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2025

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< Feb 2024

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PIB News



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Ebook



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Feb 29 2024 CA Quiz - English
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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
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February 29 2024 PIB News - English
Article



February 28 2024 PIB News - English
Article

AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

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Hand Written Notes

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1)

Highlights ^{Of} → 15th Aero India 2025 ^{Held} → Bengaluru,
(Part II) ^{Karnataka}

DRDO ^{Unveiled} → India's 1st VHF Radar ^{To detect} → 5th & 6th generation stealth aircraft

HAL Management Academy + IIIT Dharwad ^{To} → ↑ Research, internships,
& technical education

HAL + SAE, ^{To supply} → LEAP Engine Components
^{France}

Godrej & Boyce + ADA, ^{To manufacture} → Flight control actuators for AMCA
^{MoD}

Rosoboronexport + India ^{For} → Su-57E Fighter Jet Production ^{At} → HAL
^{Russia}

BEML + STX Engine ^{To develop} → Battle Tank & Marine Engines
^{South Korea}

DRDO ^{Unveiled} → Shyeni' sensor suite ^{For} → Indian Navy's Dornier Do 228 Upgradation

FWDA ^{Received} → 1st Global Export Order ^{For} → FWD 100 ISR Aircraft

DRDO - Defence Research and Development Organisation

VHF - Very High Frequency

HAL - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

IIIT - Indian Institute of Information Technology

SAE - Safran Aircraft Engines

LEAP - Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion

USA - United States of America

ADA - Aeronautical Development Agency

MoD - Ministry of Defence

AMCA - Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

BEML - Bharat Earth Movers Limited

FWDA - Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace

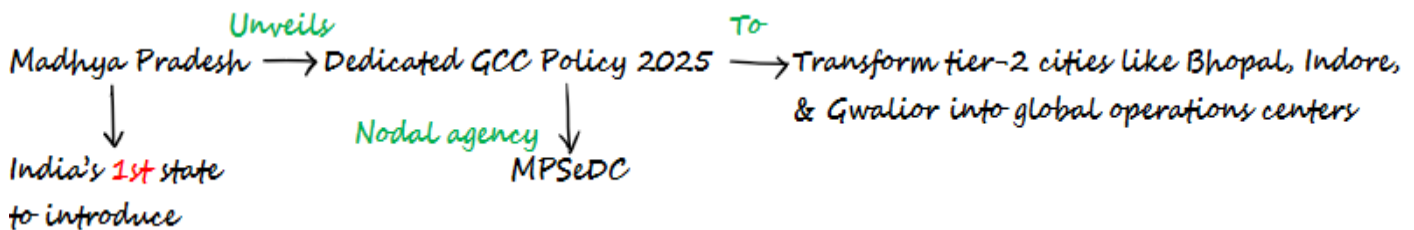
ISR - Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

2)



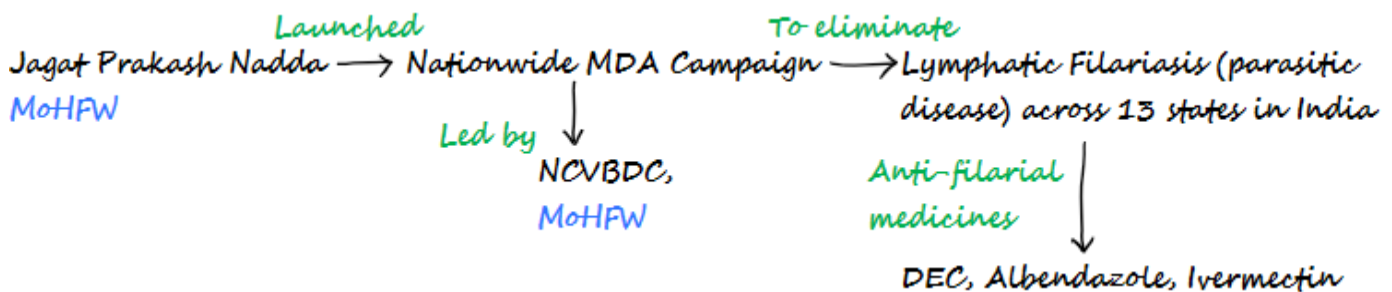
PSA - Principal Scientific Adviser
GoI - Government of India
RuTAGe - Rural Technology Action Group

3)



GCC - Global Capability Centre
MPSeDC - Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Limited

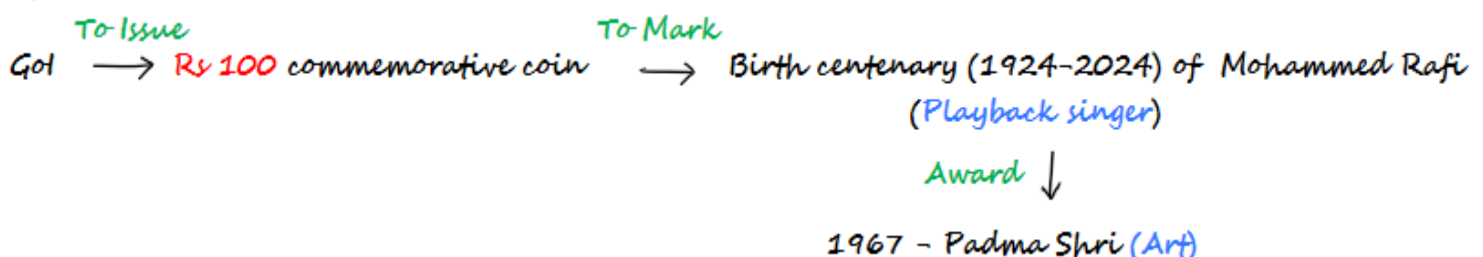
4)



Note - India to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by **2027**

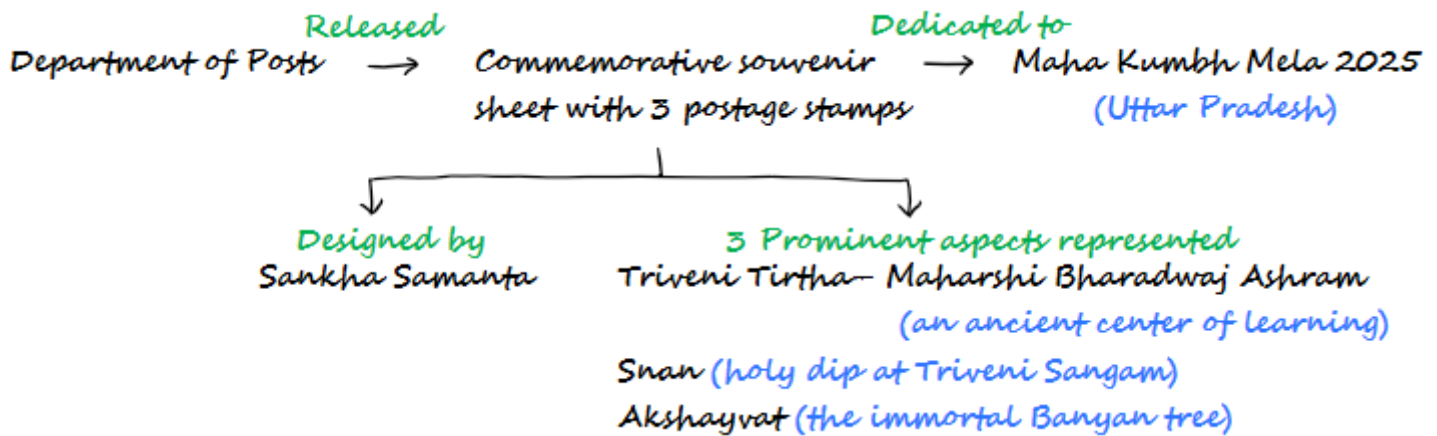
MoHFW - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MDA - Mass Drug Administration
NCVBDC - National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control
DEC - Diethylcarbamazine Citrate

5)



