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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Bisleri Signs MoU with ASI for Heritage Water Conservation

In February 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Bisleri International Private Limited** announced a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Archaeological Survey of India (**ASI**), Ministry of Culture (MoC) under their '**Adopt a Heritage 2.0 (AAH 2.0) Programme**'.

- ✓ The partnership will take place under ASI's 'AAH 2.0 Programme' and Bisleri's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative '**Nayi Umeed**'.

Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Launched Electronic Personnel License for Pilots

In February 2025, Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) launched the Electronic Personnel License (**EPL**) for **Pilots**, a **digital version** of a **personnel license**, replacing traditional physical licenses. This initiative aims to modernise and enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of India's civil aviation sector.

- ✓ With this launch, **India** became the **2nd country** globally after China to **implement EPL**, following approval from the International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**), a United Nations (UN) agency in Montreal, Canada.

MoM Classifies Barytes, Felspar, Mica, and Quartz as Major Minerals

In February 2025, the Ministry of Mines (**MoM**) announced the reclassification of **Barytes, Felspar, Mica**, and **Quartz** as **major minerals** to enhance the exploration and scientific mining of these resources, which are key sources of many critical minerals.

- ✓ After this, the mining of these minerals will be regulated under Section 8A of the Mines and

Minerals (Development and Regulation) (**MMDR**) Act, 1957.

- ✓ This move follows the Union Cabinet's approval of the National Critical Mineral Mission (**NCMM**) on January 29, 2025, with a budget of Rs. 34,300 crore over seven years.

Datia Airport Becomes 8th Public Airport in MP with DGCA License

On February 22, 2025, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**), under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), granted **Datia Airport**, in Datia (Madhya Pradesh, **MP**), a license as a public aerodrome under the 3C/Visual Flight Rules (VFR) category.

- ✓ With this approval, Datia Airport is now the **8th public airport in MP**, open for public use. It will improve regional connectivity and support economic growth in the Datia region.

NITI Aayog Forms Committee to Develop a Plan for Transforming AIIMS

In February 2025, Government think tank National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) based on New Delhi (Delhi) formed a committee to develop a plan aimed at transforming All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**), New Delhi, Delhi, into a premier institution for medical practice and research.

- ✓ The committee chaired by its member, **Dr. V K Paul**, will evaluate existing systems and propose comprehensive reforms with defined timelines.

Darjeeling Zoo Unveils India's First Bio-Bank and Animal Museum

In February 2025, Darjeeling (West Bengal, WB) based Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (**PNHZZP**), popularly known as **Darjeeling Zoo** opened **India's first bio-bank** (Frozen Zoo) and an animal museum.

- ✓ It is opened as part of the national conservation plan, in collaboration with Darjeeling Zoo and the Hyderabad (Telangana) based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (**CCMB**) under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T).

Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan's 1st Phase Achieves 5 Guinness World Records

In February 2025, the **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyaan**, under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), achieved **five Guinness World Records**, underscoring India's commitment to holistic healthcare and the global recognition of Ayurveda.

Union Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar chaired the Regional meeting of Power Sector 2025, AEML Tops on 3 National Rankings

On February 20, 2025, the Regional meeting of Power Sector was convened in New Delhi (Delhi) and was chaired by Union Minister, **Manohar Lal Khattar**, Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) alongside Union Minister of State (MoS) **Shripad Yesso Naik**, MoP, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- ✓ During the meeting, the 13th Integrated Ratings, the 4th edition of CSRD report and DUR reports for Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) were released highlighting top-performing distribution utilities across India.
- ✓ Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited (**AEML**) topped the ratings, by New Delhi (Delhi) based Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) for 3rd consecutive year in recognition for **operational excellence**.

MEA and PIC Jointly Organised 9th AED in Pune, Maharashtra

The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) in partnership with Pune International Centre (**PIC**) organised the **9th** edition of Asia Economic Dialogue (**AED**), an annual flagship 'Track 1.5 Dialogue' on geoeconomics,

which was held from February 20 to 22, 2025 at PIC in Pune, Maharashtra.

- ✓ **Theme of 9th AED:** 'Economic Resilience and Resurgence in an Era of Fragmentation'.

139 Artists Set World Record with 24-Hour Dance Marathon at Khajuraho Dance Festival in MP

In February 2025, **139 Artists** (classical dancers) achieved a 'Guinness World Record' by performing continuously for over **24 hours, 9 minutes, and 26 seconds** in a grand 'Classical Dance Relay Marathon' at the inauguration of **51st Khajuraho Dance Festival** held in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

Overview of PM of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay's visit to India from February 20 to 21, 2025

The Prime Minister (PM) of Bhutan His Excellency (HE) **Dasho Tshering Tobgay** visited India from **February 20 to 21, 2025** to participate in the inaugural 'Leadership Conclave of the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL)' and to deepen the unique and historical partnership.

- ✓ On February 21 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the inaugural 'SOUL Leadership Conclave 2025' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi (Delhi).

PM Narendra Modi Released 19th Installment of PM-KISAN Scheme in Bihar

On February 24 2025, Prime Minister (**PM**) **Narendra Modi** released the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (**PM-KISAN**) scheme in Bhagalpur, Bihar.

- ✓ With the release of the 19th installment, more than 9.8 crore farmers including 2.41 crore female farmers across the country are estimated to benefit from the scheme and will receive the direct financial assistance **exceeding Rs 22,000 crore** through Direct Benefit Transfer (**DBT**).

- ✓ **PM-KISAN application(app):** It was launched on February 24 2020, with the objective of making scheme more efficient, effective, and transparent.

Ministry of AYUSH Felicitated Ayurveda Stalwarts with 'National Dhanwantri Ayurveda Awards'

In February 2025, the **Ministry of AYUSH**(Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) bestowed the prestigious '**National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards**' for 2025 on 3 distinguished practitioners in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of traditional Indian medicine.

- ✓ The awardees for National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards 2025 include Vaidya Tara Chand Sharma, Vaidya Maya Ram Uniyal and Vaidya Sameer Govind Jamadagni.

