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## Top Stories

### **Renewed Severe Weather Hits Pacific Northwest and Southern B.C.**

A strong atmospheric river is bringing heavy rain and gusty winds to western Washington and southern British Columbia. Because the ground and rivers are already saturated from severe flooding earlier last week, even moderate additional rain is likely to cause renewed flooding. Flood Watches have been issued by the **National Weather Service** and **Environment Canada**. Western Washington faces the highest risk, with several inches of rain expected. The **Skagit River** near Concrete, Burlington, and Mt. Vernon remains of highest concern, with levels expected to return to "major" flood stage following a brief downtrend. Rivers may rise quickly, roads could flood, and landslides are possible, especially near mountains and steep terrain.

Unlike last week's atmospheric river event, there will be a more enhanced wind and scattered power outage threat, with **High Wind Watches and Advisories** blanketing much of the region, including Seattle, Everett, and Tacoma. Additionally, a Winter Storm Watch is in effect from Tuesday evening through Wednesday evening for the upper slopes of the Eastern Washington Cascades above 2,500 feet, with 8-12 inches of snow possible, wind gusts up to 45 mph, and 6-10 inches expected at Snoqualmie Pass. Hazardous travel conditions are likely due to heavy snow, low visibility, slick roads, and potential tree damage. Travel is strongly discouraged unless absolutely necessary.

The threat extends into British Columbia, including the Fraser Valley, Manning–Skagit Valley, and major highways such as the Coquihalla, where heavy rain today could make roads impassable and trigger flooding or landslides. This comes just days after **historic flooding** forced evacuations across Washington and parts of BC, leaving communities more vulnerable to additional impacts. Travel disruptions, localized evacuations, and emergency responses are possible across the region, and conditions may worsen again midweek as another storm system moves in.

## **U.S. Likely Steering Toward Further Financial Deregulation, More Aggressive Rate Cuts in 2026**

Recent comments by President Donald Trump and other U.S. officials suggest that a continued focus on deregulation and interest rate cuts will be central to U.S. economic policy ahead of what could be **difficult** midterm elections for the Republican Party next year. Trump plans to announce his chosen successor to Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell **some time before** the chairman's term ends in May 2026. Trump has said that he is **debating** between putting forward former member of the bank's Board of Governors Kevin Warsh, who worked in the private sector before advising the second Bush administration, and National Economic Council (NEC) Director Kevin Hassett.

Hassett, who was tipped early on as a **favorite**, is a **critic of Powell**. He has said that the Fed needs to return "to a more independent and data-driven approach," and should "evaluate or cut economists and research divisions" that are not central to the bank's mission. **Former colleagues** question the bank's future independence if Hassett is selected, while economists worry he could **fail to deliver** in the role.

If chosen, the Trump administration would likely seek to further reinforce its deregulatory push by backfilling Hassett's role at the NEC with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. Bessent is already behind **efforts** to end financial rules seen as causing "undue burdens and negatively impact[ing] economic growth." If he is chosen to succeed Hassett at the NEC, he could have an even greater impact on **policymaking**, as the top economic advisor to both the Department of the Treasury and the Trump administration.

## **Police Continue Search for Suspect in Shooting at Brown University While a Terror Attack in Australia Prompts Debates Over Antisemitism, Gun Control**

Two mass shootings from over the weekend are continuing to trigger security responses into the start of the work week. In Providence, Rhode Island, authorities are continuing to search for suspect in a shooting at **Brown University** that left two people dead after releasing a person of interest. While there is an enhanced police presence throughout Providence, Mayor Brett Smiley said that there is **not an imminent threat** to public safety at this time. At the same time, authorities in several major cities, including London, New York, and Berlin, are **increasing** their security presence around synagogues and

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other sites associated with the Jewish community following a mass shooting targeting a Hanukkah celebration at **Sydney's Bondi Beach** that killed at least 15 people.

The Bondi Beach shooting was allegedly carried out by a father-son duo that officials **believe** acted alone and “weren’t part of a wider cell.” Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has **called it** a “targeted attack on Jewish Australians” and “an act of evil antisemitism.” It comes amid a **global rise** in antisemitic incidents that has been especially pronounced in Australia, where an advocacy group has **tallied** over 3,700 anti-Jewish incidents over the past two years and the government **accused** Iran of orchestrating arson attacks on a synagogue and kosher food company. Albanese is facing calls to counter antisemitism in Australian society, although some past proposals have **faced pushback** on the grounds that they infringe on civil liberties and conflate antisemitism with criticism of Israel.

