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English



28 JANUARY

2025

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State Current Affairs



< Feb 2024

Monthly

Weekly

Daily

PIB News



Feb 29 2024 CA Q&A - English
Ebook



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Feb 29 2024 CA Quiz - English
START

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Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English
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Weekly Top 60: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Q&A - English
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Weekly: 24-29 Feb 2024 CA Quiz - English
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PIB News



February 29 2024 PIB News - English
Article



February 28 2024 PIB News - English
Article

AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

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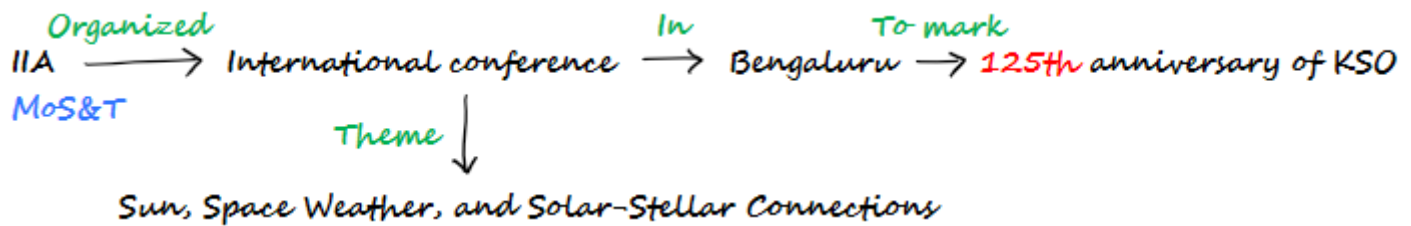
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MeitY - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

4)



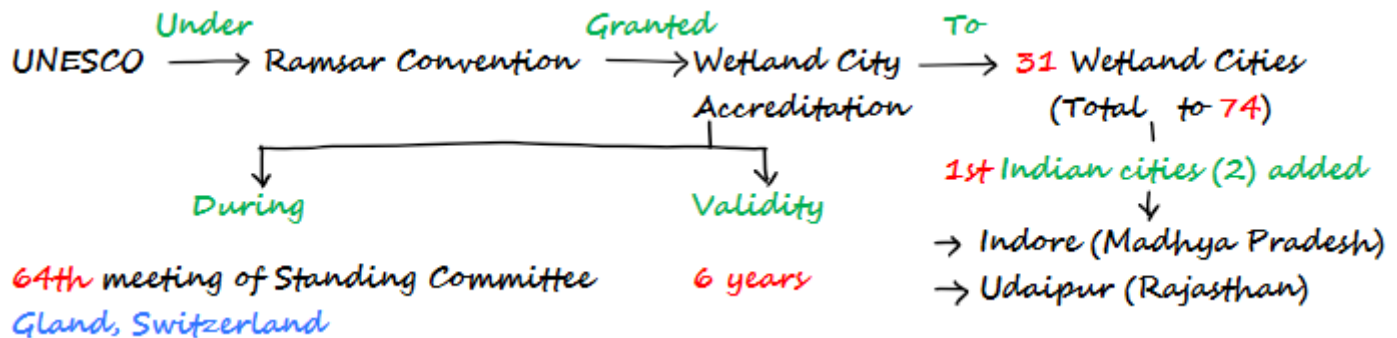
IIA - Indian Institute of Astrophysics

MoS&T - Ministry of Science and Technology

KSO - Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

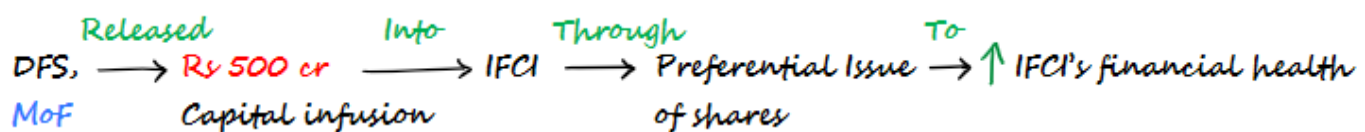
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UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

BANKING & FINANCE

1)

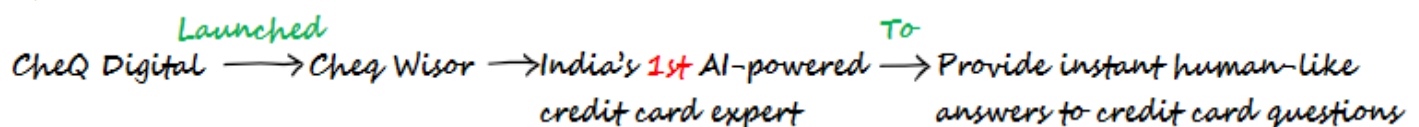


DFS - Department of Financial Services

MoF - Ministry of Finance

IFCI - Industrial Finance Corporation of India

2)



AI - Artificial Intelligence

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

1)

Announced
MHA → Padma Awards 2025 → Total 139 awards

- Padma Vibhushan - 7
- Padma Bhushan - 19
- Padma Shri - 113

Padma Vibhushan awardees

Name	Designation	Field
Jagdish Singh Khehar	44th CJI	Public Affairs
Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous - Japan)	CEO of Suzuki Motor	Trade and Industry
MT Vasudevaan Nair (Posthumous)	Malayalam writer	Literature and Education
Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)	Folk singer	Art

Padma Bhushan awardees

Bibek Debroy (Posthumous)	Former EAC-PM chairman	Literature & Education - Journalism
PR Sreejesh	Indian men's junior hockey team coach	Sports
Nandamuri Balakrishna	Actor	Art
S. Ajith Kumar	Actor	Art
Shobana Chandrakumar	Actor	Art
Vinod Dham (USA)	Engineer	Science and Engineering

Padma Shri awardees

Arijit Singh	Playback Singer	Art
Ravichandran Ashwin	Cricketer	Sports
Arunadhathi Bhattacharya	Chairperson & CEO of Salesforce	Trade and Industry
Ajay V Bhatt (USA)	Computer Architect	Science and Engineering

MHA - Ministry of Home Affairs

CJI - Chief Justice of India

CEO - Chief Executive Officer

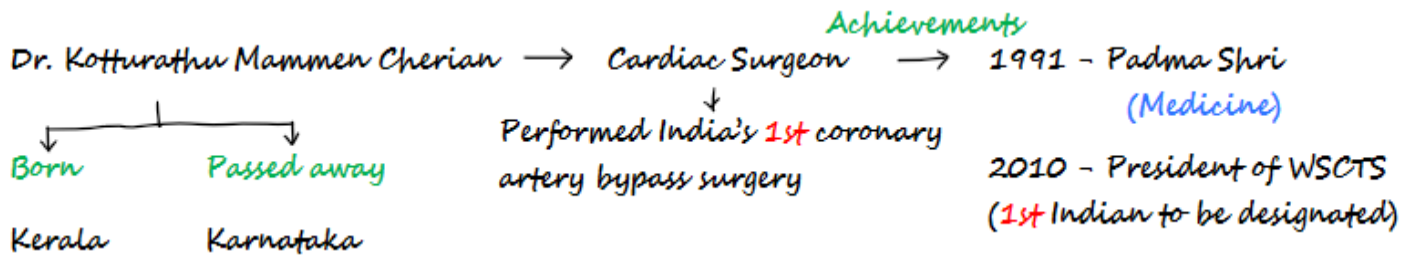
EAC-PM - Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister

USA - United States of America

MCC - Marylebone Cricket Club
ICC - International Cricket Council
UK - United Kingdom
WCC - World Cricket Connects Advisory

OBITUARY

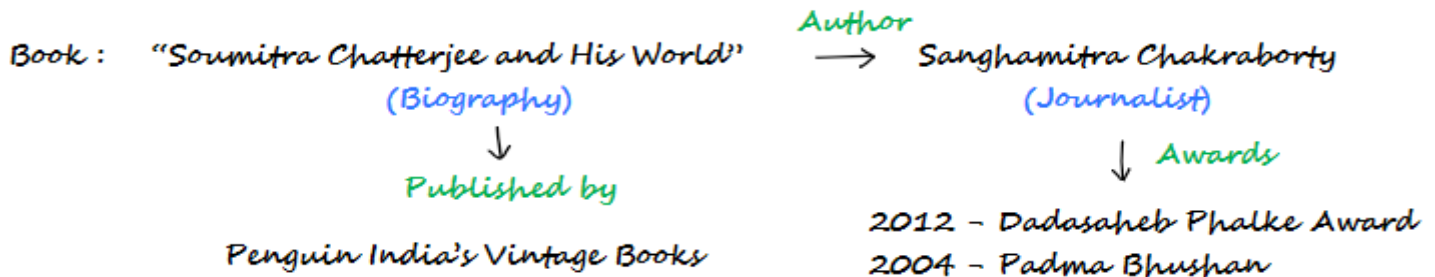
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WSCTS - World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons

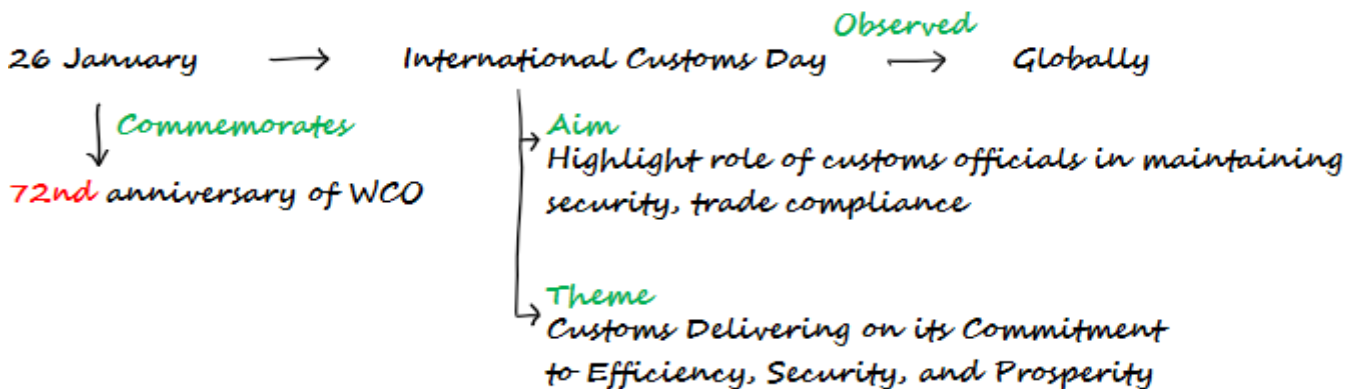
BOOKS & AUTHORS

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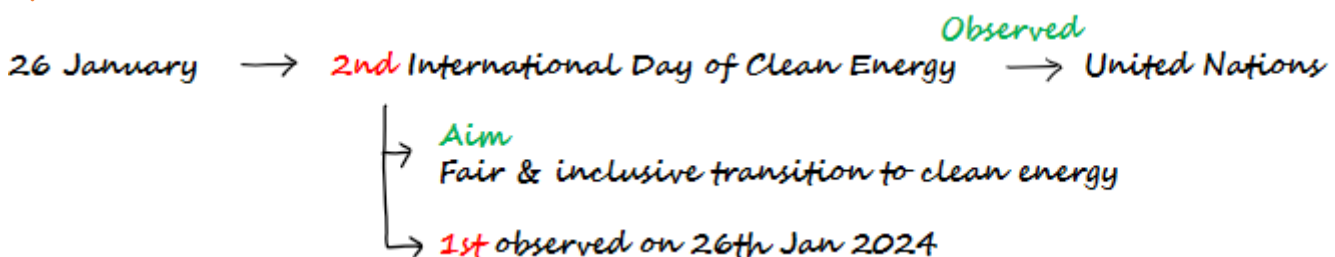
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1)



WCO - World Customs Organization

2)



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- [India's first 'Generation Beta' baby born in Mizoram](#)
- [UGC revises guidelines for appointment of V-Cs](#)
- [BRISKPE Launches Unified Platform for Cross-Border Payments](#)
- [Ministry issues guidelines to ensure fair treatment to CGHS beneficiaries](#)

Detailed Content

Current Affairs 28 January 2025 : Headlines



AFFAIRSCLOUD TODAY

ENGLISH


Padma Vibhushan


Padma Bhushan


Padma Shri

Padma Awards 2025: Centre announces seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri winners


Indore and Udaipur become the first two Indian cities to join the global list of wetland accredited cities

CURRENT AFFAIRS

28 JANUARY 2025

- Dr. Arvind Panagariya Launched NITI Aayog's Inaugural FHI 2025 ; Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Goa Top 3 Performing States
- Uttarakhand, 1st State to Implement Uniform Civil Code
- DGS & C-DAC partner to enhance Maritime Innovation
- IIA Organizes International Conference in Bengaluru to Mark 125th Anniversary of KSO
- Wetland City Accreditation: Indore & Udaipur became India's first Ramsar wetland cities
- DFS Releases Rs 500 Crore Capital Infusion into IFCI through PREF
- CheQ Launches 'CheQ Wisor', India's First AI-Powered Credit Card Expert
- Padma Awards 2025: President approves 139 Padma Awards; List includes 7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri
- Indian short film 'Anuja' nominated for 97th Academy Awards 2025
- The ePlane Company Becomes India's First to Secure DGCA's eVTOL Certification
- IDBI Bank Re-appoints Rakesh Sharma as MD & CEO for 3 years
- ICC Chairman Jay Shah Elected as New Member of Marylebone Cricket Club
- KMBL Completed Acquisition of StanChart's Personal Loan Portfolio for Rs 3,330 Crore
- Renowned Cardiac Surgeon & Padma Shri Awardee Dr. K. M. Cherian passed away
- A new biography 'Soumitra Chatterjee and His World (Vintage)' Released in WB
- International Day of Clean Energy 2025 - January 26
- International Customs Day 2025 - January 26

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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).
- The report mentioned that Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Gujarat have consistently been the top-performing states across time periods considered in the study.

About Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025:

i. The report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the fiscal health of **18** major Indian states that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), demography, total expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.

- It also provides in-depth information about state-specific challenges and areas for improvement.

ii. The report ranked states based on 5 key sub-indices such as: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilisation, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.

iii. The report has sourced data from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India to calculate the FHI of states.

Classification of States:

i. The report has classified the states into **4** main categories based on their composite score: Achiever(FHI Score>50), Front Runner(FHI Score: 40-50), Performer(FHI Score:25-40) and Aspirational(FHI Score ≤25).

ii. **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).

- The report mentioned that these top 5 achiever states have higher capital outlay of up to **4%** of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), effective mobilization of non-tax revenue, are revenue surplus and have low interest payments, which is maximum 7% of revenue recipients.

iii. **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)



- The report mentioned that front-runner states reported high total developmental expenditure of up to 73%, saw consistent growth in own tax revenue, had balanced fiscal management and improved debt sustainability with debt-to-GSDP ratio of 24%.

iv.States in Performer category: Tamil Nadu (TN) (29.2); Rajasthan (28.6); Bihar (27.8) and Haryana (27.4)

v.States in Aspirational category: Kerala (25.4), West Bengal (WB)(21.8), Andhra Pradesh (AP) (20.9) and Punjab (10.7)

- As per the report, states in this category are the worst performers with lowest composite FHI score compared to other states.
- It has also highlighted that these states are struggling to meet the fiscal and revenue deficit targets, have low revenue mobilization, increasing debt burden with debt sustainability a concern in these states.

Top 3 states in FHI 2025:

Category	Top 3 States
Achiever	1.Odisha 2.Chhattisgarh 3.Goa
Front-runner	1.Maharashtra 2.Uttar Pradesh (UP) 3.Telangana
Performer	1.Tamil Nadu (TN) 2.Rajasthan 3.Bihar
Aspirational	1.Kerala 2.West Bengal (WB) 3.Andhra Pradesh (AP)

Key Findings:

i. Among the 5 key sub-indices of the report, **Odisha** has topped the debt index (**99.0**) and debt sustainability (**64.0**) rankings with better than average scores under Quality of Expenditure (52) and Revenue Mobilisation (69.9).

- The report outlined certain factors responsible for good fiscal health of state Odisha are: low fiscal deficits, a good debt profile, and an above average capital outlay or GSDP ratio.

ii. According to the report, **Jharkhand** has shown improvement in its fiscal health. It has improved its ranking from 10th position (in the period of 2015-19 to 2021-22) to **4th** position (in 2022-23).

- This improvement is mainly attributed to better revenue mobilization, enhanced fiscal prudence, and stronger debt sustainability.

iii. The report observed that most South Indian states have performed poor in managing their finances. It has specifically highlighted 3 southern states i.e. **AP, Kerala** and **TN**, which have performed worse in the rankings as they scored below 30 out of 100.

- Also, Karnataka witnessed a drop in its rankings, from 3rd (in 2014-15 to 2021-22) to 10th (in the period of 2015-19 to 2021-22), mainly due to subdued performance under Quality of Expenditure and Debt Sustainability.

iv. The report noted that among states placed in 'aspirational' category, Kerala and Punjab struggled with low quality of expenditure and debt sustainability while, WB faces revenue mobilization and debt index issues.

- It further highlighted AP has high fiscal deficit and Haryana has a poor debt profile.

About National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Headquarters- New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 2015

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 UCC aims to unify personal laws related to marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance, ensuring equality for all citizens, excluding those from Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Background:

i. On February 7, 2024, the Legislative Assembly of the state of Uttarakhand passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill.

ii. On March 13, the bill was granted assent by President Droupadi Murmu to establish a uniform and equal set of rules on personal status law, including marriage, divorce, succession, and inheritance, that applies to all citizens of the state irrespective of religion.

iii. 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.

iv. This law applies throughout the state of Uttarakhand and is also effective on the residents of the state living outside Uttarakhand.

About UCC:

i. The UCC is a proposed framework aimed at creating a set of personal laws that apply equally to all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

ii. At present, personal laws related to marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, and maintenance are governed by the religious customs and scriptures of different communities.

Features of the UCC:

The bill is divided into **four parts**: Part 1: Marriage and Divorce, Part 2: Succession, Part 3: Live-In Relationship, and Part 4: Miscellaneous. Each part is subdivided further into chapters. Some of the major features are as follows:

- Section 4 addresses conditions of marriage, one of which is that “neither party has a spouse living at the time of the marriage,” and requires a marriage age of 21 for a man and 18 for a woman effectively abolishing polygamy and child marriage. The code also requires compulsory registration of marriages within 60 days.
- Under section 25, both parties are granted an equal right to petition the court to dissolve the marriage through a decree of divorce, and divorce can occur only through court proceedings.
- Section 29 emphasizes that marriages can be dissolved only under the provisions of the code, “notwithstanding any usage, custom, tradition, [or] personal law of any party to the marriage.”

ii.Registration Process: Sub-registrar must make a decision on marriage registration within **15 days** of receiving an application.

- Marriages must be registered within 60 days of solemnization.
- Marriages conducted before March 26, 2010, or outside Uttarakhand, can be registered within 6 months of the Act’s implementation, if they meet legal criteria.

Key Points:

i.Article 44 of the Indian Constitution advocates for the implementation of a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across India.

ii.Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): UCC is part of the DPSP **Part IV** (Articles 36–51), which guides the government in formulating policies.

iii.DPSPs are not legally enforceable by courts (Article 37), meaning the government is expected to work toward them but is not legally bound to implement them immediately.

Note: Currently, **Goa** remains the only state in India with an existing **civil code**, introduced during the Portuguese colonial period.

About Uttarakhand:

Chief Minister (CM)– Pushkar Singh Dhami

Governor- Gurmit Singh

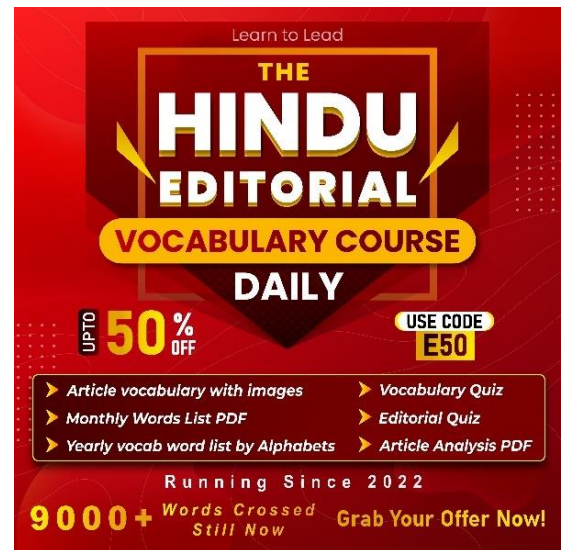
Capital- Dehradun

Dams- Tehri Dam, Tumaria Dam, Maneri Dam

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 was signed by Shyam Jagannathan, Director General(DG) of Shipping and Magesh Ethirajan, Director General (DG) C-DAC in the presence of. S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY.