CAG & IIT Madras Signed Two MoUs to Enhance Data Analytic Skills

On 24 February 2025, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (**CAG**) and Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**) **Madras**, Chennai(Tamil Nadu, TN) signed two Memoranda of Understanding (**MoUs**) to improve innovation, enhance data analytic skills, and support technology-driven governance practices.

- ✓ The first MoU focuses on two critical fields: cyber security and updating manuals and protocols by developing guidelines for auditing digital data to enhance security measures and governance.
- ✓ The second MoU was signed between **IIT Madras** and the International Centre for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (**ICED**), Jaipur, Rajasthan to work together on capacity building and research in Environment Audit and Environmental, Social and Governance (**ESG**).

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav 2025'

The National Tribal Festival 2025 known as **Aadi Mahotsav 2025**, a flagship initiative organized by Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (**TRIFED**) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), was inaugurated by the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, at the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi (Delhi).

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates Regional Dialogue on Social Justice in New Delhi

On 24 February 2025, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Labour and Employment(MoL&E); Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports(MYAS) inaugurated the two-day **Regional Dialogue on Social Justice** and the 74th Foundation Day of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in New Delhi, Delhi.

Security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' was conducted by ICG in WB

In February 2025, a two-day coastal security exercise, '**Sagar Kavach**', conducted in **West Bengal** (WB). The exercise was coordinated by Kolkata (WB) based Coast Guard Region (North East, NE). The State Coastal Security Operation Centre (SCSOC) at Headquarters Coast Guard District No. 8, Haldia was the nerve centre for the exercise.

- ✓ The drill validated coastal security Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across the **158 kilometre(km)** coastline.

Indian Navy Hands Over INS Guldar to MTDC for Underwater Museum and Artificial Reef

In February 2025, the Indian Navy (**IN**) handed over an Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Guldar**, Landing Ship Tank, to the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (**MTDC**) at Karwar, Maharashtra on an 'as is where is' basis for conversion into India's first underwater museum and artificial reef.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Inaugurates Prakriti 2025 Conference

On 24 February 2025, Union Minister **Manohar Lal**, Ministry of Power (MoP) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) inaugurated the **Prakriti 2025**, an international conference on carbon markets, held in New Delhi, Delhi.

PM Narendra Modi Embarks on a 3-day Visit to MP, Bihar & Assam

The Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** embarked on a **3-day visit** to Madhya Pradesh (MP), Bihar, and Assam from February 23 to 25, 2025.

- ✓ **Bageshwar Dham Medical and Science Research Institute:** On February 23 2025, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the 'Bageshwar Dham Medical and Science Research Institute' in Garha village, Chhatarpur district, MP.
- ✓ **Global Investors Summit 2025:** On February 24 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2-day 'Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025' in Bhopal, MP.
- ✓ **Jhumoir Binandini (Mega Jhumoir):** On February 24, 2025, PM Narendra Modi attended the 'Jhumoir Binandini (Mega Jhumoir) 2025', a cultural event celebrating Assam's tea industry and its **200 years** of industrialization in Guwahati, Assam.

SWAYATT Initiative on GeM Celebrated 6 Years of Transformative Impact

In February 2025, Government e-Marketplace (**GeM**), Department of Commerce(DoC), Ministry of Commerce and Industry(MoC&I) celebrated **6 years** of Startups, Women & Youth Advantage through e-Transactions (**SWAYATT**) initiative at its headquarters in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ During the event, **GeM** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New Delhi (Delhi)-based FICCI-Ladies Organisation (**FLO**), a division of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry(FICCI).

- ✓ GeM addressed the challenges of 'access to market', 'access to finance' and 'access to value-addition' through proper e-market linkages in public procurement, which enabled startups to complete orders worth **Rs 35,950 crore**.

CUNPK Hosts First-Ever 'Conference For Women Peacekeepers From Global South' In New Delhi

The Indian Army (IA), through the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (**CUNPK**), India hosted the **first-ever** 'Conference on Women Peacekeepers from the Global South' at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi (Delhi) from **February 24 to 25, 2025**. The conference was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

- ✓ The theme of the Conference is "**Women in Peacekeeping: A Global South Perspective**".

MoSPI & MyGov Announces 'Innovate with GoStats' Hackathon

On February 25, 2025 The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), in partnership with **MyGov**, is set to launch an exciting data-visualization hackathon, "**Innovate with GoStats**," from 25 February to 31 March 2025.

- ✓ The theme of the hackathon is "**Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat**".
- ✓ The hackathon aims to inspire students and researchers in India to use the extensive official data produced by the National Statistics Office (**NSO**) to create innovative data-driven insights.



India and UK Resumed Negotiations for FTA, Aims to Triple Bilateral Trade in 10 Years

In February 2025, Union

Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I) and **Jonathan Reynolds**, Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade, the United Kingdom (**UK**) have announced the resumption of negotiations for the proposed Free Trade Agreement (**FTA**) between the two countries in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ This FTA is estimated to double or even triple bilateral trade from the current USD 20 billion in the **next 10 years**.

IIT Madras Unveils India's First Hyperloop Test Track

In February 25, 2025, India achieved a major milestone in transportation with the unveiling of the **first hyperloop test track** at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN). The 422-meter (m)-long facility was developed with the support of the Ministry of Railways (MoR).

Australia Invests USD 16 Million to Strengthen Economic Ties with India

On February 26, 2025, The government of **Australia** unveiled a new roadmap to expand its economic partnership with the Government of India (**Gol**) by launching the 'Australia-India Trade and Investment Accelerator Fund (**TIAF**)' with an investment of **USD 16 million**. This initiative aims to

boost trade, enhance bilateral investments, and strengthen collaboration between businesses in both nations.

DPIIT & Paytm Signs MoU to Promote India's Manufacturing & Fintech Startups

On February 26, 2025, The New Delhi (Delhi) based Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Government of India (Gol), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with **Paytm** (Pay Through Mobile) owned by the Uttar Pradesh based One97 Communications Limited to promote innovation and accelerate the growth of fintech and manufacturing startups in India.

