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January

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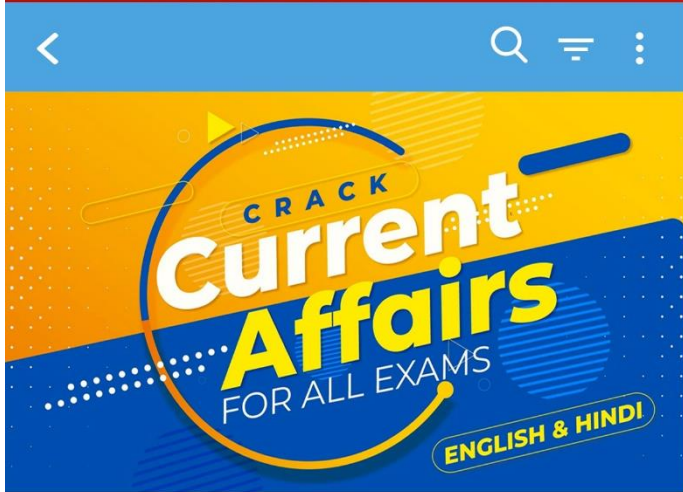


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## Current Affairs Weekly PDF – January 2025 – 1st Week (1 – 8)

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### MoD Signs Rs 2,867 Crore Contracts with MDL & Naval Group to bolster submarine capabilities

On December 30 2024, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) signed two contracts worth **Rs 2,867 crore** for the construction of “Air Independent Propulsion (**AIP**) Plug for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)-AIP system and its integration onboard Indian Submarines”, and “the integration of Electronic Heavy Weight Torpedo(**EHWT**) onboard the Kalvari-Class submarines”.

- ✓ **AIP Plug Construction and Integration:** A contract valued at **Rs 1,990 crore** was signed with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited(MDL), Mumbai (Maharashtra) for constructing and integrating AIP Plug for the DRDO-AIP system.
- ✓ **Integration of EHWT:** A contract worth **Rs 877 crore** was signed with Naval Group, France, for the integration of the EHWT onboard Kalvari-Class submarines.

#### Kaamya Karthikeyan Becomes the Youngest Female in World to Scale Highest Peaks in all 7 Continents

**Kaamya Karthikeyan**, a 17-year old student from Navy Children School (NCS) in Mumbai (Maharashtra), scripted history by becoming the world’s youngest female to scale the 7 highest peaks across seven continents.

- ✓ She achieved this remarkable significant milestone after she successfully climbed **Mount Vinson Massif** (4,892 metres, m) in Antarctica along with her father Commander S. Karthikeyan on December 24 2024.

#### TN CM Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin unveils India’s 1st glass bridge at Kanniyakumari

On December 30, 2024, the Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN), **Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin**, inaugurated **India’s 1st** bowstring arch glass bridge which connects the 133-foot Thiruvalluvar Statue and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in **Kanniyakumari, TN**.

- ✓ The bridge was inaugurated as part of the **Silver Jubilee** (25th year) celebration of the Thiruvalluvar Statue’s installation.
- ✓ He further declared that the Thiruvalluvar Statue will now be referred to as the ‘**Statue of Wisdom**’.

#### NeGD Signs MoU with IPA to Boost Digital Transformation in India’s Maritime Sector

On December 24, 2024, the New Delhi (Delhi)-based National e-Governance Division (**NeGD**), operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Indian Ports Association (**IPA**), also headquartered in New Delhi, to drive **digital adoption** in India’s maritime sector.

#### DPIIT Signs MoU with boAt to Support Startups in Manufacturing and D2C Sectors

In December 2024, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade(**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **boAt**, a prominent Indian audio and wearables brand, to support startups.

#### Mission MAUSAM: Enhancing Weather and Climate Resilience for India

**Mission MAUSAM**, an initiative led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), is designed to position India as a world leader in the field of weather and climate

sciences. It aimed to make India “Weather Ready” and “Climate Smart”, complying with the international standards by **2026**.

- ✓ It was approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi in September 2024, with a total budget outlay of **Rs 2,000 crore** for period of 2 years.
- ✓ The mission is being implemented by MoES through its 3 premier institutions: New Delhi (Delhi)-based India Meteorological Department (**IMD**), Noida (Uttar Pradesh, UP) based National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (**NCMRWF**) and Pune (Maharashtra)-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (**IITM**). [Click here to read full News](#)

## SAIL Earns ‘Great Place to Work’ Certification for 2025-2026

In December 2024, New Delhi(Delhi) based Steel Authority of India Limited (**SAIL**) has been awarded the ‘**Great Place to Work**’ certification for the period January 2025 to January 2026, by the Great Place to Work Institute, India.

- ✓ This marks the 2nd consecutive year SAIL has earned this recognition, having previously received it for December 2023 to December 2024.
- ✓ The certification is awarded after a thorough evaluation of an organization’s workplace culture, including extensive employee feedback.

## Cabinet approvals on January 1,2025

The **Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi has given approvals to various schemes and projects on **1st January 2025**.

- ✓ PM Modi has approved to continue the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (**PMFBY**) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (**RWBCIS**) till 2025-26 with an overall outlay of **Rs.69,515.71 Crore** from **2021-22 to 2025-26**.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved creation of Fund for Innovation and Technology(**FIAT**) with

an outlay of **Rs.824.77 crore** for integration of advanced technologies in insurance schemes.

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, has approved to extend the **One-time Special Package** on Di-Ammonium Phosphate (**DAP**) beyond the Nutrient Based Subsidy(**NBS**) subsidy at **Rs 3,500 per metric ton (MT)** for the period from **1st January 2025** till further orders to provide DAP to farmers at affordable prices.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between the Ministry of Cooperation(**MoC**), Government of India(Gol) and the **Ministry of Trade, Indonesia** with an aim to trade **one million metric tons(MT)** of Non-Basmati White Rice (**NBWR**) annually based on production and international prices. [Click here to read full News](#)

## MoF Kept Interest Rate on Small Savings Schemes Unchanged for Q4FY25

In December 2024, the Department of Economic Affairs (**DEA-Budget Division**), Ministry of Finance (MoF) has kept the interest rate on Small Savings Schemes (SSS) unchanged for its 4th Quarter of Financial Year 2024-25( Q4 FY25) i.e.

from **1st January 2025 to 31st March 2025** from those notified for Q3FY25.

This is for the straight **4th** consecutive quarter of FY25 that interest rate on SSS remains unchanged.

### Interest Rates on Small Savings Schemes for Q4FY25:

Instruments	Rate of Interest from 1st January, 2025 to 31st March, 2025
Savings Deposit	4.00%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.5% (will mature in 115 months)
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.10%
Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)	8.20%
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.70%

Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme(SCSS)	8.20%
Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (PO-MIS)	7.40%
Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC)	7.50%

## MoE Launches of ONOS Scheme to Enhance Access to Scholarly Resources for Government Institutions

On January 1 2025, the Ministry of Education(**MoE**) launched **first phase** of the 'One Nation, One Subscription (**ONOS**)', a Central Sector Scheme (CSS), aims to provide access to world-class scholarly articles and journals for government-run Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Central Government (CG) Research and Development (R&D) centers across India.

- ✓ The scheme was approved by the Government of India(Gol) in November 2024, with a budget of **Rs 6,000 crore** allocated for its implementation over **three years**, from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2027.
- ✓ The ONOS phase I is coordinated by **INFLIBNET** (Information and Library Network), an Inter-University Centre based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat under the University Grants Commission (**UGC**), operating under the MoE.

## MoJS Released Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report of the Country for the Year 2024

In December 2024, Union Minister **Chandrakant Raghunath Patil**, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has released the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the whole country for the year 2024.The assessment was conducted by Central Ground Water Board (**CGWB**) in partnership with States and UTs, which can be used for taking necessary interventions by various stakeholders.

