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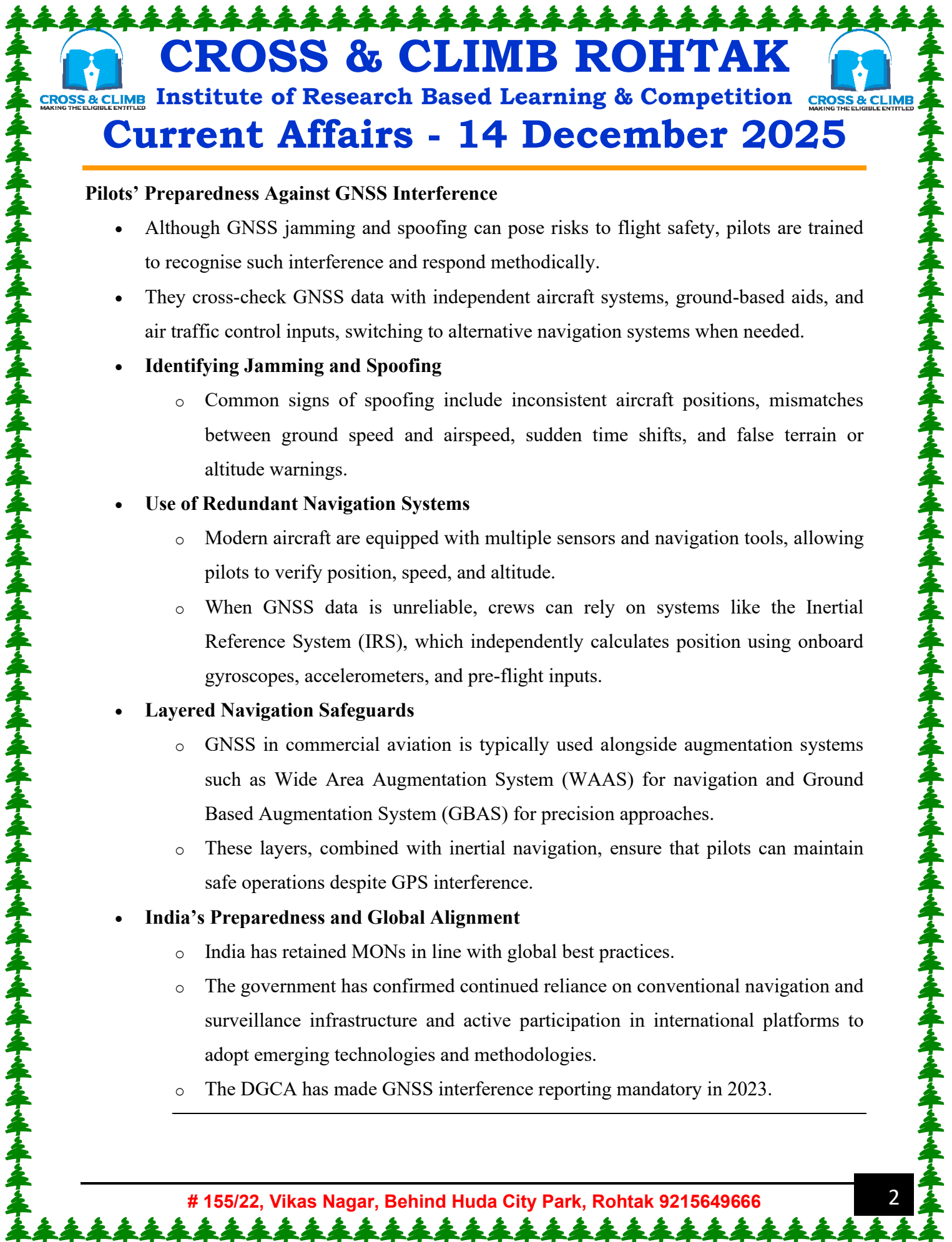


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Current Affairs - 14 December 2025

