

AffairsCloud Daily Scoop



English



17 JANUARY

2025

WWW.AFFAIRSCLOUD.COM

This **PAID PDF** is provided by AffairsCloud's dedicated team that works diligently to provide aspirants with high-quality content. We recommend you to purchase this PDF subscription and seize the opportunity to learn efficiently.

Help Us to Grow & Provide Quality Service

WE ARE HIRING



CareersCloud
LEARN TO LEAD



For Apply:
SCAN QR CODE

JOB OPENINGS:

-  Quantitative Aptitude
-  Reasoning
-  English
-  Current Affairs



VACANT

Click Here to **Apply**

[Click here to Download the CareersCloud APP](#)

[Click here to Join the Telegram Channel](#)

[Current Affairs Channel](#)

[AffairsCloud Hindu Vocabs](#)

Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed

Support@affairscloud.com

BUY CRACK
CURRENT AFFAIRS

PDF

GET EXTRA
10%
DISCOUNT

USE CODE
PDF10



Crack Current Affairs 2024

Bank & Insurance



Created by : **AffairsCloud**

Path

Articles

Quizzes

Current Affairs English



Current Affairs Hindi



Banking Awareness



CA Exam PDF



Special CA



Topic-Wise Content



Topic-Wise Quizzes



State Current Affairs



< Feb 2024

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

PIB News



Feb 29 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



AffairsCloud Dailyscoop Feb 29 2024 - English
Ebook



Feb 29 2024 CA Quiz - English
START

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

PIB News



Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



Weekly Top 60: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Quiz - English
START

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

PIB News



February 29 2024 PIB News - English
Article



February 28 2024 PIB News - English
Article

AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

Table of Contents

Hand Written Notes	5
Detailed Content	11

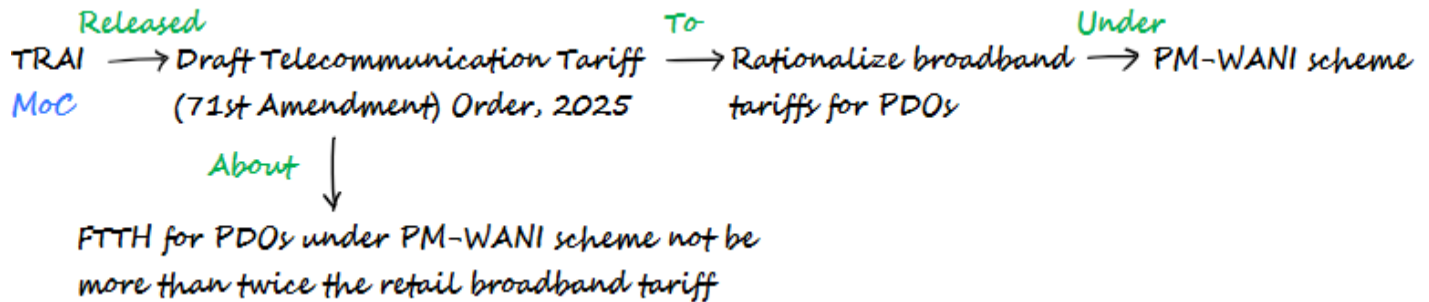
Important Notice: CareersCloud Content Sharing and Legal Compliance

We kindly request our aspirants **not to share or distribute our content, PDFs, videos, or any other materials under our ownership to individuals or through any social media platforms**. Please note that we have implemented a tracking system to monitor such activities. Any violation of this policy may result in the immediate termination of access to our services, and we will not be held responsible for any loss or inconvenience caused due to such actions. Furthermore, we also reserve the right to take strict legal action, including filing complaints under applicable laws, against individuals or entities found violating this policy.

Hand Written Notes

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)



TRAIR - Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

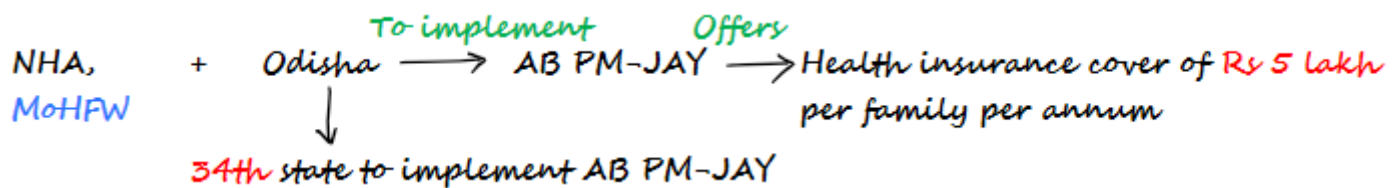
MoC - Ministry of Communications

PDO - Public Data Office

PM-WANI - Prime Minister's Wireless Fidelity(Wi-Fi) Access Network Interface

FTTH - Fiber to the home

2)