- ✓ As per the report, total annual groundwater recharge in India is **446.90** Billion Cubic Meter (**BCM**).
- ✓ Out of the total 6,746 assessment units including blocks, mandals and talukas, in the country, 4,951 (7.34%) assessment units are classified as 'Safe'.
- ✓ 711 (10.5%), 206 (3.05%), 751 (11.1%) assessment units have been classified as 'semi-critical', 'critical' and 'over-exploited', respectively. Other than these units, there are 127 (1.8%) assessment units, which have been classified as 'Saline'.
- ✓ In December 2024, Union Minister **CR Patil**, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has released the [Annual Ground Water Quality Report for the whole country for the year 2024](#). This is for the 1st time that a report has adopted a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for groundwater quality monitoring, ensuring uniformity in data collection, examination and interpretation.
- ✓ The report observed that groundwater quality varies significantly across the country, 100% of the water samples for certain states like: Arunachal Pradesh (AR), Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) met the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) standards. [Click here to read full News](#)

## Govt Forms Expert Panel headed by Ramesh Chand to Revise WPI Base Year 2022-23

On January 2 2025, the Government of India (Gol) formed an expert panel to review and revise the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) base year from 2011-12 to 2022-23 and develop a new Producer Price Index (**PPI**).

- ✓ It was notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoC&I**). The working group is tasked with submitting its final report to the Office of the Economic Adviser, MoC&I by **June 30, 2026**.
- ✓ The working group was headed by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI)



member **Ramesh Chand**, along with [18 other members](#) from various ministries, public and private sectors.

### DRDO celebrates 67th Foundation Day in New Delhi

On 1st January 2025, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 67th Foundation Day in New Delhi, Delhi. Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD), participated in the Foundation day event and unveiled the DRDO's goals for 2025.

### First Made-in-India Surgical Robot 'SSI Mantra' Installed at Maharashtra's Noble Hospitals

**Noble Hospitals and Research Centre** in Pune, Maharashtra has installed the 'SSI Mantra (Multi-Arm Novel Tele Robotic Assistance) surgical robot', the 1st made-in-India robotic system. This cutting-edge technology, developed by Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations International Inc, was approved by New Delhi(Delhi) based Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

- ✓ SS Innovations has become the 1st company in India to receive CDSCO approval for Telesurgery and Teleproctoring. The SSI Mantra system was developed in 2017 by **Dr. Sudhir Srivastava**, became the 1st Indian-made surgical robot.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates several development projects in New Delhi

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated and laid foundation stones of various development projects including 1,675 flats for residents of Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) clusters and the World Trade Centre(WTC) in **New Delhi**, Delhi on **3rd January 2025**.

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated **1,675 newly constructed flats** for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) residents of JJ clusters at Swabhimani Apartments in Ashok Vihar, Delhi.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated two urban redevelopment projects- the **World Trade**

**Centre (WTC)** at Nauroji Nagar and the **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** Type-II Quarters at Sarojini Nagar.

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi also commenced the development of **three** new projects in **Delhi University (DU)**, New Delhi with an outlay of over **Rs 600 crore**.



### DFS Secretary Nagaraju Maddirala Launches Revamped e-auction Portal 'BAANKNET'

On January 03 2025, **Nagaraju Maddirala**, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF) launched a revamped e-auction portal 'Bank Asset Auction Network(**BAANKNET**)' in New Delhi, Delhi, designed for the e-auction of properties from all Public Sector Banks(**PSB**).

- ✓ The portal serves as a one-stop destination for buyers and investors, making it easier to explore a wide range of assets, participate in property e-auctions, and discover valuable opportunities.
- ✓ The DFS has conducted training sessions on the features of the 'BAANKNET' portal for executives of all PSBs and recovery officers in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRT) to ensure the portal is used effectively and efficiently.

### IIT Madras and MoA&FW Collaborate on Project VISTAAR to Digitalize Agricultural Extension

On January 2 2025, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, (Tamil Nadu, TN) partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare(**MoA&FW**) to launch the **Project** Virtually

Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources(**VISTAAR**) to revolutionize the agricultural extension system through digitalization for farmers across India.

- ✓ **Integration with Start-ups:** The MoA&FW and IIT Madras signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enrich the VISTAAR platform by integrating information about start-ups in the agriculture and allied sectors.

### ICG and AIIMS Delhi Signed MoU to Enhance Medical Training for Officers

In December 2024, the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) Delhi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost the medical training and capabilities of Coast Guard medical officers.

- ✓ The MoU was signed by Surgeon Commodore Sanjay Dutta on behalf of the ICG and Dr. Shailendra Kumar, Comprehensive Resuscitation Training Centre (CRTC) AIIMS Coordinator during an event held at AIIMS Delhi in New Delhi (Delhi).

### PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates and Lays Foundation Stone for Rs 12,200 Crore Infrastructure and Metro Expansion Projects in Delhi

On January 05 2025, Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over **Rs 12,200 crore**, including metro expansions and infrastructure upgrades, in Delhi.

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a 13-Kilometer(km) stretch of the **Namo Bharat corridor** between Sahibabad in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh(UP) and New Ashok Nagar in Delhi costing around **Rs 4,600 crore**.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated the **2.8-km** Janakpuri-Krishna Park stretch of Delhi Metro Phase-IV, a project worth **Rs.1,200 crore**.
- ✓ The PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **26.5-km** Rithala-Kundli section

of Delhi Metro Phase-IV, valued at **Rs 6,230 crore**.

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi also laid the foundation stone for a modern campus of the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (**CARI**) in Rohini, New Delhi, to be built at a cost of **Rs 185 crore**.

### Revolutionizing Digital Commerce: The ONDC Initiative launched by DPIIT, MoC&I

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**), a transformative initiative led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I), Government of India (GoI), aimed at revolutionizing digital commerce in India.

- ✓ It was 1st launched as pilot project in **April, 2022** in 5 Indian cities: New Delhi (Delhi), Bengaluru (Karnataka), Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu (TN)), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh (MP)) and Shillong (Meghalaya).
- ✓ It was incorporated as a '**non-profit**', Section-8 company on December 31, 2021 with an authorized capital of Rs. 500 crore and was incubated at the Quality Council of India (QCI), an independent organisation with DPIIT.
- ✓ In June 2024, the Ministry of MSME launched a sub-scheme "MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative" (MSME-TEAM initiative) under the central sector scheme (CSS) "**Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance**", with total budget outlay of Rs



277.35 crore for a period of 3 years up to March 2027. [Click here to read full News](#)

## Union Minister Piyush Goyal releases '6th LEADS Report' : 13 states, UTs listed among achievers

On 3rd January 2025, Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) released the **6th** edition 'Logistics Ease Across Different States(**LEADS**) Report in New Delhi, Delhi. He stated that the logistics sector will play a crucial role in achieving a USD 32 trillion economy by 2047.

- ✓ **Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu(TN)** were awarded the top rank of '**achievers**' amongst coastal States in the LEADS 2024 report.
- ✓ The event also marked the felicitation of the **LEAPS 2024 awards**. Recognitions were given across various categories, including core logistics services, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises(MSMEs), startups, and institutions.

### LEADS 2024 Index:

In the LEADS 2024 Report, **13 states** and **UTs** have been categorized as Achievers, **17** as Fast Movers and **7** as Aspirers .

Categories	Achievers	Fast Movers	Aspirers
<b>Landlocked States</b>	Haryana, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh(UP), Uttarakhand	Bihar, Himachal Pradesh(HP), Madhya Pradesh(MP), Punjab Rajasthan	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
<b>Coastal States</b>	Gujarat, Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh	West Bengal (WB)

	aka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu(TN).	h(AP), Goa	
<b>Northeastern Region</b>	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh(AR)	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	Manipur
<b>UTs</b>	Chandigarh, Delhi	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), Lakshadweep, Puducherry	Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh

## EPFO Completes Rollout of CPPS in All Regional Offices

On January 3, 2024, New Delhi (Delhi) based Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (**EPFO**) successfully completed the nationwide implementation of the Centralized Pension Payments System (**CPPS**) under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 1995, aiming to improve the ease of living for pensioners by streamlining pension disbursements across all regional offices.

- ✓ The initiative allows pensioners to access their pensions easily from any bank branch nationwide, removing the need for physical verification and streamlining the disbursement process.

### Overview of Maldives Foreign Minister Abdulla Khaleel's 3-day Visit to India

**Abdulla Khaleel**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives made an Official visit to India from **2nd January to 4th January 2025** with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties in several key areas including maritime security, trade and investment.