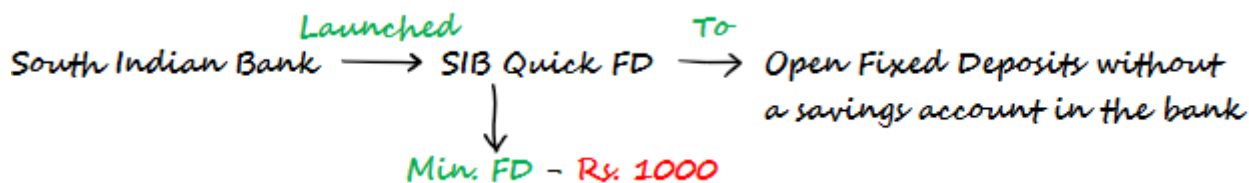
Govt - Government of India

6)



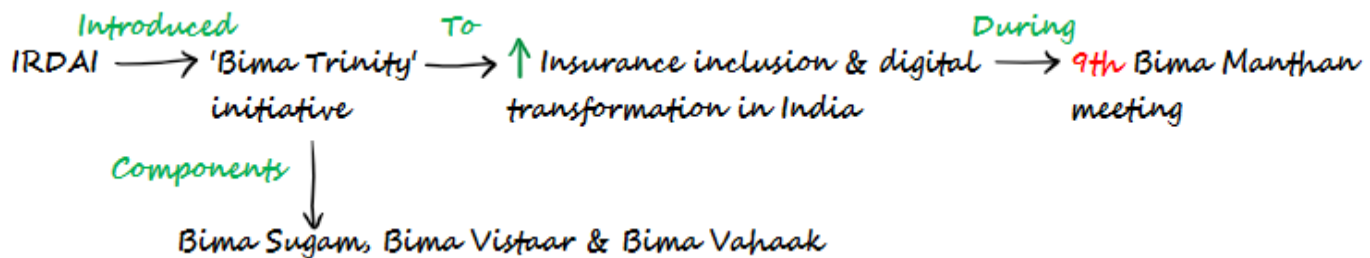
BANKING & FINANCE

1)



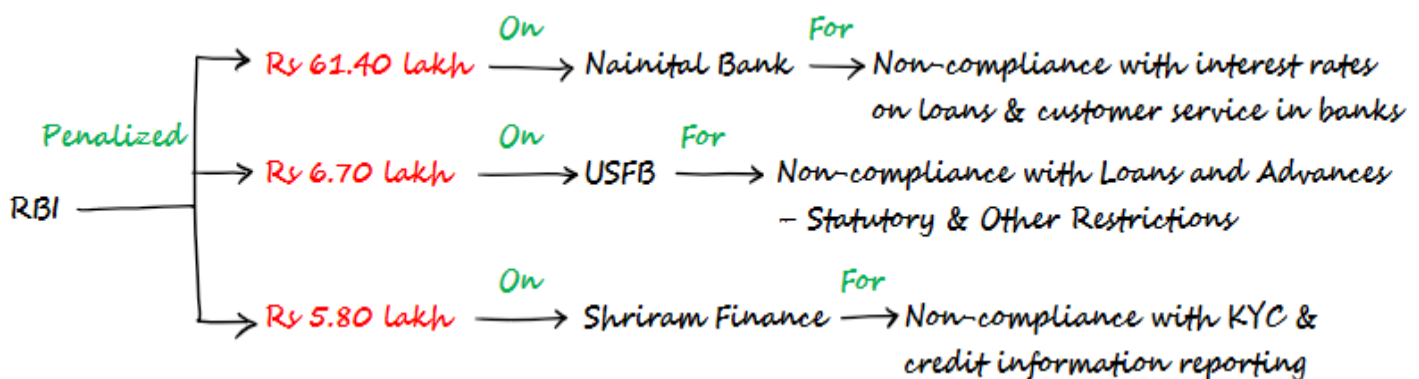
FD - Fixed Deposit

2)



IRDAI - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

3)



RBI - Reserve Bank of India
USFB - Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
KYC - Know Your Customer

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire → Natarajan Chandrasekaran (Chairman of Tata Sons) → U.K./India Business relations
For
Other awards ↓
2022 - Padma Bhushan (Trade and Industry)
2023 - Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (France's highest civilian honor)

UK - United Kingdom

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

1)

CEO of Standard Chartered India → Prabdev Singh → Zarin Daruwala → April 1, 2025
Succeeds Effect from
(P.D. Singh)
CEO - Chief Executive Officer

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1)

ADA, + MIDHANI → MDN100 Steel for Aeronautical Applications → Aero India 2025
DRDO During Bengaluru

ADA - Aeronautical Development Agency
DRDO - Defence Research and Development Organisation
MIDHANI - Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited

2)

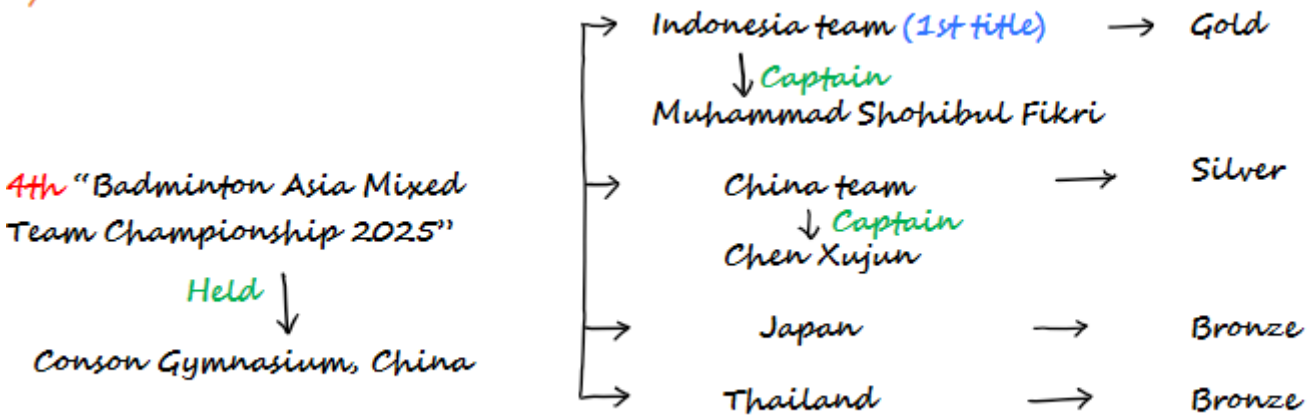
Indian Navy → LSAM 11 (Yard 79) → 8th MCA Barge → ↑ Operational capabilities of Indian Navy
Launched To
Built by ↓ In ↓
SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited Maharashtra

LSAM - Large Scale Additive Manufacturing

MCA - Missile Cum Ammunition

SPORTS

1)



Mixed Doubles → Rinov Rivaldy & Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti (Indonesia)

Men's Singles → Alwi Farhan (Indonesia)

Women's Singles → Xu Wenjing (China)

Men's Doubles → Muhammad Shohibul Fikri & Daniel Marthin (Indonesia)

→ India Ranked 6th in the table

2)

IOC ^{Announced} → Saudi Arabia ^{To host} → 1st Olympic Esports Games ^{In} → 2027

IOC - International Olympic Committee

IMPORTANT DAYS

1)

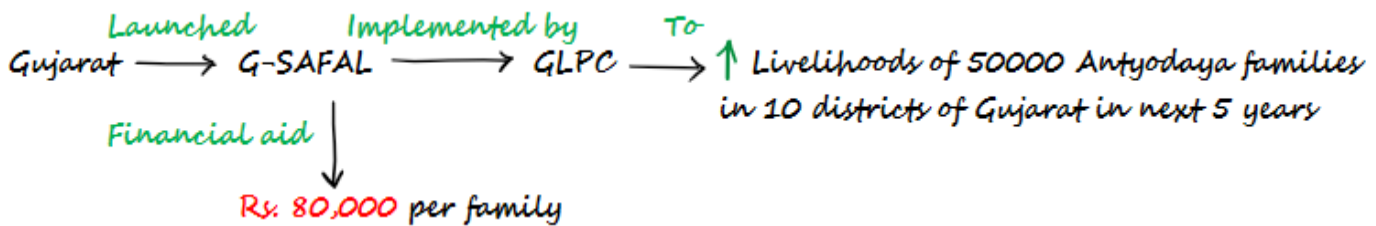
17 February → 3rd Global Tourism Resilience Day ^{Observed} → United Nations

→ Aim
To highlight the critical need to build resilience in tourism industry

→ 1st observed on Feb 17, 2023

STATE NEWS

1)