Indian Army signs MoU with L&T for ACADA systems

In February 2025, New Delhi based Indian Army (**IA**) signed a contract with Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**) Limited for procurement of 223 Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (**ACADA**) systems for **Rs 80.43 Crore**, under the Buy Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (Indian-IDDM) category, with over 80% of components and subsystems sourced locally, supporting the Atmanirbharta initiative.

- ✓ ACADA was designed and developed by the Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh (MP) based Defence Research and Development Establishment (**DRDE**) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

THE World Reputation Rankings 2025: Harvard University Retained Top Spot; 4 Indian Varsities in the List

According to Times Higher Education (**THE**)' latest '[World Reputation Rankings 2025](#)', **Harvard University** based in the United States of America (**USA**) retained top position as the world's most reputed institution for the **14th** consecutive year, with an overall score of **99.9**.

India Specific:

- Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) saw drop in its ranking from 101-123 (in 2023) to 201-300, with overall score within the range of 26.9-34.2.
- Similarly, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D) based in Delhi, slipped to 201-300 (in 2025) from 151-175 (in 2023).
- While Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), ranked in the range of 201-300, down from 176-200 (in 2023).

World's Top 5 Reputed Universities:

Rank	Name of the University	Name of the Country or Region	Overall Score
1	Harvard University	The United States of America (USA)	99.9
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	The USA	99.7
	University of Oxford	The United Kingdom, (UK)	
4	Stanford University	The USA	99.6
	University of Cambridge	The UK	
6	University of California, Berkeley	The USA	98.7
7	Princeton University	The USA	95.1

UNESCAP released its Asia and Pacific SDG Progress Report 2025

In February 2025, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**UNESCAP**) published the report titled **“Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report: Engaging Communities to Close the Evidence Gap 2025”**, which provides a comprehensive assessment of progress on the 17 Sustainable

Development Goals (**SDGs**) and their **169 targets** in the Asia-Pacific region.

- ✓ The Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report 2025 stresses that urgent action is still needed in order to achieve the 17 SDGs by **2030**
- Agenda.**

India Assumes Chairmanship of BOBP-IGO at the 13th Governing Council Meeting in Maldives

On 21 February 2025, **India** assumed the Chairmanship of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (**BOBP-IGO**) from Bangladesh at the 13th Governing Council Meeting held in Malé, Maldives.

- ✓ India receives continued support and collaboration from the Food and Agriculture Organization (**FAO**), Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (**SEAFDEC**), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (**UNODC**), and other relevant organizations.

India Expands Collaboration with UK in Key Areas of Telecom, AI, & Emerging Technologies

In February 2025, **Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary of Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC), visited the United Kingdom (**UK**) to engage with the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (**DSIT**), UK, and explore opportunities for collaboration in next-generation telecommunications, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and space technology, further strengthening **Indo-UK** ties in these critical areas.

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh Co-Chairs 13th MIDCOM Meeting in Kuala Lumpur

The **13th meeting** of the Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (**MIDCOM**) was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** on 19 February 2025. The meeting was co-chaired by **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, Secretary of the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**), India, and **Lokman Hakim Bin Ali**, Secretary General (**SG**) of the **MoD, Malaysia**, acknowledging the strengthening

bilateral defence cooperation between their Armed Forces.

UNESCO Launches “Imagine a World with More Women in Science” Campaign

In February 2025, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched the campaign “Imagine a world with more women in science” to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** (11 February 2025) with the support of Canada’s International Development Centre (IDRC).

Highlights of FATF Plenary meeting held from 19-21 February 2025

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog against financial crimes, conducted its second Plenary **Mexico’s Elisa de Anda Madrazo’s two-year Presidency** from 19 to 21 February 2025 at Paris, France.

- ✓ Delegates representing over 200 members of the **FATF Global Network** and observer organisations, including the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, **United Nations (UN)**, **World Bank**, **International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)**, and the **Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units**, participated in the Meeting,
- ✓ **Laos or Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR)** and **Nepal** were added due to strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering/countering terrorism financing (AML/CFT) frameworks.
- ✓ **Philippines** exited the list after successfully addressing its action plan. Key achievements included stricter supervision of casinos, improved access to beneficial ownership data, and enhanced TF investigations.

IDEX and NAVDEX 2025 in Abu Dhabi: 17–21 February 2025

The **17th edition** of the International Defence Exhibition (**IDEX**) and the **8th edition** of the Naval Defence and Maritime Security Exhibition (**NAVDEX**) were held from **17 to 21**

February 2025 held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. (**ADNEC**) Centre in **Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) under the patronage of His Highness **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, President of the UAE.

- ✓ It was organized by **ADNEC Group** in **collaboration** with the Ministry of Defence, UAE and Tawazun Council, UAE.
- ✓ Hyderabad based Tata Advanced Systems Limited (**TASL**) introduced its indigenously developed Light Armoured Multi-role Vehicle (**LAMV**), compliant with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**) standards, at IDEX 2025.
- ✓ Pune (Maharashtra) -based Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (**KSSL**), a defence subsidiary of Bharat Forge Limited, introduced the **MAR G 45**, a mobile gun system on a 4×4 all-terrain platform, at IDEX 2025.

India, Bangladesh Agreed to Launch new ‘Hotline’ between Border Forces

In February 2025, **India** and **Bangladesh** have agreed to launch a new ‘**hotline**’ or links of communication for effective communication between border forces. This link will be established between the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Border Security Force (**BSF**) eastern command based in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB) and his Border Guard Bangladesh (**BGB**) counterpart based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

6th Edition of India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Begins in Japan

On 24th February 2025, the **6th** edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise, '**Dharma Guardian**,' began at the East Fuji Manoeuvre Training Area in **Japan**. The exercise aims to boost interoperability between India and Japan while focusing on joint urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations (UN) mandate.