HOW AIRLINES ARE COUNTERING THE SURGE IN GPS DISRUPTIONS

- India has seen a rise in GPS/GNSS interference incidents near key airports.
- India is not alone. GNSS interference has become a key global aviation challenge.
- Aircraft rely heavily on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) for position, navigation, and timing (PNT) information, which is essential for safe flight operations and air traffic management.
- American Global Positioning System (GPS) is the most widely used system, alongside Galileo, GLONASS, and BeiDou.
- GNSS works through satellite constellations and ground infrastructure that transmit weak signals to onboard receivers in aircraft.
- Although highly accurate, these signals are susceptible to interference due to their low power.
- **Jamming: Disrupting Navigation Signals**
 - GNSS jamming occurs when strong radio interference overwhelms satellite signals, temporarily disabling GNSS-based navigation.
 - While sometimes accidental or natural, most aviation-related jamming incidents are deliberate.
- **Spoofing: A More Dangerous Threat**
 - Spoofing involves transmitting fake GNSS signals to mislead aircraft systems about their actual position or time.
 - This can trigger abnormal system behaviour and false cockpit warnings, creating serious operational confusion.
- **Safety Implications for Aircraft Systems**
 - Critical avionics such as Flight Management Systems, Terrain Avoidance Warning Systems, and Ground Proximity Warning Systems depend on accurate GNSS data.



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Pilots' Preparedness Against GNSS Interference

- Although GNSS jamming and spoofing can pose risks to flight safety, pilots are trained to recognise such interference and respond methodically.
 - They cross-check GNSS data with independent aircraft systems, ground-based aids, and air traffic control inputs, switching to alternative navigation systems when needed.
 - **Identifying Jamming and Spoofing**
 - Common signs of spoofing include inconsistent aircraft positions, mismatches between ground speed and airspeed, sudden time shifts, and false terrain or altitude warnings.
 - **Use of Redundant Navigation Systems**
 - Modern aircraft are equipped with multiple sensors and navigation tools, allowing pilots to verify position, speed, and altitude.
 - When GNSS data is unreliable, crews can rely on systems like the Inertial Reference System (IRS), which independently calculates position using onboard gyroscopes, accelerometers, and pre-flight inputs.
 - **Layered Navigation Safeguards**
 - GNSS in commercial aviation is typically used alongside augmentation systems such as Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) for navigation and Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS) for precision approaches.
 - These layers, combined with inertial navigation, ensure that pilots can maintain safe operations despite GPS interference.
 - **India's Preparedness and Global Alignment**
 - India has retained MONs in line with global best practices.
 - The government has confirmed continued reliance on conventional navigation and surveillance infrastructure and active participation in international platforms to adopt emerging technologies and methodologies.
 - The DGCA has made GNSS interference reporting mandatory in 2023.
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ICMR ADOPTS DEMOW MODEL FOR SNAKEBITE PREVENTION

- Snakebite envenoming (SBE) remains a major yet under-addressed public health issue in India. The country **accounts for nearly 58,000 deaths annually**, highest in the world.
- Snakebites primarily affect rural communities, agricultural workers, and tribal populations, especially in Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand.
- Despite being a preventable cause of death, India faces persistent challenges:
 - Delayed access to treatment
 - Lack of community awareness
 - Inadequate referral systems
 - Limited use of digital monitoring tools
 - Insufficient pre-hospital care
- ICMR's latest national initiative seeks to bridge these systemic gaps.

Overview of the ICMR National Snakebite Research Project

- The new ICMR-backed project, titled “Zero Snakebite Death Initiative: Community Empowerment & Engagement for Mitigation of Snakebite Envenoming,” aims to formulate a replicable community-based model for reducing mortality.
- It will be implemented across **seven states**: Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand.
- The research will be coordinated under **SARPA** (Snakebite Awareness, Response, Prevention & Action).
- **Key aspects:**
 - Multi-state implementation research
 - Community empowerment and education
 - Improvement of pre-hospital and hospital care
 - Creation of a real-time digital dashboard for surveillance
 - Standardised data collection by appointed researchers and technical staff in each state



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About Demow Model

- The selection of Assam's Demow Model marks a significant recognition of grassroots innovation.
- The model has shown notable success in Assam's Sivasagar district through strong community mobilisation and rapid referral systems.
- **Core Features of the Demow Model**
 - High community participation with local volunteers acting as first responders
 - A robust referral network to ensure that patients reach health centres within the "golden hour"
 - Awareness campaigns on preventing snakebites and first-aid dos and don'ts
 - Training of ASHA workers, schoolteachers, and village leaders
 - Collaboration with local hospitals such as Demow Hospital
- Because of its strong outcomes, the model will now undergo scientific evaluation and may be scaled across multiple states.