The Bondi attack was especially shocking given the rarity of mass shootings in Australia, often **credited** to the country’s strict gun laws. Albanese has said that he **plans to propose** even tougher gun laws, including a measure that would only allow citizens to hold a firearm license, pointing to the **growing public debate** around immigration. As more is learned about the attackers, the Australian government could seek to implement restrictions on immigration or immigrants. Australian immigration policy has also triggered mass protests in recent months; the events at Bondi may prompt future such actions.

## Climate and Natural Hazards

- **U.S. Temperatures Thaw into Late December:** After a stretch of **much colder-than-normal weather** across the eastern U.S., a notable pattern shift appears likely heading into mid and late-December. While a couple of brief cold snaps may still brush parts of the Great Lakes and Upper Midwest, the overall trend favors a widespread and **sustained warm-up** across much of the country. Temperatures are expected to moderate significantly in the East and remain above normal across large portions of the central and western U.S., signaling a move away from persistent winter cold for many areas over the next one to two weeks.
- **Scattered Flood Threat in Southern Europe:** Two storm systems will lead to an elevated flood risk across portions of Spain, France, and Italy early this week. Heavy rain is already ongoing in the Montpellier area of France, with persistent downpours expected into Tuesday. Spain is expected to observe scattered slow-moving thunderstorm activity through Wednesday, which could lead to localized severe flooding. The flood threat in northwestern Italy, particularly around Genoa and Turin, will peak from Monday night through Tuesday. Level 1 to 2 (of 3) **Warnings** have been issued across southwestern Europe.
- **Deadly Floods in Morocco, More Storms Forecast for North Africa: Severe flash flooding** in the Safi Region of Morocco on Sunday claimed at least 37 lives. The weather pattern across Morocco, northern Algeria, and Tunisia will remain active through most of the week, with multiple

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disturbances set to produce scattered torrential downpours. Additional rainfall totals, particularly in northern Morocco and Algeria, could reach 3-4 inches through the week, more than enough to produce locally dangerous flash flooding in low-lying and urban areas.

- **Southern Iran, Bahrain, and Qatar Facing Flood Threat:** A developing low-pressure system moving across the Middle East will draw significant moisture into the region, bringing widespread heavy rainfall through Wednesday. The greatest impacts are expected across southern Iran, where localized rainfall totals of 4–6 inches are possible in Hormozgan, Fars, Bushehr, and parts of Kerman, potentially causing life-threatening flooding. Another strong storm system is forecast to affect the area from late Thursday into Friday. Elsewhere, from Monday night into Tuesday, scattered showers and thunderstorms will bring localized flash flood potential to Bahrain, Qatar, and eastern Saudi Arabia. While the highest risk of catastrophic flooding remains concentrated over southern Iran, travelers and residents across the broader region should remain weather-aware over the next 24 hours.
- **Western Australia Faces Uptick in Wildfires:** Several Bushfire Emergency Warnings have been issued across Western Australia over the last few days, mainly north of Perth. Towns such as Boonanarring, Eneabba, and Mogumber, among others, have been warned to evacuate over the last 72 hours as fires grew out of control and threatened lives and property. As of the time of publication, two **Bushfire Emergency Warnings** remain in effect. The **Bureau of Meteorology** has issued Fire Weather Warnings for Tuesday, and may extend alerts through the week amid dry, warm, and gusty conditions. Three schools will be closed on Tuesday due to the increased bushfire risk, according to **local media**.

## Worldwide

- **White House Releases Security Strategy Codifying Pivot Away from International Community:** The new **National Security Strategy of the United States of America** was outlined in a White House paper released December 4, articulating the second Trump administration's views on American national interests and security needs. The document advocates for principles such as "peace through strength," "predisposition to non-interventionism," and the "primacy of nations" as "the world's fundamental political unit" (and superior to international organizations). Identifying top priorities as ending mass migration, the defense of Americans, and inward-looking economic policies, the strategy would see the U.S. significantly reduce its commitments to the global community while in many cases expecting more of its peers. This is especially true of Europe, which is repudiated in the paper for "anti-democratic restrictions on core liberties" and (as members of NATO) failing to equally share in the burden of mutual security commitments.
- **U.S. Tanker Seizure Marks Significant Escalation in Southern Caribbean:** The December 10 seizure of an oil tanker believed to be part of Venezuela's **dark fleet**, a group of ships that help the country export its sanctioned oil, marks a significant escalation in U.S. operations in the

