wages.
2. **Industrial Relations Code (2020):** Formalizes "Fixed Term Employment."
3. **Code on Social Security (2020):** Includes Unorganized/Gig/Platform workers.
4. **OSH Code (2020):** Focuses on safety and health standards.

- **The "One Return" Concept:** A single-window digital filing system to reduce the compliance burden from 100+ forms to a unified return.
- **Gender Parity:** Legal mandate allowing women to work night shifts (7 PM to 6 AM) subject to safety consent.

 **ExamChamps Smart Note:** Fixed Term Employment (FTE) allows companies to hire workers for a specific duration with the same statutory

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benefits as permanent workers. This is a favorite "Statement-based" question area for UPSC.

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### 🌐 2. ENVIRONMENT: Parvati-Arga Bird Sanctuary (ESZ Notification)

Syllabus: GS-3 (Environment/Biodiversity) | Prelims (Protected Areas)

News: The MoEFCC has designated Parvati-Arga (UP) as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ).

#### 📍 Geography & Ecology Deep-Dive:

- **Formation:** Two oxbow lakes (**Parvati** and **Arga**) created by the meandering of the **Ghaghara River**.
  - **Status:** Designated as a **Ramsar Site** in 2019.
  - **Avian Importance:**
    - **White-rumped Vulture** (*Gyps bengalensis*): **Critically Endangered**.
    - **Egyptian Vulture:** **Endangered**.
  - **ESZ Rule:** Prohibits commercial mining, sawmills, and polluting industries within the buffer zone.
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### 💰 3. ECONOMY: PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)

Syllabus: GS-3 (Employment/Inclusive Growth)

News: PM-VBRY enrollment crosses 2.35 lakh establishments in Q4 2025.

#### 🔍 Scheme Specifics for Prelims:

- **Financial Incentive:** The Govt of India pays the **full 24% EPF contribution** (12% Employee + 12% Employer) for new joiners.
- **Duration:** 2 Years.
- **Eligibility Cap:** Employees earning < **₹25,000/month**.

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- **Target:** First-time employees entering the formal workforce.
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### 4. DEFENCE: Project-75 & INS Vagsheer

Syllabus: GS-3 (Defence Indigenization)

News: The President of India's sortie on INS Vagsheer highlights the completion of the Kalvari-class fleet.

#### Submarine Strategy (The MDL-Naval Group Pact):

- **Project-75 (P-75):** Construction of 6 Scorpene-class diesel-electric attack submarines.
  - **The "V" Factor:** INS Vagsheer is the last of the six (Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, Vela, Vagir, **Vagsheer**).
  - **Project-75(I):** The successor project which aims to introduce **Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)**—allowing submarines to stay submerged for weeks rather than days.
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### 5. SCIENCE & TECH: BlueBird Block-2 & Direct-to-Cell

Syllabus: GS-3 (Space Technology)

News: ISRO's LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) successfully deployed the BlueBird Block-2.

#### Tech-Terms You Must Know:

- **Direct-to-Cell:** Technology that enables ordinary 4G/5G smartphones to connect to satellites directly—no specialized satellite phones required.
- **Orbit:** Low Earth Orbit (LEO) – essential for low-latency communication.
- **Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3):** India's heaviest launcher (formerly GSLV Mk-III). Its success with the BlueBird mission (AST SpaceMobile) cements India's place in the commercial heavy-lift market.