Denmark Launches GTAI to Strengthen Sustainable Energy Collaboration

On February 25, 2025, **Denmark** launched the Green Transition Alliance India (**GTAI**), a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing collaboration between Denmark and India in sustainable energy solutions. This partnership underscores both nations' commitment to achieving global carbon neutrality.

India's C-CAMP & France's PariSanté Campus Partners to Establish Indo French Life Sciences Sister Innovation Hub

In February 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (**C-CAMP**), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), Government of India (GoI), and **PariSanté Campus**, a leading digital health innovation cluster in France signed an agreement to launch a bilateral innovation collaboration in the healthcare domain called the **Indo French Life Sciences Sister Innovation Hub**.

- ✓ The Letter of Intent (**LoI**) was signed by Dr. Taslimarif Saiyed, Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of C-CAMP, and Professor Antoine Tesnière, Director of PariSanté Campus.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport among Top 10 Busiest Global Airports in 2025; Dubai International Airport Tops: OAG

In February 2025, Luton (the United Kingdom, UK)-based air consultancy firm Official Airline Guide (**OAG**) released its latest report about '**World's**

Busiest Airport in 2025'. As per the report, Delhi Airport (DEL), named Indira Gandhi International Airport (**IGIA**) in New Delhi (Delhi) ranked at **8th** spot, among the top 10 busiest airports globally as of February 2025.

Top 5 Busiest Airports by Seats in 2025:

Rank	Airport Code	Airport Name	Country	Seats
1	DXB	Dubai International Airport	The United Arab Emirates (UAE)	4,782,140
2	ATL	Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport	the United States of America (USA)	4,568,544
3	HND	Tokyo International (Haneda) Airport	Japan	4,222,709
4	PVG	Shanghai Pudong International Airport	China	3,993,388
5	LHR	London Heathrow	the United Kingdom (UK)	3,857,036

		w Airport	d King dom (UK)	
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8	DEL	Indira Gandhi Intern ational Airport (IGIA)	India	3,613 ,762
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BANKING & FINANCE

NSDL and CDSL Launch UIP to Provide Consolidated Data to Investors

In February 2025, Mumbai(Maharashtra)-based National Securities Depository Limited (**NSDL**) and Mumbai based Central Depository Services Limited (**CDSL**) in collaboration with capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**), launched a mobile application (app) **Unified Investor Platform** (UIP), integrating CDSL's **MyEasi** by NSDL's **SPEED-e**.

Paytm Launched India's First Solar-Powered Payment Soundbox for Merchants

In February 2025, Noida (Uttar Pradesh) based **Paytm Money Limited**, a wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications, has launched India's first solar-powered payment device '**Paytm Solar Soundbox**' designed for **merchants** to accept Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and RuPay Credit Card payments using a Quick-Response (QR) code. It offers a cost-effective, reliable, and eco-friendly solution with minimal sunlight needed for charging in rural and remote areas.

IndusInd Bank Partners with PGTI as its Official Banking Partner

In February 2025, **IndusInd Bank Limited** announced its partnership with the Professional Golf Tour of India (**PGTI**) as its official Banking Partner. This partnership demonstrates the bank's dedication to offering its Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (**UHNIs**) and High Net Worth Individuals (**HNIs**) an exceptional experience under the guidance of PIONEER banking.

RBI Imposes Penalty on Citibank, AMFL, JMFHL for Non-Compliance

In February 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) imposed monetary penalties on Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Citibank**, Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) based Asirvad Micro Finance Limited (**AMFL**), and Mumbai (Maharashtra) based JM Financial Home Loans Limited (**JMFHL**) for violating regulatory norms.

- ✓ Citibank was fined **Rs 39 lakh** by the RBI for failing to upload corrected data in specific sectors within seven days of receiving rejection reports from Credit Information Companies (CICs) and for reporting violations of "**Large Exposures**" restrictions with delay.
- ✓ RBI imposed a penalty of **Rs 6.20 lakh** on AMFL for failing to report the household income of certain borrowers to CICs.
- ✓ JMFHL was fined **Rs 1.50 lakh** by the RBI for violating several of the "Non-Banking Financial Company – Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021" regulations.

South Indian Bank Launches 'SIB QUICKPL', a Fully Digital Personal Loan Platform

On 24 February 2025, Thrissur (Kerala) based Private sector lender South Indian Bank Limited (**SIB**) launched "**SIB QUICKPL**", a fully Digital Personal Loan platform designed exclusively for new customers. SIB QUICKPL has been integrated with the Account Aggregator(AA) framework and the Income Tax portal to provide instant verification.

RBI Launched Financial Literacy Week 2025 to Focus on Women's Prosperity

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based India's central bank, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the Financial Literacy Week (FLW 2025) which commenced on February 24, 2025 and will be observed till February 28, 2025 across India. FLW 2025 was inaugurated by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- ✓ **Theme of FLW 2025:** 'Financial Literacy – Women's prosperity'. This year's theme of FLW is in alignment with the overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025.

RBI revises some lending norms for UCBs

On February 24 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) revised the norms for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), allowing them to classify loans of up to **Rs 25 lakh**, or **0.4%** of Tier I capital, whichever is higher, as small-value loans, subject to a ceiling of **Rs 3 crore** per borrower.

Revised Prudential Limits (Per Dwelling Unit):

UCB Tier	Old Limit	New Limit
Tier-I (Deposits ≤ Rs100 cr)	Rs.60 lakh	Rs.60 lakh
Tier-II (Deposits Rs 100–1,000 cr)	Rs.1.40 cr	Rs.1.40 cr
Tier-III (Deposits Rs1,000–10,000 cr)	Rs.1.40 cr	Rs.2 cr
Tier-IV (Deposits >Rs10,000 cr)	Rs.1.40 cr	Rs.3 cr

HDFC Bank Launches India's First Salary Account 'Anmol Savings Account' for PSU Employees

In February 2025, Mumbai(Maharashtra) based **HDFC Bank Limited**, India's leading private sector bank, launched India's first Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)

Salary Account with a cyber fraud protection '**Anmol Savings Account**'.