G-SAFAL - Gujarat Scheme for Antyodaya Families for Augmenting Livelihoods

GLPC - Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company Limited

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Detailed Content

Current Affairs 18 February 2025: Headlines



AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

ENGLISH



**Tata Sons Chairman Chandrasekaran,
Bharti Group chief Sunil Mittal
get U.K.'s honorary civilian award**

**Global Tourism
Resilience Day
February 17 2025**



CURRENT AFFAIRS

18 FEBRUARY 2025

- Highlights of the 15th edition Aero India 2025
- RuTAGe Smart Village Center Launched in Haryana for Rural Technological Empowerment
- Madhya Pradesh Unveils India's 1st Dedicated GCC Policy 2025
- Union Minister JP Nadda launches National MDA Campaign to eliminate LF
- Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Releases Commemorative Postage Stamps on Maha Kumbh 2025
- GoI to Issue Rs 100 Commemorative Coin to Mark Birth Centenary of Mohammed Rafi
- South Indian Bank Introduces 'SIB Quick FD' for Seamless FD Investments
- IRDAI Unveils Bima Trinity Schemes for Insurance Revolution
- RBI Penalizes SFL, NTB, USFB for Regulatory Non-Compliance
- Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Conferred with UK's Honorary Knighthood
- RBI Approves PD Singh Appointment as CEO of Standard Chartered India
- DRDO's ADA & MIDHANI Signed MoU to Develop MDN100 Steel for Aeronautical Applications
- IN Launches 8th Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 11 (Yard 79)
- Indonesia won their first ever 'Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2025' over China
- Saudi Arabia to Host First-Ever Olympic Esports Games in 2027
- Global Tourism Resilience Day 2025 - February 17
- Gujarat Launches G-SAFAL to Empower 50,000 Underprivileged Women

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Highlights of the 15th edition Aero India 2025

The 15th edition of Aero India 2025, Asia's largest aerospace and defence exhibition, was held from February 10 to 14, 2025, in Bengaluru, Karnataka, under the theme "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities." For key highlights from the first part of the event, refer to Part 1 [Highlights of the 15th edition Aero India 2025](#) and Below are the highlights of Aero India 2025- Part 2.



DRDO Unveils India's First VHF Radar for Stealth Aircraft Detection

At Aero India 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) based in New Delhi (Delhi) unveiled India's first indigenous Very High Frequency (VHF) radar, designed to **detect fifth- and sixth-generation stealth aircraft** that pose significant threats to national security.

- This state-of-the-art radar **can detect stealth aircraft** such as B-2 bombers, F-117, and F-35 fighters at a range of 400 kilometers. The radar can track as many as 100 targets at the same time,
- The radar is mounted on heavy-lift vehicles (HLVs), allowing it to be deployed on any terrain, operating in **both steering and rotation modes**.
- Mounted on a 6×6 high-mobility vehicle (HMV) with a foldable antenna, the system uses advanced digital phased array technology with element-level digitization.
- Features adaptive signal processing algorithms to counter clutter and electronic jamming.
- Uses Gallium Nitride (GaN) transmit/receive (TR) modules, improving power output and signal reception.

HAL Management Academy and IIIT Dharwad Partnership

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Management Academy, the training wing of HAL headquartered at Bengaluru signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Dharwad, Karnataka at Aero India 2025 to strengthen collaboration between industry and academia.

- The MOU was signed in the presence of HAL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) D K Sunil and Executive Director (ED) of Human Resources M G Balasubrahmanya.
- This partnership **aims to promote** research, internships, and technical education in areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, Robotics, Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR), and Digital Manufacturing, focusing on applications in the aerospace and defence sectors.
- As per the MoU, HAL officers can pursue higher studies at IIIT Dharwad, while students can gain practical experience through internships at HAL divisions.

HAL Signs Long-Term Contract with SAE for LEAP Engine Components

HAL has signed a long-term agreement with France-based Safran Aircraft Engines (SAE) for the supply of turbine forged parts for Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion (LEAP) engines. HAL's Ring Rolling facility in Bengaluru will be responsible for producing the forged parts.

- Safran and HAL have collaborated for decades, co-developing the **Shakti helicopter engine** and paving the way for the Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (**IMRH**) engine.

Note: In October 2023, both companies had signed a MoU to strengthen industrial cooperation in manufacturing commercial engine parts under India's 'Make in India' initiative.

HAL Signs Agreement with Collins Aerospace for MRO Facility to Support LCA Tejas Mk1

HAL has entered into an agreement with **Collins Aerospace**, a North Carolina (United States of America, USA)-based aerospace and defence company and a **subsidiary of RTX Corporation** (formerly Raytheon Technologies Corporation) to set up a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (**MRO**) facility at the HAL Accessories Complex in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- This facility will focus on servicing electrical power generation systems used in the Light Combat Aircraft (**LCA**) **Tejas Mk1**.

i. Under this licensing and spares agreement, the new MRO unit will **handle repairs and overhauls** of Integrated Drive Generators (**IDGs**) and Generator Control Units (**GCU**s), which are essential components for certain Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter aircraft.

ii. Once functional, the facility will provide **maintenance support** for all Light Combat Aircraft Mark 1 (**LCA Mk 1**) jets operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Godrej & Boyce Strengthens Aerospace Presence with Key Agreements at Aero India 2025

Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited, part of the Godrej Enterprises Group and headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, is strengthening its role in India's aerospace sector by signing **multiple key agreements** during Aero India 2025 **to support national defence programs** backed by the Government of India (GoI).

- One of the major agreements was signed with the Bengaluru- based Aeronautical Development Agency (**ADA**) under the Ministry of Defence to manufacture flight control actuators for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (**AMCA**) program.
- Godrej & Boyce is **moving from producing parts** based on existing designs ("Built to Print") to **designing and manufacturing** them independently ("Built to Spec").

Union Minister of State Sanjay Seth Awards RMTC Certificates for Astra BVR and HTT-40

Union Minister of State (MoS) **Sanjay Seth**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) handed over Restricted Military Type Certificates (**RMTC**) for the Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile and Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) aircraft during the 15th Aero India International Seminar, which was held in Bengaluru before Aero India 2025.

- The seminar was **organized by** the Bengaluru- based Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (**CEMILAC**) under the DRDO **in partnership** with New Delhi- based Aeronautical Society of India (**AeSI**).
- The **theme** of the seminar was '**Futuristic Aerospace Technologies: Challenges in Design Validation**'.
- The event was attended by several distinguished officials, including: **V. Narayanan**, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), who was the Chief Guest.

Russia Offers Su-57E Fighter Jet Production and Technology Transfer at HAL

During Aero India 2025, Russia-based **Rosoboronexport**, in **collaboration** with its Russian aerospace and defence corporation Unit United Aircraft Corporation (**UAC**), **proposed a partnership with India** for the production of the Sukhoi-57 Export Variant (Su-57E), Russia's **fifth-generation** fighter jet, and is ready to initiate its localization at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facilities.

i. Russia **demonstrated** Su-57 advanced **aerial capabilities**, including maintaining extreme angles of attack at Aero India 2025,

ii. **UAC manufactures** the Su-57E fighter jet, while Rosoboronexport offers advanced fifth-generation technologies, including engines, Active Electronically Scanned Array (**AESA**) radars, optical systems, AI features, software communication systems, and air weapons.

BFL Collaborates with Two Aerospace Entities

I. Bharat Forge Ltd (**BFL**) from Pune, Maharashtra, has signed an **MoU** with New Delhi-based **Veda Aeronautics Private Limited**. The collaboration **aims to develop** advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (**UAVs**) and high-speed aerial weapons for military use.

- As part of the agreement, **Veda Aeronautics** will **integrate** BFL's **microjet engines** into its unmanned systems. Meanwhile, **BFL** is **working on indigenous jet engines** with up to 400 kilogram-force (kgf) thrust for defence applications. Its 40 kgf and 45 kgf engines are already in production and will be used in Veda's defence projects.

ii. **BFL** has signed a **MoU** with **Liebherr-Aerospace & Transportation**, an aerospace company based in Toulouse, France, **to set up a manufacturing facility** at BFL's headquarters in Pune, Maharashtra to meet the growing needs of the global aerospace industry.