Key People:

The event was also attended by Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, MeitY, Sanket S Bhondve, Joint Secretary, MeitY, Sunita Verma, Scientist G & Group Coordinator, MeitY, Savita Utreja, Scientist G, Group Coordinator (Cyber Security) and other Senior officers from MeitY, DG Shipping and C-DAC.

Key Areas of Collaboration

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

i. Digitalization and Automation of Maritime Processes: Usage of advanced digital tools and automated systems to simplify the operations and increase efficiency.

ii. Maritime Data Analytics and Predictive Modeling: Advanced data analytics will be used to get deeper understanding of patterns and trends for effective decision-making.

- Predictive modelling will help in identifying possible risks and optimizing operations for a secure maritime ecosystem.

iii. Cybersecurity and Maritime IoT: Cybersecurity systems will be strengthened and critical data from cyber threats will be secured by integrating Internet of Things (IoT) technologies in maritime operations.

iv. Maritime Education and Training: Advanced education and training will be provided to the industry professionals to equip them with the necessary skills required for rapidly changing technological situations.

v. Research and Development in Maritime Technologies: The MoU would also promote research and development (R&D) to enhance innovation in areas like high-performance computing, blockchain, and e-Governance.

About Directorate General of Shipping (DGS):

Director General(DG)- Shyam Jagannathan

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Founded– 1949

About Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

Director General(DG)– Magesh Ethirajan

Headquarters -Pune, Maharashtra

Founded– 1988

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).

i. The conference features a well-designed scientific program created by 20 eminent solar astronomers, supported by the Solar Physics group of IIA.

ii. Discussions focus on themes like solar magnetism, energetic solar phenomena, and the heliosphere. The

program also highlights new developments in solar astronomy, including the proposed National Large Solar Telescope in Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.

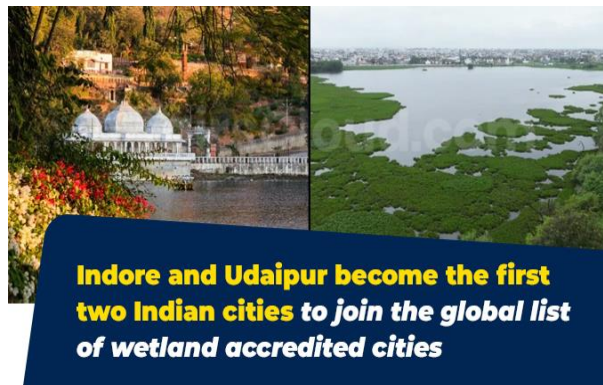
- Over 200 solar physicists from India and other countries have come together for discussions.

Note: The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory, a part of the IIA and established in **1899**, has made significant contributions to solar research.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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. It is valid for 6 years to promote the conservation and sustainable use of urban wetlands, ensuring ecological and socio-economic benefits for local populations.

Background:

In December 2024, the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India (GoI), **nominated** three Indian cities: Indore, Udaipur, and Bhopal (MP).

- **Indore:** It is the cleanest city in India and the recipient of India's Smart City Award 2023 for its best sanitation, water and urban environment. Sirpur Lake, a Ramsar Site in the city, has been recognised as an important site for water bird congregation and is being developed as a Bird Sanctuary.
- **Udaipur:** It is known as the City of Lakes, is surrounded by five significant wetlands: Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai, which are vital to its ecological balance.
- **Bhopal:** One of the cleanest cities in India that has proposed conservation zones around the wetlands in its draft City Development Plan 2031. Bhoj Wetland, Ramsar Site is Bhopal's lifeline, equipped with the world-class wetlands interpretation centre, Jal Tarang.

About Wetland City Accreditation (WCA):

i. The WCA is a voluntary accreditation system established by the Ramsar Convention during the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) 12 in 2015 to recognize cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.

ii. The WCA awarded to cities that demonstrate a commitment to conserving and sustainably managing their wetlands.

- To qualify, cities must meet **six international criteria**, which include measures to protect wetland ecosystems and promote their sustainable use.

iii. China leads the global Wetland City list with 22 cities, followed by France with 9 cities.

About Ramsar Convention:

The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty aimed at protecting and conserving wetlands and their resources. It was signed in **1971** in Ramsar, a city in Iran, and came into effect in **1975**.

i. This treaty is unique as it is the only international agreement focused on a single ecosystem. It has 172 member countries, including India.

ii. **India joined** the Ramsar Convention in **1982**. As of January 2025, India has a total of **85 wetlands** protected under this treaty.

Points to Note:

- The Amrit Dharohar Initiative launched by MoEF&CC to promote unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites in India.
- Tamil Nadu(TN) has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in India with 18 Ramsar Sites.
- The World Wetlands Day(WWD) is annually observed across the globe on 2 February to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for human prosperity and a healthy planet.

Recent Related News:

In December 2024, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO) unveiled a comprehensive roadmap marking the 20th anniversary of the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami to make all coastal community tsunami ready by 2030. This initiative was announced during an international conference in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

- Under the UNESCO Tsunami Ready Programme, over 30 countries have established critical early warning systems, with 26 Indian and 12 Indonesian coastal communities recognized as tsunami-ready. Globally, 700 million people reside in tsunami-prone areas, a figure projected to reach 1 billion by 2050.



BANKING & FINANCE

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.

- This infusion is aimed at strengthening IFCI's financial health in preparation for its upcoming restructuring and consolidation into a larger group.

Background:

i. The capital infusion plan for IFCI was approved with the first Supplementary Demand for Grants for FY 25 in the Lok Sabha in December 2024.



- In January 2025, the DFS received approval from the President of India, Droupadi Murmu to release Rs. 500 crore to IFCI Ltd.

ii. With this infusion, the Government of India (GoI) is expected to increase its holding in the company beyond the current **71.72%** as of September 2024.

Preferential Issue (PREF):

A preferential issue is when a company issues shares or convertible securities to a specific group of investors, rather than through a public offering.

- This method is often used to raise capital and can involve offering shares to existing shareholders, venture capitalists, or strategic partners.

Note: In November 2024, MoF has given in-principle approval for the 'Consolidation of IFCI Group,' which involves the merger or amalgamation of IFCI Limited, StockHolding Corporation of India Limited, and other group companies.

About IFCI Limited:

It is the first development financial institution (DFI) in India

Deputy Managing Director (DMD) – Rahul Bhawe

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1948

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**.

- Cheq Wisor **works** by using AI to provide instant, **human-like responses** to users' credit card questions through a simple chat interface, removing the need to search for information, and analyze expenses by category.

i. It is **designed to simplify credit card management**, making it easier for millions of Indians to manage their cards, earn rewards, and get personalized insights, all through an easy-to-use platform.

ii. It also offers a **Smart Spend Analysis** feature that compares spending across all credit cards and merchants in one view. This helps users track spending trends, understand monthly change.