- ✓ HDFC Bank provides cyber fraud cover up to **Rs. 1.5 lakhs** to senior citizens while the cyber fraud cover ranges from **Rs. 25,000-Rs 50,000** for professionals. Similarly, the 'Speciale Gold Women' account gives a cancer cover of up to **Rs. 5 lakhs** for women.

GIFTCL Partners with ZPOS� to Launch Prepaid Citizen Card and VMS

In February 2025, GIFT City (Gujarat) based Gujarat International Finance Tec-City Company Limited (GIFTCL), the global financial services hub, partnered with Hyderabad (Telangana) based Zaggie Prepaid Ocean Services Limited (ZPOS�), leading Business-to-Business Software-as-a-Service (B2B SaaS) FinTech company to launch a co-branded **Prepaid Citizen Card** and Visitor Management System (VMS).

- ✓ GIFTCL and ZPOS� have a five-year agreement, with possible extensions dependent on future requirements.

PNB signed MoU with ITBP for Financial benefits and Insurance Coverage

In February 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at the ITBP Headquarters in New Delhi (Delhi) to provide special financial benefits and insurance coverage for ITBP personnel, pensioners and their families.

RBI Reduces Risk Weights for Banks Lending to NBFCs and MFIs

In February 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 21 and 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 reduced the risk weights on the exposure of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) loans to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs).

- ✓ RBI has lowered the risk weights of bank loans to NBFCs by 25 basis points (bps), from **125% to 100%**, depending on the ratings. This

move is expected to enhance credit flow to NBFCs and will improve credit availability in the retail segment.

- ✓ The restored risk weight on loans to NBFCs will come into effect on April 1, 2025.

Axis Bank Hosts 9th Edition of 'Evolve' to Empower MSMEs

On February 25 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Axis Bank Limited**, one of the largest private sector banks in India, hosted the **9th edition of Evolve**, its flagship knowledge-sharing seminar for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Digit Insurance & KMD Launches India's First AQI-based Parametric Insurance

In February 2025, Go Digit General Insurance Limited (**Digit Insurance**) in partnership with K.M. Dastur Reinsurance Brokers (**KMD**), launched one of India's first Air Quality Index (**AQI**)-based parametric insurance policies for migrant labourers affected by construction bans during periods of high air pollution in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) region.

ADB Approves USD 200 Million Loan to Expand Urban Services in Kolkata

On 26 February 2025, the Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) approved a **USD 200 million** loan to improve the development of climate and disaster-resilient sewerage and drainage infrastructure in **Kolkata, West Bengal** with the aim of enhancing Kolkata's livability.

- ✓ The loan agreement was part of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Sustainability, Hygiene, and Resilience (Sector) Project (**KSHARP**).

SIDBI signs MoU with TCL to Strengthen Financing Avenues for MSMEs

In February 2025, Lucknow(Uttar Pradesh,UP) based Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) and Mumbai(Maharashtra) based Tata Capital Limited (**TCL**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for Partnership for financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSMEs**).

MFIN: Micro-credit Disbursements Decline 35.8% to Rs 22,091 crore in Q3FY25

In February 2025, Gurugram(Haryana) based Microfinance Institution Network (**MFIN**) India, an umbrella body of the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), released [52nd edition of Micrometer as on 31 December 2025 report](#). The report revealed that disbursement of microfinance loans has decreased **35.8% to Rs 22,091 crore** during the 3rd Quarter (Q3: October-December) of Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) compared with the year-ago period.

- ✓ The Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) of the sector as of December 31, 2024, stood at Rs 3,85,348 crore. The report showed that the total loan portfolio in the micro-finance sector has decreased by **3.5% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 3.85 trillion** during Q3FY25.
- ✓ As on December 31 2024, the Assets Under Management (**AUM**) of the MFIs stood at **Rs 1,42,695 crore**, reflecting a decrease of 0.1% against Q3FY24 and 6.5% on a sequential basis.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Moody's Projects India's GDP Growth to Slow to 6.4% in 2025

In February 2025, New York (the United States of America, USA)-based **Moody's** (formerly known as Moody's Analytics), a subsidiary of Moody's Corporation released its report titled '**Asia-Pacific(APAC) Outlook: Chaos Ahead**'. According to

the report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to slow to **6.4% in 2025**, from 6.6% in 2024.

- ✓ The report projected that global growth will ease from an estimated 3.9% (in 2024) to **3.7% and 3.5% in 2025 and 2026**, respectively.

IN-SPACe Launches Technology Adoption Fund to Support Spacetechn Startups

In February 2025, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACe**) under Department of Space (DoS) launched the Technology Adoption Fund (**TAF**) worth **Rs 500 crore** to financially support Indian space technology startups and enable them to develop commercially viable products while reducing dependence on imported solutions.

HMA & DIAT Collaborate to Enhance Aerospace Research and Innovation

In February 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL's) nodal training institute, HAL Management Academy (**HMA**) in signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pune (Maharashtra) based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (**DIAT**) under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

AMFI launches 3 new investor initiatives: Chhoti SIP, Tarun Yojana, MITRA

In February 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based the Association of Mutual Funds in India (**AMFI**) has introduced **three** new initiatives with an aim to promote financial inclusion, investor awareness, and investment recovery.

- ✓ The initiatives launched by the AMFI include **Chhoti Systematic Investment Plan (SIP)** or Sachetisation of Mutual Funds (MFs), **Tarun Yojana**, and Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant (**MITRA**).

S&P Global Market Intelligence Projects India's GDP to Grow at 6.4% in FY25 and FY26

In February 2025, New York (the United States of America, USA)-based **S&P Global Market Intelligence** projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow at **6.4%** for Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**) as well as for **FY26**. It has cited that monetary and fiscal stimulus will help the Indian economy to tackle rising challenges in the global market.

MP Govt & SECI signs MoU for 200 MW Solar Project at Dhar

In February 2025, the Government of Madhya Pradesh (**MP**) signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with New Delhi (Delhi) based Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (**SECI**), a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), to set up a **200 Mega Watt (MW) solar project in Dhar (MP)** and a 1000 Mega Watt hour (MWh) battery storage project.