southern Caribbean. The move threatens a key **economic lifeline** of the Maduro regime. Amid **reports** that U.S. forces could be preparing to seize more ships, Maduro could flee to a friendly country, such as **Belarus**; mount a military response; or allow the seizures to continue uninterrupted, leading to severe economic losses. Any of these options would hold **significant consequences** for people and businesses in Venezuela, and potentially **elsewhere in the region** in the event of increased local military activity.

- **Mexico's Cartels Escalate Violence Amid Military Operations:** Last week in Mexico, security concerns intensified as authorities responded to organized criminal violence. The situation escalated when Mexican criminal groups **attacked** Guatemalan forces near the border with Chiapas. In response, the Mexican and Guatemalan armies **launched** a joint special operations plan to secure key border routes, monitor cartel movements, and prevent further incidents. Meanwhile, in western Mexico, a car bomb **exploded** outside a community police station in Coahuayana, Michoacán, on December 8, killing six and injuring several others, despite ongoing operations under the **Michoacán Plan**. Reports also **indicate** that organized crime groups across Mexico are continuing to battle each other for territorial control, while increasingly relying on low-cost, high-impact tactics such as kamikaze-style drones.
- **China's Trillion-Dollar Surplus Underscores Ineffectiveness of Global Trade Measures:** China's **continued trade imbalances** with partners around the world, often in spite of policies designed to blunt the impact of Beijing's aggressive practices, demonstrate the failure of the current approach to address the surge in Chinese exports. Factors ranging from strong global demand for cheap goods to Chinese manufacturing advancements have allowed the country to prop up its economy amid **stagnating domestic consumption**, even in the face of **protectionist measures** implemented by key trade partners like the U.S., which eat into Chinese exports to those countries. While the strategy has been advantageous to Beijing, the sustained growth has come at the expense of trade partners' own efforts to build out their domestic manufacturing ecosystems and reduce reliance on China, with it becoming increasingly **difficult to compete** with Chinese firms benefiting from state backing and regulatory advantages.
- **New Japanese Prime Minister Could Undermine Progress in South Korea Relations:** Comments made by Japan's new prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, regarding islands at the center of a territorial dispute with South Korea could be an early indicator of what is in store for Seoul and Tokyo's bilateral relations. Takaichi, who is known for holding **nationalist views**, has renewed **Japanese claims** to the Korea-controlled Liancourt Rocks (Dokdo to Koreans, and Takeshima to Japanese), which have been at the center of a series of inflammatory incidents between the two countries in recent weeks. While the long-fraught relationship between South Korea and Japan has **improved in recent years** due to mutual interests and similarly close relationships with the U.S., clashes over contested territories and other sticking points in the relationship could undermine further progress, potentially creating consequences for regional supply chains.