- ✓ India and Maldives have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the execution of the **3rd** phase of **High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP)** in Maldives.

### MoT extended Deadlines for Compliance with Medical Textile QCO until April 1, 2025

On January 2 2025, the Ministry of Textiles(MoT) extended the compliance deadline of the **Medical Textiles (Quality Control Order, QCO), 2024** until **April 1, 2025** to address the challenges faced by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). While Large and Medium Enterprises(LME) must adhere to the earlier timeline of January 1, 2025.

### AICTE Launches NEAT 4.0 Online Learning

On January 2025, the All India Council for Technical Education (**AICTE**) launched Phase 4 of the National Educational Alliance for Technology (**NEAT 4.0**) at the AICTE Headquarters in Vasant Kunj, New Delhi (Delhi). NEAT 4.0 initiative aims to bridge the gap between students and essential industry skills, prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity for learners nationwide.

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates & lays foundation stone for railway projects in J&K, Telangana & Odisha

On January 06 2025, Prime Minister(**PM**) Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various railway projects including **Jammu Railway Division**, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K),

**Rayagada Railway Division Building** of East Coast Railway, Odisha & **Charlapalli New Terminal Station**, Telangana via video conferencing in New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Jammu Railway Division spanning a total length of **742.1 kilometers(km)**.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi also inaugurated the **Charlapalli New Terminal Station** in the Medchal-Malkajgiri District of Telangana ,a new coaching terminal along with provision of second entry with a cost of around **Rs 413 crore**.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the **Rayagada Railway Division Building** under the East Coast Railway, Odisha, valued at **Rs 107 crore**.

### MoE Released UDISE+ Report for 2023-24 on School Education; School Enrolment Dropped by Over 1 Crore Compared to 2018-19 Level

In January 2025, the Ministry of Education (**MoE**) released a comprehensive report on the '[Unified District Information System for Education Plus \(UDISE+\) 2023-24](#)' on school education in India. As per the report, school enrollment of students in India decreased from 25.17 crore (in 2022-23) to **24.8 crore (in 2023-24)**, a drop of nearly 1.22 crore students (6%) as compared to 2018-19.

- ✓ Initially, Government of India (GoI) launched UDISE in **2012-13** by integrating Information Management Systems (IMS) in place separately for elementary education and secondary education.
- ✓ **Bihar**, witnessed the highest drop in enrollments, from over 2.49 crore students (in 2018-19) to 2.13 crore students (in 2023-24), followed by Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) decreased from 4.44 crore (in 2018-19) to 4.16 crore (in 2023-24) and **Maharashtra** decreased from over 2.32 crore (in 2018-19) to 2.13 crore (in 2023-24).
- ✓ Among all Indian states, West Bengal (WB) has the largest number of schools with zero enrollments (3254), followed by Rajasthan (2167) and Telangana (2097).
- ✓ Minorities accounted for around 20% of total enrollment in 2023-24. Among the minorities, 79.6% were Muslims, followed by Christians (10%), Sikhs (6.9%), Buddhists (2.2%), Jains (1.3%) and Parsis (0.1%).

## Government launched PLI Scheme 1.1 for specialty steel to boost domestic production

Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, **Haradanahalli**

**Devegowda Kumaraswamy** launched the second round of **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Specialty Steel**, termed as **PLI Scheme 1.1** on **6th January, 2025** at the Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi.

- ✓ PLI Scheme 1.1 applications will remain open from **6th January to 31st January 2025**.
- ✓ The scheme will work within the already allocated funds for the scheme, i.e., **Rs.6,322 crore** and will be implemented for the period of Financial Year (**FY**) **2025-26 to FY 2029-30**.
- ✓ The **PLI Scheme 1.1** has been introduced for **5** product categories with respect to the existing PLI Scheme, namely Coated / Plated Steel Products, High Strength / Wear resistant Steel, Specialty Rails, Alloy Steel Products & Steel wires and Electrical Steel.

## MHA launches 'e-student visa' & 'e-student-x visa' for foreign students

On January 5 2025, the Ministry of Home Affairs (**MHA**) introduced two new specialized visa categories: the '**e-student visa**' and the '**e-student-x visa**', designed to facilitate foreign students pursuing higher education at Indian academic institutions.

- ✓ The e-student visa is available to eligible foreign students registered on the SII portal, while the e-student-x visa is designated for the dependents of e-student visa holders.

## Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh chaired the "Northeast Region States Meet 2025" held in Guwahati, Assam

On January 06 2025, Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying (**MoFAH&D**) and Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) chaired the "Northeast Region States Meet 2025" held in Guwahati, Assam.

- ✓ The event was organised by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the **MoFAH&D** to review the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ✓ Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, MoFAH&D and MoPR inaugurated and laid the foundation for **50 key projects** worth **Rs 50 crores** under PMMSY covering all NER states except Arunachal Pradesh (**AR**) and **Mizoram**, during the 'Northeast Region States Meet 2025'.

## FIU-IND Signs MoU with IRDAI for Enhanced Cooperation in Combating Money Laundering

On January 6, 2025, the Financial Intelligence Unit-India (**FIU-IND**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) to foster mutual cooperation between FIU-IND and IRDAI in areas critical to Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) within the insurance sector.



- ✓ This MoU is part of a broader strategy to implement the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (**PMLA**) and related rules effectively.

## CSIR-NPL Celebrates 79th Foundation Day: Advancing Metrology for National Development

On 4th January 2025, CSIR-National Physical

Laboratory (**CSIR-NPL**) celebrated its **79th Foundation Day** in New Delhi (Delhi). During the event CSIR-NPL signed Memorandums of Understanding (**MoU**) with **IITM (Indian Institute of Technology Madras)** (Chennai, Tamil Nadu, TN) for academic and research collaboration and with CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (**CIMAP**) for producing Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BND) (Certified Reference Materials) in plant-based materials.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### 18th Edition of India-Nepal Military Exercise 'Surya Kiran' commences in Nepal

The **18th edition** of the Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise '**Surya Kiran**' commences in Saljhandi, Nepal. The exercise was scheduled to take place from 31st December 2024 to 13th January 2025. The exercise aims to strengthen India-Nepal defence cooperation and enhance the professional skills of the IA and NA personnel.

- ✓ **Note:** The **17th** Edition of 'Surya Kiran', was conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, India from 24th November to 7th December 2023.

### India Ranked 123rd out of 143 Countries in Readiness for a Rapidly Aging Society

According to the study published in an indexed medical journal '**Nature Aging**', India ranked at **123<sup>rd</sup>** position among 143 countries (accounting 95.4% of the world's population) worldwide in terms of its readiness to tackle the challenges posed by an aging population.

**Switzerland** has secured **1st** position with the highest score of **82.3**, followed by Norway and Denmark ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position, respectively.

In contrast to India's rank its neighbouring countries ranked better like: Bangladesh (86th), Sri Lanka (94th), Nepal (102nd), and Pakistan (118th).

#### Rank of Top 5 Countries:

Rank	Name of the Country
1	Switzerland

2	Norway
3	Denmark
4	Sweden
5	Iceland
<b>123</b>	<b>India</b>

### Sevdalinka: Bosnia's 'Balkan Blues' Gains UNESCO Recognition

In December 2024, **Sevdalinka**, a melancholic and ancient love song from Bosnia and Herzegovina, was added to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage (**ICH**). This recognition ensures that the tradition is safeguarded and celebrated as a vital cultural asset and contributes to its global appeal.

- ✓ The song dates back to the **16th century**, referred to as the '**Balkan blues**' due to its emotional depth and soulful melodies.
- ✓ Sevdalinka, often referred to as the "**Balkan Blues**," is a traditional form of South Slavic music originating from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Romania and Bulgaria Become Full Members of Schengen Border-Free Zones

On January 1 2025, **Romania** and **Bulgaria** have officially become full members of the European Union

(EU) led Schengen free-travel zones. This announcement came following the approval of EU ministers for full membership of both these countries in the meeting held on December 12, 2024.

- ✓ Bulgaria and Romania had successfully completed the Schengen evaluation process set out in their treaties of Accession, taking all the necessary measures to ensure application of all relevant parts of the Schengen acquis.