HAL & BEML sign MoU with for Collaboration in Training Programmes

On February 25, 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) and Bengaluru based BEML Limited (formerly Bharat Earth Movers Limited) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to collaborate on leadership and technical training programs aimed at skill development and professional excellence.

EDF India Partners with CIL & NTPC for PSP and RE Opportunities

In February 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based **EDF India Private Limited**, a fully-owned subsidiary of France based Électricité de France SA (EDF) signed the Non-Binding Shareholder Agreement (SHA) term sheet with Kolkata (West Bengal, WB) based Coal India Limited (**CIL**), an Indian 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU).

MUFG Bank Limited Completes First Fully-Digital Trade Finance Transaction with TIL at GIFT City

In February 2025, Tokyo (Japan) based **MUFG Bank Limited**, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (MUFG) completed its first **fully digitalised trade finance transaction** from its GIFT City Branch for a subsidiary of Tata International Limited (**TIL**), the global trading arm of the Tata Group.

- ✓ MUFG collaborated with the Singapore-based treasury center of TIL to process a **USD 15**

million Letter of Credit (LC) by utilizing the Contour Network Hub from Xalts.

India Set to Become High-Income Nation with USD 23-USD 35 Trillion GDP by 2047: NASSCOM, Bain & Company

In February 2025, Boston, Massachusetts (United States of America, USA)-based management consultant company, **Bain & Company, Inc.** in collaboration with National Association of Software and Services Companies (**NASSCOM**) released a report titled '[India@2047: Transforming India into a Tech-Driven Economy](#)'. As per the report, India is set to become a High-Income Nation (HIN) with a projected Gross Domestic Product (GDP) between **USD 23-USD 35 trillion** by 2047.

INOX India Becomes 1st to Earn IATF 16949 Certification for Cryogenic Fuel Tanks

In February 2025, Vadodara (Gujarat) based INOX India Limited (Inox India and Cryogenic Vessel Alternatives, **INOXCVA**) became the **first** Indian manufacturer of cryogenic equipment to receive the 'International Automotive Task Force (**IATF**) **16949 Certification**' for cryogenic fuel tank production.

- ✓ This certification, granted by Bureau Veritas Certification (BVC), covers both the design and manufacturing processes of vacuum-insulated cryogenic fuel tanks at INOX India's **Kalol facility** in Gujarat.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Goa's Mopa Airport becomes 1st in India to win 'Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskaar'

In January 2025, Goa's **Manohar International Airport** (GOX), also known as **Mopa Airport**, became the **first airport in India** to receive the "Sarvashrestha Suraksha Puraskar (Golden Trophy)" at the National Safety Council of India (NSCI) Safety Awards 2024 in the '**Service Sector**' category held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- ✓ The airport was developed by GMR Goa International Airport Limited (**GGIAL**), a subsidiary of Grandhi Mallikarjuna Rao (GMR) Airports Limited, under the Build-Operate-Transfer (**BOT**) model.

India receives 'Prince Michael Decade of Action Road Safety Award' for Advancements in Vehicle Safety & Infrastructure

In February 2025, the Government of India (**GoI**) was honored with the '**Prince Michael Decade of Action Road Safety Award**', the highest award in the field, at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Road Safety held in Marrakech, Morocco. India shared this honor with

the **Kingdom of Morocco**, as both countries were recognized for their efforts in improving road safety.

Bharti Enterprises Chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal presented with 'Honorary Knighthood Medal'

On February 22 2025, **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of New Delhi (Delhi) based Bharti Enterprises, was honored with the 'Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) for his contributions to strengthening business relations between the United Kingdom (UK) and India.

- ✓ The KBE medal was presented by BHC to India, **Lindy Cameron** at the investiture ceremony held at the British High Commissioner's (BHC) residence in New Delhi.

AMTZ Wins Award in BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest 2024 for Solar Powered Tricycle

In February 2025, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, AP) based Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone's (**AMTZ**) Solar Powered Tricycle won the **Outstanding Project Award** at the BRICS Industrial Innovation Contest

2024. This mobility solution was developed by the Assistive Technology Centre (ATC) at AMTZ.

- ✓ The Solar Powered Tricycle was officially launched by Union Minister **Nitin Jairam**

Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (**MoRTH**), in August 2024.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Gol Extends B.V.R. Subrahmanyam's Tenure as CEO of NITI Aayog Until February 2026



In February 2025, the Government of India (Gol) extended the tenure of **B.V.R. Subrahmanyam** as Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) for one more year,

until **February 24, 2026**.

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), approved Subrahmanyam's tenure as CEO of NITI Aayog until February 24, 2026.
- ✓ In February 2023, Subrahmanyam took charge as the **4th CEO** of NITI Aayog for a two-year term, succeeding Parameswaran Iyer, who served as the 3rd CEO of NITI Aayog.

- ✓ This extension will come into effect **from March 1, 2025**, or until the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, whichever is earlier.

Unilever CEO Hein Schumacher Steps Down, CFO Fernando Fernandez to Succeed

In February 2025, London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based Consumer goods giant **Unilever PLC** announced that **Hein Schumacher** who joined the company in July 2023, will step down as Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) and Board Director on March 1, 2025 and will leave the company officially on May 31, 2025.

- ✓ He will be replaced by **Fernando Fernandez**, who is currently serving as Unilever's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Executive Director of the company.

ACC Approved Extension of Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi's Tenure as DCGI by 1 Year

In February 2025, the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved an extension of tenure for **Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** as Drug Controller General of India (**DCGI**) head of India's apex health regulatory body i.e. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (**CDSCO**) on a contract basis for **1 year**.