Note: CheQ, founded by Aditya Soni in **2021**, has processed over USD 4 billion in credit card payments and served more than 3 million customers.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

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 Awards 2025:

- i. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India has approved the conferment of **139** Padma Awards, including 1 duo case cases (in a duo case, the award is counted as one) for year 2025.
- ii. Among the awardees, there are **23** women and the list also comprises **10** persons from the category of foreigners or Non-Resident Indians (NRI) or Person of Indian Origin (PIO) or Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) and **13** Posthumous awardees.

Padma Awards Committee:

- i. Padma Awards are given based on recommendations made by the Padma Awards committee constituted by the Prime Minister (PM) annually. The nomination process is open to the public and even self-nomination is accepted.
- ii. Padma Awards committee is chaired by Cabinet Secretary of India which includes members such as: Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and 4 to 6 eminent people.
 - The recommendations of the committee are submitted to the PM and the President of India for final approval.
 - At present, **T.V. Somanathan** is the cabinet secretary of India.

List of Padma Awards 2025

Padma Vibhushan(7):

S.NO.	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

Eminent Personalities honoured with the Padma Vibhushan:

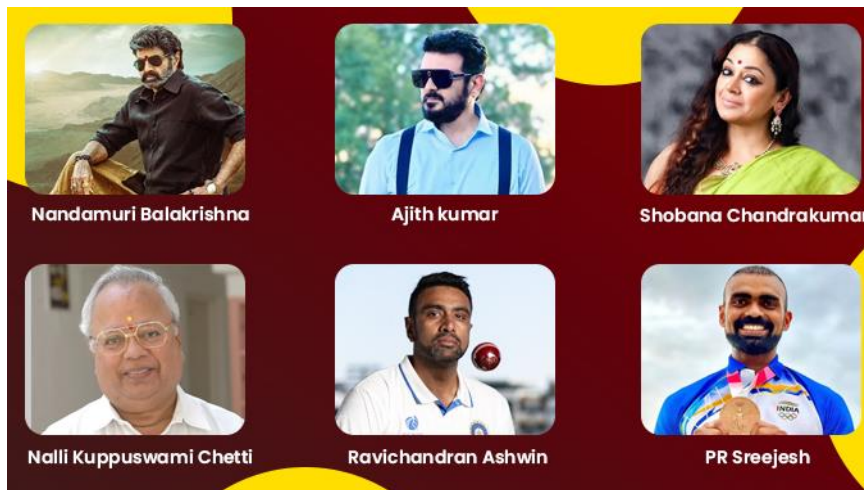
i. Justice (Retd.) **Jagdish Singh Khehar**, former Chief Justice of India (CJI) is one of the Padma Vibhushan awardee for year 2025. He is also the 1st Sikh who served as 44th CJI between January 4, 2017 and August 27, 2017.

ii. **Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy**, founder and chairman of (Hyderabad) Telangana-based AIG Hospitals which was established as unit of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology, was honoured with Padma Vibhushan award for his exceptional contributions to public health, specifically in the field of gastroenterology.

- With this, he became the 1st medical doctor in India to be conferred with all Padma Awards i.e. Padma Shri (2002), Padma Bhushan (2016) and Padma Vibhushan (2025).

iii. Former President, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Japan based Suzuki Motor Corporation (**SMC**), **Osamu Suzuki** conferred the Padma Vibhushan posthumously in 'trade and industry' category for his outstanding contributions in promoting the growth of the Indian automobile sector.

iv. Other distinguished personalities bestowed with Padma Vibhushan: famous Kathak dancer, Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia from Gujarat; Renowned Malayalam writer and Jnanpith winner **MT Vasudevaan Nair** (Posthumous), from Kerala and **Sharda Sinha** (Posthumous), famous folk singer from Bihar.



Padma Bhushan(19):

S.NO.	NAME	Field	State/Country
8.	A. Surya Prakash	Literature and Education-Journalism	Karnataka
9.	Anant Nag	Art	Karnataka
10.	Bibek Debroy (Posthumous)	Literature and Education-Journalism	National Capital Territory (NCT) Delhi
11.	Jatin Goswami	Art	Assam

12.	Jose Chacko Periappuram	Medicine	Kerala
13.	Kailash Nath Dikshit	Others- Archaeology	NCT Delhi
14.	Manohar Joshi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
15.	Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti	Trade and Industry	Tamil Nadu (TN)
16.	Nandamuri Balakrishna	Art	Andhra Pradesh (AP)
17.	Parattu Raveendran (P.R.) Sreejesh	Sports	Kerala
18.	Pankaj Patel	Trade and Industry	Gujarat
19.	Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous)	Art	Maharashtra
20.	Rambahadur Rai	Literature and Education-Journalism	Uttar Pradesh (UP)
21.	Sadhvi Ritambhara	Social Work	UP
22.	S. Ajith Kumar	Art	TN
23.	Shekhar Kapur	Art	Maharashtra
24.	Shobana Chandrakumar	Art	TN
25.	Sushil Kumar Modi (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Bihar
26.	Vinod Dham	Science and Engineering	United States of America (USA)

Eminent Personalities honoured with Padma Bhushan:

i.PR Sreejesh, currently serving as the coach of the Indian men's junior hockey team is the only sportsperson to be honored with Padma Bhushan for year 2025 in recognition of his contributions to hockey in India.

- With this, he became only the 2nd Indian hockey player to be bestowed with Padma Bhushan after the legendary Major Dhyan Chand honoured with the award in 1956.

ii. Renowned economist **Bibek Debroy** who served as Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (**EAC-PM**) and **Sushil Kumar Modi**, former Deputy Chief Minister (Dy CM) of Bihar; and **Manohar Joshi**, former CM of Maharashtra (from 1995-1999), were posthumously honoured with award.

iii. Distinguished recipients of Padma Bhushan award include: famous Tamil Actor S. Ajith Kumar, Ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous), renowned filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, among others.

Padma Shri (113):

S.NO.	Name	Field	State/Country
27.	Adwaita Charan Gadnayak	Art	Odisha
28.	Achyut Ramchandra Palav	Art	Maharashtra
29.	Ajay V Bhatt	Science and Engineering	USA
30.	Anil Kumar Boro	Literature and Education	Assam
31.	Arijit Singh	Art	West Bengal (WB)
32.	Arundhati Bhattacharya	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
33.	Arunoday Saha	Literature and Education	Tripura
34.	Arvind Sharma	Literature and Education	Canada
35.	Ashok Kumar Mahapatra	Medicine	Odisha
36.	Ashok Laxman Saraf	Art	Maharashtra
37.	Asutosh Sharma	Science and Engineering	UP
38.	Ashwini Bhide Deshpande	Art	Maharashtra
39.	Baijnath Maharaj	Ohters-Spiritualism	Rajasthan
40.	Barry Godfray John	Art	NCT Delhi
41.	Begam Batool	Art	Rajasthan
42.	Bharat Gupt	Art	NCT Delhi
43.	Bheru Singh Chouhan	Art	Madhya Pradesh (MP)
44.	Bhim Singh Bhavesh	Social Work	Bihar

