

Current Affairs Weekly PDF – January 2025 – 4th Week (25 – 31)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Empowering India's Daughters: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Completed 10 Years

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, a flagship initiative led by the Government of India (GoI) which aims to protect, educate, and empower the girl child in India, has completed **10 years** of successful implementation.

- ✓ The scheme was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015 in Panipat, Haryana. Completion of 10 Years of BBBP marks a significant milestone which aligns with India's vision of a **Viksit Bharat 2047** and the global shift from Women's Development to Women-led Development.
- ✓ **Improvement in SRB:** The national SRB improved from 918 (in 2014-15) to 930 (in 2023-24). The maximum increase – of 54 points – was recorded in Rajasthan, followed by Haryana (38 points), Himachal Pradesh (33 points) and Gujarat (29 points).
- ✓ **Increase in Girl's Enrollment in Secondary Education:** The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for girls has increased from 75.51% (in 2014-15) to 78% (in 2023-24). This indicates the positive influence of BBBP's educational interventions.
- ✓ **Increased Institutional Deliveries:** BBBP also focused on improving healthcare access for women. Institutional deliveries increased from 61% (in 2014-15) to over 97.3% (by 2023-24).
- ✓ On January 22 2025, Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, MoH&FW and Union Minister Annpurna Devi, MoWCD jointly inaugurated the 10 years anniversary celebration of BBBP at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi. [Click here to read full News](#)

ICRIER Report: India's Digital Economy to Contribute One-Fifth of GDP by 2030

In January 2025, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) released a comprehensive report titled '[Estimation and Measurement of India's Digital Economy](#)', prepared by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (**ICRIER**). This marks the first attempt to quantify the digital sector's impact on India's income and employment.

- ✓ According to the report, India's digital economy is projected to grow nearly twice as fast as the overall economy, contributing to almost **one-fifth of national income** by **2029-30**.
- ✓ The report estimates that India's digital economy accounted for **11.74%** of India's income in 2022-23, contributing **Rs. 28.94 lakh crore** (Approximately USD 368 billion) in Gross Value Added (**GVA**) and **Rs. 31.64 lakh crore** (Approximately USD 402 billion) in Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**). This share is projected to rise to **13.42%** by 2024-25.

MNRE : Total RE Installed Capacity Rises 15.84% to 209.44 GW in 2024

According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**), India has made **significant strides** in its Renewable Energy (**RE**) journey, strengthening its position as a global leader in clean energy. As of December 2024, India's total RE installed capacity has reached **209.44 Gigawatt (GW)**, a 15.84% increase compared to 180.80 GW in December 2023.

- ✓ Solar energy dominated, with **24.5 GW** of new capacity installed and its cumulative installed capacity increased to **97.86 GW** in 2024 from 73.32 GW in 2023.

- ✓ Wind energy also contributed significantly to India's renewable energy goals. A total of **3.4 GW of wind capacity** was added in 2024, reflecting a 21% increase from 2023.
- ✓ Bioenergy's installed capacity rose from 10.84 GW in December 2023 to 11.35 GW in December 2024, reflecting a 4.70% increase.

India & South Korea Conducted Exchange of Notes for NCERT's Technical Cooperation Project

In January 2025, **India** and **South Korea** conducted an exchange of notes for the technical cooperation project titled 'Strengthening Vocational Education and Training in Mechatronics in India' in New Delhi(Delhi). The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (**KOICA**) of the Government of Republic of Korea.

- ✓ Under this partnership, South Korea will invest **USD 2 million** (approximately 2.9 billion KRW) by 2027 to launch a large-scale initiative aimed at enhancing India's vocational and technical education capabilities.

FIEO and Credlix Signed MoU to Empower Indian Exporters with Financial and Logistical Support

In January 2025, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (**FIEO**), the apex body for exporters in India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Singapore-based **Credlix**, a global leader in supply chain financing solutions, to boost the growth of Indian exporters and strengthen their international presence.

- ✓ This collaboration aims to streamline global trade by providing exporters with innovative financial solutions, logistical support, and other critical resources.

MoD signs Rs 1,561 crore deal with Heavy Vehicles Factory for 47 T-72 Bridge Laying Tanks

In January 2025, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed a **Rs 1,561-crore** deal with Chennai(Tamil Nadu, TN) based Heavy Vehicles Factory(HVF), a unit of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited(AVNL), for the acquisition of **47 Tank (T)-72 Bridge Laying Tanks (BLTs)** for the Indian Army(**IA**).

- ✓ The contract was signed by the senior officials of the MoD and HVF, AVNL, in the presence of Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of the MoD. T-72 BLTs are manufactured by HVF under the license from Russia.

NITI Aayog & NASSCOM Foundation Partner to digitally empower One lakh People

In January 2025, National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI Aayog**) and the National Association of Software and Service

Companies (**NASSCOM**) Foundation have entered into a partnership to provide **digital skills** to one lakh individuals with an aim to reduce the issue of digital divide.

- ✓ The collaboration comes under the Aspirational Blocks Programme(**ABP**), and is aligned with the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (**PMGDISHA**).

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana Completed Decade of Transforming Lives

On January 22 2025, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (**SSY**), a flagship initiative of Government of India (GoI) which aims to secure the financial future of girl children in India, has completed **10 years** of successful implementation.

- ✓ The scheme was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015 as part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (**BBBP**) campaign in Panipat(Haryana).
- ✓ The Department of Economic Affairs(**DEA**) under the Ministry of Finance is responsible for the SSY.

- ✓ The minimum deposit amount required to open SSY is **Rs 250**, and subsequent deposits can be made in multiples of Rs 50, provided that at least Rs 250 is deposited in a Financial Year (FY).
- ✓ Maximum deposit of **Rs 1.5 lakh per FY** can be maintained in the account under the SSY.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Flags-off 'SANJAY – The Battlefield Surveillance System' from New Delhi

On 24th January 2025, Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) flagged off '**SANJAY**', the Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) from South Block, New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ It has been indigenously and jointly developed by the Indian Army (IA) and Bengaluru(Karnataka) based Bharat Electronics Limited (**BEL**), establishing a favourable environment for the realization of "Aatmanirbharta" as a sequel to the IA's "Year of Technology Absorption."

India & UK Renew 5-Year Partnership to Strengthen Health Sectors

On January 23, 2025, **India** and the United Kingdom (**UK**) have renewed their health and life sciences partnership by signing a **five-year** Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to strengthen collaboration and sharing knowledge in areas of mutual interest within health and life sciences during a ceremony held in New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ The primary focus of the renewed partnership is a shared vision for Universal Health Coverage.
- ✓ The partnership aims to tackle global health challenges such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), digital health innovations, and advancements in pharmaceuticals.

BEE & TERI sign MoU to Establish CoEET in Hyderabad

On January 24 2025, The Bureau of Energy Efficiency(**BEE**), Ministry of Power(MoP) and The

Energy and Resources Institute (**TERI**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch a Centre of Excellence for Energy Transition(**CoEET**) at TERI's Institute of Energy Transition (IoET) in **Hyderabad**, Telangana.