### **Gol Announces USD 500,000 Relief Assistance to Vanuatu**

On January 2, 2025, the Government of India (**Gol**) announced a relief assistance worth **USD 500,000** (Rs 4.3 crore) to **Vanuatu**, a Pacific island nation, to help with relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts following a devastating earthquake.

- ✓ The earthquake, with a **magnitude of 7.4**, struck near the coast of Vanuatu on December 17, 2024, causing widespread destruction and loss of life.

### **India Submits its 4th Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC**

On December 30, 2024, India submitted its [4th Biennial Update Report \(BUR-4\)](#) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**). The report updates the Third National Communication (TNC) and contains the

National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory for the year 2020.

- ✓ As per the report, India's total GHG emissions, including land use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) has decreased by **7.93%** in 2020 compared to 2019, but it has increased by 98.34% since 1994.
- ✓ The report showed that the energy sector emerged as the major contributor to overall emissions (**75.66%**). It is followed by the Agriculture (13.72%), Industrial Processes and Product Use (8.06%), and Waste (2.56%).
- ✓ India's forest and tree cover, along with other land use, sequestered nearly **522 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e** in 2020, equivalent to decreasing 22% of India's total carbon dioxide emissions in 2020.
- ✓ According to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the share of non-fossil sources in the installed electricity generation capacity was **46.52%**, by October 2024.

### **Indonesia Joins BRICS as 10th Full Member**

On 6 January 2025, **Brazil**, serving as the BRICS chair for 2025, announced that **Indonesia**, world's fourth-most populous nation, has become a **10th full member** of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) alliance. The inclusion of Indonesia aligns with Brazil's theme for its presidency: "Enhancing Global South Cooperation for a More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance."

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

### **YES Bank & FICCI FLO Launched 'YES PowherUp' to Promote Women Entrepreneurs**

In December 2024, **YES Bank Limited**, India's 6th largest private sector bank in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation (**FLO**), largest women's chamber of commerce in South Asia region, announced the launch of '**YES PowherUp**', a specialized Micro, Small and Medium

Enterprises (MSME) programme designed to empower women entrepreneur in promoting their businesses.

### **RBI penalizes Rs 5.50 lakh on 4 cooperative banks from Karnataka for Regulatory Non-Compliance**

In December 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) imposed a penalty of **Rs 5.50 lakh** on **4 Cooperative Banks (CBs)** from Karnataka for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines.

- ✓ **Bharat Cooperative Bank(BCB) Limited** was fined **Rs 3 lakh** for approving new loans and advances that exceeded prescribed limits and lacked proper collateral, violating the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF) guidelines.
- ✓ **Swami Vivekanand Sahakari Bank Niyamit** was penalized **Rs 1 lakh** for failing to adhere to exposure norms for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements.
- ✓ **Sri Basaveshwara Pattana Sahakara Bank Niyamit** was fined **Rs 1 lakh** for increasing its exposure to high Non-Performing Asset(NPA) sectors without prior RBI approval and declaring dividends without RBI's consent.
- ✓ **Manjra Mahila Urban Cooperative Bank Limited** was penalized **Rs 50,000** for not uploading customers' KYC records to CKYCR within the required timeline.

## RBI Allows UPI Payments Through Full-KYC PPIs

In December 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced a new provision that enables Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments **from/to Full-KYC** (Know Your Customer) Prepaid Payment Instruments(PPIs) through third-party UPI applications(apps).

- ✓ This move comes in line with the RBI's Statement on Development and Regulatory Policies announced on **April 5, 2024**.

## RBI released the Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023-24

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the [Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2023-24](#) under **Section 36(2)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**. It presents the performance of the banking sector, including commercial banks, co-operative banks and non-banking financial institutions, during 2023-24 and 2024-25 so far.

- ✓ According to RBI's report, profitability of the commercial banks in India increased for the **6th** consecutive year in 2023-2024.

- ✓ The banks witnessed a **Return on Assets (RoA)** of **1.4%** and a **Return on Equity (RoE)** of **14.6%** in Financial Year (FY) 2024 with profitability remaining robust in the first half of FY25.
- ✓ The report showed that the banks' **gross non-performing assets ratio (NPA)**, or the proportion of bad assets to total loans, declined to a **13-year low** of **2.5%** at end of September from 2.7% at end-March 2024.
- ✓ The report showed that the **capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR)** of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) was **16.8%** in September 2024, with all bank groups meeting the regulatory minimum requirement and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio requirement.  
[Click here to read full News](#)

## RBI Released the Financial Stability Report, December 2024

In December 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) released the half-yearly publication of the [Financial Stability Report \(FSR\), December 2024](#), which shows the joint assessment of the sub-committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (**FSDC**) of the potential risks to financial stability and the resilience of the Indian financial system.

- ✓ The report covered both international and domestic economic conditions, the performance of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and the solvency of the insurance sector.
- ✓ As per the RBI's FSR, the Indian economy is demonstrating strength and resilience thus it has projected that India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth rate will be at **6.6%** in the Financial Year 2024-25(FY25).
- ✓ The report highlighted that unhedged External Commercial Borrowings (**ECBs**) reached at **USD 65.49 billion**, nearly 34.4% of the total debt increased under this avenue.
- ✓ As per the RBI's FSR, the asset quality of SCBs improved further with their Gross Non-Performing Assets(**GNPA**) ratio declined to



12-year low of **2.6%** in September 2024. [Click here to read full News](#)

### **RBI's New Guidelines: Closure of Dormant, Inactive, and Zero Balance Accounts from January 1, 2025**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a new guideline starting from **January 1, 2025**, which mandates the closure of 3 types of bank accounts. These include **Dormant Accounts**, **Inactive Accounts**, and **Zero Balance Accounts**. This move aims to enhance banking security, reduce fraudulent activities, and improve overall efficiency in banking operations.

- ✓ **Dormant Accounts:** Accounts that have not seen any transaction activity for continuous **2 years** or more.
- ✓ **Inactive Accounts:** Accounts that have remained inactive for **12 months** or longer will be closed unless reactivated by the account holder.
- ✓ **Zero Balance Accounts:** Accounts that have maintained a zero balance for an extended period will be closed.

### **NPCI extends market cap deadline for UPI apps till 2026**

In December 2024, Mumbai, Maharashtra-based National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced an extension of the deadline for implementing a 30% market share cap for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) providers by another two years to **December 31, 2026**.

- ✓ The NPCI proposed a 30% market share cap in November 2020, giving providers two years to comply. Due to industry opposition, the deadline was moved to 2022, and it was extended to December 31, 2024.

### **Federal Bank Launches Digital Platform FedOne for Corporate Banking**

On January 2, 2025, **Federal Bank**, one of India's leading private sector banks, launched **FedOne**, an advanced transaction banking platform. This strategic

move to cater the evolving needs of corporate and small and medium enterprises (SME) customers.

- ✓ This platform is the result of a 10-month collaboration with **Nucleus Software Exports Limited**, leveraging its **FinnAxia solution** to enhance Federal Bank's digital transformation and elevate the quality of services offered to corporate customers.

### **Assam Signed MoU with SBI & UBI for Insurance Benefits**

On January 1 2025, the Government of **Assam** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Bank of India (SBI) and Union Bank of India (UBI) to offer insurance benefits to state government employees. The agreements aim to provide **zero-premium insurance coverage** and additional benefits to more than four lakh permanent state government employees.

- ✓ The decision was made in a cabinet meeting in North Lakhimpur, Assam. The Finance Department of Assam was given the authority to collaborate with Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). The MoUs will take effect immediately, and a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being issued to ensure a smooth rollout and maximum benefits for the employees.

### **SBI Launched Har Ghar Lakhpati RD scheme and SBI Patrons FD scheme**

On January 03 2025, the State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), has launched two new deposit schemes namely, **Har Ghar Lakhpati Recurring Deposit(RD) scheme** and **SBI Patrons Fixed Deposit(FD) scheme**.

- ✓ **About Har Ghar Lakhpati RD Scheme:**  
It is a pre-calculated RD scheme designed to enable customers to accumulate **Rs 1 lakh** or multiples thereof. Tenure of SBI RD account is 12 months or 1 year (minimum) and 120 months or 10 years (maximum).
- ✓ **SBI's other FD Schemes for Senior Citizens:**  
SBI We- care deposit scheme, offers an interest rate of 7.50% period of 5 years to less

than 10 years. The minimum deposit amount is Rs. 1,000, while the maximum is less than Rs.3 crore.