## Cyber and Regulatory

- **U.S. Threatens Sanctions Over ICC Jurisdiction:** The U.S. has threatened new **sanctions** on the International Criminal Court (ICC) unless it agrees not to prosecute President Donald Trump or other senior U.S. officials. There are concerns that the court could seek to prosecute Trump and others in his administration after his term ends in 2029. Washington is also demanding the ICC drop investigations involving Israeli leaders over Gaza and formally close its Afghanistan probe involving U.S. troops. The U.S., which is not an ICC member, has already sanctioned nine ICC officials, but not the court itself, with measures that have **cut off** judges and prosecutors from banking, travel, and digital services. Any amendment to limit ICC jurisdiction would require broad approval from member states and faces significant legal and political hurdles, while sanctions on the ICC could disrupt a key global war crimes body and strain relations with U.S. allies that support it.
- **EU Weakens ESG Rules; Ireland Investigates Microsoft:** The EU has agreed to significantly **weaken** its corporate sustainability laws. The EU will narrow due diligence rules only to the largest firms, delay compliance until 2029, drop climate transition plan requirements, and sharply reduce the scope of sustainability reporting. The change follows sustained lobbying from industry and foreign governments, citing competitiveness and trade risks. Separately, Ireland's data regulator is **reviewing** claims that Microsoft Azure supported Israeli intelligence surveillance, potentially breaching the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- **EU Advances Migration Reform and Environmental Changes:** The EU has **agreed** on sweeping migration reforms and drafted plans to weaken environmental reporting rules in a move that signals a **shift** toward stricter border control and lighter regulation to address political pressure, economic competitiveness, and other concerns across member states. Migration reforms set for 2026 include faster deportations, expanded detentions, "safe country" lists, and the creation of a €430 million (\$500 million) solidarity pool, building on the EU's long-debated Pact on Migration and Asylum. Member states can meet solidarity obligations through relocations, funding, or alternative support, though some countries have already rejected all options, such as Germany. The Commission proposes cutting environmental reporting requirements, though final outcomes and shifts in domestic politics or migration flows could alter priorities.
- **NHS Looks to Monetize Patient Data:** The U.K. government is moving to **monetize** NHS patient data, saying that such a move will boost life sciences investment while improving patient access to new treatments. The change could reshape NHS funding, patient trust, and the U.K.'s competitiveness in global pharmaceuticals. A new Health Data Research Service (HDRS) will centralize access to NHS datasets and charge companies for use, with operations starting in 2026 and a full rollout by 2030. The VPAG rebate for branded medicine will fall from 22.9% in 2025 to 14.5% in 2026, a cut of more than one-third to attract trials, manufacturing, and early drug launches. The moves are part of a **broader** strategy, including a U.K.- U.S. pharmaceutical deal

securing 0% tariffs, to position Britain as a life sciences hub. Public backlash over data commercialization or shifts in drug pricing or privacy rules could slow or alter implementation.

- **Supreme Court Weights Internet Provider Piracy Responsibility:** The Supreme Court is **reviewing** a case in which Cox Communications was ordered to pay \$1 billion for failing to curb music piracy on its network. The ruling could determine whether internet providers must police users' behavior, potentially affecting access for millions of Americans. During oral arguments, justices questioned how to balance copyright enforcement with the risk of cutting off internet access for innocent users. In 2019, a jury **found** that Cox allowed roughly 60,000 customers to distribute more than 10,000 copyrighted works, contributing to industry losses estimated to be in the billions. A federal appeals court later vacated the damages and ordered a new trial, while the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether the internet provider can be liable for "materially contributing" to infringement. Music and film industry groups argue the company deliberately ignored repeat offenders to protect revenue.

## Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- **U.S. Renewable Energy Projects Threatened by Lobbying, Competition:** While the fossil fuel and nuclear power industries are not typically seen as having common goals, the two sectors are now increasingly aligned in their **resistance** to further hydro, solar, and wind power projects. **Lingering concerns** about the potential threats posed by nuclear power plants and the waste they create have prompted the sector to join the oil and gas industries in lobbying against projects such as offshore wind along the U.S. East Coast. With the Trump administration seeking to address what it considers to be a "**national energy emergency**" by tapping into the country's "unrealized energy resources domestically," **opportunities** for the nuclear power and fossil fuel sectors to operate with fewer obstacles could put the future development of renewable energy projects at risk.
- **Farming, Tourism in U.S. Northeast Contending With Fast-Changing Climate:** Outside of the portion of Alaska lying within the Arctic Circle, nowhere else in the U.S.—and few places in the world—are **warming faster** than northeast states of the New England region. The changing conditions could threaten traditional economic activities in the region, ranging from maple syrup and other agricultural products to tourism. Additionally, coastal and other low-lying areas, especially the regional population center of **Boston**, are expected to face increasingly frequent flooding. However, these same industries face potential upsides, giving farmers a longer growing season for certain crops and lengthening the warm- weather season for tourism, though these opportunities will be very location-dependent.
- **U.S. Small Businesses Turning to Export Markets as Domestic Costs Rise, Sales Dwindle:** U.S. small businesses faced with rising costs stemming from tariffs are seeking opportunities to expand into **foreign markets**. By shipping goods produced by Chinese and other international suppliers directly to-market with the help of local partners, rather than incurring heightened costs importing to the U.S., these companies have been able to offset lost domestic sales by

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finding new customers abroad. Growing interest in programs meant to help finance and otherwise support these expansions is reflective of the widespread negative sentiment among businessowners surrounding the Trump administration's tariffs, which over 70% of respondents in one small business survey expect to impact holiday spending.