- ✓ The project cost is estimated at **Rs.25 crore** under which BEE will provide a financial support of Rs.5 crore annually for 5 years for assisting in the establishment and functioning of the Centre.
- ✓ TERI will provide its existing **infrastructure** at its Hyderabad campus and will monitor the operational activities of the Centre.

NIFT Hyderabad launches 'VisionNxt', fashion forecasting platform

In January 2025, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (**NIFT**), Hyderabad(Telangana) launched '**VisionNxt**', India's first fashion forecasting platform that combines Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI). This was unveiled during NIFT's 40th Foundation Day celebrations in Hyderabad.

- ✓ The platform, developed under the Ministry of Textiles (**MoT**), is designed to offer trend insights specifically for India's fashion and retail industry.

Dr. Arvind Panagariya Launched NITI Aayog's Inaugural FHI 2025 ; Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Goa Top 3 Performing States

In January 2025, **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, Chairman of 16th Finance Commission (FC) launched the inaugural issue of National Institution for Transforming India (**NITI**) **Aayog's** report titled '**Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025 for the Financial Year 2022-23 (FY23)**' in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ As per the report, **Odisha** has outperformed all other states with cumulative score of **67.8** out of 100, followed by Chhattisgarh (55.2) and Goa (53.6).
- ✓ **States in Achiever category:** Odisha (rank 1st), Chhattisgarh (2nd), Goa (3rd), Jharkhand(rank 4th with overall score of

51.6) and Gujarat (rank 5th overall score of 50.5).

- ✓ **States in Front-runner category:** Maharashtra (50.3); Uttar Pradesh (UP) (45.9); Telangana (43.6); Madhya Pradesh (MP) (42.2); and Karnataka (40.8)
- ✓ **States in Performer category:** Tamil Nadu (TN) (29.2); Rajasthan (28.6); Bihar (27.8) and Haryana (27.4)
- ✓ **States in Aspirational category:** Kerala (25.4), West Bengal (WB)(21.8), Andhra Pradesh (AP) (20.9) and Punjab (10.7)

Uttarakhand, 1st State to Implement Uniform Civil Code

Uttarakhand has become the **1st state** in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code(**UCC**), which came into effect on **27 January 2025**.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister(CM) Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the **UCC portal** and issued a notification marking the adoption of the civil code at an event in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- ✓ The Uttarakhand government introduced the Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code Act, 2024, which provides a clear process for creating and canceling wills and related documents called codicils under the rules of inheritance.

DGS & C-DAC partner to enhance Maritime Innovation

On January 25 2025, the Directorate General of Shipping (**DGS**) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways(MoPSW) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (**C-DAC**), a Scientific Society under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to enhance **innovation** in technology and excellence in India's **maritime sector** through advancing maritime administration by latest technologies.

- ✓ The MoU will involve the integration of C-DAC's expertise in advanced computing, cybersecurity, Blockchain and e-Governance in various areas.

IIA Organizes International Conference in Bengaluru to Mark 125th Anniversary of KSO

In January 2025, The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (**IIA**), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T), organized an **international conference** on the theme, '**Sun, Space Weather, and Solar-Stellar Connections**' to mark the **125th** anniversary of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (**KSO**), from January 20-25, 2025 in Bengaluru(Karnataka).

Overview of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo's visit to India from January 23-26, 2025

President of Indonesia, Prabowo Subianto Djojohadikusumo, visited India from **January 23 to 26, 2025**, at the invitation of Prime Minister (**PM**) of India Narendra Modi. This visit marked his 1st bilateral trip to India commemorating the 75th Anniversary of India-Indonesia Diplomatic Relations.

India-Indonesia Signed MoUs and Cooperation Agreements:

The visit of Indonesian President to India witnessed the signing and renewal of **five** Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) covering diverse areas such as health, traditional medicine, and maritime security.

- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), India and the Ministry of Health, Indonesia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Health Cooperation.
- ✓ A renewal of the MoU on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation has been established between the Indian Coast Guard(ICG) and Badan Keamanan Laut Republik (BAKAMLA) (the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency), Indonesia.
- ✓ The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homeopathy (PCIM&H), Ministry of AYUSH(Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy), India and the Indonesian Food and Drug Authority have

signed an MoU in the field of Traditional Medicine Quality Assurance (QA).

- ✓ An MoU on Cooperation in the Fields of Digital Development has been signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), India and the Ministry of Communication and Digital Affairs, Indonesia.
- ✓ A Cultural Exchange Program between the Ministry of Culture, MoC (India) and the Ministry of Culture (Indonesia), was also signed for the time period 2025-2028.

MoF Notified Unified Pension Scheme for Central Government Employees, to be Effective from April 01, 2025

In January 2025, the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) notified the Unified Pension Scheme (**UPS**) as an option for central government employees who are already covered under the National Pension System (**NPS**). The scheme aims to offer retirees a guaranteed pension, ensuring financial security and dignity post-retirement.

- ✓ As per MoF, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) will monitor UPS regulations and provide operational guidelines. The scheme will come into effect from **April 01, 2025**. The central government has increased its contribution from 14% (currently under NPS) to **18.5%**.

76th Republic Day of India- 26 January 2025

India celebrated its **76th Republic Day** (R-day) on **26 January 2025** with great patriotism. The Republic Day parades and events took place at **Kartavya Path** (formerly known as Rajpath) in New Delhi, Delhi. Republic Day **commemorates** the **adoption** of the **Constitution of India**, which came into effect on 26 January 1950, making India a sovereign, democratic, and republic nation.

- ✓ The 76th Republic Day celebrations, themed '**Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas**,' (Golden India: Heritage and

Development) highlighted India's military strength, cultural heritage, and development.

- ✓ During the Republic Day 2025 event, a total of 942 personnel from the Police, Fire, Home Guard & Civil Defence (HG&CD), and Correctional Services were awarded Gallantry and Service Medals.
- ✓ Among the **95 Gallantry Medals**, 28 were given to personnel from Left Wing Extremism-affected areas, 28 from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), 3 from the North-East, and 36 from other regions for their acts of courage.
- ✓ The President of India approved the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2024 for 49 individuals, including 17 recipients of Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, 9 of Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak, and 23 of Jeevan Raksha Padak. Among them, six awards were given posthumously.
- ✓ 31 Tableaux and First-Ever Tri-Services Tableau at Kartavya Path on Republic Day
[Click here to read full News](#)

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Jointly launched Various Initiatives ahead of 1st WAVES in Delhi

Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (**MIB**) and Union Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and Ministry of Culture (MoC), jointly launched various initiatives such as: **WAVES Bazaar; 3 Create in India Challenges; WAVES Awards**, among others at the National Media Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ The main highlight of the event was the launch of 3 new challenges i.e. "Wah Ustad", "Make The World Wear Khadi" and "Resonate: The EDM Challenge", under CIC.

DGFT Launched Enhanced 'eCoO 2.0 System' to Boost Trade Efficiency

In January 2025, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (**DGFT**) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) has launched the enhanced Certificate of Origin (**eCoO**) **2.0 System** to simplify

the certification process for exporters and improve trade efficiency, with features like multi-user access under a single Importer Exporter Code (IEC).

- ✓ Starting from 1st January 2025, electronic filing of Non-Preferential CoO is mandatory through the eCoO 2.0 platform, accessible to exporters via <https://trade.gov.in>.