Integration of Other State Models

- ICMR aims to create a composite national-level model by integrating successful practices from different regions. The research will evaluate and merge the strengths of:
 - **Maharashtra Model - Use of Protective Equipment**
 - Distribution of gumboots and protective gear to high-risk agricultural communities.
 - **Himachal Pradesh Model - Pre-hospital Anti-Snake Venom (ASV)**
 - Administration of ASV in ambulances during transport, a breakthrough in early treatment.
 - **Kerala Model - Digital Coordination Platforms**
 - Use of real-time digital tools to track cases, guide referrals, and coordinate health services.
 - Together with the Demow Model, these elements form the backbone of a potential national strategy.
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THE NETFLIX–WARNER ALLIANCE AND THE FUTURE OF CINEMA

Recently, Netflix announced that it will acquire Warner Bros. for about \$82.7 billion, including its film and television studios and premium assets like HBO.

The deal signals a major shift in the entertainment industry, with a streaming platform absorbing a traditional Hollywood studio to become a fully integrated production and distribution powerhouse.

What the Netflix–Warner Deal Means for Netflix?

- The deal gives Netflix unprecedented control over content creation, ownership, distribution, and exhibition.
- While it strengthens Netflix’s library, cuts costs, and delivers economies of scale through vertical integration, it also raises concerns for creative independence, consumer choice, and the future of the cinematic experience.

How Streaming Platforms Have Reshaped Viewing Habits?

- Streaming services have transformed how audiences discover and consume content by enabling on-demand, home-based viewing and global access to vast libraries.
- This shift has weakened theatrical dominance and favoured binge-worthy, serialised content suited to subscription models over standalone films.
- The Netflix–Warner merger is likely to deepen this transformation by consolidating control over what content is produced, promoted, and ultimately watched.

Streaming as a Medium That Redefines Cinema

- Streaming is not just a new way to deliver films but a **distinct medium** that reshapes how stories are produced, distributed, and consumed.
- The Netflix–Warner merger **intensifies** this shift by centralising creative and distributive power, favouring high-volume, metric-driven content over bold, experimental filmmaking, and further homogenising what audiences see and how cinema is experienced.



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Threats to Creative Freedom and Audience Choice

- The Netflix–Warner deal risks tightening corporate and algorithmic control over creative decisions, favouring scale, predictability, and data-driven content over innovation.
- Independent and experimental filmmakers may be sidelined as slower-paced or niche projects lose priority.
- Consumer choice could narrow as recommendation algorithms push heavily promoted, formulaic content, while films are increasingly shaped for short attention spans, further weakening the immersive cinematic experience.
- **End of an Era for Legacy Cinema**
 - Warner Bros., a studio that shaped Hollywood with classics like Casablanca and Gone with the Wind, symbolised the golden age of cinema.
 - Its acquisition by Netflix is widely seen as confirmation that **streaming has overtaken traditional cinema** as the industry’s dominant force.
- **Fears Over the Future of Theatres**
 - Although Netflix has pledged to continue theatrical releases, scepticism remains.
 - Past statements by Netflix leadership calling movie-going “outdated” and the lack of clarity on theatrical release windows raise concerns that films may move quickly from cinemas to streaming, hurting theatre owners.

How Rivals May Rethink Their Strategies?

- The Netflix–Warner merger reshapes the competitive landscape, pressuring rivals like Disney+ and Amazon Prime Video to reconsider their strategies.
 - Faced with a vertically integrated super-studio, competitors may pursue consolidation, alliances, or mergers, triggering a new wave of industry shake-ups.
 - Others may turn to niche, regional, or art-house content to differentiate themselves, but such approaches could struggle against Netflix’s scale, reach, and marketing power.
 - The proposed Netflix–Warner deal has drawn sharp reactions from U.S. lawmakers.
 - Senator Roger Marshall warned that excessive content concentration would harm consumers, workers, and competition.
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WHAT IS APAAR ID?