## **SBI Launched TAB-based Online NRO, NRE Account Opening Facility**

On January 02 2025, State Bank of India (**SBI**), India's largest Public Sector Bank (PSB), launched TAB-based digital process for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to open Non-Resident External (**NRE**) and Non-Resident Ordinary (**NRO**) accounts. This initiative aims to streamline the account opening process through real-time digital verification and a paperless system.

- ✓ The new TAB-based facility offers real-time account activation, which eliminates the need for physical documentation. Thus, enabling faster activation with minimal delays.

## **NaBFID Invests Rs 745 Crore in NDR InvIT's Long-Term Bonds**

In December 2024, Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (**NaBFID**) has invested **Rs 745 crore** in long-term bonds issued by **NDR InvIT**.

- ✓ **NDR InvIT**, which is a Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) licensed Infrastructure Investment Trust managed by NDR InvIT managers and sponsored by NDR Warehousing Private Limited.

## **CFH Gets SEBI Approval to Launch Mutual Fund Business**

Mumbai(Maharashtra) based Cosmea Financial Holdings(CFH) Private Limited, led by Sam Ghosh, was granted approval by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) to sponsor a Mutual Fund(MF). The

approval follows the submission of their application in May 2024 has a 6-month window to complete the necessary registration formalities as per the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.

- ✓ CFH plans to invest **Rs 200 crore** (USD 23.3 million) in its Asset Management Company(AMC), focusing on Quant and Smart Beta strategies to meet the growing demands of Indian investors.

## **RBI Lifts Business Restrictions on Arohan Financial Services Limited**

On January 3 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) removed business restrictions imposed on Kolkata (West Bengal)-based microfinance institution **Arohan Financial Services Limited** following remedial measures initiated by the lender and its commitment to adhere to fair loan pricing.

## **RBI maintains the FRSB interest rate at 8.05% from January 1 to June 30, 2025**

In January 2025, the Reserve Bank India (**RBI**) has announced the interest rate for RBI Floating Rate Savings Bonds (Taxable) **FRSB 2020 (T)** for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2025 will remains at **8.05%**, comprising the National Savings Certificate (NSC) rate of **7.70%** and an additional spread of **0.35%**.

- ✓ The bonds require a minimum investment of **Rs.1,000** additional investments in multiples of Rs.1,000, and no upper limit. The bonds cannot be pledged as collateral for loans. The RBI FRSB has a **seven-year lock-in period** and does not allow early withdrawal, except for senior citizens.

## **ECONOMY & BUSINESS**

## **Swiggy Partners with NSE to Empower Delivery Partners with Financial Literacy**

On December 24, 2024, **Swiggy Limited**, an Indian online food delivery and e-commerce platform, headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based National Stock Exchange of India Limited (**NSE**). The partnership aims to introduce a financial literacy program designed specifically for Swiggy's delivery partners, with a strong focus on empowering women in the workforce.

## **POWERGRID Signs Green Loan Agreement with SMBC for RE transformation**

In December 2024, Gurgaon(Haryana) based Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (**POWERGRID**), a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking(PSU)under the Ministry of Power(MoP), signed a '**green loan agreement**' with Japan based Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (**SMBC**) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- ✓ The loan facility, denominated in Japanese Yen (JPY), is valued at an equivalent of **USD 200 million** with an additional greenshoe option of **USD 150 million**. The green loan will be utilized for the construction and development of essential infrastructure required for the evacuation and integration of Renewable Energy(RE) into the national grid.

## **Nomura forecasts India's GDP down to 6% in FY25**

On January 03 2025, Japan brokerage **Nomura** forecasted that India's economy will grow more slowly in the coming years. The agency's revised prediction indicates that India's Gross Domestic Product (**GDP**) growth will decelerate to **6%** in the Financial Year 2024-25 (**FY25**), a significant drop from **8.2%** in the FY24. In **FY26**, the GDP growth is expected to be around **5.9%**.

- ✓ Previously, the growth projections were set at **6.7%** for FY25 and **6.8%** for FY26.

**Inflation:** The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation is expected to ease to **4.9%** in FY25, down from **5.4%** in FY24, and will go even lower to **4.3%** in FY26.

## **SBI Report: Rural Poverty Ratio Drops Below 5% for the 1st time in FY24**

According to the State Bank of India (**SBI**)'s [Research report](#) released on January 03 2025, **rural poverty ratio** dropped below 5% for the 1st time to **4.86%** in Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24) from 7.2% in FY23 and 25.7% in 2011-12.

## **IRFC Signs MoU with REMCL to Finance RE Projects for Indian Railways**

On January 03 2025, the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited(**IRFC**) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with Railway Energy Management Company Limited (**REMCL**),a Joint Venture(JV) of the Ministry of Railways (MoR) and Rail India Technical and Economic Service(RITES), to support the financing of Renewable Energy (**RE**) projects developed by REMCL to supply power to Indian Railways(IR).

- ✓ The MoU establishes a framework for collaboration between IRFC and REMCL to support IR in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

### **Haryana: Karnal Students Honoured by NASA for Asteroid Discovery**

**Twelve students** and two teachers from Dyal Singh Public School in Karnal, Haryana have been honoured by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (**NASA**)'s International Astronomical Search Collaboration (**IASC**) for their discovery of a **Main-Belt Asteroid (MBA) TD40** found using data from pan-STARRS telescope ,operated by the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii, United States.

- ✓ **Diksha**, a Class XI student, and her team Aryabhatta consisting of 11 peers under the guidance of Principal Sushma Devgun and Dr. Kaveri Chauhan, received IASC certificates for discovering and registering 11 near-Earth objects.

### **MYAS announced the National Sports Awards 2024**

On January 02 2025, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MYAS**) announced the recipients of the **National Sports Awards 2024** which will be



conferred on **47** sportspersons, coaches, entities and universities under **6 categories** on 17th January 2025 by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ The awards were recommended by selection committee headed by Justice (Retd.) **V Ramasubramanian** of the Supreme Court (SC) along with eminent sports persons, sports journalists and sports administrators.

#### Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2024

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Gukesh D	Chess
Harmanpreet Singh	Hockey
Praveen Kumar	Para-Athletics
Manu Bhaker	Shooting

#### Arjuna Awards (Lifetime) for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2024

Number of Awardees – 2

Name of the Sportsperson	Discipline
Sucha Singh	Athletics
Murlikant Rajaram Petkar	Para-Swimming

[Click here to read full News](#)

#### Overview of 82nd Golden Globes Awards 2025: Jacques Audiard's 'Emilia Perez' bagged 4 awards

The **82nd edition** of Golden Globes Awards 2025 was held on **5th January, 2025** at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, United States of America (USA). The Golden Globes Awards are held annually and are presented by Hollywood Foreign Press Association (**HFPA**).

- ✓ The event marked the **1st time**, the organization hosted a special ceremony for the recipients of its 2 historic honours of Golden Globes 2025: '**the Cecil B DeMille Award**' & '**the Carol Burnett Award**' .
- ✓ American actor & 3-time Golden Globes winner **Ted Danson** received the **1st ever** 'Carol Burnett Award 2025' for his role in Netflix's 'A Man on the Inside'.
- ✓ **Emilia Perez** (French musical crime comedy) led with 10 nominations, including Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy), Best Director (Jacques Audiard) & Best Actress (Karla Sofia Gascon).
- ✓ The film won **4 awards**, including Best Picture, Best Supporting Actress (Zoe Saldana), Best Non-English Feature & Best Original Song.
- ✓ **The Brutalist** (A24 film) followed closely with 7 nominations & won **3 awards** including Best Actor (Adrien Brody), Best Director (Brady Corbet) and Best Movie (Drama).
- ✓ **Shogun** swept all **4 of its categories**, winning Best Series, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor & Best Supporting Actress.
- ✓ The film 'All We Imagine As Light' directed by Indian filmmaker **Payal Kapadia** featured in double nominations for the categories: Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language) and the Best Director (Motion Picture). [Click here to read full news](#)

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Rajat Verma Appointed as CEO of DBS Bank India

In December

2024, **Rajat Verma** was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL), a subsidiary of the Singapore-based DBS Group, effective from 1st March 2025. He will also become a member of DBS's Group Management Committee.