45.	Bhimavva Doddabalappa Shillekyathara	Art	Karnataka
46.	Budhendra Kumar Jain	Medicine	MP
47.	C S Vaidyanathan	Public Affairs	NCT Delhi
48.	Chaitram Deochand Pawar	Social Work	Maharashtra
49.	Chandrakant Sheth (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Gujarat
50.	Chandrakant Sompura	Others-Architecture	Gujarat
51.	Chetan E. Chitnis	Science and Engineering	France
52.	David R Syiemlieh	Literature and Education	Meghalaya
53.	Durga Charan Ranbir	Art	Odisha
54.	Farooq Ahmad Mir	Art	Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)
55.	Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid	Literature and Education	UP
56.	Gita Upadhyay	Literature and Education	Assam
57.	Gokul Chandra Das	Art	WB
58.	Guruvayur Dorai	Art	TN
59.	Harchandan Singh Bhatta	Art	MP
60.	Hariman Sharma	Others-Agriculture	Himachal Pradesh (HP)
61.	Harjinder Singh Srinagar Wale	Art	Punjab
62.	Harvinder Singh	Sports	Haryana
63.	Hassan Raghu	Art	Karnataka
64.	Hemant Kumar	Medicine	Bihar

65.	Hriday Narayan Dixit	Literature and Education	UP
66.	Hugh and Colleen Gantzer (Posthumous) (Duo)	Literature and Education	Uttarakhand
67.	Inivalappil Mani (IM) Vijayan	Sports	Kerala
68.	Jagdish Joshila	Literature and Education	MP
69.	Jaspinder Narula	Art	Maharashtra
70.	Jonas Masetti	Others- Spiritualism	Brazil
71.	Joynacharan Bathari	Art	Assam
72.	Jumde Yomgam Gamlin	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh (AR)
73.	K. Damodaran	Others- Culinary	TN
74.	K L Krishna	Literature and Education	Andhra Pradesh (AP)
75.	K Omanakutty Amma	Art	Kerala
76.	Kishore Kunal	Civil Service	Bihar
77.	L Hangthing	Others- Agriculture	Nagaland
78.	Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer	Literature and Education- Journalism	TN
79.	Lalit Kumar Mangotra	Literature and Education	J&K
80.	Lama Lobzang (Posthumous)	Others- Spiritualism	Ladakh
81.	Libia Lobo Sardesai	Social Work	Goa
82.	M D Srinivas	Science and Engineering	TN

83.	Madugula Nagaphani Sarma	Art	AP
84.	Mahabir Nayak	Art	Jharkhand
85.	Mamata Shankar	Art	WB
86.	Manda Krishna Madiga	Public Affairs	Telangana
87.	Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli	Literature and Education	Maharashtra
88.	Miryala Apparao (Posthumous)	Art	AP
89.	Nagendra Nath Roy	Literature and Education	WB
90.	Narayan (Bhulai Bhai) (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	UP
91.	Naren Gurung	Art	Sikkim
92.	Neerja Bhatla	Medicine	NCT Delhi
93.	Nirmala Devi	Art	Bihar
94.	Nitin Nohria	Literature and Education	USA
95.	Onkar Singh Pahwa	Trade and Industry	Punjab
96.	P Datchanamoorthy	Art	Puducherry
97.	Pandi Ram Mandavi	Art	Chhattisgarh
98.	Parmar Lavjibhai Nagjibhai	Art	Gujarat
99.	Pawan Goenka	Trade and Industry	WB
100.	Prashanth Prakash	Trade and Industry	Karnataka
101.	Pratibha Satpathy	Literature and Education	Odisha
102.	Purisai Kannappa Sambandan	Art	TN
103.	Ravichandran Ashwin	Sports	TN

104.	R G Chandramogan	Trade and Industry	TN
105.	Radha Bahin Bhatt	Social Work	Uttarakhand
106.	Radhakrishnan Devasenapathy	Art	TN
107.	Ramdarash Mishra	Literature and Education	NCT Delhi
108.	Ranendra Bhanu Majumdar	Art	Maharashtra
109.	Ratan Kumar Parimoo	Art	Gujarat
110.	Reba Kanta Mahanta	Art	Assam
111.	Renthlei Lalrawna	Literature and Education	Mizoram
112.	Ricky Gyan Kej	Art	Karnataka
113.	Sajjan Bhajanka	Trade and Industry	WB
114.	Sally Holkar	Trade and Industry	MP
115.	Sant Ram Deswal	Literature and Education	Haryana
116.	Satyapal Singh	Sports	UP
117.	Seeni Viswanathan	Literature and Education	TN
118.	Sethuraman Panchanathan	Science and Engineering	USA
119.	Sheikha Ali Al-Jaber Al-Sabah	Medicine	Kuwait
120.	Sheen Kaaf Nizam (Shiv Kishan Bissa)	Literature and Education	Rajasthan
121.	Shyam Bihari Agrawal	Art	UP
122.	Soniya Nityanand	Medicine	UP

123.	Stephen Knapp	Literature and Education	USA
124.	Subhash Khetulal Sharma	Others-Agriculture	Maharashtra
125.	Suresh Harilal Soni	Social Work	Gujarat
126.	Surinder Kumar Vasal	Science and Engineering	Delhi
127.	Swami Pradiptananda (Kartik Maharaj)	Others-Spiritualism	WB
128.	Syed Ainul Hasan	Literature and Education	UP
129.	Tejendra Narayan Majumdar	Art	WB
130.	Thiyam Suryamukhi Devi	Art	Manipur
131.	Tushar Durgeshbhai Shukla	Literature and Education	Gujarat
132.	Vadiraj Raghawendracharya Panchamukhi	Literature and Education	AP
133.	Vasudeo Kamath	Art	Maharashtra
134.	Velu Aasaan	Art	TN
135.	Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar	Art	Karnataka
136.	Vijay Nityanand Surishwar Ji Maharaj	Others-Spiritualism	Bihar
137.	Vijayalakshmi Deshamane	Medicine	Maharashtra
138.	Vilas Dangre	Medicine	Maharashtra
139.	Vinayak Lohani	Social Work	WB

Eminent Personalities who are honored with Padma Shri:

i. Former Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** is among 4 sports personalities to receive Padma Shri for year 2025. He is the second-highest wicket-taker for India in cricket with 765 scalps.

- Other sports personalities selected for the Padma Shri: IM Vijayan, former Captain of Indian Football team; Harvinder Singh, double Paralympic medalist; and Satyapal Singh, coach of the Indian Para-athletics team.

ii. Arunadhathi Bhattacharya, Chairperson and CEO of Salesforce has been named for this year PadmaShri award for her distinguished services in 'Trade and Industry' category.