Tripura becomes the 1st NE State to Sign MoU with Bhashini for Multi-Lingual Governance

In January 2025, the Government of **Tripura** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Digital India Bhashini Division (**DIBD**) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for multi-lingual governance.

- ✓ The MoU was signed during a state-level workshop titled “Bhashini Rajyam”, held at Pragna Bhavan in Agartala, Tripura under the guidance of Professor (Dr.) Manik Saha, Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura.
- ✓ With this, Tripura becomes the **1st** North-Eastern(NE) state, as well as **8th** Indian state to sign a MoU with Bhasha Interface for India(**Bhashini**).

Cabinet approvals on January 29 2025

On January 29 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** has approved the following proposals:

- Launch of the ‘National Critical Mineral Mission’ (**NCMM**) to build a resilient ‘Value Chain’ for critical mineral resources essential for Green Technologies with a total cost of **Rs. 34,300** crore over a period of **7 years**.
 - ✓ NCMM aims to attract an investment of **Rs.18,000** crore (USD 2.08 billion) from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and other entities.
- Revised Mechanism for Procurement of Ethanol by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (**OMCs**) under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme – Price Adjustment for Ethanol Supply Year (**ESY**) **2024-25**.

- ✓ This revision, part of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (**EBP**) Programme of the Government of India (GoI), fixes the administered ex-mill price of ethanol from C Heavy Molasses (CHM) at **Rs. 57.97 per litre (l)**, up from Rs. 56.58 per l.

ASER Report 2024: Government Schools Outshine Private in Post-COVID Learning Recovery; Government Schools Enrolment Drops to 66.8%

In January 2025, the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) **Pratham Foundation** released the “Annual Status of Education Report(Rural) 2024 (**ASER 2024**)”, a nationwide household survey that covers the status of children’s enrolment and learning outcomes in rural India annually. The report highlighted that enrolment in both government and private schools has returned to pre-COVID levels.

- ✓ The household-based Survey ASER 2025 has covered almost covered 649,491 children aged 3-16, in 17,997 villages across 605 districts of 29 States/Union Territories (UTs) of India.
- ✓ Enrolment in pre-primary institutions among 3-year olds has increased from 68.1% (in 2018) to 75.8% (in 2022) to 77.4% (in 2024). Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana have achieved near-universal enrolment for this age group.
- ✓ Over 75% of children are enrolled in Anganwadi centres in both these age groups in states like: West Bengal (WB), Gujarat, and Karnataka. [Click here to read full News](#)

Union Minister Giriraj Singh Inaugurates ‘Handloom Conclave – Manthan’ in New Delhi; Launched e-pehchaan portal

On January 29 2025, Union Minister **Giriraj Singh**, Ministry of Textiles (MoT), inaugurated the ‘**Handloom Conclave – Manthan**’ at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ The conclave aligned with Prime Minister (PM) of India, Narendra Modi’s **5F**

vision :“Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign”, emphasizing a holistic approach to boosting the handloom industry.

- ✓ The event also explored ways to make the sector a driving force in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

100 Odisha Villages to Receive Direct Funds for Forest Protection under CFR Plans Approved by MoTA

In January 2025, the Project Appraisal Committee (**PAC**) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has approved Community Forest Resource (**CFR**) plans for **100** villages in phase-I under the Forest Right (FRA) Act, 2006. This number is less than Odisha government proposal to implement it in 400 villages of the state.

- ✓ The state government will receive **Rs 16 crore** for development and execution of CFR management plans of 100 villages.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GFP 2025 Military Strength Ranking: USA Tops, India Secures 4th Position

According to the 2025 Military Strength Ranking by the [Global Firepower Index \(GFP\)](#), India has secured 4th place as most powerful military in the world. The United States of America (USA) leads the ranking, followed by Russia in second place and China in third.

Top 5 on 2025 Military Strength Ranking:

Rank	Country	PwrIndx
1	United States of America (USA)	0.0744
2	Russia	0.0788
3	China	0.0788
4	India	0.1184
5	South Korea	0.1656

THE World University Rankings 2025 by Subjects: IISc Bengaluru Among Top 100 Institutes in CS

In January 2025, the Times Higher Education (THE) has released the '[World University Rankings by Subject 2025](#)'. The Indian Institute of Science (**IISc**)

in Bengaluru, Karnataka stands out as the only Indian institution in the **top 100** for Computer science (CS), securing the 96th position for the first time.

Top World University Ranking 2025:

Rank	Name of the Institute	Country
1	University of Oxford	United Kingdom (UK)
2	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States of America (USA)
3	Harvard University	USA
4	Princeton University	USA
5	University of Cambridge	UK

Ranking of Indian Institutions:

Rank Range	Category	Name of the institute
96th	Computer Science	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru
251–300	Medical and Health	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
301+	Law, Psychology	Delhi University (DU)
401–500	Social Sciences	Amity University, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES)
401–500	Arts and Humanities	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University
601+	Arts and Humanities	Jadavpur University

UNCTAD Global Investment Trends Monitor 2024: FDI Rises 11%, Drops 8% Excluding European Flows

In January 2025, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported in its [Global Investment Trends Monitor 2024](#) that global foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by **11%**, reaching an estimated **USD 1.4 trillion in 2024**. However, FDI declined by **8%** when excluding flows through European conduit economies.

- ✓ FDI in **India** grew by **13%**, with an increase in both the number and value of greenfield project announcements.

- ✓ FDI to developing **Asia** declined by **7%**, with China's inflows dropping 29% for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) FDI rose 2% to a record USD 235 billion.

Wetland City Accreditation: Indore & Udaipur became India's first Ramsar wetland cities

In January 2025, an independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of the Ramsar Convention, announced the list of [31 newly accredited Wetland Cities](#), during its 64th meeting held in Gland, Switzerland. Among the newly accredited cities, **Indore** (Madhya Pradesh, MP) and **Udaipur** (Rajasthan) became the **first two Indian** cities to receive the international accreditation as 'Wetland Cities'.

- ✓ With this, the **total number** of accredited Wetland Cities has reached **74**. This accreditation was granted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) under the Ramsar Convention.

55th Annual Meeting of WEF held in Switzerland from January 20-24, 2025 : Part I

The **55th** Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF 2025) was held from January 20-24, 2025 in Davos-Klosters, **Switzerland**. The annual meeting is based on the theme "**Collaboration for the Intelligent Age**" with the event organized around five sub-themes: Reimagining growth, Industries in the intelligent age, Investing in people, Safeguarding the planet and Rebuilding trust.

- ✓ **13** new industrial clusters from **Australia, Brazil, Colombia, India(5), the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand**, and the United Kingdom (**UK**) have joined the WEF's Transitioning Industrial Clusters initiative, bringing the total to **33** across **16** countries and **5** continents.
- ✓ The **25th** edition of [Edelman Trust Barometer](#) was launched during the WEF

2025 in Switzerland. According to the report, **India** slipped to **3rd** spot in terms of the trust of the general population in the government, businesses, media and NGOs. **China** topped the list followed by Indonesia at the 2nd spot.