- The manufacturing unit is expected to start operations in 2025. The facility **will include a ring mill** equipped with cutting-edge forging and machining technologies to manufacture high-precision components, such as landing gear parts.

KSSL and L3Harris signs MoU for C4ISR Technologies

Pune-based Kalyani Strategic Systems Limited (**KSSL**), a subsidiary of BFL, signed a **two-year MoU** with United States of America (USA)-based **L3Harris Technologies** to enhance defence and security solutions in India.

- The focus will be on **developing advanced technologies** for Command, Control, Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (**C4ISR**) systems.

BEML Partners with STX Engine to Develop Battle Tank and Marine Engines

Bharat Earth Movers Limited (**BEML**) a Bengaluru-based public sector undertaking (PSU), has partnered with South Korea based **STX Engine** at Aero India 2025 to **develop and manufacture battle tanks and marine engines**. Through this partnership, BEML plans to expand into defence and marine engine manufacturing, **using STX Engine's expertise** to create advanced propulsion systems.

i. A MoU was exchanged between BEML's Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), **Shantanu Roy**, and STX Engine's President & Chief Operating Officer (CEO), **Sangsu Lee**, in the presence of senior officials from both companies.

DRDO Unveils 'Shyen' Sensor Suite for IN's Dornier Do 228 Upgradation

DRDO introduced its new '**Shyen**' sensor suite at Aero India 2025. This suite is designed to upgrade the IN's fleet of **Dornier Do 228** maritime patrol aircraft.

i. This suite includes a maritime surveillance radar, an electronic support measures (**ESM**) system, an electro-optic/infrared (EO/IR) system, and a software-defined radio (SDR).

ii. The radar, named **Kshitij**, is an X-band Active Electronically Scanned Array (**AESA**) system capable of detecting both sea surface and airborne targets.

DRDO Unveils 155mm Ramjet Projectile for ATAGS to Extend Range

DRDO introduced **155 millimetre (mm) ramjet projectile** for BFL's 155 mm/52 calibre Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (**ATAGS**). This new projectile aims to extend the range of the ATAGS up to 80 km, weighs 12 tonnes and can fire six rounds in 30 seconds.



- i. The Indian Army (IA) is expected to finalize a contract to buy 307 ATAGS units by **March 2025**
- ii. It was developed in the 2010s through a partnership between DRDO and companies like BFL, KSSL and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)..

Zen Technologies Partners with TXT Group to Develop Advanced Pilot Training Solutions

Zen Technologies Limited, based in Hyderabad and a leading provider of anti-drone technology & defence training solutions, has signed a strategic MoU with **TXT e-Tech and PACE**, part of the TXT Group based in Milan, Italy.

This collaboration focuses on developing advanced pilot training solutions, including Part Task Trainers, Full Flight Simulators, and Full Mission Simulators.

India Signs 250 MoUs for Defence Projects, Announces FDI Policy in Defence Sector

Union Minister Rajnath Singh confirmed that **250 agreements** have been made for establishing industrial units in the Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Tamil Nadu (TN).

- The GoI has also introduced a policy allowing 75% foreign direct investment (**FDI**) under the Automatic Route for companies seeking defence licenses, while 100% FDI will be permitted with government approval.

APEBD signs MoUs worth Rs 2,458.84 crore

During the Aero India 2025, the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (**APEDB**) signed **MoUs worth Rs 2,458.84 crore** with four major aerospace and defence companies to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities.

- These companies **include** Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited from Mumbai, Maharashtra ;Himachal Futuristic Communications Limited (HFCL) from Gurugram, Haryana and Media Matrix Worldwide Limited based in Mumbai.

FWDA Secures First Global Export Order for FWD 100 ISR Aircraft

Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace (**FWDA**) based in Bengaluru, has received **India's first global export order** for its **FWD 100 ISR**((Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) autonomous aircraft from a country in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- The FWD 100 ISR, a smaller version of the FWD 200B, is equipped with advanced optical equipment for precise surveillance and intelligence collection. It has a 6-meter wingspan, is 3.8 mlong, weighs up to 90 kg at takeoff, and can operate for up to 24 hours.
- This agreement positions India among the world's leading defence exporters, alongside nations like the USA, China, Turkey, Iran, and Israel.

Prize Distribution at Defence Innovation Challenge for Excellence (DICE-2024) at Aero India 2025

The grand finale of the Defence Innovation Challenge for Excellence (**DICE-2024**) was held at Aero India 2025. The competition attracted a large number of applications from 47 cities across 17 states. After a detailed screening process, 24 start-ups were selected for the finale.

- The winners received a prize pool of **Rs 6.50 lakh**, as well as opportunities for incubation and seed funding through MAGIC.

The winners were chosen in three stages: **Revenue Stage, Pre-Revenue Stage, and Idea Stage**

Stage	Winner	Runner-up
Revenue Stage	Shravan Yadav, Auxobit Aerospace Private Limited, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar	Nikhil Rajput, NxtQube – Aerogravity Private Limited, Nashik, Maharashtra

Pre-Revenue Stage	A. Gyanesh Kumar Rao, Gyanadraksha Wydhumraketustra Subrahmkpr Pvt. Ltd., Bhilai, Madhya Pradesh, MP	Utkarsh Ahuja, Contriver Autonomous Systems Private Limited, Delhi
Idea Stage	Vijay Mamtani, Prayogik, Bhopal, MP	Ryan Nadar, PLASMA BLADE PROPELLER, Mumbai
Special Jury Mention	Sarthak Sudhir	

Other Points:

i. The Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) Roundtable at the 15th Edition of Aero India saw record participation, with **116 global CEOs** attending. Union Minister Rajnath Singh was present at the event, which focused on the **theme E.D.G.E** – ‘Enabling Defence Cooperation through Global Engagement’.

- Union Minister Rajnath Singh also **launched** the Defence Testing Portal (DTP), and
- Unveiled a booklet on **Defence Testing Capabilities** prepared by the New Delhi -based Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) operating under MoD.

ii. Hyderabad (Telangana) based Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has **introduced** the Advanced Loitering System (ALS), a long-range autonomous suicide drone developed in India. The drone has a **range of over 250 kilometres** (km) and is designed to operate from high-altitude locations, including advanced landing grounds above 10,000 feet.

- The ALS is **equipped** to carry **anti-tank warheads**, can operate without Global Positioning System (GPS), and functions in all weather conditions.

iii. Hubballi (Karnataka)-based startup **Astr Defence Private Limited** has introduced ‘**Chakra Trap**’, a handheld system designed to capture and disable enemy drones. It is the first of its kind and features an 8-square-metre (sq.m) trap that expands to capture the target and has an operational range of up to 500 m.

iv. Thales Group, based in France, and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), headquartered in Hyderabad, will deliver the **first batch** of Laser Beam Riding Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (LBRM), including **High-Velocity STARStreak Missiles** and their launchers, this year following a request from the Government of India (GoI).

- The system **weighs** around **14 kilograms** (kg) (30.8 pounds) and can hit targets up to 7 km (4.3 miles) away.

v. TASL will set up a modern Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in **Karnataka** to service the Indian Air Force’s (IAF) C-130J aircraft.

vi. New Delhi- based **Himalayan Heli Services Limited** has expanded its fleet to **eight H125 helicopters** from 6 H125 by ordering two more from Netherland based Airbus SE. Part of the Airbus’ Ecureuil family, the H125 is built to **perform efficiently in high-altitude** and extreme conditions, will be used for commercial transport and aerial operations in northern India.

- Airbus also plans to set up a final assembly line for H125 helicopters in India.

vii. At Aero India 2025, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) Tejasvi Surya took a 30-minute flight in the Hindustan Turbo Trainer (HTT-40), designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

viii. Bengaluru-based **Scandron Private Limited**, a drone manufacturer, introduced the **CargoMax 20KHC** at Aero India 2025. This fully autonomous cargo drone can carry up to 200 kgs, has a range of 15 kms, and can operate at altitudes up to 6,000 m above sea level.

- It is designed to assist the Indian armed forces, paramilitary forces, and emergency teams.