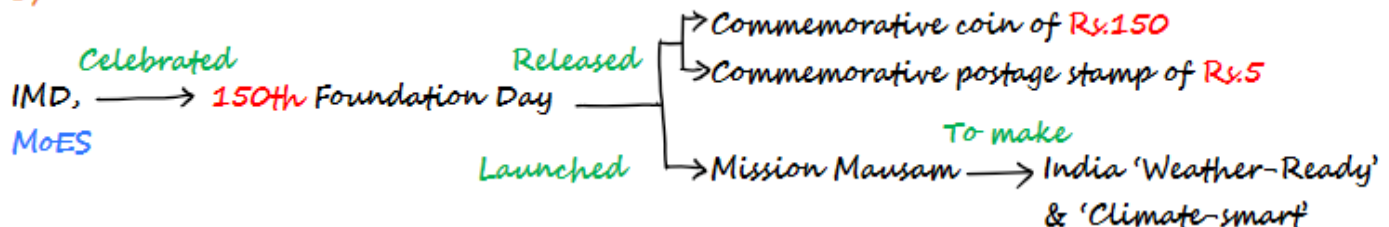


NHA - National Health Authority

MoHFW - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

AB PM-JAY - Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

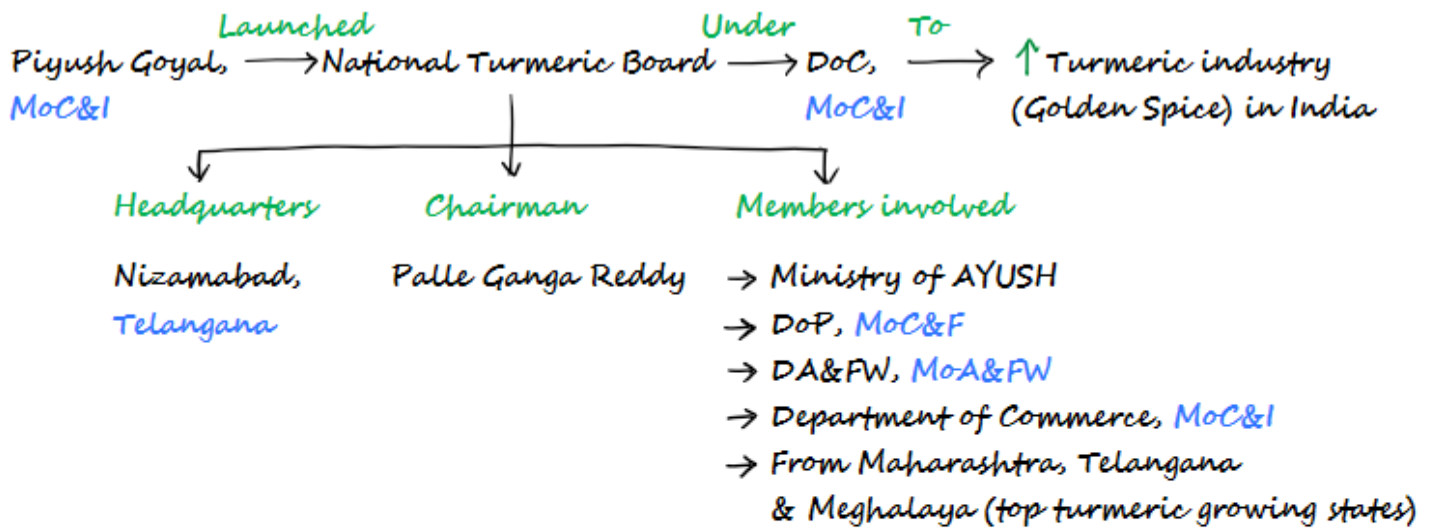
3)



IMD - India Meteorological Department

MoES - Ministry of Earth Sciences

4)



MoC&I - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

DoC - Department of Commerce

AYUSH - Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy

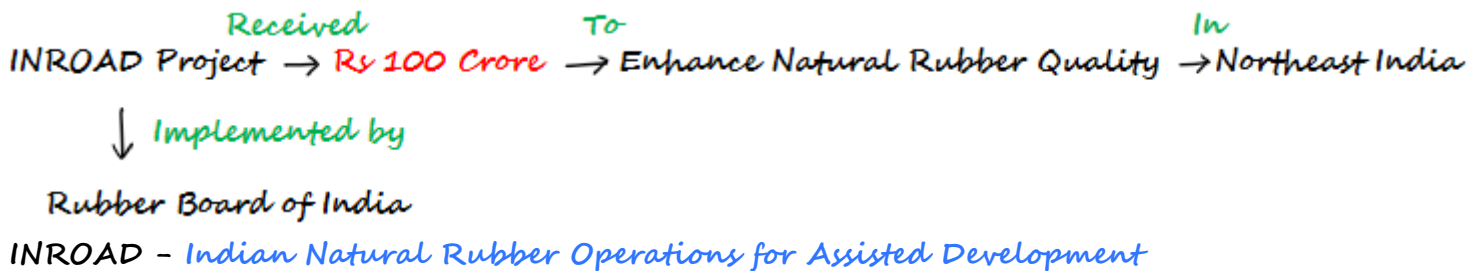
DoP - Department of Pharmaceuticals

MoC&F - Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

DA&FW - Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

MoA&FW - Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

5)



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)



MoMA - Ministry of Minority Affairs

MoPA - Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

BANKING & FINANCE

1)

NIPL + Magnati (Middle East) ^{To Provide} → QR based UPI payments via Magnati's POS terminal ^{In} → United Arab Emirates

NIPL - NPCI International Payments Limited

NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India

QR - Quick Response

UPI - Unified Payments Interface

POS - Point-Of-Sale

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

1)

CCI ^{Approved} → Ashoka Buildcon ^{To acquire} → 34% share ^{In} → Ashoka Concessions
 CCI ^{Approved} → Viva ^{To acquire} → 26% share ^{In} → Jaora Naygaon Toll Road company ^{For} → ₹ 150 cr

CCI - Competition Commission of India

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

Singapore ^{Bestowed} → Honorary Citizen Award ^{To} → Tarun Das ^{For} → Contributions to Singapore & Singapore-India relations
 (For DG of CII)
 ↓
 2nd Indian to receive after late Ratan Tata, (Chairman of Tata)

DG - Director General

CII - Confederation of Indian Industry

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1)

ACC ^{Approved} → MD & CEO of PNB → Ashok Chandra ^{Succeed} → Atul Kumar Goel
 ACC ^{Approved} → MD and CEO of Indian Bank → Binod Kumar ^{Succeed} → Shanti Lal Jain
 Tenure 3 years

ACC - Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

MD - Managing Director

CEO - Chief Executive Officer

PNB - Punjab National Bank

2)

Appointed → RBI → Head of monetary policy department → M Rajeshwar Rao (Deputy Governor of RBI) → Succeed → Michael Debabrata Patra (Deputy Governor of RBI)

RBI - Reserve Bank of India

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1)

India → Tested → 1st Indigenous Micro-Missile System → Named → Bhargavastra → For → Indian Army

Aim: To counter rising threat swarm drones

Developed by: Economic Explosives Limited

Subsidiary of → Solar Industries India

2)

DRDO, MoD → Conducts → Field Trials → Of → Nag Mark 2 → Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile → In → Rajasthan

Aim: To lock onto a target before launch & strike it with high accuracy

DRDO - Defence Research and Development Organisation

MoD - Ministry of Defence

STATE NEWS

1)

Dr. Mohan Yadav (CM of MP) → Launched → "Swami Vivekanand Yuva Shakti Mission" → On → National Youth Day (12th January) → Marks → Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda

Aim: To Achieve 100% pass rate for students in board exams of Class 10th & Class 12th by 2030