- ✓ He will succeed **Surojit Shome**, who is set to retire on February 28 2025 after successfully leading the bank for 10 years.

### Cherukumalli Srinivasa Rao Appointed as Director of IARI

In December 2024, an agricultural scientist from Andhra Pradesh (AP), **Cherukumalli Srinivas Rao** was appointed as the Director of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, Delhi. He succeeded Dr. A.K. Singh, who retired in June 2024.

- ✓ He currently serves as the director of the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, Telangana.

### Sanjiv Ranjan Appointed as Secretary General of IORA



In December 2024, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that Senior Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **Sanjiv Ranjan** has been

appointed as the **Secretary General** of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat in Ebene, Mauritius. He succeeds **Salman Al-Farisi** of Indonesia.

- ✓ His term will last for **three years** with effect from January 1 2025, until his superannuation on January 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever occurs earlier. Prior to this, he

served as the Officer on Special Duty in the MEA.

### Vitul Kumar appointed as DG of CRPF

On December 31 2024, the Government of India (GoI) appointed **Vitul Kumar**, a 1993-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, as an **additional charge** as Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) upon the superannuation of incumbent DG of CRPF, **Anish Dayal Singh**.



- ✓ The appointment order was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). He will hold the position until regular appointment or until further orders, issued by the MHA.
- ✓ In September 2024, he was appointed as the 'Special DG of the CRPF', a position he will hold until his retirement on **August 31, 2028**.

### Bhuvnesh Kumar appointed as CEO of UIDAI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) appointed **Bhuvnesh Kumar**, addi-



itional Secretary of the MeitY, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) with effect from January 2, 2025.

- ✓ He replaced **Amit Agrawal** who was appointed as the Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) in December 2024.

### Anup Kumar Sinha Reappointed As Non-Executive Chairman of Bandhan Bank

In December 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of **Anup Kumar Sinha** as the Non-Executive (Independent) Chairman of the Bandhan Bank Limited. He will hold the office for the period from January 07, 2025 to July 04, 2026.

- ✓ Anup Kumar Sinha, an economist, was the former Director of Heritage Business School ('HBS'), West Bengal (WB) and currently designated as Chief Mentor.

### TATA AIG General Insurance Company Appointed Amit Ganorkar as MD & CEO

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based TATA AIG General Insurance Company Limited has appointed '**Amit Ganorkar**' as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective from 1st January 2025. He succeeds **Neelesh Garg**, who resigned from the company after leading it for over nine years.



### Jyoti Sharma Named as CEO of NASSCOM foundation



On January 02 2025, **Jyoti Sharma** was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Association of Software and Service Companies (**NASSCOM**)

foundation with immediate effect. Jyoti Sharma will succeed **Nidhi Bhasin**, who has been appointed as the CEO of Digital Green Trust.

### ACC Appoints Faiz Ahmed Kidwai as DG of DGCA

On January 03 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) appointed **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai**, a 1996-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cadre, as the Director General (**DG**) of the



Directorate General of Civil Aviation (**DGCA**), under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), as part of senior level bureaucratic reshuffle.

- ✓ He succeeds **Vikram Dev Dutt**, a 1993-batch IAS officer, who was appointed as the Secretary in the Ministry of Coal (MoC) in October 2024. Since then Dinesh Chand Sharma, Joint DG of DGCA, has held the additional charge.
- ✓ **Ashutosh Agnihotri**, a 1999-batch IAS officer from the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been appointed as the chairman and Managing Director (MD) of New Delhi (Delhi) based Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- ✓ **Akash Tripathi**, a 1998-batch IAS officer of the MP cadre has been appointed as the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power (MoP). He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MyGov, under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- ✓ **Kamal Kishore Soan**, a 1998-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre has been appointed as the Additional Secretary & Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) under the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS).
- ✓ The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019, with the ambitious goal of providing tap water supply to every rural household by 2024.
- ✓ **Shubha Thakur**, a 1989-batch Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Officer, has been appointed as the Additional Secretary at the Inter-State Council Secretariat, MHA. ACC approved the in-situ upgrade of the post held by **Vinay Kumar**, 1999 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, as the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).



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## ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

### RBL Bank Sells Entire Stake in DAM Capital Advisors

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **RBL**

**Bank Limited** has sold its **entire 8.16% stake** in **DAM Capital Advisors Limited**, also based in Mumbai. As a result of this transaction, RBL Bank Limited no longer holds any shares in DAM Capital Advisors Limited.

### CCI Approvals on December 31st 2024

On December 31 2024, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) has approved the following proposals:

The certain stake acquisition of Hyderabad (Telangana)-based Fourth Partner Energy Limited (**FPEL**),

India's leading renewable energy company focusing on building and financing renewable energy projects jointly by Washington, D.C. (the United States of America, USA)-based International Finance Corporation (**IFC**), a member of the World Bank Group (WBG), Manila (the Philippines)-based Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) and German government's **DEG** (Deutsche Investitions und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH).

- ✓ The CCI has approved the proposal of Virginia (the USA)-based Mars, Incorporated (**Mars**) to acquire all outstanding equity shares of Chicago (the USA)-based **Kellanova** (formerly Kellogg Company), a Delaware corporation listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) for **USD 36 billion**.
- ✓ The CCI has approved the proposed acquisition of **72.89%** voting share capital in Indore (Madhya Pradesh, MP)-based **Prataap Snacks Limited** by Authum Investment & Infrastructure Limited (**Authum**), a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Ms. Mahi Madhusudhan Kela.

### SBI Life acquires 10% stake in Bima Sugam India Federation

In December 2024, Mumbai (Maharashtra) based SBI Life Insurance Company Limited (**SBI Life**) has

acquired a **10% stake** in Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Bima Sugam India Federation**. Bima Sugam India Federation is an unlisted company founded on June 18, 2024, and is supported by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**).

### RBI Approves Merger of National Co-operative Bank with Cosmos Co-operative Bank

On January 03 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) approved the merger of National Co-operative Bank Limited, Bengaluru (Karnataka) with **Cosmos Co-operative Bank Limited**, Pune (Maharashtra), effective from January 6, 2025.

- ✓ The RBI sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of the banks in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section(4) of Section 44A with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ✓ With this merger, all branches of the National Co-operative Bank, which include 12 in Bengaluru (Karnataka) and 1 in Mysore (Karnataka), will now operate as branches of Cosmos Co-operative Bank.
- ✓ **RBI Grants Approval to HDFC Bank for 9.5% stake Acquisition in AU Small Finance Bank**

The RBI granted approval to Housing Development Finance Corporation(**HDFC**) Bank Limited to acquire up to a **9.5%** stake in AU Small Finance Bank Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited(**KMBL**), and Capital Small Finance Bank Limited. The approval is valid until 1-year period, expiring on January 2, 2026.

### CCI Grants Automatic Approval to Avenue-Mavco Acquisition of MHM Holding GmbH

On January 04 2025, the Competition Commission of India (**CCI**) granted automatic approval to the Murugappa family affiliate Mavco Investments and Avenue Capital Group to acquire **100% ownership** of Germany based 'MHM Holding

Gesellschaft mit beschraenkter Haftung  
(GmbH)' under its Green Channel route.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### ISRO Successfully Launches PSLV-C60 SpaDeX Mission for Space Docking Experiment

On December 30, 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C60 rocket from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). The mission, named Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX), aims to demonstrate the ability to dock 2 small spacecraft, SDX01 and SDX02, in space.

- ✓ The success of this mission will make India the **4th country** in the world, with only space docking technology after Russia (the former USSR), the United States of America (USA) and China.
- ✓ The PSLV-C60 mission was ISRO's **99th launch** and will undergo various operations leading up to the final docking by **January 7, 2025**.
- ✓ PSLV rocket becomes the **1st vehicle** to be integrated up to the 4th stage at the PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) established at the SDSC. [Click here to read full News](#)

### China Unveils World's Fastest High-Speed Train 'CR450'

In December 2024, **China** introduced its next-generation world's high-speed train, the **CR450**, setting a new record with a top test speed of **450 kilometer/hour(km/h)**, surpassing the previous High Speed Rail (HSR) CR400 Fuxing, which reached 350 km/h.