RuTAGE Smart Village Center Launched in Haryana for Rural Technological Empowerment

In February 2025, the Rural Technology Action Group (**RuTAGE**) Smart Village Center (**RSVC**) was inaugurated in Mandaura village, Sonipat, Haryana. The inauguration was led by Professor **Ajay Sood**, the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India (GoI), alongside key partners: Commodore Sridhar Kotra, Founder of the Modern Village Foundation, and DP Goel, Chairman of the Chaalis Gaon Vikas Parishad.



- The RSVC aims to bridge the gap between rural technological needs and cutting-edge innovations, promoting sustainable development in rural areas.

Key Features of the RSVC:

i. The RSVC serves as a permanent hub for technological integration at the Panchayat level, impacting **15-20 villages** over several years and offers a comprehensive range of 12 technology tracks to address diverse rural challenges.

ii. **Agriculture & Waste Management:** Services for agriculture, waste management, homestays, and village tourism, supported by pre-sowing to post-harvest technologies, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

iii. **RuTAG Technologies:** Innovations from 7 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), developed under the Office of the PSA to the GoI.

iv. **Livelihood & Entrepreneurship:** Promoting local entrepreneurship through schemes like the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

v. **Renewable Energy (RE):** Solar hybrid and wind technology solutions, with technical assistance from the SELCO (Solar Electric Light Company) Foundation in Bengaluru (Karnataka).

vi. **National Innovations:** Technologies from Manthan Systems (Bengaluru), Pune Cluster (Maharashtra), and IIT Madras (Chennai, Tamil Nadu, TN) for various rural needs.

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Notes

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vii. Affordable Housing: Innovative housing technologies from Manthan Group, (Chennai) and HR Corporation Private Limited, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

viii. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Waste management, water, and sanitation solutions, including IIT Madras Aquamaps and WeVOIS Labs Private Limited, Jaipur (Rajasthan).

ix. Financial Technology (FinTech): Financial inclusion apps and Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality (AR/VR) technologies developed by Bengaluru, (Karnataka) based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and XR Group Gurgaon (Haryana).

x. Capacity Building: Research and capacity-building initiatives with Tier 2 & 3 colleges, where the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) is a facility for piloting biscuit manufacturing from locally sourced materials like sugar and ghee.

- The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) is undertaking capacity building of RSVC center heads.

xi. Government Scheme Applications: Dissemination of government schemes through citizen-centric apps for science, technology, and welfare programs.

xii. Assistive Technologies: Solutions for differently-abled individuals through the Assistive Technology (AT) Foundation.

xiii. Custom Solutions: Deployment of technologies like animal intrusion prevention and electronic medical record-keeping based on local needs.

Quality Assurance and Market Linkages:

i. Additionally, the center emphasizes market linkages through collaborations with platforms like the Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**), **Amazon.com.Inc**, and **Market Mirchi** (a RuTAG innovation by IIT Bombay in Mumbai), ensuring that rural producers have access to larger markets and can sell their goods effectively.

ii. The RSVC model is set to expand across India with plans to establish **20 additional centers**. The program also introduces the Techpreneurs (**Foot Soldiers**) initiative, which will empower women entrepreneurs to promote local technologies.

Madhya Pradesh Unveils India's 1st Dedicated GCC Policy 2025

Madhya Pradesh (MP) has become the **1st state in India** to introduce a dedicated Global Capability Centre (**GCC**) **Policy 2025**, positioning itself as a leading hub for global innovation, technology, and business collaboration.



- The Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation Limited (**MPSeDC**) will act as the **nodal agency** responsible for implementing the policy.
- A dedicated Policy Implementation Unit (**PIU**) will manage project approvals, incentive allocation, and compliance monitoring.

Note: Unveiled ahead of the Global Investors Summit (**GIS**) **2025** in Bhopal, MP on 24 and 25 February 2025, the GCC Policy 2025 reinforces MP's role in India's USD 110 billion GCC market vision for 2030.

Objective:

The Madhya Pradesh GCC Policy 2025 aims to transform tier-2 cities like Bhopal, Indore, and Gwalior into global operations centers, providing a competitive advantage to businesses seeking expansion in India.

Key Features:

- i. The focus sectors of the policy include Information Technology (IT), Finance, Engineering, Human Resources (HR), and Emerging Technologies (ET), with a special emphasis on Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Cybersecurity.
- ii. This policy combines incentives for Capital Expenditure (CapEx), payroll subsidies, upskilling programs, and Research and Development (R&D).

Economic and Employment Impact:

- i. The policy aims to attract over 50 GCCs, generating over 37,000 direct jobs in sectors like IT or Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), advanced analytics, R&D, and digital transformation.

Points to Note:

- i. Madhya Pradesh's IT exports have tripled in the last 3 years, with an annual growth rate of 43%.
- ii. MP ranked 4th in the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) (2023) rankings released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).

Union Minister JP Nadda launches National MDA Campaign to eliminate LF

In February 2025, Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda**, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**) launched the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (**MDA**) **Campaign** to eliminate **Lymphatic Filariasis** (LF) (commonly known as Hathi Paon). The launch took place through a video conference with State Health Ministers and senior officials from 13 LF-endemic states.

- The campaign aims for the door-to-door distribution of anti-filarial medication, ensuring that all eligible individuals take the prescribed medicine to prevent the transmission of the disease.
- It is led by the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) under MoHFW
- India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by **2027**.

Note: Lymphatic Filariasis is a parasitic disease transmitted through the bites of infected mosquitoes. Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) which is caused by Culex mosquitoes.

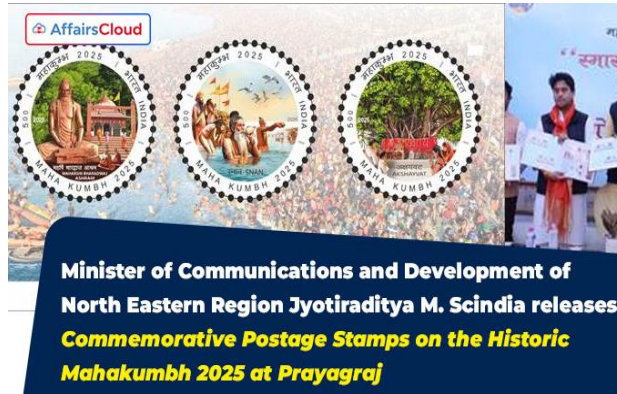
Key People: The State Health Ministers who participated in the meeting are Satya Kumar Yadav (Andhra Pradesh, AP), Ashok Singhal (Assam), Shyam Bihari Jaiswal (Chhattisgarh), Rushikesh Ganeshbhai Patel (Gujarat), Irfan Ansari (Jharkhand), Dinesh Gundu Rao (Karnataka), Rajendra Shukla (Madhya Pradesh, MP), Mukesh Mahaling (Odisha), Mangal Pandey (Bihar), Prakashrao Abitkar (Maharashtra) and Brijesh Pathak (Uttar Pradesh, UP).

Highlights:

- i. MDA campaign takes place twice a year and will cover 111 endemic districts across 13 states: AP, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, UP, and West Bengal (WB).
- ii. Starting from February 10, 2025, anti-filarial medicines will be provided free of cost to over 17.5 crore people across the endemic districts.
- iii. The medication includes:
 - Double Drug Regimen (DA): Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC) and Albendazole
 - Triple Drug Regimen (IDA): Ivermectin, DEC, and Albendazole
- iv. Under the National Health Mission (NHM), there is a provision for hydrocelectomy surgeries. Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) scheme also offers coverage for hydrocelectomy for its beneficiaries.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia Releases Commemorative Postage Stamps on Maha Kumbh 2025

The Department of Posts (DoP) has released a **special commemorative souvenir sheet** featuring **3 postage stamps** dedicated to the **Maha Kumbh Mela 2025**, which is taking place in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh (UP) from 13th January to 26th February 2025. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, Ministry of Communications (MoC), unveiled these stamps at Arail Ghat Post Office (PO), Prayagraj.



- The commemorative postage stamps, designed by **Sankha Samanta**, depict 3 prominent aspects of **Triveni Tirtha– Maharshi Bharadwaj Ashram** (an ancient center of learning), **Snan** (holy dip at Triveni Sangam), and **Akshayvat** (the immortal Banyan tree).
- Other philatelic releases highlighting Maha Kumbh include special covers and cancellations on sacred Snan days, '**Divya, Bhavya and Digital Mahakumbh**', and a picture postcard celebrating '**Prakhyat Prayagraj**'.