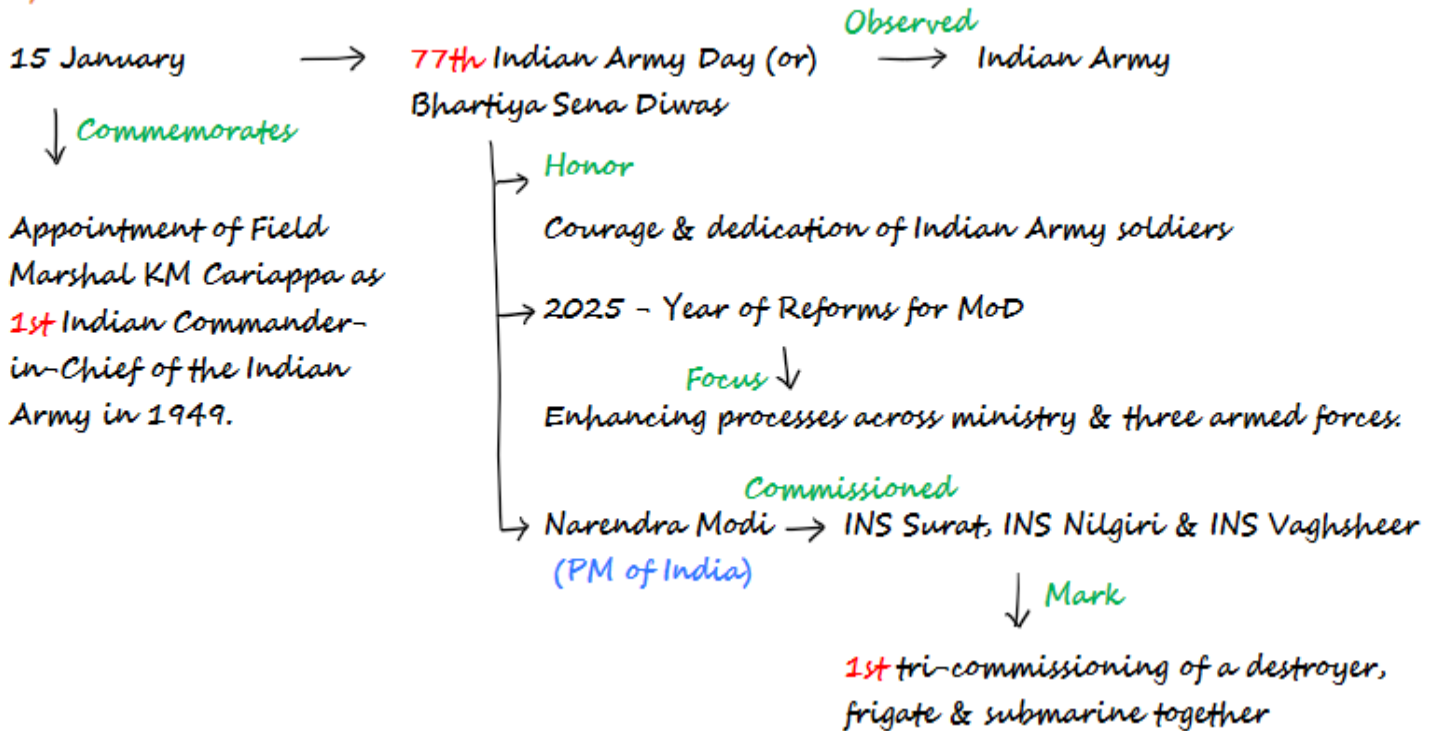
Inaugurated → World's largest 3-D Rangoli (18,000 sq. feet) → At → Bhopal, MP

CM - Chief Minister

MP - Madhya Pradesh

IMPORTANT DAYS

1)



MoD - Ministry of Defence

PM - Prime Minister

INS - Indian Naval Ship

Please Let us Know your Feedback – Handwritten Notes



[Click here to give Rating](#)

Disclaimer

Aim

We Try to Cover 15+ Current Affairs Questions in Upcoming Bank Exams from Hand written Notes

Ultimate Tool for Beginners

Hand Written Notes, meticulously designed to guide beginners in capturing important points from news and to enlighten the note-taking process

Mind Mapping

It helps to understand the news easily and We map the news in a way that boosts your memory power, ensuring you remember important information.

Note: In future, Homework Notes can be read only in our mobile App/Website and will no longer be available for download.

Less Important NEWS

- [Director of IIT BHU takes additional charge as Director of IIT Kharagpur](#)
- [Astronomers build galaxy-sized 'detector' to map universe's vibrations](#)
- [Young Scientist Award for CIFT scientist](#)
- [Thiruvananthapuram International Airport bags QCFI National Excellence Award](#)
- [Nepal: First Khairmah Honey Festival 2081 concludes in Sauraha](#)

Detailed Content

Current Affairs 17 January 2025 : Headlines



AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

ENGLISH



150th Foundation Day of India Meteorological Department
Jan 14

150th FOUNDATION DAY
Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 150th Foundation Day celebrations of India Meteorological Department



India successfully tests Indian Army's first 'Bhargavastra' counter-drone micro missiles

SOLARIS
Economic Explosives Limited
Test Fire
Guided Micro Munition for "Bhargavastra" Counter Drone System
12.01.2025

CURRENT AFFAIRS

17 JANUARY 2025

- ▶ TRAI Released Draft Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order, 2025 to Boost PM-WANI Scheme
- ▶ Odisha Becomes the 34th State in the Country to Implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Scheme
- ▶ IMD Celebrated its 150th Foundation Day
- ▶ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board with Palle Ganga Reddy as chairman
- ▶ INROAD Project Received Rs 100 Crore to Enhance Natural Rubber Quality in Northeast India
- ▶ Union Minister Kiren Rijiju's visit to Saudi Arabia from 11th to 14th January, 2025
- ▶ NPCI International partners with Magnati to Expand UPI Acceptance in UAE
- ▶ CCI Approved Proposed Acquisition of 34% Shareholding of Ashoka Concessions by Ashoka Buildcon
- ▶ Singapore Confers Honorary Citizen Award on former CII head Mr Tarun Das
- ▶ ACC Approves Ashok Chandra as PNB MD & CEO, Binod Kumar as Indian Bank MD & CEO
- ▶ RBI Assigns Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao to head monetary policy
- ▶ India Test Fired Its First Indigenous Micro-Missile System Named Bhargavastra
- ▶ DRDO Successfully Conducts Field Trials of Nag Mark 2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile
- ▶ 77th Indian Army Day – 15 January 2025: Commissioning of Three Major Naval Combatants
- ▶ MP CM Mohan Yadav Launched Swami Vivekanand Yuva Shakti Mission

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

TRAI Released Draft Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order, 2025 to Boost PM-WANI Scheme

On January 15 2025, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) under the Ministry of Communications (MoC) released a 'Draft Telecommunication Tariff (71st Amendment) Order, 2025' which proposes the rationalization of broadband tariffs for Public Data Offices (PDOs) under the Prime Minister's Wireless Fidelity(Wi-Fi) Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme.