- **Cambodia-Thailand Conflict Threatens Key Regional Supply Routes:** Tensions between Thailand and Cambodia amid the failure of a ceasefire negotiated earlier this year continue to impact regional movement and trade, creating a widening threat to regional travelers and businesses reliant on either country. Cambodian officials have joined Thailand in **closing border crossings**, resulting in the complete closure of the two countries' 500-mile shared border. Additionally, Thai military leaders have already **blocked** fuel shipments to Cambodia via Laos, and are reportedly considering **similar measures** to prevent strategic imports from reaching Cambodia by sea. Doing so would likely complicate regional maritime activity, driving up insurance rates and discouraging voyages through the area, and ultimately delaying shipments or disrupting supply chains.
- **India Seeing Massive Investment in Data Center Infrastructure:** Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella announced fresh spending meant to "help build the infrastructure, skills and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI-first future," bringing the company's total 2025 investment in the country to over \$20 billion. The sum will be disbursed through 2029. Microsoft is the latest tech major to announce a **significant investment** in the Indian artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem, following similar investments by Amazon and Google. India's large skilled workforce and widespread active internet use support the growing demand for data infrastructure, with tech companies' interest in hubs like Bengaluru or manufacturing opportunities across the country expected to drive even further domestic AI uptake and development.

## Health

- **Global Flu Activity on Rise, With U.K. Bearing the Brunt:** The World Health Organization (WHO) posted an **update** on seasonal flu activity, noting a global increase in cases, particularly of seasonal influenza A(H3N2) J.2.4.1 alias K subclade. The note from the WHO comes as flu and respiratory syncytial virus in both the **U.S.** and **Europe** are on the rise, with the U.K. in particular battling a surge in flu cases. Officials with the **U.K.'s National Health Service** said that they are facing a "worst case scenario," with an average of 2,660 people per day hospitalized with flu last week, the most ever for this time of year. NHS chiefs further warn that cases are still rising, with "no peak in sight." Placing additional stress on the U.K.'s health system, resident doctors are **set to strike** from December 17-22.
- **FDA Plans New Warning Label for COVID-19 Vaccines, Fresh Scrutiny of RSV Treatments:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) **reportedly** plans to put a "black box" warning, the agency's most serious warning label, on COVID-19 vaccines. Typically reserved for medications

that may cause death or life-threatening or disabling reactions, the plans come after Vinay Prasad, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, claimed in an email that the COVID-19 vaccine had been **linked** to multiple deaths. The FDA is increasing scrutiny of other treatments as well, with regulators informing Merck, Sanofi, and AstraZeneca of plans to **revisit** three protective RSV treatments for infants.

- **Spain Reports First Case of Human-to-Human Transmission of Clade 1b Mpox Outside Africa:** The first case of human-to-human transmission of mpox clade 1b outside of Africa was reported in Madrid. A **report** detailing the case noted that the individual did not have any known travel links and had previously received two doses of the Jynneos mpox vaccine. Clade 1b is a both more transmissible and severe strain of the mpox virus that emerged during an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2023. While the WHO had declared mpox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in 2024, that designation was lifted in September 2025.
- **Measles Cases Grow in South Carolina and Along Utah-Arizona Border:** A measles outbreak in South Carolina is accelerating, forcing hundreds of students into quarantine. The **outbreak** in Spartanburg County has sickened at least 126 people and forced more than 300 to quarantine. Alongside the surge in cases in South Carolina, a second major outbreak is **ongoing** along the Utah-Arizona border. Public health officials are **concerned** that the number of cases will continue to grow and spread, aided by the holiday travel season. The **total number of cases** across the U.S. for the year stands at 1,912, distributed across 42 states.
- **Bill Limiting U.S. Funding Going to Chinese Biotech Companies Close to Passage:** The new **National Defense Authorization Act** that has **passed** the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently awaiting a vote in the Senate includes language meant to limit taxpayer funding for certain Chinese biotech firms, potentially **impeding** life sciences and drug development. The Biosecure Act included in this year's NDAA would cut off federal funding to companies that use "biotechnology equipment or services" provided by "biotechnology companies of concern." The act does not identify specific companies that qualify as companies of concern, but rather uses the Department of Defense's **1260H list** alongside a new **White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) List**. It also uses a fairly expansive definition of "biotechnology equipment or services," presenting significant compliance and exposure risks should it become law.

## Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- **Thousands Protest Across Romania and Bulgaria as Serbian Students Plan Major Action Before 2026:** Romania's government will meet with judiciary members next week in response to **allegations of judicial corruption** that have sparked mass demonstrations across the country. Approximately 10,000 marched in Bucharest on Sunday, with demonstrations likely to continue

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through the end of the month. The protests come on the heels of large-scale demonstrations over corruption in Romania's southern neighbor, which led Bulgaria's government to **resign** last week. To the west, students in Serbia are organizing a major day of protest "**all over Serbia**" on December 28.

- **French Farmers Escalate Protests; Roadblocks Continue in Greece:** The French Confédération Paysanne agricultural union called for "**blockades everywhere**" in response to the government's handling of nodular dermatitis in cattle, also known as lumpy skin disease. Farmers in the Pyrénées-Orientales region have **blocked** the N20 Highway since Saturday, with multiple other **roadblocks in place** across southwestern France. Bovine dermatitis is not transmissible to humans, and agricultural demonstrators **argue** that a targeted approach – instead of herd-wide euthanasia – would curb the spread of the disease while sparing farmers' uninfected livestock. Meanwhile, Greece is entering its **third week of farmer protests** and road blockades, with rallies in multiple cities planned for Tuesday. On Thursday, farmers from across the European Union **will march on Brussels**, with major traffic disruptions expected near the bloc's headquarters.
- **Growing Unrest Across Tunisia Amid Protests and Crackdowns:** Tunisian opposition activists and figures from across the political spectrum **staged** a rare joint protest in Tunis against President Kais Saied, calling for an end to one-man rule and the restoration of democratic governance. The demonstration **followed** weeks of growing unrest and signaled increased coordination among opposition groups and civil society. Protesters carried portraits of jailed politicians, journalists, and activists, highlighting widespread arrests and convictions. The unrest has also spread beyond the capital, with demonstrations in Kairouan over the death of Naeem Al-Breiki leading to multiple detentions after **clashes** with security forces. Resistance to Saied is set to escalate further in the new year, as Tunisia's powerful UGTT labor union has called for a **nationwide strike** on January 21 that would likely bring several key public sectors to a standstill.
- **Mexican Farmers Announce Nationwide Strike Following Water Law Reforms:** Mexican farmers **called** for a new national strike on Tuesday after expressing frustration with stalled talks over the recently approved General Water Law **reforms**. Following meetings with federal authorities in Mexico City, agricultural groups said the government has failed to meet key demands, particularly improving security on highways, where they claim dozens of truck drivers are attacked daily. The movement urged farmers and transporters nationwide to join the mobilization. Protesters also criticized low crop prices and increased grain imports favoring large companies. They have called for the government to purchase corn and wheat through social welfare programs.
- **Upcoming Doctors' Strikes in England, France:** Resident doctors in England will **stage a five-day strike** beginning Wednesday, with hospital leaders expected to draft senior doctors amid surging flu cases. Early next year in France, *médecins libéraux*—self-employed medical

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professionals, including general practitioners and specialists with their own practices—will launch an **“unprecedented”** strike in opposition to the 2026 Social Security Financing Bill. Self-employed doctors will begin postponing appointments from January 5 onwards, with a major demonstration being **organized** by doctors’ unions in Paris on January 10. Lawmakers narrowly **approved** the draft bill last week, which includes measures that independent doctors’ unions **warn** “will worsen access to healthcare.”

## Upcoming Events

- December 14-22: Hanukkah (Global)
- December 17-22: Strike by Resident Doctors (England)
- December 18: International Migrants Day (Global)
- December 24: Christmas Eve (Global)
- December 25: Christmas (Global)
- December 26: Boxing Day (Global)
- December 27: Legislative Elections (Ivory Coast)
- December 28: First Phase of General Elections (Myanmar)
- December 28: General Election (Central African Republic)
- December 28: Parliamentary Elections (Kosovo)
- December 31: New Year’s Eve (Global)
- January 1: New Year’s Day (Global)
- January 7: Orthodox Christmas (Global)
- January 11: Second Phase of General Elections (Myanmar)
- January 11: Parliamentary Elections (Benin)
- January 15: General Elections (Uganda)
- January 18: Presidential Election (Portugal)