Note: The Kumbh Mela is rooted in Hindu mythology, linked to the churning of the ocean (Samudra Manthan). Maha Kumbh occurs once every 144 years at Prayagraj, UP.

GoI to Issue Rs 100 Commemorative Coin to Mark Birth Centenary of Mohammed Rafi

The Government of India (GoI) will issue a **Rs 100 commemorative coin**, to mark the **birth centenary** of legendary playback singer **Padma Shri Mohammed Rafi**, which concluded on 24 December 2024. The circular and non-circulating coin is reportedly **minted** by the India Government Mint (IGM) in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.



- The **metal composition** of the Rs 100 commemorative coin will consist of a Quaternary Alloy, comprising 50% Silver (Ag), 40% Copper (Cu), 5% Nickel (Ni), and 5% Zinc (Zn).
- The coin will weigh 35 grams (g) and have a diameter of 44 millimeters (mm), featuring 200 serrations along the edge.
- On the **obverse side**, the face of the coin will bear the **Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar** in the center with the legend '**Satyamev Jayate**' inscription, Rupee symbol (₹) below, and denominational value "100" in the international numerals below it.
- The left and right peripheries of the coin will be flanked with the words "Bharath" in Devanagari script and 'INDIA' in English respectively.

- On the **reverse side**, the face of the coin will bear Mohammed Rafi's image in the center with inscriptions **Birth Centenary of Mohammed Rafi** in Devanagari script and English on the upper and lower peripheries respectively, along with the years 1924-2024.

Points to Note:

- Mohammed Rafi (24 December 1924 – 31 July 1980) often referred to as *Rafi Sahab* was born in Punjab. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** in **1967** for 'Art'.
- Commemorative coins were earlier issued in honour of legendary singers including **Begum Akhtar**, a renowned Ghazal artist in **2014**, and **Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi**, the iconic Carnatic singer in **2017**.

BANKING & FINANCE

South Indian Bank Introduces 'SIB Quick FD' for Seamless FD Investments

On February 14, 2025, Thrissur (Kerala) based South Indian Bank Limited launched '**SIB Quick FD**', a new digital service that allows individuals to open Fixed Deposits (FDs) without a savings account in the bank.



- This initiative aims to offer a **hassle-free** and convenient digital banking experience for both existing and new customers.
- It offers **digital-first solutions** that cater to the evolving needs of customer with minimal setup, affordable entry amounts, and insured deposits ensuring a secure, simple, and convenient investment experience.

Key Features of 'SIB Quick FD':

- No Savings Account Required:** Individuals do not need a savings account with SIB to open an FD. This provides greater flexibility and accessibility for all customers.
- Digital and Paperless Process:** The entire process is digital, eliminating the need for traditional paperwork. The FD can be set up in just **5 minutes**.
- UPI Fund Transfer:** Customers can fund their FD using Unified Payments Interface (UPI), streamlining the payment process for added convenience.
- Minimal Documentation:** Only two documents are required to open an FD: **PAN** (Permanent Account Number) and **Aadhaar** (unique identification number).
- 24/7 Availability:** Customers can open an FD at any time, offering flexibility in managing their investments.
- Affordable Investment:** The minimum investment to start an FD is just **Rs.1,000**, making it accessible to a wide range of investors.
- Attractive Interest Rates:** SIB offers competitive interest rates on its FDs, and customers also can avail the flexibility of premature withdrawals.
- DICGC Insurance:** Deposits made through SIB Quick FD are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), providing coverage up to **Rs.5 lakh** per depositor.

About South Indian Bank (SIB) Limited:

Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– PR Seshadri

Headquarters- Thrissur, Kerala

Established- 1929

Tagline- Experience Next Generation Banking

IRDAI Unveils Bima Trinity Schemes for Insurance Revolution

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) organised the **9th edition** of Bima Manthan on February 13-14, 2025, its a quarterly meeting with insurance company Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).



- During the meeting, IRDAI has introduced the 'Bima Trinity' initiative to enhance the accessibility, affordability, and efficiency of insurance services in India.
- This comprehensive plan comprises three key components: Bima Sugam, Bima Vistaar and Bima Vahaak.
- The aim is to enhance insurance inclusion and digital transformation, reinforcing its commitment to a more accessible and consumer-friendly insurance ecosystem as part of its Vision Insurance for all' by 2047.

Highlights:

i.Bima Sugam: An open digital marketplace designed to facilitate the sale, servicing, and claims of insurance policies across various insurance companies.

ii.Bima Vistaar: A pioneering composite insurance product that offers coverage for life, personal accidents, property, and surgical hospitalization.

iii.Bima Vahaak: A localized, women-centric insurance field sales force aimed at enhancing insurance penetration in underserved areas. Bima Vahaak is scheduled for a soft launch in April 2025.

Note: The Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF) was established to develop and operate this platform has completed its foundational processes and is now ready for industry participation and capitalization.

About Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI):

IRDAI was established under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) Act, 1999. It is an autonomous body under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) responsible for regulating and developing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.

Chairperson– Debasish Panda

Headquarters- Hyderabad, Telangana

Established- 1999

RBI Penalizes SFL, NTB, USFB for Regulatory Non-Compliance

In February 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties on two banks and one Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) for not adhering to regulatory guidelines.

- The banks involved include Nainital (Uttarakhand) based Nainital Bank Limited (NTB), Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited (USFB), and the Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) based Shriram Finance Limited (SFL), an NBFC.

i. **NTB** was fined **Rs 61.40 lakh** for failing to comply with directions related to 'Interest Rate on Advances' and 'Customer Service in Banks'.

ii. **USFB** was fined **Rs 6.70 lakh** for non-compliance with specific directions issued by RBI regarding 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

iii. **SFL** was fined **Rs 5.80 lakh** for non-compliance with several provisions, including the Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and directions on 'Data Format for Furnishing Credit Information to Credit Information Companies (CICs)'.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran Conferred with UK's Honorary Knighthood

On February 14, 2025, **Natarajan Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of Tata Sons Private Limited was conferred with the United Kingdom's (UK's) "Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE)" under King Charles III reign for his services to U.K./India Business relations.



- The KBE/DBE is one of the highest honors awarded by the British Sovereign to civilians, recognizing the exceptional contributions of foreign nationals across various fields.

About the Order of the British Empire:

i. The GBE (Knight or Dame Grand Cross) is the highest rank within the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

- In 2014, the late **Ratan Tata**, former Chairman of the Tata Group, became the only Indian to be awarded the GBE (Knight or Dame Grand Cross) since 1950.

ii. The "Knight Commander (KBE for men) or Dame Commander (DBE for women)" of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is the second-highest rank within the Order of the British Empire.

- In 2024, **Sunil Bharti Mittal**, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Limited, was conferred with the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE).
- Other Indian recipients of the honorary KBE include the late Ratan Tata (2009), the late sitar virtuoso Pandit Ravi Shankar (2001), and the late Tata Steel veteran Jamshed Irani (1997), was honored by the late Queen Elizabeth II.

About Natarajan Chandrasekaran:

i. In 2016, he joined the Board of Tata Sons Private Limited, and in 2017, he became its Chairman.

ii. He also chairs the boards of key Tata Group companies, including Tata Steel Limited, Tata Motors Limited, Tata Power Limited, and Air India Limited.

Awards:

i. In 2023, Chandrasekaran was also awarded France's highest civilian honor, the 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur' (Knight of the Legion of Honour).

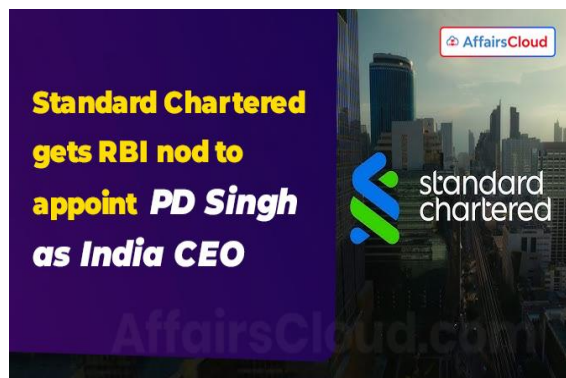
ii. In 2022, he was honored with the **Padma Bhushan**, India's third-highest civilian award, in the field of Trade and Industry.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

RBI Approves PD Singh Appointment as CEO of Standard Chartered India

On February 17, 2025, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Banker **Prabdev Singh (P.D.)**

Singh's appointment as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of India's operation of Standard Chartered of India based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- He will **assume office on April 1, 2025**, succeeding Zarin Daruwala who will retire on March 31, 2025, after serving for ten years
- He will head India and South Asia operation and the tenure will be for 3 years

Note: Standard Chartered has been operating in India for over 160 years, with a network of 100 branches across 42 cities.