- The main objective of this draft is to address the challenges obstructing the growth of public Wi-Fi hotspots and ensure affordable connectivity for users across the country.

Background:

i. In August 2024, TRAI released the Draft Telecommunication Tariff (70th Amendment) Order, 2024, which suggested that broadband tariffs for PDOs under the PM-WANI scheme be aligned with retail broadband tariffs.

ii. Later, On September 16 2024, the DoT introduced some key amendments to the PM-WANI framework like: eliminating the requirement for PDOs to enter commercial agreements with Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for internet connectivity and PDOs were allowed to network up to 100 access points to set-up single Wi-Fi hotspot.

Key Points:

i. The regulator has proposed that the broadband tariff i.e. Fiber to the Home (FTTH) for PDOs under the PM-WANI scheme **should not be more than twice** the tariff applicable for retail broadband (Fiber to the home, FTTH) services of corresponding capacity offered by service providers.

- This move aimed to boost the effective proliferation of PM-WANI hotspots and will foster sustainable ecosystem that ensures a balanced relationship between PDOs and service providers.

ii. PM-WANI scheme aimed to contribute to the wider objectives of the National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 and Bharat 6G Vision, and has set the target for the deployment of **50 million** public wi-fi hotspots by **2030**.

- As of July 2024, there are 207,642 PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots deployed in India.

About PM-WANI:

i. It was launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC) in **2020**.

ii. It aims to establish public wi-fi networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public wi-fi services through PDOs across the country.

- It will also boost proliferation of broadband internet services through public wi-fi networks in the country.

iii. Under the scheme, PDOs will set-up, operate, and maintain WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots based on their techno-commercial considerations and deliver internet services to subscribers.

iv. As on December 15 2024, number of unique PM-WANI users in the country are 18,19,674 and total data consumed is 58.55 petabytes (PB).

About Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI):

It is a statutory body established under the TRAI Act, 1997. It works under the DoT, MoC.

Chairman- Anil Kumar Lahoti

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 1997

Odisha Becomes the 34th State in the Country to Implement Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Scheme

In January 2025, the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of **Odisha** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the National Health Authority (**NHA**), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**) in Odisha.



- With this, Odisha became the **34th** state in the country to implement AB PM-JAY.

Note: At present, 26 states and 18 Union Territories (UTs) have signed the MoU with NHA for the implementation of AB PM-JAY in their respective states and UTs except, Union Territory Delhi and West Bengal(WB).

Signatories:

i. The MoU was signed between **LS Changsan**, Additional Secretary, MoHFW and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NHA and **Aswasthy S**, Commissioner-cum—Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi).

ii. Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, MoHFW presided over the signing ceremony. Charan Manjhi, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha; Dharmendra Pradhan, Ministry of Education (MoE); Jugal Oram, Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA); Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and other senior officials from both centre and state governments were also present at the event.

About MoU:

i. As per the MoU, AB PM-JAY will be implemented in convergence with the existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY) in Odisha.

ii. The scheme will offer a health insurance cover of **Rs 5 lakh** per family per annum with additional Rs 5 lakh for women members.

iii. A total of nearly 1.03 crore families will be covered under the converged scheme, of which 67.8 lakh families will be supported by the central government.



About AB PM-JAY:

i. The scheme is one of the key components of Ayushman Bharat (AB), a flagship scheme of Government of India (GoI), which emerged from the National Health Policy 2017.

- It was launched on 23rd September, 2018 by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

ii. AB PM-JAY is the largest health assurance scheme in the world which offers a cashless health cover of **Rs 5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.

- Key Target: To cover **12 crore families** i.e. around 55 crore beneficiaries across India.

iii. The scheme covers all members of eligible families irrespective of their family size, age, or gender, which ensures inclusivity for all.

iv. In October 2024, PM Narendra Modi launched Ayushman Bharat: Vaya Vandana Card (**AB-VVC**), expansion of AB PM-JAY which offers comprehensive health coverage to all the **senior citizens aged 70 years and above**.

v. AB PM-JAY is fully digitized and has covered nearly 45% of India's population.

- Since the inception of scheme in 2018, **8.19 crore** hospital admissions have been recorded, with **Rs 1.13 lakh crore** spent on providing healthcare to marginalized sections of society.

[Click here to know more about AB PM-JAY](#)

About Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW):

Union Minister- Jagat Prakash Nadda (Rajya Sabha – Gujarat)

Union Minister of State (MoS)- Anupriya Patel (Constituency- Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh, UP);

Jadhav Prataprao Ganpatrao (Constituency- Buldhana, Maharashtra)

IMD Celebrated its 150th Foundation Day

On January 15 2025, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (**MoES**) celebrated its **150th** Foundation Day. A series of events, activities and workshops were organised which demonstrated the contributions of IMD in making India climate-resilient and providing critical weather and climate services.



- Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi attended the celebrations held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

Key People: Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, MoES; Professor Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) were present among the other key dignitaries at the event.

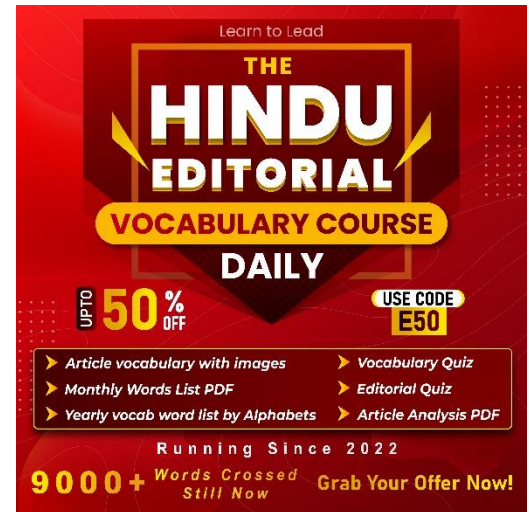
Key Highlights of the Event:

i. During the event, PM launched '[Mission Mausam](#)', an initiative aimed to transform India into a 'Weather-Ready' and 'Climate-smart' country through advanced weather surveillance technologies, high-resolution atmospheric observations, among others.