- ✓ During the WEF 2025, **7** countries from Africa – **Angola, Bangladesh, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Senegal, and Tanzania**– joined the Global Plastic Action Partnership (**GPAP**), bringing a total to **25** countries with a combined population of over 1.5 billion people.
- ✓ Indian-origin South African filmmaker **Anant Singh** has been appointed to the Global Arts and Culture Council (**GACC**) at the GACC's inaugural meeting held at WEF 2025. [Click here to read full News](#)

WHO Declares Georgia as the 45th Malaria-Free Country

In January 2025, the World Health Organization (**WHO**) declared that **Georgia** officially certified as **malaria-free**, celebrating a major achievement in the country's nearly century-long fight against the disease.

- ✓ It has become the **45th** country and the **first** in the WHO European Region to attain malaria-free status.

55th Annual Meeting of WEF held in Switzerland from January 20– 24, 2025: Part II

The **55th** Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (**WEF 2025**) was held, with the theme “**Collaboration for the Intelligent Age**”, from

January 20 to 24, 2025 in Davos-Klosters, **Switzerland**.

- ✓ The Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (**C4IR**) **India**, liaison office of WEF in India, launched its 6-year Impact journey report during the WEF Annual meeting 2025.
- ✓ During the meeting, the **WEF**, in collaboration with New York City (the United States of America, USA) based McKinsey Health Institute (**MHI**), released a report titled ‘Blueprint to Close the Women's Health Gap: How to Improve Lives and Economies for All’ that highlights the global health condition of women and the need to close the health gap.
- ✓ During the WEF 2025, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Chirag Paswan, announced that Belgium based **AB InBev** will provide India with an investment of **USD 250 million** for developing its **beverage sector**, which will span over the next two to three years.
- ✓ The **Telangana** government secured an investment of **Rs 1,78,950 crore**, which will create 49,550 jobs, on the sidelines of the WEF 2025 in Switzerland.
- ✓ **Maharashtra** government has signed **61** MoUs, including 54 investment proposals and 7 strategic cooperation, at WEF2025 of investment worth **Rs 15.70 lakh crore** and having the potential to provide 16 lakh jobs in the state. [Click here to read full News](#)

BANKING & FINANCE

PNB MetLife Partners with Truhome Finance to Offer Group Credit Life Insurance

In January 2025, Mumbai based PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited (**PNB MetLife**) partnered with Chennai based **Truhome Finance** (formerly known as Shriram Housing

Finance Limited) to offer Group Credit Life insurance to home loan customers of Truhome Finance.

- ✓ The partnership is a major step towards PNB MetLife's mission of **Milkar Life Aage Badhein**, highlighting the dedication to

broadening its reach and improving financial inclusion.

TATA AIG Launches 'CyberEdge' to Offer Cyber Insurance for Indian Businesses

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited (**TATA AIG**) launched '**CyberEdge**', an innovative cyber insurance solution aimed at safeguarding businesses of all sizes from a broad range of cyber risks.

- ✓ The Indian cyber insurance market was valued at **Rs.850 crore** in 2024 and is expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of **25%** from 2025 to 2030.

RBI Cancels Registration of X10 Financial Services

In January 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) cancelled the Certificate of Registration (**CoR**) of Mumbai(Maharashtra)-based **X10 Financial Services Limited** (formerly Abhishek Securities Limited), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), due to irregularities in its digital lending operations.

- ✓ The company **violated guidelines** related to **outsourcing financial services** by allowing external service providers (SPs) to handle key tasks such as credit appraisal, setting interest rates, and Know Your Customer (KYC) verification.

Tata AIA Life Insurance Introduced 'Shubh Muhurat' to Simplify Wedding Savings

In January 2025, Mumbai, Maharashtra based **Tata AIA Life Insurance** launched '**Shubh Muhurat**,' a life insurance solution to help families prepare financially for weddings. The plan aims to address the rising costs of weddings by combining disciplined savings, asset growth, and financial security.

JK Tyre Receives USD 100 Million Sustainability-Linked Loan from IFC

In January 2025, Washington, United States(US) based International Finance Corporation (**IFC**) sanctioned a **USD 100 million** Sustainability-Linked Loan (**SLL**) to New Delhi based **JK Tyre**, a leading Indian tyre manufacturer with a global presence.

- ✓ The funding includes **USD 30 million** for **JK Tyre & Industries Limited** and up to **USD 70 million** for Cavendish Industries Limited (**CIL**), a subsidiary of JK Tyre. JK Tyre is a flagship company of JK Organisation, a global conglomerate.

HDFC Life Tie-Up with CARS24 Financial Services for Life Insurance Distribution

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **HDFC Life** Insurance Company Limited entered into a corporate agency partnership with Gurugram (Haryana) based **CARS24 Financial Services Private Limited** (Part of CARS24 group), a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

DFS Releases Rs 500 Crore Capital Infusion into IFCI through PREF

In January 2025, Department of Financial Services (**DFS**) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) has released **Rs 500 crore** capital infusion to New Delhi (Delhi) based **IFCI Limited** (formerly known as the Industrial Finance Corporation of India), a development finance institution (DFI) for subscribing to its share capital in the Financial Year 2024-25(FY25) through the Preferential Issue (PREF) of shares.

CheQ Launches 'CheQ Wisor', India's First AI-Powered Credit Card Expert

In January 2025, CheQ Digital Private Limited, a fintech company based in Bengaluru(Karnataka), introduced '**Cheq Wisor**', India's **first** Artificial Intelligence (**AI**)-powered **credit card expert**.

RBI Announced Series of Steps to Inject Rs 1.50 lakh Crore into the Banking System

On January 27 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) announced a series of steps to inject about **Rs 1.5 lakh crore** into the banking system in a phased manner. The main objective of these steps is to address the liquidity shortfall caused by the RBI's intervention in selling dollars to stabilize the Indian Rupee (INR).

- ✓ RBI will purchase Government Securities (**G-secs**) through Open Market Operations (OMO) worth **Rs 60,000 crore** in three tranches of Rs 20,000 crore each.
- ✓ RBI has further announced a 56-day Variable Rate Repo (**VRR**) auction for a notified amount of **Rs 50,000 crore** which is scheduled to be held on February 7, 2025.

iSPIRT Launches PSLAI to Strengthen MSME Financing

In January 2025, the Indian Software Product Industry Round Table (**iSPIRT**), a think tank for India's software industry, launched the **Priority Sector Lenders Association of India (PSLAI)** which was formed under Section 8 of the Companies Act 1972.

- ✓ PSLAI will be headed by **Priyashmita Guha** as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) and run with the help of an accomplished Board of Directors(BoD).

HSBC India Launches 'HSBC TravelOne Credit Card' for Frequent Travelers

In January 2025, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India (**HSBC India**) introduced '**HSBC TravelOne Credit Card**, to provide convenient and valuable benefits to those who travel frequently.

YES Bank Launches Frictionless Finance Accelerator Programme in Partnership with RBIH and SPJIMR

In January 2025, **YES Bank Limited**, based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, in partnership with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (**RBIH**) in Bengaluru,

Karnataka, and the S.P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (**SPJIMR**) in Mumbai, launched the **Frictionless Finance Accelerator Programme** on the occasion of National Startup Day(January 16 2025).