About Prabdev Singh :

i. PD Singh **holds two** Masters in Business Administration (**MBA**) **degrees** and an engineering qualification and is recognized for his contributions to the banking industry.

ii. He also spent **over ten years** at Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (**HSBC**) based in London, United Kingdom (UK).

iii. Before joining Standard Chartered, Singh was the **CEO of JPMorgan Chase and Co** based in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

About Standard Chartered of India:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)– Zarin Daruwala (India) (Currently)

Headquarters– Mumbai, Maharashtra

Established– 1853

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DRDO's ADA & MIDHANI Signed MoU to Develop MDN100 Steel for Aeronautical Applications

Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Aeronautical Development Agency (**ADA**), a department of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (**MIDHANI**), a defence Public Sector Undertaking (**PSU**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) for the Indigenous development of high-strength, high-toughness special-grade steel "**MDN100**" for aerospace applications.

**DRDO, MIDHANI
sign MoU for
special grade steel
for aeronautical
applications**



- This collaboration aims to advance aeronautical applications, particularly in the 5th generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) program.
- The MoU was signed at the Aero India 2025 airshow held from 10-14 February 2025 in Bengaluru.

Note: ADA is the nodal organization for combat aircraft development in India.

Key Points:

- The MDN100 Steel has excellent forgeability and is suitable for manufacturing highly stressed aircraft parts offering significant weight-saving benefits.
- This initiative supports the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” (self-reliant India) initiative under India’s combat aircraft programs.
- MIDHANI has been a key supplier of critical materials for DRDO and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) in various aeronautical projects.
 - MIDHANI showcased SuperNi 41 plates at Aero India 2025, a nickel-chromium-based superalloy capable of withstanding extreme temperatures in aero engines.
- ADA’s ongoing combat aircraft programs include Light Combat Aircraft Mark 2 (LCA Mk2), Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), and Twin-Engine Deck Based Fighter (TEDBF) for the Indian Navy.

About Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI):

Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)- Gowri Sankara Rao Naramsetti

Headquarters– Hyderabad, Telangana

Established– 1973

IN Launches 8th Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 11 (Yard 79)

On February 14, 2025, the Indian Navy (IN) successfully launched its ‘8th Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge’, Large Scale Additive Manufacturing (LSAM 11) (Yard 79) at Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra, the launch site of M/s SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited (SEEPL) based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- The launch ceremony was attended by Commodore **N. Gopinath**, Assistant Chief of Materiel (Planning), Naval Dockyard (ND), Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- The contract for the construction of this 8th MCA Barge was signed on **February 19, 2021** with the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Private Limited.

- The barge has been indigenously designed and built in collaboration with an Indian ship design firm and the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- Model testing was conducted at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam (AP) to ensure seaworthiness.
- The MCA Barges are integral to the IN’s operational capabilities, aiding in the transportation, embarkation, and disembarkation of ammunition and materials to naval platforms, both at jetties and outer harbors.

iv. These MCA Barges support the Government of India's (GoI) 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, contributing to the India's defence self-reliance.

SPORTS

Indonesia won their first ever 'Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2025' over China

On February 16, 2025, Indonesia won their **first-ever title** at the 4th Edition of the "Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2025" by defeating two-time defending champions **China** with a **3-1** victory in the final. The tournament was held from February 11 to 16, 2025 at the Conson Gymnasium in Qingdao, China.

- **Muhammad Shohibul Fikri** served as the captain for the Indonesia team while the China team was led by captain **Chen Xujun**.



- Indonesia, for their triumph, earned the coveted **gold** medal, China took home the **silver** while Japan and Thailand were awarded with the **bronze** medals for their victory.

Key Highlights:

i. Mixed Doubles: Rinov Rivaldy and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti set the tone for Indonesia's victory, defeating China's Gao Jiaxuan and Wu Mengying with a dominant 21-11, 21-13 scoreline, giving Indonesia an early **1-0** lead.

ii. Men's Singles: Alwi Farhan continued the momentum by securing a 21-15, 21-13 win over China's World Junior Champion Hu Zhe'an, pushing Indonesia's lead to **2-0**.

iii. Women's Singles: China managed to grab a point when Xu Wenjing triumphed over Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani 21-12, 21-13, bringing the score to **2-1**.

iv. Men's Doubles: The decisive match saw Indonesia's Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Daniel Marthin comfortably defeat China's Chen Xujun and Huang Di 21-15, 21-9, sealing Indonesia's historic victory and sparking celebrations among the team.

v. India's Stance: Team India has been eliminated in the Quarterfinals and placed at 6th in the table.

Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2025 Medalists:

Country	Medal
Indonesia	Gold
China	Silver
Japan	Bronze
Thailand	Bronze

About Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships:

- i. The Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships is a biennial tournament organized by Badminton Asia and hosted by the Chinese Badminton Association (**CBA**).
- ii. The 4th edition was sponsored by China based **Tsingtao Brewery Co-Limited** and was named as "Tsingtao Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2025".
- iii. The tournament featured **13 teams** from across Asia competing in a series of group-stage matches followed by knockout rounds to determine the final standings.
- iv. The participating countries were divided into **4 groups**: Group- China, Singapore, and Taiwan; Group B- Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Malaysia; Group C – Japan, Kazakhstan, and Thailand; while Group D -South Korea, Macau, and India.

About Indonesia:

President- Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo

Capital- Jakarta

Currency- Indonesian Rupiah (**IDR**)

About China:

President- Xi Jinping

Prime Minister (PM)- Li Qiang

Capital- Beijing

Currency- Renminbi or Chinese Yuan (**CNY**)

Saudi Arabia to Host First-Ever Olympic Esports Games in 2027

On February 11, 2025, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the inaugural Olympic Esports Games will be held in Riyadh, **Saudi Arabia (SA)** for the **1st time**, in **2027**. This decision is part of a 12-year partnership between the IOC and the Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee (**SOPC**), aimed at engaging younger audiences through esports.

- The SOPC and the Esports World Cup Foundation (**EWCF**) are collaborating with the IOC to organize the Games.
- It aims to bridge traditional sports and esports, expanding opportunities for players and teams.
- The "Road to the Games" is set to commence this year 2025, with initial Olympic esports competitions leading up to the main event in 2027. IOC decided to create the Olympic Esports Games in July 2024, during the 142nd IOC Session.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Tourism Resilience Day 2025 – February 17

The United Nations (**UN's**) Global Tourism Resilience Day (GTRD) is observed annually on **February 17** across the globe to highlight the critical need to build resilience in the tourism industry. This day draws attention to the sector's vulnerability to various crises and emergencies and emphasizes the importance of preparedness and adaptability.

- 17 February 2025 marks the observance of the **3rd GTRD**.

Note: Tourism plays a vital role in advancing the 3 key pillars of sustainable development: fostering economic growth, reducing poverty, and promoting environmental protection, contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**).

Background:

- i. On February 6, 2023, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) adopted resolution A/RES/77/269, officially designating February 17 as GTRD.



- The **first-ever** GTRD was observed on February 17, 2023

ii. This annual observance aims to highlight the importance of building resilience within the tourism industry to better handle disruptions and challenges.

Significance of GTRD:

i. National Strategies for Rehabilitation: GTRD urges Member States to create national strategies for recovery after disruptions.

- It aims to involve private-public partnerships and the diversification of activities and tourism products.

ii. Global Participation: The UNGA calls upon Member States, UN entities, international organizations, and individuals to observe GTRD

- It should align with global, regional, and national priorities, focusing on sustainable tourism awareness through educational activities.

iii. Sustainable Tourism: During its 77th session, the UNGA instructed the Secretary-General (SG) to collaborate with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and other UN entities.