- The Government of India(GoI) approved Mission Mausam in September 2024, with a budget outlay of 2,000 crores over two years.

ii.He also released **commemorative postage stamp of Rs.5 denomination and coin** to mark the 150 years of IMD.

- The coin is circular in shape with a denomination of **Rs 150**. It has been minted in 99.99% silver and weighs 40 grams (gms).
- On the obverse side of the coin, 'satyamev jayate' is inscribed in Hindi below the Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar at its centre.
- The coin's periphery is inscribed with 'Bharat' in Hindi on its left and India on the right.
- The reverse side of the coin has the special logo marking the 150 years of IMD. The lower periphery of the coin is inscribed with '150 Years of India Meteorological Department and the year 1875-2025 is written below the logo in international numbers.



iii.He also unveiled a vision document titled **"IMD Vision 2047"** which outlines a framework for weather resilience and climate change adaptation as India prepares to mark 100 years of independence in 2047.

- It also outlines targets for the next two years, the next 10 years (by 2035) and the next 22 years (by 2047), considering advancements in science and technology.
- According to the document, released on the eve of the IMD's 150th anniversary, the weather department targets 100% forecast accuracy for up to three days, 90% for up to five days, 80% for up to seven days and 70% for up to 10 days, covering all severe weather events at the block and panchayat levels.

iv.IMD also organised a **'Undivided India'(Akhand Bharat) seminar** as part of the celebration.

About IMD:

i.IMD was established on **January 15, 1875** during the British-colonial era. Since, its inception in 1875, IMD has played a vital role in advancing meteorology as a physical science.

ii.It has been playing an important role in alleviating the impact of natural disaster, supporting agriculture, water management, aviation, public safety and other key sectors and contributing to the socio-economic development of India and the wider region.

iii.It has 6 Regional Meteorological Centres: Mumbai(Maharashtra), Chennai(Tamil Nadu, TN), New Delhi(Delhi), Kolkata(West Bengal, WB), Nagpur(Maharashtra) and Guwahati(Assam).

Key Accomplishments of IMD:

i.Pioneering Weather Observations: By 2023, IMD has replaced all mercury barometers with digital barometers according to the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Minamata Convention at all Class-I observations.

- Improved agro-meteorological services with the deployment of 200 AGRO Automatic Weather Stations(AWS) stations.
- Sustenance of 25 Global Positioning System (GPS) based PB stations in which 5 stations equipped with IMD manufactured and 20 are outsourced from Indian manufacturers.

ii.Communication and Outreach: In 2021, IMD launched its Crowdsourcing web interface and the mobile application (app) 'Public Observation' on 14th January, 2022, which permits the users to provide their weather feedback at anytime from anywhere.

- Since 2021, IMD has started an online platform to collect information of the weather that has occurred and also the associated impact information for 6 weather events initially: rain, hail, duststorm, wind speed, thunderstorm or lightning and fog.

iii. Advances in Numerical Weather Prediction: Overall forecast accuracy saw an improvement of 40% in 2023 as compared to 2014.

- Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) network has expanded from 15 (in 2014) to 39 (in 2023) with land area of coverage increased by about 35% from 2014.
- With the precise cyclone warning by IMD, the number of deaths has decreased from 10,000 (in 1999) to 0 (in 2020-24).

iv. Technological Advancements: High-Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) model for Nowcasting of Rainfall & Reflectivity forecasts.

- In January 2024, Vice President (VP) of India Jagdeep Singh Dhankar launched Mausamgram, an interactive and dynamic meteogram which provides location specific weather forecasts for public usage.
- The number of Automatic Rain Gauges (ARG) has increased from 1350 (in 2014) to 1382 (in 2023).

About India Meteorological Department (IMD):

Director General (DG)- Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established- 1875

About Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES):

Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC)- Dr. Jitendra Singh (Constituency- Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir, J&K)

Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches National Turmeric Board with Palle Ganga Reddy as chairman

In January 2025, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), launched the **National Turmeric Board** (NTB) in New Delhi, Delhi with an aim to boost the turmeric industry (Golden Spice) in India.



- **Palle Ganga Reddy** has been appointed as its first Chairperson. The headquarters of the Board has been set up at **Nizamabad, Telangana**.
- Union Minister of State (MoS) Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Arvind Dharmapuri, Member of Parliament (MP), Nizamabad also participated in the event.

About National Turmeric Board (NTB):

i. The NTB will function under the Department of Commerce (DoC), MoC&I. The board will include representatives from Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy); Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoCF),

Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers(MoC&F); Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare(DA&FW) under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare(MoA&FW) and Department of Commerce, MoC&I.

- Moreover, representatives from the top turmeric growing states of **Maharashtra, Telangana and Meghalaya** will also be part of the Board.

ii.The board will look into the challenges faced by turmeric farmers across **20** states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu(TN), Andhra Pradesh(AP), Telangana, Madhya Pradesh(MP) and Meghalaya.

iii.It will provide leadership, coordinate with other Government Departments/Agencies for the growth and development of the Turmeric sector in the country.

- It will work on increasing **trade** of turmeric and its products, especially in view of its health and wellness benefits.

iv.Moreover, the new Board will promote **research** and **development** of new turmeric products, add value to the **export** related turmeric products and create awareness on the essential and medical properties of turmeric.

- It will also help in increasing its yield and boost logistics and supply chain to promote trade into newer markets and will also ensure quality and safety standards of turmeric production and exports.

Points to Note:

i.According to the Spice Board of India, an area of **3.05 lakh hectare** was under turmeric cultivation in India in **2023-24** with a production of **10.74 lakh tons**.