Chairman of Tata Sons, N Chandrasekaran was Appointed as Chairman of RTEF

On 25 February 2025, **N Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of Tata Sons, was appointed as the **Chairman** of the Ratan Tata Endowment Foundation (**RTEF**), a Section 8 entity established by the late Ratan Tata.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

CCI Approves PRHCL's Acquisition of Fujitsu General for USD 1.6 Billion

In February 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) approved Nagoya (Japan) based Paloma

Rheem Holdings Company Limited's (**PRHCL**) proposal to acquire Japanese air-conditioner maker **Fujitsu General** for **USD 1.6 billion**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China Launched ChinaSat-10R Communication Satellite into Orbit

In February 2025, China has successfully launched a new communication satellite '**ChinaSat-10R**' or **Zhongxing-10R**, through **Long March-3B** carrier rocket into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (**GTO**) to replace ChinaSat-10, launched in 2011. This also marks the 8th orbital launch attempt of the year by China.

- ✓ The launch of this satellite marks the **560th** flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.
- ✓ The satellite was developed by Beijing (China)-based China Academy of Space Technology (**CAST**).

First Detailed Geological Map of Moon's South Pole from Chandrayaan Data

In February 2025, Astronomers generated the first-ever detailed **geological map** of the **Moon's south pole**, where India's Chandrayaan-3 lander, **Vikram**, landed on 23 August 2023.

- ✓ The map was developed by researchers from the Physical Research Laboratory (**PRL**) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, **Panjab University** in Chandigarh, and the Laboratory for Electro-Optics Systems (**LEOS**), Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**), Bengaluru, Karnataka.

DRDO & IN Successfully Conducted Flight Trials of First-of-its-Kind 'NASM-SR' in Odisha

In February 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), in collaboration with the Indian Navy (**IN**), successfully conducted flight trials of first-of-its-kind, indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (**NASM-SR**).

- ✓ The tests were carried out at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) located at Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, with the missile launched from the IN's Sea King 42B Helicopter.
- ✓ This missile will replace the **Sea Eagle missiles** which are currently in use with the IN.
- ✓ The NASM-SR is a product of collaborative efforts by several laboratories of the DRDO, including: Research Centre Imarat (**RCI**) in Hyderabad (Telangana); Defence Research and Development Laboratory (**DRDL**) in Hyderabad; High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (**HEMRL**) in Pune (Maharashtra) and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (**TBRL**) in Chandigarh (Punjab).

SpaceX Successfully Launched 3rd Moon Landing Mission with Athena Lander

In February 2025, Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (**SpaceX**) successfully launched 3rd moon landing mission of 2025 named 'Intuitive Machines (IM-2)' mission carrying **Athena lander**, a Nova-C class robotic lunar lander of Houston, Texas (the United States of America, USA)-based **Intuitive Machines Inc.**, onboard the **Falcon 9** rocket from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA.

- ✓ The main experiment of the mission is Polar Resources Ice Mining Experiment-1 (**PRIME-1**) drill. It comprises spectrometer and drill that will be used to search for those volatiles suspected to be in lunar regolith.
- ✓ On February 27 2025, NASA has successfully launched dish-water sized satellite named '**Lunar Trailblazer**' into space aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, the USA.



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SPORTS

Pankaj Advani wins 2025 Asian Snooker Championship Title

In February 2025, India's **Pankaj Advani** won the **2025 Asian Snooker Championship's** men's title, defeating Amir Sarkosh of Iran in the final. He won the championship for the fourteenth time in the Asian Snooker and Billiards tournaments.

- ✓ The Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports (ACBS) organized the Men's, Women's, and Men's under-21 Asian Snooker Championship, which was held in Doha, Qatar, from February 15 to 21, 2025, and was hosted by the Qatar Billiards Sports Federation (QBSF).

2025 Archery Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament, Stage I: India Tops Medal Tally With 5 Gold Medals

India concluded the '2025 Archery Asia Cup-World Ranking Tournament, Stage I' organized by World Archery Asia (WAA), held from February 16 to 23, 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. Indian Archers topped the medal tally with an outstanding performance of securing **8 medals** in the competition including **5 Gold, 2 Silver** and **1 Bronze**.

- ✓ South Korea finished second in the medal tally with 5 medals, including 2 gold.
- ✓ India set a new **Under-21** World Record by scoring **2129** in Men's Compound Team.

IOA Appoints Ad-Hoc Committee to Oversee Indian Boxing After BFI

On February 24, 2025, New Delhi(Delhi) based the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) replaced New Delhi(Delhi) based the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) with an ad-hoc committee following ongoing administrative instability within the federation.

- ✓ The ad-hoc committee, led by **Madhukant Pathak**, General Secretary of the Jharkhand Olympic Association as Chairman; Rajesh Bhandari, BFI Vice-President (VP) as Vice-Chairman (VC), along with boxing officials Dr. D.P. Bhatt, Virendra Singh Thakur, and boxer Shiva Thapa.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant Wins 2024–25 ISL Shield Title

In February 2025, **Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG)** football club(also known as Mariners) clinched the 2024–25 Indian Super League (ISL) **League Winners' Shield**, finishing the regular season as the top team. The Kolkata-based club secured the Shield with a dramatic 1–0 victory over **Odisha FC** at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium), in Kolkata, West Bengal(WB).

- ✓ This triumph marked MBSG's **second consecutive ISL Shield** and made them the **first team** in ISL history to successfully defend the League Winners' Shield.

OBITUARY

Padma Shri Awardee & 'Father of Odissi Dance' Mayadhar Raut Passes Away

In February 2025, Padma Shri Awardee and renowned Odissi dancer **Mayadhar Raut** passed away at the age of 92 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 6 July 1933 in Cuttack district, Odisha.

- ✓ He was awarded the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian award, in the field of Arts in 2010 and he is considered the "**Father of Odissi dance**".

Renowned Gujarati Poet and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Anil Ramanath Joshi Passes Away

On February 26, 2025, Renowned Gujarati Poet, essayist, and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Anil Ramanath Joshi passed away in Mumbai (Maharashtra). He was born on 28th July 1940 in Gondal (Gujarat).

- ✓ In **1990**, he was honored with the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for Gujarati literature for his insightful essay collection, '**Statue**'.