RBI Penalizes J&K Bank, BoI, Canara Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

In January 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) imposed penalties on 3 major banks for failing to comply with regulatory guidelines.

- ✓ **J&K Bank** was fined **Rs 3.31 crore** for violations related to financial inclusion,
- BoI** faced a penalty of **Rs 1 crore** for non-compliance with specific provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and
- Canara Bank** received a penalty of **Rs 1.63 crore** for deficiencies in priority sector lending.

BIMTECH launches Blockchain-Based Digital Currency "BIMCOIN"

In January 2025, Birla Institute of Management Technology (**BIMTECH**) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP), a top Indian business school, launched '**BIMCOIN**', a blockchain-based digital currency for its ecosystem.

- ✓ Following the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, (Tamil Nadu,TN), BIMTECH has become the **1st business management institute** in India to launch a blockchain-based digital currency.

Mobikwik becomes India's 1st Fintech Company to Roll out CBDC in Partnership with RBI and Yes Bank

In January 2025, Gurugram (Haryana)-based **One Mobikwik Systems Limited**, has become 1st fintech company in India, to roll out a full-scale Central Bank Digital Currency (**CBDC**) or e-rupee, in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Yes Bank Limited.

- ✓ As per this strategic partnership, **Yes Bank Limited** will act as a primary **sponsor bank** to provide the issuance of the CBDC

for both these 3rd-party application providers.

RBL Bank & Piramal Finance Partner to offer Co-Lending Business

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **RBL Bank Limited** (formerly known as Ratnakar Bank Limited) and Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited** (also known as Piramal Finance), a wholly subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited (**PEL**), announced a partnership aimed at enhancing financial inclusion.

PNB unveils 1st-ever real time NCRP Solution for Cybercrime

In January 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) Limited became the **1st Indian bank** to unveil real time Clari5's National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (**NCRP**) Integration Solution. It was introduced in partnership with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (**I4C**), making PNB a leader in both banking and cybersecurity.

Paytm Launches 'Receive Money QR Widget' for Android users

On January 28 2025, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP) based **Paytm**, subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited (OCL), launched the '**Receive Money Quick Response (QR) Widget**' for android users, enabling them to receive payments directly from their smartphone's home screen without the need to open the Paytm application (app). Paytm, became the **1st company** to launch this new feature. This was previously launched for iPhone users.

- ✓ In January 2025, **Nakul Jain** announced his resignation as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payments Services Limited (**PPSL**), a subsidiary of OCL to pursue his own entrepreneurial journey.

RBI Approved Established of NUCFDC to boost UCBs

The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has approved the establishment of National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Cooperation (**NUCFDC**) as an Umbrella Organisation (UO) to boost Urban Co-operative Bodies (**UCBs**) across India. It has also approved NUCFDC to function as a Non-Banking Finance Company (**NBFC**).

- ✓ RBI has mandated NUCFDC to provide two types of services: Fund-based support and Non-fund based support to UCBs which are its shareholder-members.
- ✓ NUCFDC requires the RBI approval to act as Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for UCBs, with functions prescribed by the RBI.

RBI Takes Over AIHFPL Board Amid Governance and Payment Defaults

In January 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) replaced the board of directors of New Delhi (Delhi) based Aviom India Housing Finance Private Limited (**AIHFPL**) over governance issues and payment defaults after audits revealed fraud and governance lapses.

- ✓ The RBI appointed **Ram Kumar**, former Chief General Manager (CGM) of Punjab National Bank (PNB), as the administrator of AIHFPL under Section 45-IE(2) of the RBI Act, 1934.

BHIM Partners with Fintech Yatra to Promote Financial Inclusion, Digital Literacy

In January 2025, Bharat Interface Money (**BHIM**), India's flagship digital payments application (app) powered by Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based NPCI BHIM Services Limited (**NBSL**), a subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has partnered with the **Fintech Yatra 2025** as a Principal Partner.

SEBI Launches 'iSPOT Portal' for Reporting Technical Issues

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**)

launched a web-based portal named the 'Integrated SEBI Portal for Technical Glitches (iSPOT)' for submission of preliminary and final Root Cause Analysis (RCA) reports of technical glitches by stock exchanges and other Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIs).

- ✓ The portal will be operational from **3rd February, 2025**. It is integrated with SEBI's Intermediary (SI) portal, allowing MIs to access it using their existing login credentials.

HDFC Securities Partners with KFin Technologies to Enhance NPS Access

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **HDFC Securities** Limited, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank Limited, entered into a strategic partnership with Hyderabad (Telangana) based **KFin Technologies** Limited to improve accessibility and adoption of the National Pension System (**NPS**).

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

Jio Financial Services and BlackRock Expanding Into Stock Broking Sector

In January 2025, Mumbai based Jio Financial Services Limited (**JFSL**) announced that its joint venture, Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Private Limited, has established a wholly owned subsidiary called '**Jio BlackRock Broking Private Limited**' to enter the broking business, subject to regulatory approvals.

NTPC Partners with Sri Lanka for Major Solar Project

In January 2025, New Delhi(Delhi) based NTPC Limited(formerly known as National Thermal Power Corporation) has partnered with Ceylon Electricity Board of Sri Lanka to develop a 50 Megawatt (MW) (extendable to 120 MW) solar project in Sampoor, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

- ✓ Trincomalee Power Company Limited (**TPCL**) which is a joint venture (JV) between NTPC Limited and the Ceylon Electricity Board, will see the establishment of the solar facility in Sampoor.

India's AlonOS signs MoU with Indosat to boost Indonesia's AI growth

In January 2025, New Delhi (Delhi) based **AlonOS** India Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Indosat Ooredoo Hutchison (**Indosat or IOH**), a leading Indonesian digital telecommunications

company to transform Indonesia's Artificial Intelligence (AI) ecosystem.

- ✓ This partnership marks the **1st large scale** AI-focused collaboration between India and Indonesia, under the visionary, Government-to-Government (G2G) initiative.

SEBI Unveils 'Dharohar': A Digital Repository for India's Securities Market

On January 26, 2025, during India's 76th Republic Day celebrations, Mumbai, Maharashtra based Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) unveiled '**Dharohar – Milestones in the Indian Securities Market**,' a digital knowledge repository.

Tata Steel Limited, India's 1st company to Develop Hydrogen Transport Pipes

On January 29 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Tata Steel Limited(**TSL**), formerly known as Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO), became **India's 1st Steel company** to demonstrate the capability to develop steel pipes for hydrogen(H₂) transportation, marking a significant step toward supporting India's National Hydrogen Mission (**NHM**).

- ✓ The company successfully developed hydrogen-compliant **API X65 ERW** steel pipes, which are crucial for the transport of **100%** pure gaseous hydrogen under high pressure (100 bar).

RDCL Receives RBI Approval to Transform India's Mortgage-Backed Securitisation Market

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based RMBS(Residential Mortgage-Backed Securitisation) Development Company Limited (**RDCL**) received its Certificate of Registration (**CoR**) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) marking a major milestone for India's housing finance sector.

- ✓ The paid-up Capital of RSDL is **Rs.500 crore** and is expected to commence operations in **March 2025**.