- During 2023-24, **1.62 lakh tons** of turmeric and turmeric products valued at **USD 226.5 million** were exported.

ii.There are **30** varieties of turmeric produced with India being the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world and has more than **62%** share of world trade.

iii.The top turmeric-producing states in India are Maharashtra (325643 tonnes), Telangana (117049 tonnes) and Karnataka (129399 tonnes).

iv.The top buyers of Indian turmeric in 2023-24 are Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Malaysia.

About Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I):

Union Minister – Piyush Goyal (Constituency – Mumbai North, Maharashtra)

Minister of State (MoS) – Jitin Prasada (Constituency – Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

INROAD Project Received Rs 100 Crore to Enhance Natural Rubber Quality in Northeast India

In January 2025, the Indian Natural Rubber Operations for Assisted Development (**INROAD**) project received financial support of **Rs 100 crore** for improving the quality of natural rubber in **Northeast** India.

- INROAD is the world's first project in which the tyre industry directly contributes to the growth of rubber plantations. The project also focuses on women's economic empowerment in rubber cultivation.

i.It was implemented by the Rubber Board of India and financially supported by four members of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), including Apollo Tyres Limited, CEAT Limited, JK Tyre & Industries Limited, and MRF Tyres.

ii.New Natural Rubber (NR) plantations across **94 districts** in the Northeast and parts of West Bengal(WB) covered **1,25,272 hectares** in the first four years of the project.

iii. Under the project, skill-based training will be provided through digital mode, and infrastructure will be built, including Model Smoke Houses and Model Processing and Grading Centres that are tailor-made for the region.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju's visit to Saudi Arabia from 11th to 14th January, 2025

Union Minister **Kiren Rijiju**, Ministry of Minority Affairs(MoMA) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs(MoPA) visited **Saudi Arabia** from **11th January to 14th January 2025** with an aim to look into the important arrangements related to preparations for the upcoming Haj pilgrimage to enhance the experience of Indian pilgrims.



- The visit involved signing a Bilateral Agreement for Haj 2025, attending the Hajj & Umrah Conference and Exhibition, bilateral meetings with Saudi officials and reviewing preparations being made for the Indian Haj pilgrims at Jeddah and Madinah.

4th edition of the Hajj & Umrah Conference and Exhibition:

The Union Minister attended the inaugural session of the 4th edition of the Hajj and Umrah Conference and Exhibition which was organized by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

- This international conference is organized annually wherein sessions and workshops are conducted by key decision makers, experts and researchers in the Haj & Umrah services sector and provide opinions on the suitable practices and facilitate exchange of ideas and information.

India and Saudi Arabia Sign Hajj Agreement to Secure Quota for Indian Pilgrims:

i. On 13th January 2025, **India** signed a **Hajj agreement** with **Saudi Arabia** securing a quota of 1,75,025 pilgrims for Indian pilgrims for 2025.

- The agreement was signed between **Kiren Rijiju** and Saudi Arabia's Minister for Hajj and Umrah **Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah** in Jeddah.

ii. As per the Haj Policy 2025, 30% of India's total Hajj quota, or 52,507 slots, will be allocated to private Haj Group Organizers (HGOs), while 70% will be provided to the Haj Committee of India (HCoI).

- In the last five years, the quota distribution between HCoI and HGOs has varied between 70:30 and 80:20.

About Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister (**PM**) – Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Capital– Riyadh

Currency– Saudi Riyal(SAR)

BANKING & FINANCE

NPCI International partners with Magnati to Expand UPI Acceptance in UAE

NPCI International Payments Limited (**NIPL**), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**), has partnered with **Magnati**, a leading payment solutions provider in the Middle East, to provide the feature of **QR** (Quick Response) based Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) merchant payments via Magnati's Point-Of-Sale (POS) terminals in the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**).

- The partnership aims to expand the QR based merchant payment network to more merchants in the UAE which will facilitate seamless payment options to more than **12 million** Indians travelling to Dubai and the UAE annually.

i. UPI acceptance will be initially provided across **Dubai Duty Free**, enhancing the shopping and payment experience for Indian tourists.

ii. It will further be expanded to other key merchant categories including retail, hospitality, transport, and supermarkets etc.

Note: UPI payments are accepted in **seven** countries, including Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, France and the UAE.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

CCI Approved Proposed Acquisition of 34% Shareholding of Ashoka Concessions by Ashoka Buildcon

In January 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) approved the proposed acquisition of **34%** shareholding of Ashoka Concessions Limited (**ACL**), the infrastructure arm of the Ashoka Group by Ashoka Buildcon Limited (**ABL**), which mainly engaged in engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) in various sectors and operation and maintenance (O&M).

- On the completion of this acquisition, ACL will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of ABL, which already owns 66% shares of ACL.

i. CCI has also approved the acquisition of certain convertible instruments of ACL by ABL and Nashik (Maharashtra)-based Viva Highways Limited (Viva), a subsidiary of ABL.

ii. Additionally, Viva will acquire **26%** shareholding of Jaora Naygaon Toll Road Company Limited (JTCL), a Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) concessionaire worth Rs 150 crore.

iii. Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) has granted concession to JN for reconstruction, strengthening, widening, and rehabilitation of 125 kilometer (km) to 250 km of State Highway (SH)-31 in Madhya Pradesh (MP).

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Singapore Confers Honorary Citizen Award on former CII head Mr Tarun Das

Singapore has awarded **Tarun Das**, former Director General of the **Confederation of Indian Industry** (CII), the **Honorary Citizen Award** for his outstanding contributions to Singapore and **Singapore-India relations**.

- The award was presented by Singapore President **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** at a ceremony held in **New Delhi** on **15th January 2025**.

**Singapore confers
honorary citizen
award on **Tarun Das**,
former Director
General of CII**



- Tarun Das is the **second** Indian to receive Singapore's honorary citizenship after late **Ratan Tata**, former chairman of the Tata Group who was conferred the same award in **2008**.

About Tarun Das:

i. Tarun Das served as the Director General (DG) and Chief Mentor of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for over **40** years.