- ✓ It was developed by China Railway Group Limited (**CREC**), the CR450 prototype underwent tests in China, showcasing advanced technology and engineering.

### SwetchaSAT-V0 and VYOM 2U Successfully Tested on ISRO's PSLV-C60

On December 30, 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (**PSLV**)-**C60** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- ✓ This mission carried 24 payloads, including two experimental systems: the **SwetchaSAT-V0** UHF communication system by N Space Tech India Private Limited and the **VYOM 2U** green propulsion system by Manastu Space Technologies.
- ✓ Both experiments were part of ISRO's PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (**POEM-4**) initiative, which repurposes the 4th stage of the PSLV rocket into a stable orbital platform.
- ✓ AP-based startup **N Space Tech India Private Limited** successfully tested its indigenously developed Ultra-High-Frequency(**UHF**) communication system, **SwetchaSAT-V0**. The main purpose of SwetchaSAT-V0 is to test a **communication system** that uses UHF waves.
- ✓ Manastu Space Technologies, a space tech start-up founded by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Maharashtra successfully test-fired its green propulsion system, **VYOM 2U** (self-developed thruster).

### NASA Unveiled New Mars Design "Mars Chopper" Successor of Ingenuity Helicopter

In January 2025, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) has unveiled the design of new mars drone named "**Mars Chopper**" for advanced exploration of planet Mars. It is a successor of the 'Ingenuity helicopter' that roamed over the surface of Mars for over 3 years after landing on its surface alongside the Perseverance Rover in 2020.

## **Vandana Agrawal Launches 2 FPVs GSL YARD – Amulya & Akshay for ICG**

On January 5 2025, **Vandana Agrawal**, Chairperson, International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) Committee on Ship Acquisition, Financing and Leasing, launched **2** Fast Patrol Vessels (**FPVs**) built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) YARD

– **Amulya (1272)** and **Akshay (1273)** for the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) in Vasco da Gama, Goa.

- ✓ In 2022, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with GSL for the construction of 8 FPVs for the ICG for Rs 473 crore. In October 2024, GSL launched two vessels of the same series ‘Amulya’ and ‘Akshay’.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Discovery of new species of Stellaria in WB named as Stellaria bengalensis**

In December 2024, Researchers identified a new species of the genus **Stellaria** (family Caryophyllaceae) in Kalimpong, **West Bengal (WB)**, marking the 2nd **Stellaria** species reported in 2024. The species was named as ‘**Stellaria bengalensis**’. A paper on the finding was published in the journal **Phytotaxa**.

- ✓ The 1st discovery was found in Nelliampathy Hills, Palakkad, Kerala in May 2024 and was named as ‘**Stellaria mcclintockiae**’.

### **New Ant Species ‘Tapinoma onaele’ discovered in Western Ghats**

In January 2025, a team of researchers from Goa, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) and Karnataka discovered a new ant species named ‘**Tapinoma onaele**’, in the Western Ghats, Kodagu district, Karnataka. This species, named after the Kannada term ‘**onaele**’, meaning “dried leaves,” reflects its natural habitat in the leaf litter of the forest floor.

- ✓ This discovery follows previous notable finds, such as **Protanilla flamma** and **Probolomyrmex procne**, a species not seen in India for 3 decades.

## **SPORTS**

### **Haryana Steelers won the first ever ‘PKL Title’ with 32-23 Over Patna Pirates**

On December 29, 2024, **Haryana Steelers** (professional kabaddi team based in Haryana) triumphed over **Patna Pirates** (professional kabaddi team based in Bihar) with a **32-23** victory in the final of **Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 11** held at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi, Pune, Maharashtra.

- ✓ This win marked the **first-ever PKL** title for the Haryana Steelers. The Haryana Steelers were awarded a prize of **Rs 3 crore** for winning the title, while the Patna Pirates received **Rs 1.8 crore** as runners-up.
- ✓ The Iranian player of Haryana Steelers, **Mohammadreza Shadloui** was awarded the “Most Valuable Player of Season 11” & “Best Defender of Season 11” and the coach of Haryana Steelers **Manpreet**

**Singh** was named as the “Super Coach of Season 11”.

### **Denmark’s Anders Antonsen won the Inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open 2024**

Denmark badminton player **Anders Antonsen** (World no. 2) claimed the inaugural King Cup International Badminton Open 2024 title after defeating China’s **Hu Zhe’an** in a 2-1 victory (21-18, 11-21, 18-21) in the final match held in Shenzhen, the People’s Republic of China.

- ✓ Anders Antonsen won the monetary prize of 1.1 million Renminbi (RMB) and the Hu Zhe’an, 1s the runner-up of the tournament received 5,00,000 RMB.
- ✓ While, India’s ace badminton player ranked at world no. 12, **Lakshya Sen** secured 3rd position at the tournament by defeating Alex



Lanier (France), and received the monetary prize of around 36 lakhs.

### World Boxing forms new Asian body: India Takes Centre Stage with Ajay Singh as Board Member

In December 2024, **World Boxing** (formerly known as Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur, AIBA) added **Asia** as the newest member of its global structure. A new Asian Confederation was formed to enhance the development, representation and promotion of boxing throughout Asia.

- ✓ The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has been granted seven pivotal positions in the new interim Asian Boxing body, with **Ajay Singh**, President of the BFI, appointed as a board member.

### 2024 FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship- India's Humpy won Rapid's title; Vaishali won bronze in Blitz

The **International Chess Federation (FIDE) World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2024** was held from **26th December to 31st December 2024** in Wall Street, **New York**, United States of America (USA). Five world champions claimed titles across different categories in this tournament for the year 2024.

- ✓ **Women's World Rapid Championship** – India's **Koneru Humpy** won the women's championship title with 8.5 points after defeating Indonesia's Irene Sukandar in the finals.
- ✓ **World Rapid Championship** – In the **open** section, 18-year-old

Russian **Volodar Murzin** won the World Rapid Championship.

- ✓ **Blitz Championship** – Norway's **Magnus Carlsen** and Russia's **Ian Nepomniachtchi** shared the title with after both players after 3 tie breaking matches.
- ✓ **Blitz women's category**, China's **Ju Wenjun** won the blitz title after defeating Lei Tingjie (China) in the finals while **Vaishali Rameshbabu** (2.5 points) won a **bronze**.

### West Bengal Wins 78th Santosh Trophy Title in Hyderabad

On December 31, 2024, **West Bengal (WB)** claimed the **78th Santosh Trophy 2024** title by defeating **Kerala** in the final at the GMC Balayogi Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana. This victory marked WB's record **33rd title** win in the history of the tournament.

### KKFI Unveils Trophies and Mascots for the 1st ever Kho Kho World Cup 2025

On January 03 2024, the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the trophies and mascots for the **1st-ever** Kho Kho World Cup scheduled from January 13-19, 2025. This event, supported by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), will be held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi (Delhi).

- ✓ The mascots, '**Tejas**' and '**Tara**', are dynamic gazelles that represent the spirit of the tournament. **Tejas**, symbolising brilliance and energy, and **Tara**, representing guidance and aspiration, were depicted in vibrant blue and orange sporting attire adorned with traditional Indian motifs.

## OBITUARY

### Former Time Warner's CEO Richard Parsons passed away

In December 2024, **Richard Parsons**, an American black businessman, former chairman of Citigroup and former Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Time Warner Inc. passed away at the age of 76 in New York, the

United States of America (**USA**). He was born on **April 4 1948** in New York, USA.

- ✓ From 2009 to 2012, he served as **Chairman of Citigroup Inc.** Under his leadership, the company returned to profitability and restored stability.

### Renowned French Indologist and Padma Shri Awardee Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat passed away

On December 28 2024, French-Indian Sanskrit Scholar and Padma Shri Awardee **Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat** passed away at the **age of 88** in Paris, France. He was born on 15 February 1936 in France. Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat has received numerous awards including the 'Padma Shri' award in 2024.