Oscar-Winning Actor Gene Hackman Passed Away

On 26 February 2025, Oscar-winning Hollywood actor **Gene Hackman** passed away at the age of 95 in New Mexico, the United States of America (USA). He was born on 30 January 1930 in San Bernardino, California, the USA.

- ✓ He won his first **Oscar award** in **1971** for Best Actor in the movie 'The French Connection' by William Friedkin and won another Oscar award for Best Supporting Actor in the movie 'Unforgiven', directed by Clint Eastwood, in 1992.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Namita Gokhale released her 25th Book 'Life on Mars: Collected Stories'

In February 2025, Eminent Author and Sahitya Akademi Awardee, **Namita Gokhale** released

her 25th book titled '**Life on Mars: Collected Stories**', published by Speaking Tiger Books. The book is a collection of **15 stories** which explores themes of love, lust, fate, and death.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Thinking Day 2025 – February 22

World Thinking Day (WTD) is celebrated annually on **22nd February** by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in 153 countries worldwide. The day is dedicated to fostering international friendship and sisterhood, while also empowering girls and women around the globe.

- ✓ As we move towards the centenary of WTD in 2026 and the centenary of WAGGGS in 2028, the next four years of WTD will focus on celebrating the following themes.
 - **2025** – Our Story
 - **2026** – Our Friendship
 - **2027** – Our People
 - **2028** – Our Future

Central Excise Day 2025 – February 24

The **Central Excise Day** is observed annually on **24th February** across India to honor the contributions of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the authority responsible for managing indirect taxes in India. The day marks the anniversary of the enactment of the **Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944**, on 24th February, 1944.

International Asperger's Day 2025 – February 18

International Asperger's Day is observed globally on **18th February** to raise awareness about the importance of Asperger syndrome for individuals and the community. Which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007.

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National Protein Day 2025 – February 27

National Protein Day is observed annually on **27 February** across India to raise awareness about the vital role, protein plays in maintaining a healthy diet.

The day highlights the importance of protein for overall growth and development, while also promoting the wide variety of protein-rich options available to meet dietary needs. February 27 2025, marks the **6th observance** of National Protein Day.

World NGO Day 2025 – February 27

World Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Day is observed annually on **27 February** across the globe to recognize, celebrate, and honor the contributions of

NGOs and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) that contribute to society all year round. This day also acknowledges the selfless efforts of volunteers who support these organizations.

- ✓ 27 February 2025 marks the observance of the **12th Edition** of World NGO Day.
- ✓ The theme for World NGO Day 2025: **“Empowering Grassroots Movements for a Sustainable Future”** highlights the need to empower local communities for a sustainable, inclusive future.

STATE NEWS

UP FM Suresh Khanna Presented Rs 8.08 Trillion State Budget for FY26

On February 20 2025, the Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh (UP) **Suresh Kumar Khanna** presented **Rs 8,08,736 crore** (Rs 8.08 trillion) [budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 \(FY26\)](#) in the state legislative assembly in Lucknow, UP. The budget outlay for FY26 witnessed an increase of **9.8%** compared to previous financial year (Rs 7.36 lakh crore).

Uttarakhand FM Premchand Aggrawal Presents Rs 1,01,175 crore budget for FY26

In February 2025, Uttarakhand Finance Minister(FM) **Premchand Aggrawal** presented a comprehensive **Rs.1,01,175.33 crore** [Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26\(FY26\)](#) in the state assembly with a special focus on development across key sectors such as innovation, agriculture, industry, infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, and social welfare.

- ✓ The budget is based on the **‘GYAN’** model [Gareeb (poor), Yuva (youth), Annadata (farmers), and Naari (women)], which focuses on the poor, youth, farmers, and women.

Anurag Rastogi Appointed as New Chief Secretary of Haryana

In February 2025, the Haryana government appointed **Anurag Rastogi**, a 1990-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, as Haryana’s new Chief Secretary (CS). He replaced Vivek Joshi who assumed charge as Election Commissioner(EC) on February 19, 2025.

Gujarat FM Kanu Desai Presented Rs 3.70 Lakh Crore State Budget for FY26

In February 2025, the Finance Minister of Gujarat **Kanubhai Mohanlal Desai** presented a **Rs 3,70,250.35 crore** (Rs 3.70 trillion) [budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 \(FY26\)](#) in the state legislative assembly (Gujarat Legislative Assembly), without proposing any new taxes. The budget outlay for FY26 witnessed an increase of **11.3%** or Rs 37, 785 crore compared to previous FY budget.

- ✓ Also, the budget was based on **5 key pillars**: social security, human resource development, infrastructure development, green growth and development of economic activities.

Aspirant Queries

Aspirant: Does Affairscloud covers all the Current affairs topics related to examinations?

Affairscloud: We Guaranteed All the Important topics related to examination are covered in Our Daily CA content and Daily CA Quizzes.

Aspirant: Why is there a delayal in news?

Affairscloud: As some of the major news sites doesn't provide the required data on the exact day, we take extra time for important data to be presented to the aspirants on the examination basis to ensure nothing is missed.


Example: In 'Important Days' topics the International Organisations publish their reports and Rankings in the evenings, to make sure every data is covered, we delay the topics to the next day Candidates appearing Competative Exams. Kindly Share the General Awareness questions to “gaanalysis.ac@gmail.com”

GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [**Affairscloud's Self Analysis for General Awareness Section**](#)

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Detailed Analysis of GA Questions asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2024:



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45

GENERAL AWARENESS

OCTOBER 13 2024		COVERED IN AFFAIRSCLOUD		
CATEGORIES	QUESTIONS COLLECTED	OVERALL	QUIZ	HANDWRITTEN NOTES
Current Affairs	42	37	29	16
Current Static Banking	1	—	—	—
Current Static GK	2	1	—	—
Static Banking	—	—	—	—
Static GK	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	29	16

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Monthly: Top 100 Q&A PDF, Monthly CA Pocket PDF, Monthly CA Study PDF, Exam PDF, Banking & Economy PDF