- He is the Founding Trustee of the Ananta Centre and Ananta Aspen Centre, Director of the Singapore-India Partnership Foundation (SIPF), and a Member of the India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue (ISSD).

ii. He was the first to lead a delegation of Indian industrialists to visit Singapore in **1993**, as part of India's "**Look East**" policy that initiated the annual visits to Singapore by the CII Leadership team to include Singapore's political leadership and businesses for development in both the countries.

iii. He also played a crucial role in the establishment of the **annual ISSD**, which is a key platform that brings together business leaders, policymakers, and academia to discuss upon strengthening Singapore-India cooperation.

iv. As Director of the SIPF, he contributed in strengthening youth and academic exchanges, and private sector collaboration including **SIPF Students Immersion Programme** to India in 2023 involving students from the Singapore University of Social Sciences.

v. Tarun Das was also awarded with the **Singapore Public Service Medal** in **2004**.

About the Honorary Citizen Award:

i. The title of Honorary Citizen is a national award established in **2003** by the Singapore Government to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of **non-Singaporeans** who have given invaluable contributions to Singapore and its people, or who have led significant impact in the areas of business, science and technology, information communications, education, health, arts and culture, sports, tourism and community services or security.

ii. It is the highest form of national recognition for a non-Singaporean.

About Singapore:

President – Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Capital - Singapore

Currency – Singapore Dollar (SGD)

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

ACC Approves Ashok Chandra as PNB MD & CEO, Binod Kumar as Indian Bank MD & CEO

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) has approved the appointment of **Ashok Chandra** as the Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and **Binod Kumar** as the MD and CEO of Indian Bank (IB).



- Both appointments are for a tenure of three years, effective from the date they assume charge, or until further orders. Binod Kumar tenure may be extended by an additional two years after a performance review.
- Ashok Chandra succeeds Atul Kumar Goel, who retired on December 31, 2024. Binod Kumar takes over from Shanti Lal Jain, who also retired on December 31, 2024.

Note: The appointments were recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (**FSIB**), a part of the Department of Financial Services. The FSIB is chaired by Bhanu Pratap Sharma.

About Ashok Chandra:

- Holds a postgraduate degree in Economics and began his banking career in 1991 with Corporation Bank as a Probationary Officer (PO).
- He is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB). He also served as director in the Board of The Union Trustee Company Private Limited and as a Director in The National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL).
- He served as Executive Director (**ED**) at **Canara Bank Limited** before being appointed as MD and CEO of PNB.

About Binod Kumar:

- Holds a Postgraduate (PG) Diploma in Banking & Finance from the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) and is certified as a Financial Risk Manager (FRM) by the Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP), United States of America (USA).
- He is also a Certified Associate Member of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).
- Before his appointment as MD and CEO of Indian Bank, he served as the **ED** at **PNB**.

About Punjab National Bank (PNB):

Established- 1894

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Tagline- The Name You Can Bank Upon

About Indian Bank (IB):

Established- 1907

Headquarters- Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Tagline- Your own bank

RBI Assigns Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao to head monetary policy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has redesigned portfolios of its deputy governors as the 5-year term with two one-year extended tenure of **Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra** ended on **14th January 2025**.

- The central bank has reshuffled its **33** departments among the **three** deputy governors - Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar and Swaminathan Janakiraman.

i. The key **Monetary Policy department** under Michael Debabrata Patra was given to Deputy Governor **M Rajeshwar Rao**.

- M Rajeshwar Rao will handle **11** portfolios – Co-ordination, Department of Communication, Department of Economic and Policy Research, Department of Regulation, Department of Statistics and Information Management, Enforcement Department, International Department, Legal Department, Monetary Policy Department, Risk Monitoring Department and Secretary's Department.

ii. Rabi Sankar will look after **13** departments, including Currency Management, Information Technology, Financial Markets Operations and Financial Markets Regulation.

iii. Swaminathan Janakiraman will look after **9** departments, including Supervision and Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

iv. Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra was first appointed as the RBI deputy governor in 2020 for three years. In 2023, his term was extended by one year and by another year in 2024.

- He was a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) since it was established in 2016.

Note: The RBI has four deputy governors, an economist to oversee the monetary policy department, one commercial banker, and two from within the ranks.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India Test Fired Its First Indigenous Micro-Missile System Named Bhargavastra

In January 2025, Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Nagpur, Maharashtra-based Solar Industries India Limited, successfully **test-fired India's first guided micro-missiles** as part of its '**Bhargavastra**' counter-drone system.



- This system, developed by EEL, was initiated by the private sector without formal requisitions from the Indian Armed Forces.
- The new micro-missile system, developed for the Indian Army, successfully hit virtual targets over 2.5 km away.
- This system, **developed to counter the rising threat** of loitering munitions and weaponized drones, uses micro-missiles to effectively target and destroy enemy drones at an affordable cost.

About The Bhargavastra system:

The Bhargavastra system, designed for the Indian Army (IA), is a multi-layered defense option that **can detect small flying** objects up to 6 kilometers (km) away.

Key Features:

- It is capable of firing over **64 micro missiles at once**, making it a cost-effective alternative to expensive surface-to-air missiles.
- It has been designed to **operate across various terrains**, including high-altitude areas, and can be mounted on a mobile platform for quick deployment.
- The system's multi-missile salvo capability offers an edge over global counterparts, effectively

countering drone swarms beyond conventional methods like jamming or spoofing.

iv. The system **focuses** on countering drone attacks by utilizing an advanced radar and fire control system to detect and track Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The system is designed to operate at altitudes of up to 5,000 meters.

- The radar in the command control center can detect medium to large drones at a range of 10 km and small drones at 6 km. This advanced radar can also detect targets with low radar cross-section (RCS).

Key Trials:

i. On January 12, **the first trial** was conducted against a stationary target located 2,500 meters (m) away and 400 meters in the air.

ii. On January 13, **the second trial** was carried out on a moving electronic target.

Both tests were held at the Gopalpur Seaward Firing Ranges located in Odisha.

iii The system is set to undergo more extensive trials in the coming year, with the potential for induction into the military.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Field Trials of Nag Mark 2 Anti-Tank Guided Missile

On January 13, 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and headquartered in New Delhi, Delhi, successfully conducted field trials of the **Nag Mark 2**, an advanced Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile.



- The trials took place at the **Pokhran Field Range** in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- With the successful trials, the Nag Mark 2 and its carrier system are now ready for induction into the Indian Army (IA), reflecting India's progress under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative.

About Nag Mark 2:

The Nag Mark 2 is a third-generation anti-tank missile, developed indigenously by DRDO.