- ✓ RDCL is designed to create new opportunities for long-term institutional investors, including Insurance Companies, Pension Funds (PFs), and Provident Funds (PFs).
- ✓ The National Housing Bank (**NHB**), a statutory body under the Government of India (GoI), has set up RDCL as the single largest shareholder.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Forbes 2025 Billionaires list: Elon Musk Emerges as the Richest Individual in 2025

According to the **World's Billionaires List 2025** released by **Forbes**, **Elon Musk** secured the top spot with a net worth of **USD 433.9 billion** largely driven by SpaceX's valuation of USD 350 billion. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has secured the 2nd position with USD 239.4 billion while Meta founder Mark Zuckerberg bagged the 3rd spot by surpassing Oracle founder Larry Ellison net worth of USD 211.8 billion.

- ✓ Elon Musk has become the **first** individual in history to cross a net worth of USD 400 billion, mainly due to SpaceX's valuation of **USD 350 billion**.
- ✓ According to Forbes' World's Billionaires List 2025, the **United States of America (USA)** is on the top with a record **813** billionaires, followed by **China** with **473** and **India** on the 3rd spot with **200** billionaires.
- ✓ **ii.** As of January 1, 2025, the world's **10** richest individuals have a combined net worth of **USD 1.9 trillion**, up from USD 1.8 trillion in December 2024.

Three Indian Women Make It to Forbes 50 Over 50 Global List 2025, with Quarraisha Abdool Karim Ranking First

In January 2025 **Forbes**, an American global media company has unveiled its **first Forbes "50 Over 50" Women Global list 2025** celebrating the achievements of inspiring women from 32 countries and territories across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South and Central America.

- ✓ **Quarraisha Abdool Karim**, expert in infectious diseases epidemiology and one of the top researchers on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), is **ranked first**, while **Rafaela Aponte-Diamant** is the co-owner of the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) based in Geneva, Switzerland, **ranked 2nd**.
- ✓ The list features three remarkable Indian women: **Urmila Asher**, popularly known as 'Gujju Ben' and the founder of Guju Ben Na Nasta, ranked 3rd; **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**, a billionaire and founder of Biocon India Private Limited, ranked 32nd; and **Sheela Patel**, a renowned activist, ranked 37th.

ICC Awards 2024: India's Bumrah, Smriti ,and Arshdeep Singh Win ICC Men's Cricketer , Women's ODI, and Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year Awards

The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced the winners of the ICC Awards 2024, with **3 Indian cricketers** making their mark on the honours list. The ICC Awards 2024 event took place over five days, from January 24 to 28, 2025, highlighting exceptional performances across various categories.

- ✓ India's **Jasprit Jasbirsingh Bumrah** claimed the top honor 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024 and the ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024 respectively.
- ✓ **Smriti Mandhana** was named the Women's One Day International (ODI) Cricketer of the Year 2024.
- ✓ **Arshdeep Singh Aulakh** bagged ICC Men's Twenty20 International (T20I) Cricketer of the Year 2024.
- ✓ **Jasprit Jasbir singh Bumrah** was honoured with 2 awards namely 'Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy' for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2024 and "ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year 2024" for his exceptional performance, topping the international Test cricket wicket-taking charts with 71 wickets in 13 matches at an impressive average of 14.92. [Click here to read full News](#)

Winners of the 76th Republic Day Parade 2025: Awards and Recognitions

Winners were announced in different categories for the participants of the 76th Republic Day Parade in 2025, with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (**MoTA**) winning the **Best Tableau award** in the Ministries/Departments category. The award was given for **their vibrant display** celebrating the "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh" and the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

- ✓ The Jammu & Kashmir (**J&K**) **Rifles Contingent** was awarded the Best Marching Contingent among Services Category by the panel of judges.

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) won the **first prize** in the **Best Tableaux category** by the panel of judges for its depiction of Mahakumbh 2025 and Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas.
- ✓ The Ministry of Women & Child Development (**MoWCD**) received the **People's Choice Award** for Best Tableau from the Central Ministries/Departments Category.
- ✓ The Guinness World Records **recognized the cultural performance titled Jayati Jai Mamah Bharatam** for setting the record for "The Largest Indian Folk Variety Dance." The performance was curated by the Ministry of Culture, along with Sangeet Natak Akademi.

IBA Technology Awards 2024: CUB Wins 7 Awards for 2nd Consecutive Year

In January 2025, the Indian Banks' Association (**IBA**) presented the technology awards in **seven categories** to honor top technology providers in the banking industry at the **20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo, & Citations, 2024** held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- ✓ City Union Bank Limited(**CUB**) and Bank of Maharashtra (**BoM**) win awards in all seven categories, while Karnataka Bank Limited(**KBL**) secures wins in six categories.

Padma Awards 2025: President approves 139 Padma Awards; List includes 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri

On January 25 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) announced the Padma Awards for 2025. The official list released comprises 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri Awards.

Padma Vibhushan(7):

S. N O.	Name	Field	State/ Country
1.	Dr. Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy	Medicine	Telangana
2.	Justice (Retd.) Jagdish Singh Khehar	Public Affairs	Chandigarh
3.	Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia	Art	Gujarat
4.	Lakshminarayana Subramaniam	Art	Karnataka
5.	M.T. Vasudevan Nair (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Kerala
6.	Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous)	Trade and Industry	Japan
7.	Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)	Art	Bihar


- ✓ Distinguished recipients of Padma Bhushan award include: famous Tamil Actor S. Ajith Kumar, Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous), renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, among others.
- ✓ Former Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** is among 4 sports personalities to receive Padma Shri for year 2025. Arunadhathi Bhattacharya, Chairperson and CEO of Salesforce has been named for this year PadmaShri award for her distinguished services in 'Trade and Industry' category. [Click here to read full News](#)

Indian short film 'Anuja' nominated for 97th Academy Awards 2025


In January 2025, the Indian short film '**Anuja**', received a nomination in the '**Best Live Action Short Film**' category for the **97th Academy Awards 2025**. The film is backed by Indian actress Priyanka Chopra and producer Guneet Monga as executive producer, with Hollywood star-writer Mindy Kaling as producer.

The ePlane Company Becomes India's First to Secure DGCA's eVTOL Certification

In January 2025, The ePlane Company, a Chennai-based urban air mobility (UAM) startup at Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) **Madras** in Chennai(Tamil Nadu, TN) has become the first private Indian firm to receive formal acceptance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**) for Type Certification of its electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (**eVTOL**) aircraft, '**the e200X**'. The company plans to launch its eVTOL services by 2026.



Do you have a doubt in Quants, Reasoning, English, General Awareness & Exams
No worries, CareersCloud is here to help you
➤ **Post your doubt & Get answers from our caring aspirants and Experts**
Visit [CareersCloud.in](https://careerscloud.in)



APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Amrit Mohan Prasad to Hold Additional Charge as BCAS DG

On 22 January 2025, **Amrit Mohan Prasad**, the Director General (DG) of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), was given the **additional** charge of **DG** of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (**BCAS**) for six months.



- ✓ The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) with effect from **1 November 2024**, or till the joining of the regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is the earlier. He succeeded **Zulfiqar Hasan**, who retired on 31 October 2024.