- The goal is to present a report on sustainable tourism, emphasizing ecotourism to address poverty and protect the environment.

iv. UNWTO: The UNWTO is a specialized agency of the UN and a key international organization in the tourism sector.

- It plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable tourism that supports global development and environmental sustainability.

Significance of Tourism:

i. Economic Importance: Tourism is a vital economic driver for many nations, particularly in developing regions, contribute to income generation, foreign exchange, employment, and tax revenues.

ii. Local Impact: Supports local businesses and stimulates community development in connecting people with nature, fostering environmental responsibility.

iii. Sustainable Development: Sustainable tourism, especially ecotourism, is critical in advancing the SDGs and drives economic growth, reduces poverty, creates jobs, and supports local cultures and ecosystems.

iv. Social Benefits: Promotes responsible consumer behavior and sustainable resource use and empowers marginalized communities, including indigenous groups, women, and youth.

Global Tourism Recovery in 2023 and 2024 Outlook:

i. According to the 1st UNWTO World Tourism Barometer of 2024, international tourism receipts reached USD **1.4 trillion** in 2023, about 93% of 2019 (USD 1.5 trillion) earnings.

ii. Total export revenues are estimated at USD 1.6 trillion, almost 95% of 2019 (USD 1.7 trillion).

iii. In 2023, international tourism rebounded strongly, reaching 88% of pre-pandemic levels, with 1.3 billion international arrivals.

iv. By the end of 2024, the sector is expected to fully recover, driven by pent-up demand, better air connectivity, and a stronger return of Asian markets.

Regional Performances 2024:

Middle East: Surpassed pre-pandemic levels with arrivals 22% higher than 2019.

Europe: Reached 94% of 2019 levels, supported by intra-regional and United States of America (USA) travel.

Africa: Recovered 96% of pre-pandemic visitors.

USA: Achieved 90% recovery.

Asia and Pacific: Reached 65%, with South Asia (SA) recovering 87% and North-East Asia (NEA) 55%.

Economic Impact 2024:

i. Tourism sector contributed 3% to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating a strong recovery in 2023.

ii. After a robust recovery in 2023, international tourism is projected to return to pre-pandemic levels by 2024, with early estimates indicating a **2% growth** in international tourist arrivals compared to 2019.

About United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO):

Secretary-General (SG) – Zurab Pololikashvili

Headquarters – Madrid, Spain

Established – 1975

STATE NEWS

Gujarat Launches G-SAFAL to Empower 50,000 Underprivileged Women

In February 2025, the **Gujarat** government led by Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel, launched the **G-SAFAL** (Gujarat Scheme for Antyodaya Families for Augmenting Livelihoods), an initiative aims to enhance the livelihoods of Antyodaya families (underprivileged families), empower women, and promote economic self-sufficiency.



- The initiative will empower **50,000** families holding Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards across 25 talukas in 10 districts of Gujarat in the next 5 years.
- It is being implemented by Gujarat Livelihood Promotion Company Limited (**GLPC**) under the Rural Development Department of Gujarat.
- It aligns with the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), launched by the Government of India (GoI) in January 2023, aimed at improving the quality of life in 500 aspirational blocks across 27 states and 4 Union Territories (UTs).

About G-SAFAL initiative:

i. Four Key Pillars of G-SAFAL for Women's Empowerment, they are Social Security, Livelihood Creation, Financial Inclusion, and Social Development and Empowerment. ii. The scheme will provide beneficiaries with thorough training and support, along with a grant of **Rs. 80,000** to help them create new opportunities for financial stability.

ii. Around 10 Districts and Talukas of Gujarat will be covered under G-SAFAL.

About Gujarat:

Capital – Gandhinagar

Chief Minister (CM) – Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel

Governor – Acharya Devvrat

Airports – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport

Less Important NEWS

- [India Inc's leverage to improve in FY26-27 despite high capex: Fitch](#)
- [Assam Secures 4th Place In New York Times' List Of Top 52 Destinations For 2025](#)
- [Limited sexual education & welfare exclusions leave India's teenage mothers vulnerable: Report](#)
- [Growing complexity widening cyber inequity: WEF report](#)
- [Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurates 19 developmental works and lays the foundation stone for 8 projects of worth ₹194 crore in Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)

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

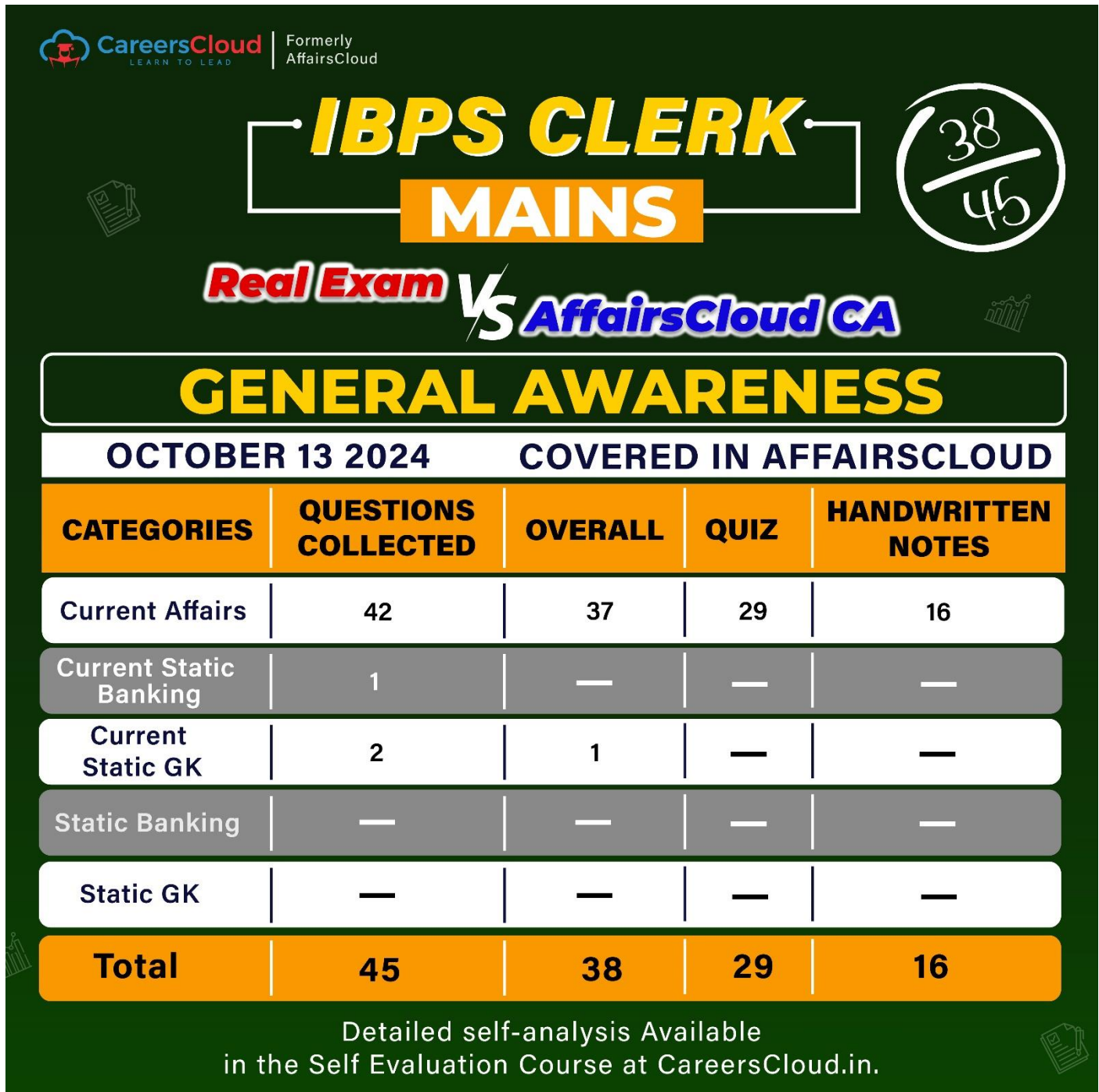
Candidates appearing for Competitive Exams. Kindly Share the General Awareness questions, which asked in their respective exams to “gaanalysis.ac@gmail.com”

GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [Affairsccloud’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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