Key Features:

i. It incorporates **fire-and-forget technology**, enabling operators to lock onto a target before launch and strike it with high accuracy.

ii. During the three field trials, the **missile successfully destroyed all targets**, demonstrating its effectiveness at both maximum and minimum ranges.

- This showcased its capability to neutralise modern armoured threats, including tanks equipped with explosive reactive armour (ERA).

iii. It travels at 230 metres per second and destroys enemy tanks up to 4 kilometers away within 17-18 seconds.

iv. It weighs approximately 45 kg and measures 6 feet 1 inch.

v. It was developed by DRDO at a cost of ₹300 crore.

Note: The Nag Missile Carrier (**NAMICA**) Version 2, a vehicle-mounted missile carrier, was also tested successfully. This system ensures the effective deployment of the Nag Mark 2 missile on the battlefield.

About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO):

Chairman– Sameer Venkatapathy Kamat

Established– 1958

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

IMPORTANT DAYS

77th Indian Army Day – 15 January 2025: Commissioning of Three Major Naval Combatants

Indian Army Day is celebrated every year on **15th January** across the globe to honor the courage and dedication of the Indian Army (IA) soldiers.



- It is also known as **Bhartiya Sena Diwas**, the day commemorates the appointment of Field Marshal KM Cariappa as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army in 1949.

Note: Indian Army was established in 1895, but it was not until 1949 that India had its first Army Chief.

15th January 2025, marks the observance of the **77th Indian Army Day**.

The year 2025 has been declared as the '**Year of Reforms**' for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), focusing on enhancing processes across the ministry and the three armed forces.

PM Modi Commissions INS Surat, INS Nilgiri, and INS Vaghsheer:

On the occasion of Indian Army Day 2025, Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi commissioned three significant naval combatants—Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Surat**, **INS Nilgiri**, and **INS Vaghsheer**—at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai, Maharashtra, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), located in Mumbai.

- This remarkable event marked the **first-ever tri-commissioning** of a destroyer, frigate, and submarine together.

Key Points:

i.INS Surat, the fourth Visakhapatnam-class destroyer and the final ship of **Project 15B**, is a highly advanced guided missile destroyer with 75% indigenous content and state-of-the-art technology.

ii.INS Nilgiri, the **first ship of Project 17A**, is a next-generation stealth frigate designed by the Indian Navy (IN) with advanced survivability features.

iii.INS Vaghsheer, the sixth and final submarine of the **P75 Scorpene Project**, is the sixth submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy, highlights India's submarine construction expertise in collaboration with France's Naval Group.

2025 Events:

For the first time, the Indian Army Day Parade was held in Pune, Maharashtra, at the BEG & Centre Parade Ground, Khadki.

i.The event **featured** a grand march past by **eight regimental** contingents, a "**Know Your Army Mela**" highlighting technological advancements, and the **participation** of the **Women Agniveer** Contingent, emphasizing inclusivity and empowerment.

ii. The Indian Army (IA) showcased its Multi-Utility Legged Equipment (**MULEs**), commonly referred to as robotic dogs.

- These advanced machines enhance operational capabilities in challenging terrains, reducing risks for soldiers. The Army recently added 100 robotic dogs to its arsenal, marking a step forward in technological innovation.

iii. Participation of the Nepali Army Band:

The Nepali Army Band participated in the parade for the **first time**, symbolizing the strong bonds between the Indian and Nepali armed forces.

- The band, comprising **33 members**, including **three women** soldiers, performed with both a Brass and Pipe Band. Their performance showcased the cultural and musical ties between India and Nepal, highlighting the nations' commitment to peace and stability.

Point to Note: PM Modi announced the approval and commencement of work on the Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra, with an investment of Rs 75,000 crore.

Key Facts:

i. India has established itself as the **First Responder** in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), reinforcing its leadership in regional security and humanitarian efforts.

ii. Defence production has crossed **Rs 1.25 lakh crore**, with exports to over 100 countries.

iii. Over the last decade, the Indian Navy has inducted **33 ships and 7 submarines, with 39 of 40 vessels** built in Indian shipyards.

iv. India is constructing 60 large ships valued at around Rs 1.5 lakh crore.

STATE NEWS

MP CM Mohan Yadav Launched Swami Vivekanand Yuva Shakti Mission

In January 2025, **Dr. Mohan Yadav**, Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh (MP) launched "**Swami Vivekanand Yuva Shakti Mission**" on the occasion of National Youth Day (12th January) which marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, at Ravindra Bhavan Auditorium in Bhopal, MP. He also launched the Swami Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Mission Portal and theme song.

- He unveiled the logo of mission which is based on its motto i.e. "Atma Deepo Bhava-Samvad, Samarthya, Samriddhi".
- He also inaugurated the world's largest 3-D Rangoli depicting Swami Vivekananda at Shaurya Smarak in Bhopal, MP. The 3-D rangoli, a 18,000 square-foot artwork, was made using eco-friendly natural colors. It was created by famous rangoli artist Shikha Sharma Joshi and her team from Indore (MP).

About Swami Vivekanand Yuva Shakti Mission:

i. The key target of the mission is to achieve a **100%** pass rate for students in the board exams of Class 10th and Class 12th by 2030.

ii. The mission has 3 main goals to empower the youth. The 1st one is to ensure the income level of every youth at least meet the rate of a minimum-skilled category worker.

iii. The 2nd goal is to ensure that every youth completes education up to class 12th. The 3rd goal is to encourage youth to participate in various social initiatives for the betterment of society.

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 delay 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 for Competitive Exams. Kindly Share the General Awareness questions, which asked in their respective exams to “gaanalysis.ac@gmail.com”


GA Questions Asked in Exams

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

Most Trusted Source!!!! Since 2014, nearly 85% of the questions in the General Awareness section on Bank Exams have been covered by Affairscloud@Careerscloud.


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



Formerly AffairsCloud



IBPS CLERK

MAINS




Real Exam VS **AffairsCloud CA**


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

Detailed self-analysis Available
in the Self Evaluation Course at [CareersCloud.in](https://careerscloud.in).





Features

Crack

Current Affairs

Course

QUIZ



PDF



ARTICLE



Top Products

Daily: Dailyscoop PDF, Daily CA Quiz, Daily CA Q&A PDF

Weekly: Weekly Top 60 Quiz, Weekly CA Content PDF, Weekly Overall Q&A PDF

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