Micheal Martin elected as PM of Ireland



On 23 January 2025, **Micheal Martin**, leader of the Fianna Fail party, was elected as the Prime Minister (**PM**) of **Ireland** for a second term. He received 95 votes out of 171 votes in the parliament. He will serve as the PM of Ireland until November 2027. He previously served as PM of Ireland from 2020 to 2022.

Janet E. Petro, 1st Woman appointed as 15th Acting Administrator of NASA

On January 20 2025, **Janet E. Petro** was appointed as the 15th **Acting Administrator** of National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) by the President of the United States of America (USA) **Donald John Trump**. She became the 1st woman to lead NASA since its founding in 1958 and replaced the 14th NASA administrator, **Bill Nelson**.



- ✓ Currently, she also serves as the **11th Director** of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space

Center (KSC, originally known as the NASA Launch Operations Center) in Florida, USA, and was the 1st woman to hold this position.

IDBI Bank Re-appoints Rakesh Sharma as MD & CEO for 3 years

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **IDBI Bank** Limited has reappointed **Rakesh Sharma** as Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of the bank for **three years** with effect from March 19 2025. He joined Canara Bank as MD & CEO in September 2015 and led the organization for three years before retiring in July 2018.

ICC Chairman Jay Shah Elected as New Member of Marylebone Cricket Club

In January 2025, **Jay Shah**, chairman of International Cricket Council (**ICC**) was elected as the board member of the London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based Marylebone Cricket Club (**MCC**) **advisory board**.

- ✓ Jay Shah is among the 13 founding members of the newly formed advisory board of World Cricket Connects (WCC), which will be chaired by former Sri Lanka skipper and MCC president **Kumar Sangakkara**.

KRBL Appoints Amitabh Bachchan as Ambassador for Indian Rice Brand 'India Gate'

In January 2025, Noida(Uttar Pradesh, UP) based KRBL Limited, an Indian rice processing and exporting company, has appointed Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as the **brand ambassador** for its flagship 'India Gate' brand.

Alexander Lukashenko Wins 7th Consecutive Term as President of Belarus

In January 2025, **Alexander Lukashenko** was re-elected as **president of Belarus** for the **7th** consecutive five-year term. He received 86.8% of the vote in the presidential election.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

KMBL Completed Acquisition of StanChart's Personal Loan Portfolio for Rs 3,330 Crore

In January 2025, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (**KMBL**), a leading Indian private sector bank announced that it

has completed the acquisition of **Rs 3,330 crore** personal loan book of Mumbai based Standard Chartered Bank (SCB), India, following the approval from Competition Commission of India (**CCI**).

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO Dispatches Crew Module for First Uncrewed Mission of Gaganyaan

In January 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (**LPSC**) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) dispatched the Crew Module for the first uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan (**G1**) to Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). It has completed the integration of the liquid propulsion system.

- ✓ The Crew Module Propulsion System (**CMPS**) is a bi-propellant Reaction Control System (RCS) designed for precise three-axis control (Pitch, Yaw, and Roll) for the crew module. It has 12 thrusters, each producing **100N (Newton)** thrust, as well as a propellant feed mechanism and high-pressure gas bottles.

Sarla Aviation Unveiled India's 1st Air Taxi Prototype 'Shunya', Expected to be launched by 2028

In January 2025, Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based aerospace startup company, **Sarla Aviation Private Limited** unveiled **India's 1st** electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi prototype, '**Shunya**', at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi.

- ✓ It is designed basically for short trips within the range of **20 to 30 kilometers** (kms) and can reach a maximum speed of **250 kilometers per hour** (kmph).

GalaxEye Space Solutions Private Limited deploys GLX-SQ payload aboard ISRO's PSLV POEM

On January 23, 2025, Chennai (Tamil Nadu TN) based startup GalaxEye Space Solutions Private Limited successfully deployed its **GLX-SQ** payload aboard the Indian Space Research Organisation's (**ISRO**) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Orbital Experimental Module-4 (POEM-4), which was launched on December 30, 2024.

- ✓ This mission marks the **world's 1st-ever** integration of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and optical imagery in orbit. This first-of-its-kind integration of SAR and optical imagery addresses critical needs in sectors such as defence, agriculture, and disaster response.
- ✓ The GLX-SQ payload is designed to generate, capture, and process **SAR images** in space, completing all image processing and compression within **10 minutes**.

ISRO Completes 100th Mission, GSLV-F15 Successfully Launched from Sriharikota, AP

On January 29 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched **GSLV-F15/NVS-02** mission, carrying the **NVS-02 satellite**, from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). With the successful launch of this mission, ISRO completed its **100th** launch from Sriharikota spaceport.

- ✓ This mission marks the **17th** flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and **11th** flight with indigenous cryogenic stage.
- ✓ The GSLV-F15 rocket is equipped with an indigenous cryogenic upper stage has successfully placed the NVS-02 satellite into the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (**GTO**).

South Africa's MeerKAT Telescope Discovers the "Inkathazo" Galaxy

In January 2025, a team of South African researchers and astrophysicists discovered a new giant radio galaxy (GRG), named 'Inkathazo,' using the **MeerKAT telescope** (formerly known as the Karoo Array Telescope (KAT)) in the Northern Cape province of South Africa.

- ✓ It spans 3.3 million light-years from end to end , **32 times** the size of our Milky Way galaxy, and is 1.44 billion light-years away from Earth.

NASA Discovers LID-568: A Supermassive Black Hole

In January 2025, **NASA**(National Aeronautics and Space Administration) of United States(US) government has unveiled a discovery "**LID-568**", a supermassive black hole that challenges current beliefs about how black holes form and grow. LID-568 was identified using the **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** and the **Chandra X-ray Observatory**.

ENVIRONMENT

Researchers Discovered Two New Goby Fish Species in AP

In January 2025, Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (**ZSI**) discovered two unrecorded

goby fish species, '**Hemigobius hoevenii**' and '**Mugilogobius tigrinus**', at Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh (AP).

SPORTS

Australian Open 2025: Jannik Sinner & Madison Keys Win Men's and Women's Singles Title

Jannik Sinner of Italy won the Men's Singles title while **Madison Keys** of United States of America (USA) won the Women's Singles title at the **Australian Open (AO) 2025** held at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, **Australia**.

- ✓ This was the **113th** edition of the Australian Open, the **57th** in the Open Era, and the first major of 2025 and was held from **12th January to 26th January 2025**.
- ✓ India's **Prithvi Sekhar** won the **men's singles** title by defeating France's Olivier Grave at the **Australian Open Deaf Championships 2025** in Melbourne.

Australian Open 2025 Winners:

Categor y	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)
Women's Singles	Madison Keys (USA)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Harri Heliovaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (Britain)	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (Italy)

Women's Doubles	Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) and Taylor Townsend (USA)	Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)
Mixed Doubles	Olivia Gadecki and John Peers (Australia)	Kimberly Birrell and John-Patrick Smith (Australia)

Indian GM Iniyar Panneerselvam wins 9th Johor International Chess title

In January 2025, 22-year-old Grandmaster (GM) **Iniyar Panneerselvam** from Erode, Tamil Nadu (TN), won the **9th Johor International Open Chess Tournament**, organized by the Johor Chess Association, held at Fairview International School in

Johor Bahru, **Malaysia**. He defeated Vietnamese **GM Nguyen Van Huy** in the final round.