### Renowned botanist and Padma Shri awardee Dr. K. S. Manilal passed away

**Dr. Kattungal Subrahmanyam Manilal**, popularly known as K.S. Manilal, a **renowned botanist** and Padma Shri awardee, passed away on January 1 2025, at the age of 86 in Thrissur, **Kerala**. He was born on September 17, 1938 in the Kingdom of Cochin(now Kerala).

- ✓ In **2020**, he was awarded the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian honor, for his contributions in the field of science.

### Veteran nuclear scientist and Padma Awardee Rajagopala Chidambaram Passed away

On January 04 2025, **Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram**, a profound **nuclear scientist** who played an important role in advancing India's nuclear capabilities, passed away at the age of **88** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on November 11, 1936 in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN)**.

- ✓ He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1975 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1999 for his contributions in the field of Science & Technology.
- ✓ He was a key contributor to India's **first** nuclear test in **1974** and the **Pokhran-II** tests in **1998**, which established the country as a nuclear power. He also worked as a chairman of the Board of

Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (1994–1995).

### World's Oldest Olympic Champion & Hungarian Gymnast Agnes Keleti passed away

On January 2 2025, World's Oldest Olympic Champion, Hungarian gymnast and a Holocaust survivor **Agnes Keleti** passed away at the age of **103** in Budapest, Hungary. She was born on January 9, 1921 in Budapest.

- ✓ She was the world's oldest living Olympic gold medalist and the most decorated female Olympian in Hungarian history, with **10 Olympic medals**, including 5 golds, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals.

### Former Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis passed away

Former Greek Prime Minister (**PM**) **Costas Simitis**, a law professor and a reformist, has passed away at the age of 88 in Corinth, Greece. He was born on 23rd June 1936 in Piraeus, Greece. He served as the PM of Greece for eight years from 1996 to 2004. He was credited as the architect of Greece's joining the common European currency, the euro.

### Renowned Kannada Novelist and Writer Na D'Souza Passed Away at 87

On January 05 2025, Prominent Kannada Novelist and writer **Norbert D'Souza**, popularly known as Dr. Na D'Souza, passed away at the age of **87** in Mangalore, Karnataka. He was born in Sagar, Karnataka on June 6, 1937.

- ✓ Na D'Souza has received various awards including **Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award** in 1993 for his work "MulugadeyaOorigeBandavaru" and the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award in 1998.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Former Indian Wicket-Keeper Syed Kirmani Releases His Autobiography in Karnataka

On December 29 2024, Legendary former Indian Cricketer and wicket-keeper **Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani**, an One Day International (ODI) World Cup winner with India in 1983, released his autobiography titled “Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards”.

- ✓ The book was launched on his 75th birthday at Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru (Karnataka) and was published by **Penguin Play**.
- ✓ The book was authored over a span of 5 years by Syed Mujtaba Hussein Kirmani and was co-authored by **Debashish Sengupta** and **Dakshesh Pathak**.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Ministry of Defence Declared 2025 as “Year of Reforms”

On January 1 2025, the Ministry of Defence (**MoD**) declared **2025** as the “**Year of Reforms**”, with the objective of transforming the tri-services into a technologically-advanced combat-ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations.

- ✓ This decision was unanimously taken during a meeting chaired by **Rajnath Singh**, MoD with all the secretaries of the MoD to review the progress on various schemes, projects, reforms, among others.
- ✓ The MoD has set a target to achieve **defence exports** worth **Rs 50,000 crore by 2029**, which is over 137% larger than the record Rs 21,083 crore (approximately USD 2.63 billion) achieved in the Financial Year 2023-24(FY24).

### World Braille Day 2025 – January 4

The United Nations(UN’s) **World Braille Day** is observed annually on **January 4** across the globe to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Louis Braille**, the 19th-century French inventor of the Braille

writing system. This day emphasizes the importance of Braille as a means of communication for individuals who are blind or partially sighted. The **1st World Braille Day** was observed on January 4, 2019.

- ✓ January 4 2025 marks the observance of **7th World Braille Day** and the **216th birth anniversary** of Louis Braille. The day aims to raise awareness about Braille’s significance in promoting education, encouraging independence and ensuring equality for the visually impaired.

### World Day of War Orphans 2025 – January 6

**World Day of War Orphans** is observed annually on **January 6** across the globe to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children who have been left orphaned by wars and about the trauma experienced by war orphans globally. A **war orphan** is a child or children whose parents died while serving in military duty.

- ✓ The United Nations Children’s Fund (**UNICEF**) defines an orphan as any child **under 18 years** who lost one or both parents to any cause of death.

## STATE NEWS

### Sikkim Celebrates Annual Kagyad Dance Festival at Gangtok

**Sikkim** celebrated the annual **Kagyad Dance festival** at Tsuklakhang Palace in Gangtok,city of

Sikkim with great traditional enthusiasm. The festival, observed on the 28th and 29th days of the 10th month in the Tibetan calendar (December), honours the eight Tantrik deities, known as Kagyad.



- ✓ Kagyed Dance, also known as Chaam, is a unique Buddhist festival in Sikkim. The festival is celebrated by Buddhists in monasteries, especially at the Old Rumtek Monastery, Phodong Monastery, and Tshuklakhang Palace.

### Gujarat launches 'SWAR' platform to overcome language barriers

On December 2024, the Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, **Bhupendra Patel**, launched the "SWAR (Speech and Written Analysis Resource)" to overcome language barriers and enhance communication between citizens and the government on the occasion of Good Governance Day on December 25, 2024.

- ✓ The platform utilizes **Bhashini**, an indigenous Artificial Intelligence (AI) system, developed under the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MoE&IT).

### Gujarat Launches 'Atlas to Protect Indian Wolf Habitats'

In December 2024, Gujarat launched the "Atlas of Indian Wolf Habitats" to protect biodiversity and conserve the Indian Wolf. Led by Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat **Bhupendra Patel**, the initiative focuses on identifying suitable habitats for wolves across 13 districts of Gujarat.

- ✓ The atlas was jointly prepared by the Forest Department of Gujarat in collaboration with Gujarat Ecological Education and Research Foundation (GEER Foundation).
- ✓ According to the data from the 2023 Wolf Census, a total of **222** wolves were recorded in an area of 2,217 square kilometers (sq km).

### Gujarat approves creation of Vav-Tharad as the 34th district

On January 1, 2025, the **Gujarat** cabinet, led by Chief Minister (CM) **Bhupendra Patel**, approved the decision to divide Banaskantha district into two, creating a new district called '**Vav-Tharad**'. This will bring the total number of districts in Gujarat to **34**.

- ✓ The headquarters of the new Vav-Tharad district will be located in **Tharad town**, while **Palanpur** will continue to serve as the headquarters of Banaskantha district.

### Odisha CM Inaugurates Adivasi Mela 2025; Launches Shahid Madho Singh Scheme

On January 5 2025, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, **Mohan Charan Majhi**, inaugurated the **Adivasi Mela 2025**, ahead of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) program, at the Exhibition Grounds in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- ✓ He also launched the **Shahid Madho Singh Haath Kharcha Scheme** with a budget of Rs 156 crore, during the event to support tribal students and honored nine tribal talents and ten tribal farmers for their outstanding contributions at the event.
- ✓ A special edition of the journal '**Banja-2025**', published by the Tribal Language and Culture Academy of Odisha, was also released during the event.

### Telangana to celebrate Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary as 'Women Teacher's Day'

The **Telangana** government has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Savitribai Phule** as a state function on **3rd January** as '**Women Teacher's Day**' every year to pay tribute to her contributions to women's education.

- ✓ Savitribai Phule was a social worker, poet, and teacher and worked actively towards women's freedom and situation in Indian society. She opened India's **first** school for girls in **1848** in **Pune** and became India's first woman teacher and first Indian headmistress

## **Aspirant Queries**

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

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

**Aspirant:** Why is there a delayal in news?

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


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

### **GA Questions Asked in Exams**


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

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





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## MAINS




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## GENERAL AWARENESS

**OCTOBER 13 2024**
**COVERED IN AFFAIRSCLOUD**

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

Detailed self-analysis Available  
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# Features

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# Current Affairs

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QUIZ



PDF



ARTICLE



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

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

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