- She was the 1st woman to chair India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), State Bank of India (SBI) from 2013 to 2017.

iii. This year total **12** distinguished personalities from North-East (NE) region have been selected for Padma Shri: L. Hangthing, a fruit farmer from Noklak, Nagaland, with over 30 years of experience of cultivating non-native fruits;

- Naren Gurung, famous folk artist from Gangtok (Sikkim) devoted 60 years to preserve and promote Sikkimese Nepali folk music and dance traditions;
- Jumde Yomgam Gamlin from AR, worked for de-addiction and social reform for local communities for last 30 years, among others.

iv. Other notable winners: P. Datchanamorthy, an instrumentalist specializing in Thavil (a classical percussion instrument fundamental to South Indian music and culture); Jagdish Joshila, a renowned Nimadi and Hindi author from Khargone with experience of over 50 years; famous playback singer Arijit Singh and 3-time Grammy award-winning musician, Rickey Gyan Kei, among others.

Note: Among the states, Maharashtra received the highest number of Padma awards (14) for year 2025, followed by TN (13), UP (10), Karnataka and WB (9 each) and Gujarat and Bihar (8 each).

About Padma Awards:

i. Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian awards in India after "**Bharat Ratna**".

ii. Padma Awards are given in different fields of activities including art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature, education, sports, civil service, among others.

ii. Padma Awards are given in 3 different categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

- **Padma Vibhushan:** is India's second- highest civilian honour and is given for exceptional and distinguished service.
- **Padma Bhushan:** is 3rd highest civilian award is given for distinguished service of high order.
- **Padma Shri:** is 4th highest civilian award and is given for distinguished service in any field.

Background of Padma Awards:

i. Government of India (GoI) established the Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan as two civilian honours in **1954**.

ii. Initially, Padma Vibhushan was classified in 3 different categories: Pahela Varg, Dusra Varg and Tisra Varg.

iii. Later, These 3 classes were renamed as Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri on **January 8, 1955** as per Presidential notification.

Note: These awards have been given annually since their inception, except in 1978, 1979 and 1993-1997.

Conferment of Awards:

i. Padma Awards are announced every year on Republic Day and its official ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhavan tentatively in the month of March or April.

ii. The recipients receive a medallion made up of bronze but embossing on them is done with different metals and Sanad (Certificate) that is signed by the President.

iii. The total number of awards given in a year **should not exceed 120** which excludes awards given posthumously and awards to NRIs, foreigners and OCIs.

iv. The award cannot be added as a prefix or suffix to the recipient's name and is not equal to a title.

About Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA):

Union Minister- Amit Shah (Constituency- Gandhinagar, Gujarat)

Minister of State (MoS)- Nityanand Rai (Constituency- Ujiarpur, Bihar); Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Constituency- Karimnagar, Telangana)

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.
- This marks Guneet Monga's **third** Oscar nomination, after 'The Elephant Whisperers' and 'Period: End of Sentence', both of which won Academy Awards.

i. Written and directed by Adam J. Graves, *Anuja* is about a young girl working in a Delhi garment factory who must make a life-changing choice for her family's future.

ii. This nomination puts *Anuja* among five finalists chosen from an initial pool of 180 qualifying films. It will compete against *A Lien*, *I'm Not a Robot*, *The Last Ranger*, and *The Man Who Would Not Remain Silent*.

iii. The film also won the top honor at the **HollyShorts Film Festival** in 2024.

Note: The 97th Academy Awards 2025, hosted by Conan O'Brien, will take place at Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, United States of America (USA) on March 2, 2025.

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.

- With this certification, ePlane strengthens its position as a pioneer in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) in India.

i. The e200X has a compact wingspan that reduces infrastructure requirements, making it suitable for various regions in India and similar global markets.

ii. The ePlane Company was founded by professor Satya Chakravarthy in 2019.

Note: The DGCA has established safety criteria for certifying vertical take-off and landing capable aircraft (VCA) and set guidelines for the design of vertiports used by these aircraft.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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.

- The decision, approved by the Board of Directors after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

i. In 1980, he started his career at the State Bank of India (SBI) as Chief General Manager (CGM). Later, he moved to Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited, where he served as MD & CEO from March 2014 to September 2015.

ii. He joined Canara Bank as MD & CEO in September 2015 and led the organization for three years before retiring in July 2018.

iii. In October 2018, he became the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank, a role he held until his reappointment.

iv. He currently serves as the President of the Governing Body at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and is a member of the Managing Committee of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Note: The reappointment comes as IDBI Bank's promoters — Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), holding 49.24%, and the Government of India (GoI), with 45.48% — work to reduce their stakes.

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**.

i. The new advisory board replaced the World Cricket Committee (WCC), which was constituted in 2006.

ii. Other founding members of new advisory board:

1. Anurag Dahiya, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of ICC;
2. Chris Dehring Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cricket West Indies (CWI);
3. Sourav Ganguly, former Captain of Indian Men's Cricket Team and former President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI);
4. Graeme Smith, former South Africa Captain;
5. Andrew Strauss, former England Captain and Director of England Cricket Board (ECB);
6. Sanjog Gupta, CEO of JioStar-Sports;
7. Heath Mills, Executive chair at World Cricketers' Association;
8. Trudy Lindblade, CEO of Cricket Scotland;
9. Heather Knight, Women's Captain of England;
10. Mel Jones, Former Australia International and current broadcaster
11. Imtiaz Patel, former chair of SuperSport

Note: MCC announced that the 2nd WCC forum will be held from June 7 to June 8, 2025, ahead of the World Test Championship (WTC) final at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, the UK.

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).

- In October 2024, KMBL signed an agreement to acquire the personal loan book of Standard Chartered Bank, India for Rs 4,100 crore to strengthen its position in the retail credit market.

i. This acquisition includes all personal loans classified as standard advances.

ii. The personal loans are part of unsecured retail loans, which include retail microcredit had 10.5% share in net advances of KMB at the end of December 2024.

OBITUARY

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.

- He has won numerous awards including the 'Padma Shri' award.

**About Dr Kotturathu Mammen Cherian:**

i. Dr. K.M. Cherian, a pioneering cardiac surgeon, began his career with a Master of Surgery (MS) from Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Mangaluru in 1964.

- In 1968, he performed his first open heart surgery at the age of 26 in Australia.
- ii. In 1973, he became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Cardiothoracic Surgery.
- iii. In 1975, he performed India's 1st successful coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, at Southern Railway Headquarters hospital, Perambur, Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN).
 - He was recognized as an honorary surgeon to the President of India from 1990 to 1993.
 - He also introduced the Physician Assistant profession to India in 1992.
- iv. He performed India's 2nd Heart Transplant surgery in 1995 and India's 1st Heart-Lung transplantation (HLT) surgery, Pediatric Cardiac Surgery and the Laser heart surgery, transmyocardial revascularization (TMR).
- v. In 2004, he founded Frontier Lifeline Hospital and the Dr. Cherian Heart Foundation in Chennai.
- v. In 2010, he became the **1st Indian** to be designated as President of the World Society of Cardio Thoracic Surgeons (WSCTS).
- vi. In May 2016, he was selected to be a member of the "Founder Circle" of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.

Awards and Honors:

- i. In 1991, he was honored with the '**Padma Shri**', India's 4th highest civilian award for his exceptional work in the medical field.
- ii. In 2000, he received a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from Kasturba Medical College (KMC), Manipal for his contributions in the field of cardiothoracic surgery in India.
- iii. In 2005, he received a 'Harvard Medical Excellence Award', recognizing his professional development and career advancement.