- APAAR stands for **Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry**.
- It was introduced by the **Ministry of Education**, Government of India, under the 'One Nation, One Student ID' initiative, aligned with the **National Education Policy 2020**.
- APAAR is a **permanent academic identification system** created for every student, from **school to higher education**.
- APAAR assigns a unique and **permanent 12-digit ID** to every student, offering a **comprehensive record** of their **academic achievements**, including degrees, scholarships, awards, and other credits.
- The APAAR ID card **allows students to access their academic credits, degrees, and other information online**.
- The APAAR ID will be **unique** and remain the **same through one's education journey**.
- It is **linked to Aadhaar** and stored in **DigiLocker** for easy access.
- It serves as a **lifelong academic passport**, consolidating all achievements and credentials of a student in one place.
- With a single digital ID, **students can move between schools, apply for courses, submit documents** for admissions or jobs, and **track their credits** without relying on multiple **paper certificates**.
- **Advantages of APAAR ID:**
 - **Unique Student Identification:**
 - **Lifelong Learning Record:**
 - **Integration with Digi Locker:**
 - **Credit Transfer & Mobility:** Helps in seamless credit transfers between institutions under the **Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)** framework.



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NEW RAMSAR SITES

Siliserh Lake, in Alwar, Rajasthan and Kopra Jalashay near Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh have been designated as Ramsar Sites.

Siliserh lake

- **Location:** It is located in in the state of Rajasthan.
- It is a **human-made lake** within the buffer zone of Sariska Tiger Reserve.
- It was **built in 1845** by **Maharaja Vinay Singh** to supply drinking water to Alwar city.
- It is in a **semi-arid zone**, and the Site serves as an important water source for diverse species of the region.
- **Fauna:**
 - It supports various bird and mammal species including the **vulnerable river tern** and the endangered **tiger, black stork** (*Ciconia nigra*).

Kopra Jalashay

- **Location:** It is located
- It is a reservoir located in the upper catchments of the River Mahanadi.
- **Fauna:** Notable species include the vulnerable **greater spotted eagle** (*Aquila clanga*) and the endangered **Egyptian vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus*).

PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE



Recently, India Called for the protection of Preah Vihear Temple in the midst of ongoing Thailand-Cambodia border clashes.

- **Location:** It is a **Hindu temple** located in the Preah Vihear Province, in the **northern part of Cambodia**.
- It is situated atop a cliff on the **Cambodia–Thailand border** in the **Dangrek Mountain range**. It is **dedicated to Lord Shiva**. It was built during the period of the **Khmer Empire**, in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.



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- It was built firstly by King **Suryavarman I** (1002-50) and then expanded upon by **Suryavarman II** (1113-50).
 - It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
 - **Architecture of Preah Vihear Temple**
 - **Style:** It is a masterpiece of **Khmer architecture**.
 - The temple is **composed of a series of sanctuaries**.
 - It features more than **five successive gopuras**.
 - Unlike other structures of this kind, the gopuras here are **connected by a long path** and topped with **multi-tiered platforms**.
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GEMINID METEOR



The **Geminid meteor shower** - one of the most spectacular in the celestial calendar - is set to peak this weekend.

- The Geminid meteor shower is named after the constellation from which the meteors appear to radiate, Gemini.
- It **peaks during mid-December** each year.
- **Origin:** Unlike most meteor showers that originate from comets, the Geminid stream appears to originate from an **asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon**.
- The Geminids are best viewed during the **night and predawn hours**.

What are Meteors?

- Meteors come from leftover comet **particles and bits from asteroids**.
 - As they enter the Earth's atmosphere at high speed, they burn up, creating a spectacular "shower".
 - When these objects come around the Sun, they **leave a dusty trail behind them**.
 - Every year Earth passes through these debris trails, which allows the bits to collide with our atmosphere where they disintegrate to create fiery and colorful streaks in the sky.
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