Odisha Warriors win 1st ever Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025

In January 2025, Odisha Warriors won the **1st ever** 'Inaugural Women's Hockey India League Title 2025' by defeating JSW ((Jindal South West) Soorma Hockey Club of Punjab and Haryana.

Indian Athlete Jyothi Yarraji Sets National Record in 60m Hurdles

In January 2025, Jyothi Yarraji, Indian track and field athlete from Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) clinched the Gold medal in the women's 60 meter(m) hurdles held at the Elite Indoor Meeting in Nantes, France. Jyothi Yarraji, broke her own National Record twice in one day and clocked **8.07 seconds** in the heats and **8.04 seconds** in the final, setting a new National Record for India.

OBITUARY

Former El Salvador President Mauricio Funes Passed Away

In January 2025, Former El Salvador President **Carlos Mauricio Funes Cartagena** passed away at the age of 65 in Managua, Nicaragua. He was born on 18 October 1959 in San Salvador, El Salvador. He served as the President of El Salvador from 2009 to 2014.

Renowned Cardiac Surgeon & Padma Shri Awardee Dr. K. M. Cherian passed away

On January 25 2025, a renowned Cardiac Surgeon and Padma Shri Awardee, **Dr Kotturathu Mammen Cherian**, who performed India's 1st coronary artery bypass surgery passed away at the age of 82 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on 8 March 1942 in the Kingdom of Travancore (now Travancore-Cochin), Kerala.

- ✓ In 1991, he was honored with the '**Padma Shri**', India's 4th highest civilian award for his exceptional work in the medical field

BOOKS & AUTHORS

A new biography 'Soumitra Chatterjee and His World (Vintage)' Released in WB

"Soumitra Chatterjee and His World" is a comprehensive biography, written by journalist **Sanghamitra Chakraborty**, was released during the Kolkata Literary Meet in West Bengal(WB). It was published by **Penguin India's Vintage Books**.

- ✓ The book delivers the multifaceted life of Soumitra Chatterjee, a renowned Indian and Bengali film actor celebrated for his collaboration with filmmaker Satyajit Ray and his contributions to Indian cinema and culture.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Education 2025 – January 24

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Education (IDE)** is annually observed across the globe on **24 January** to celebrate the role of education in peace and development. **24 January 2025** marks the **7th observance** of the IDE.

- ✓ The **2025 theme** of IDE is “**AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation**”.
- ✓ UNESCO dedicates the IDE 2025 to **Artificial Intelligence, AI** is becoming more common in education, with over two-thirds of secondary students in high-income countries already using generative AI for schoolwork.

National Girl Child Day 2025- January 24

National Girl Child Day (**NGCD**) is annually observed across India on **24th January** to promote awareness about the rights of a girl child and to promote the importance of their education, health, and nutrition. The day addresses issues like child marriage, discrimination and other challenges faced by girls in Indian society.

- ✓ 24th January 2025 marks the observance of **18th NGCD**.
- ✓ The theme of the **NGCD 2025** is “Empowering the Future of India”.

National Voters' Day 2025 – January 25

National Voters' Day (**NVD**) is observed annually across India on **25th January**, commemorating the foundation of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in **1950**. The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of voting and to encourage active participation in the electoral process and to promote voter registration, especially among the youth.

- ✓ 25th January 2025 marks the observance of the **15th NVD** and also marks the celebration of **75 years** of service of ECI.

- ✓ The theme of NVD 2025 is “**Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For Sure**”, a continuation of the 2024 theme.
- ✓ The right to vote is enshrined in Article 326 of the Indian Constitution, recognizing it as a fundamental right for eligible citizens.

National Tourism Day 2025 – January 25

National Tourism Day is observed annually across India on **January 25** to highlight the significance of tourism in India's economy. The day emphasizes the importance of preserving cultural heritage and promoting various tourist destinations across India.

- ✓ The theme for National Tourism Day 2025 is “**Tourism for Inclusive Growth**”.

World Leprosy Day – January 26 2025

World Leprosy Day (**WLD**) is observed annually on the **last Sunday of January** across the globe to raise awareness about leprosy and to celebrate the resilience of those affected by the disease, combat stigma and discrimination. The day also serves as a reminder to eradicate leprosy and improve the lives of those impacted by it.

- ✓ 26 January 2025 marks the **72nd** observance of the WLD. The theme for WLD 2025 is “**Unite. Act. Eliminate.**”
- ✓ In 2024, WLD was observed on 28 January and in 2026, WLD will be observed on 25th January.

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust 2025 – January 27

The United Nations (UN's) **International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust** (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed annually on **27 January** across the globe to honor the memory of victims of the Holocaust, also known as the Shoah.

- ✓ **Shoah** was the genocide perpetrated by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World

War II, primarily targeted European Jews, resulting in the loss of 6 million Jewish lives.

- ✓ The theme of International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust 2025 is, **“Holocaust remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights.”**

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day 2025- January 30

The World Health Organization’s (WHO) World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (**WNTDD**) is observed annually on **January 30** across the globe to raise awareness of the devastating impact of NTDs on the most vulnerable populations around the world.

- ✓ The theme of WNTDD 2025: **“Unite. Act. Eliminate”** emphasizes the collective commitment needed to end these diseases.
- ✓ On 30th January 2012, WNTDD marked the release of the **1st NTD Roadmap** (2012-2020) alongside the adoption of the London Declaration on NTDs, which highlighted the global impact of neglected tropical diseases.

Shaheed Divas or Martyrs’ Day 2025 – January 30

Martyrs’ Day, also known as **Sarvodaya Day or Shaheed Diwas**, is annually observed across India on January 30 to honour those who sacrificed

their lives for the nation. This day also marks the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the ‘Father of the Nation’. 30th January 2025 marks the 77th death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

International Day of Clean Energy 2025 – January 26

The United Nations(UN’s) **International Day of Clean Energy** is observed annually on **26 January** across the globe to raise awareness and encourage action toward a fair and inclusive transition to clean energy, benefiting both people and the planet.

- ✓ 26th January 2025 marks the observance of the **2nd** International Day of Clean Energy.

International Customs Day 2025 – January 26

International Customs Day (**ICD**) is observed annually on **January 26** across the globe to highlight the vital role of customs officials and customs agencies in maintaining security, trade compliance, and major anti-smuggling achievements.

- ✓ 26 January 2025 marks the **72nd** anniversary of WCO, an intergovernmental body dedicated to enhancing customs administrations worldwide.
- ✓ The theme for ICD 2025 is **“Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity.”**

STATE NEWS

“Samman Sanjeevani” App launched in Haryana on National Girl Child Day

Shruti Choudhry, the Women & Child Development (WCD), Irrigation & Water Resources Minister, Government of Haryana, launched the **‘Samman Sanjeevani’** app for the **‘Mahila Evam Kishori**

Samman Yojana’ in Chandigarh, **Haryana** on National Girl Child Day, January 24, 2025.

- ✓ The app ensures timely delivery of services by collecting beneficiary data and updating monthly benefits. It will track the scheme facilities to make sure beneficiaries receive their benefits on time.