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.
- It explores his work as an actor, poet, editor, and artist, offering insights into the cultural landscape of Bengal.

About Soumitra Chatterjee:

- i. Soumitra Chatterjee was born in 1935 at Kolkata, West Bengal and died in 2020.
- ii. Chatterjee starred in 14 Ray films, including the iconic Apur Sansar (The World of Apu), Sonar Kella (The Golden Fortress), Joy Baba Felunath (The Elephant God), Devi (The Goddess), Charulata (The Lonely Wife), Ghare Baire (The Home and the World).
- iii. His iconic characters, like Apu and Feluda, are well-known among Bengalis and cinephiles.
- iii. Soumitra was the first Indian film personality who was conferred with France's highest award for artists '**Commandeur**' of, **Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (1999)**.
 - He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan (2004), two National Film Awards (2007 and 2017) and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2012), India's highest award in cinema.

IMPORTANT DAYS

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.

Note: Clean energy is crucial in reducing Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and ensuring that communities have access to reliable power sources.

Background:

i. On **January 26 2023**, the United Nations General Assembly (**UNGA**) declared the International Day of Clean Energy through resolution A/77/327, recognizing the need to accelerate the global transition to clean and sustainable energy.

- The 1st-ever International Day of Clean Energy was celebrated on 26th January 2024.

Significance:

i. The day holds significance as it coincides with the founding date of the International Renewable Energy Agency (**IRENA**), a global intergovernmental agency established on January 26, 2009.

- 26 January 2025 marks the **16th anniversary** of the IRENA.
- IRENA supports countries worldwide in their Renewable Energy (RE) transitions, providing crucial data, policy guidance, and fostering international cooperation.

ii. The Day emphasizes the importance of clean energy solutions in combating climate change, reducing energy poverty, and ensuring equitable access to reliable energy for all communities.

Global Challenges:

i. **Global Energy Poverty:** 685 million people lack access to electricity, primarily in sub-Saharan Africa (more than 80%), limiting education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

ii. Polluting Energy Sources: Continued reliance on fossil fuels perpetuates poverty and environmental harm.

iii. Transition to Clean Energy: Solar, wind, and hydropower are essential in overcoming these challenges and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) – “Affordable and clean energy for all by 2030.”

- SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all by 2030.

iv. Decarbonization: Shifting to renewable energy is critical for addressing the climate crisis and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels.

Key Facts:

i. A significant portion of greenhouse gases, which trap the Sun’s heat and warm the planet, comes from energy production, particularly from burning fossil fuels like **coal, oil, and natural gas** for electricity and heating.

ii. Fossil fuels account for nearly **90%** of global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, the leading contributors to climate change.

- Over 75% of global greenhouse gas (Methane, Nitrous Oxide (N₂O), Nitrogen Trifluoride (NF₃) emissions come from burning fossil fuels for energy.

iii. Polluting fuels for cooking cause 3.2 million premature deaths annually; clean cooking can prevent many of these.

iv. Every USD 1 invested in renewables creates 3X more jobs than in the fossil fuel industry.

iv. Renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal currently generate around **29%** of the world’s electricity.

2025 Events:

i. The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (**DEWA**), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), hosted 2 significant events ‘Renewables Talk’ and ‘Women in Diplomacy’ on the occasion of International Day of Clean Energy at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in Dubai, the UAE.

ii. The event fostered collaboration and facilitated knowledge exchange in the clean and renewable energy sectors and also highlighted the crucial role of women in diplomacy and leadership in driving the clean energy transition.

iii. Key Attendees: Dr Amna Al Dahak, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DEWA, Francesco La Camera, Director General (DG) of IRENA, HE Dr Nawal Al Hosany, and UAE Permanent Representative to IRENA.

Key Points:

i. UAE aims for **Net Zero by 2050** and drives global clean energy initiatives in the Global South.

- DEWA aims to provide 100% clean energy for Dubai by 2050.

iii. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the largest single-site solar park in the world based on the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model, set to exceed 5,000 megawatt (MW) by 2030, utilizing solar power, green hydrogen, and AI-driven solutions.

Note: As per the International Energy Agency’s Electricity report 2024, Global electricity demand is expected to rise at a faster rate over the next 3 years, growing by an average of **3.4%** annually through 2026.

About International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA):

Director-General (DG) – Francesco La Camera

Headquarters - Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Founded – 2009

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. This day also commemorates the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) (now World Customs Organization, WCO) held in Brussels, Belgium in 1953.

- 26 January 2025 marks the **72nd** anniversary of WCO, an intergovernmental body dedicated to enhancing customs administrations worldwide.



Theme:

i. The theme for ICD 2025 is “**Customs Delivering on its Commitment to Efficiency, Security, and Prosperity.**”

ii. This theme highlights the ongoing dedication of customs authorities in improving the efficiency of global trade, ensuring security, and fostering economic growth.

Background:

i. The CCC was established in 1952 as an intergovernmental body to improve the efficiency of customs administrations around the globe.

ii. On January 26, 1953, the inaugural session of the CCC was held in Brussels, Belgium marking the beginning of the organization worldwide.

iii. On December 26, 1983, the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), celebrated the 1st International Customs Day (ICD) to commemorate the 30th anniversary of its founding.

- The event took place in Brussels with **17 member** countries participating.

iv. In 1994, the CCC became a global organization and was renamed the WCO, expanding its membership to 183 countries, which now manage **98%** of global trade.

v. WCO, currently works with **186 member** states to improve customs operations and adapt to the changing landscape of international trade.

Custom Administration in India:

i. The Indian Customs system is governed by the **Customs Act of 1962**, which defines the regulations for import and export duties and the customs valuation process.

ii. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (**CBIC**), formerly known as the Central Board of Excise & Customs, is the primary authority overseeing customs, excise, and Goods and Services Tax (GST) matters in India.

iii. CBIC operates under the Department of Revenue (DoR), Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Roles of Customs Agencies in India:

i. **Collecting Revenue:** Responsible for collecting import and excise duties, along with other taxes and levies imposed on imported goods.

ii. **Enforcing Compliance:** To ensure compliance with various regulations, including technical quality standards, veterinary regulations, and plant health rules for imports.

iii. **Protecting Consumers:** Work to detect and stop the import of counterfeit goods, ensuring consumer safety.

iv. **Customs Duties and Taxes:** All imported goods in India are subject to customs duty, along with other taxes like Value Added Tax (VAT), excise duty, and service tax.

v. **Customs House Agent (CHA)** or Customs Broker, assists exporters and importers in ensuring accurate documentation and a smooth customs clearance process.

About World Customs Organization (WCO):

Secretary-General– Ian Clifton Saunders (the United States of America, USA)

Headquarters– Brussels, Belgium

Established- 1952

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CATEGORIES	QUESTIONS COLLECTED	OVERALL	QUIZ	HANDWRITTEN NOTES
Current Affairs	42	37	29	16
Current Static Banking	1	—	—	—
Current Static GK	2	1	—	—
Static Banking	—	—	—	—
Static GK	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	29	16

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